

to precede fol. 275

Volume 17

Section II

post - 7 May 1940
[Postgate correspondence]

(fols. 275-377)

Vol. 17

SECTION II

Correspondence, memoirs, etc., received after the death of George Lansbury on 7 May 1940, by his son-in-law Raymond William Postgate, for use in his Life of George Lansbury published 1951. The dates run from 1940 to 1950.

The order is alphabetical under names of correspondents. Any material, or copies of material, by Lansbury, which they lent, or gave, to Postgate, is in its chronological place in Section I, and ^{this} is noted on the relevant accompanying letter within Section II.

Correspondents	fols.	Correspondents	fols.
Allen of Hurtwood, Lady Reginald Clifford	277-9 (1949)	Castle, Leonard	295-6 (1940)
Andrew, Rev. Father	280-2 (1943)	Cudlipp, Percy	297-8 (1948)
Armitage, John	283 (? 1949)	Dice, Elizabeth M.	299-301 (? 1940)
Bingon, Rev. Gilbert Clive	284-5 (1943)	Donaldson, Rev. Frederick Lewis (Canon of Westminster)	302 (1943)
Brown, Joe	286-90 (1940)	Fellowship of Reconciliation	303-4 (1940)
Budd, Rev. Kenneth George	291-3 (1949)	Gokhale, Sardar D.V.	305 (1940)
Carlike, Rev. John Charles	294 (1940)	Hamilton, Mary Agnes	306-7 (1948)
		Hampton, H. B.	308-9 (1948)
		Henderson, Arthur (junior)	310-11 (1948)
		Henderson, William Watson (1st Baron Henderson)	312-3 (1948)

Correspondents	Jobs.	Correspondents	Jobs.
Karachi, Mayor of (1940)	314 (1940)	Ritchie, Rev. Andrew Binny	337 (1942)
Key, Charles William (1945)	315-8 (1948)	Roberts, Rev. William Corbett	338-42 (1943)
Labour Party (1945)	319-20 (1948)	Roberts, Mrs. Wm. Corbett	343 (1943)
Lawrence, Lady F. Petricke- (1949)	321-2 (1949)	Ruffle, Eric G.	345-6 (1940)
Legge, Rev. Robert George	323 (1943)	Sewell, H.W.	347-53 (1940; 1950)
Lester, Muriel	324 (1943)	Smith, Rev. Albert James	354 (1942)
Liberty, Rev. Stephen	325 (1943)	Stewart, Mary	355-7 (1946)
Lingfoot, Miss	326 (n.d.)	Sundarana?, L.N. Gubil	358 (1940)
Merrigan, E.	327 (1943)	Times Literary Supplement	359 (1948)
Parker, Rev. A. Stanley	328-9 (1949)	Tribune Publications	360 (1948)
Peace Pledge Union	330-1 (1940)	Whiskin, Peter	361-3 (?1943)
Peet, Hubert William	332-3 (1948)	White, R.	364-6 (1940)
Piercy, F.	334 (1949)	Winterlon, George Ernest	367-70 (1940)
Rattenbury, Owen A.	335-6 (1949)	Postgate, Raymond William	passim 1940-1950

Kal

See also vol. 28. b. i for notes by R. W. Postgate
 and 28. b. ii for information from R. Ausid
 Barker and Henry D. Harben

Lady Reginald Clifford Allen
(of Hurstwood; n. Margory Gill; 1897-)

(277)

HURSTWOOD HOUSE,
ALBURY, GUILDFORD.
EWHURST 74.

17th January 1949

Mr. Postgate,
45, Hendon Lane,
London, N.3.

Dear Mr. Postgate,

I noticed your letter in the NEW STATESMAN asking for letters from George Lansbury. I have been searching through my husband's letters because I know that somewhere in the vast pile are many letters from George Lansbury written during the early days, but alas! I cannot find them. I have, however, come across the enclosed letter, which I think will interest you.

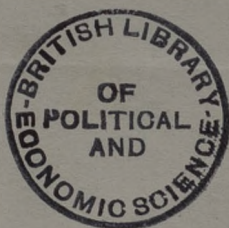
See at 11
May
1937

It has always been my hope to write a short biography of Clifford Allen, but pressure of work during the war has made it impossible for me to collect the material together.

You will, I am sure, let me have this letter back because the time may come when I can undertake the task of writing a short biography.

Yours sincerely,

Margory Allen Hurstwood.



M449

R. Postgate

278

4th February, 1949.

Lady Allen of Hurtwood,
Hurtwood House,
Albury,
GUILDFORD.

Dear Lady Allen,

Thank you very much for sending me those two letters of George Lansbury's. When I have had time to copy them out I will send them back safely. If you find any more I should be very grateful if I could see them.

Yours sincerely,

(7) I see note below on letter of 7 Feb 1949 to Lady Allen



M449

R. Postgate

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7th February, 1949.

Lady Allen of Hurtwood,
Hurtwood House,
Albury,
GUILDFORD.

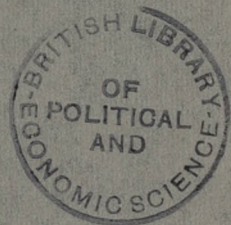
Dear Lady Allen,

Mr. Postgate has asked me to return the letter of
George Lansbury's which you so kindly lent him. ^(K)

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

[x See in Section I (Vol. 16, fol. 162) letter of 11 May 1837 from
G.L. to Reginald Clifford Allen (1st Baron Allen of Hurtwood;
1889 - 1939) (copy).]



M449

Rev. Father Andrew, S.D.C.

280

Telephone:
GRANGEWOOD 2453.

HOUSE OF THE DIVINE COMPASSION,
42 BALAAM STREET,
PLAISTOW, E.13.

January 2nd, 1943.

My dear Legge,

Thank you for the honour you have done me in asking me to write something about our dear G.L. You say that you would like photographs, and a special contribution on the spiritual side of his character, on which I may say with simplicity that I can write with real knowledge and authority. People may agree or not with his religious opinions, but there could be no question about their reality.

I send you reminiscences of conversations and impressions and a few words about my last ministry to him.

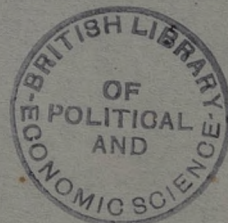
I also send three photos, in case you care to use them: the big one of George with Eric and Emily, about to test the weight of the last little grandchild: another with Annie and Eric outside the cottage in Essex: and the third with Annie and Emily outside one of the noted Essex churches, I think in the neighbourhood of Clacton.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Andrew S.D.C.

The Rev. R.G. Legge,
St. Mark's Vicarage,
Victoria Park,
E.9.



M449

Smith's Rev letter 2 Jan. 1943

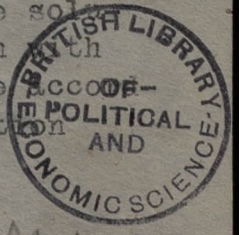
A man shows different sides of his character to different kinds of people. The philosophy of Swedenborg has much to say about the theory of correspondences, and in all departments of life we find the phenomena of the juxtaposition of things, bringing out in them either correspondence or antagonism. Every artist knows that certain colours, put side by side, add to each other's quality.

The present writer, who may claim to have known dear George Lansbury very well indeed, never remembers having seen him in a violent antagonism to any man, but, though he was much too gentle ever to hurt another's feelings, and much too great a lover of liberty ever to judge another's conduct, yet there were people with whom he felt a correspondence in different ways, and it was the writer's deep privilege to have a correspondence with him in spiritual things.

To anyone he would have affirmed the royalty of Christ as Leader of men and as always having in His wisdom the solution of the world's problems. He would have said that our problems are in ourselves: the answers to them are in Christ. His philosophy of life and his interpretation of Socialism were based on fundamental principles which he really learnt from the great Master. First, the absolute equality of all men in the sight of God, as the children of God. He was of course much too shrewd a man to think of men as being equal in capacity or talent, but in their Father's sight they would be all equal in worth. Every man was the brother for whom Christ died. Every single human being had that splendour about him or her, that Christ thought them worth dying for. There was a very great courtesy about him, a tremendous reverence for every man, woman and little child.

Again he never could be hopeless about anyone, and, though he felt as Keir Hardie did the agony of war, he could always set against the hopelessness of men his hope in the power of Christ to save. He loved the three great stories in the fifteenth chapter of St. Luke's Gospel, where the emphasis is not laid on the silliness of the sheep that strayed from the fold but ^{on} the faithfulness of the shepherd seeking till he found: nor on the helplessness of the coin but on the persistence of the woman, sweeping from attic to cellar: nor on the hopelessness of the prodigal boy, but on the love of the father, who would not remember his sins but only that he "was dead and is alive again", "was lost and is found". The writer of these lines remembers well how often in conversations with him they talked of the three parables as representing three different kinds of lostness and their cure. The sheep was lost through silliness, and the shepherd had to go to where the sheep was and save the sheep there. George saw in that a divine sanction for all kinds of Club work and frivolous amusement, which none the less could be made the beginning of better things. He felt this was a going out to the place whither the sheep had wandered, and he often endured much boredom in his loyalty to this belief. The story of the woman sweeping the house he thought of as being the condemnation of slumdom. The poor little coin was not to blame. It rolled away into the dark corner subject to forces which were stronger than itself, and there it lay until it was found. Let the streets be well lighted, and the people well housed, and the city made beautiful: search for the soul that is waiting to be found: that was the moral of the story to George. He himself was marvellously like the father in the story of the prodigal in his readiness to welcome back and help any other who had strayed into deep trouble.

The feeding of the five thousand in the wilderness was a passage in the Gospels on which his mind constantly dwelt. It sets before the thinker the great problem of demand and supply, and the answer to the problem is just love. If we all give what we can to supply the needs of others, the wilderness will "blossom as the rose". The parable of the labourers in the vineyard was a favourite with him, as was Ruskin's "Unto this Last". George affirmed that the teaching of that parable would be the complete solution of all material social problems, if the doctrine was accepted and acted on with sincerity, for, said he, it set forth the truth that everyone should contribute according to his ability and receive according to his need. He did not see condemnation



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Rev. Father Andrew, S.D.C.
[with letter 2 Jan. 1943]

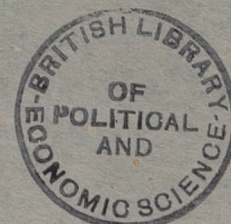
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implied towards the men who came in in the ninth and eleventh hours, and he held that the same wage being given to them as to those who began their work earlier in the day was only parabolic emphasis on the truth that their need was the same, and that they ought not to suffer in the least degree for lack of opportunity. The way of the world of course has been the exact opposite of this, and when through ill-health some labourer has lacked the opportunity of doing a full day's work, just when he wanted nourishment most and his wife and children had the same need as before, his wages were cut down.

There never was a man in our generation more anxious than George Lansbury to answer the challenge of Chesterton's oft-quoted epigram. "Christianity has not been tried and found wanting", wrote G.K.C., "but it has been found difficult and not tried." "Let us try it!" cried G.L. up and down England, up and down the world. When he died, there came into the writer's possession the walking-stick that his dear friend used continually after his accident. That wooden companion went with George to Rome and Mussolini: to Berchtesgaden and Hitler: to Moscow and Stalin: and everywhere its owner besought those in authority to use their authority to bring about the practical fulfilment of the Golden Rule, framing laws in which men should bear one another's burdens and ordering life in such a way as would mean doing to others what you yourself would wish done to you and yours.

This practical philosophy was the foundation of George Lansbury's theory of life, and in any place and in any company he would in his cheerful, winning way maintain the conviction that Christ was the true Interpreter of life and the greatest Leader the world had ever known. But there are secrets in every man's life which he will only share, and indeed can only share, with a kindred soul. One may agree about a truth with a kindred mind, but one can only have fellowship in faith with a kindred soul. With a friend who like the writer believes passionately in the divinity of Christ and the mediation of the Divine Life through the Incarnation and the Sacraments of the Church, George was only too thankful to share his own convictions. He did believe very deeply in prayer, and in the Real Presence of Christ in the Sacrament of His love, and in all Catholic doctrine and practice that logically results from faith in the three great fundamental dogmas: that Christ always was God, One with the eternal Father; that for our sakes He became Man; and that He is for ever perfect God and perfect Man, and through the Holy Spirit mediates the benefits of His Passion and the power of His life to His believing disciples.

The writer can never forget what he really hesitates to tell, only lifting the veil of those last sacred moments that the true portrait of George Lansbury may be delineated, how, before he passed from this sphere of sight and sense and sound to the spiritual Beyond, not only did he receive Holy Communion, but also humbly sought absolution and desired the anointing oil of Holy Unction. So, fortified by the Sacraments of the Church, he who had never criticised or judged another's convictions went forth in the power of his own faith. Bishop Phillips Brooks, the great American preacher, once said: "No man has come to true greatness who has not felt in some degree that his life belongs to his race, and that what God gives him He gives him for mankind". Of this true greatness George Lansbury was an eminent example.



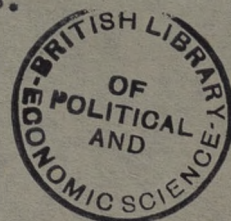
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John Armitage
(1910 →) [? to R. Postgate]

[? 1949]

Not very long ago before he died - I was very many years his junior - I got to know George Lansbury. I did so by the simple expedient of going to see him - as anybody could who wished to discuss a problem with him or ask his advice. I well remember standing on the doorstep at his house in the Bow Road. He opened the door himself and his first words were surprising: "I'm sorry the second footman is out."

Lansbury's faith was a living one. He really did believe in the sacredness of the human personality - thought probably never expressed it in those terms. He really did believe that by demonstrating his love for his neighbour he demonstrated his love for God. Always he struggled on to live the life he believed God wished him to lead. Such men are rare. But there are others. Albert Schweitzer about whom you've probably been reading lately - the medical missionary in tropical Africa, is one of them. Intellectually he has lived his life on a much higher plane than Lansbury but his freedom from self-puty and his believe that faith is shown in deeds is the same. If you do not know about him, you will find it worth while to get to know. There are a number of books.



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Hinton-on-the-Green
 Rev. Gilbert Clive Burton Evesham.

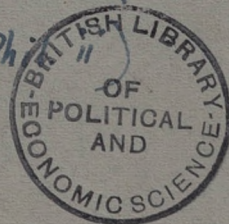
7 Jan: 1943.

Dear Mr. Hegge,

In reply to your letter, I can only say that while I read most of what Geo. Lansbury wrote, in the (old) Herald & elsewhere, and after he had him speak in public, I only actually met & spoke with him once - at the Church Socialist League conference in Preston in May 1914 & then we had no real conversation.

I need not say that I had an immense admiration for the man - his character, personality, devotion, &c. Of course I could not help thinking that the workings of his mind were not always up to the same standard; but then, mind should really be understood to mean the direction of the will at least as much as intellectual processes; and it would be hard to find anyone of whom it was more true to say that he had "the mind of Christ" (Phil. 2:13).

M449



As for names & addresses that might
be useful to you, I expect you
already know of Mrs. Gobat
who is now at 2 Garden Terrace,
Alnmouth, Northumberland. If not,
you should certainly write to her; but
probably you got my address from
her!

And of course you are in touch
with Algerna West?

Yours sincerely

Gilbert Clive Binyon

Rev. Gilbert Clive
Binyon

The Rectory
Hinton-on-the-Green
Eresham

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12 Jan: 1943.

Dear Mr. Postgate,

Thank you for your letter.

As you suggest, I will write to Algernon West. But, for your information, his address is, or has been, "The Rectory, EASINGTON, Co. Durham." But he has resigned, or will shortly do so, and I do not at the moment know his new address. I may add (1) that he has said that when turning out papers at his move he will send me anything that may be suitable for my own collection of 'documents' to illustrate the history of Christian Socialism, — and (2) you may know that something about G. A. West is to be found in my book on The Christian Socialist Movement in England.

I feel sure that West will be very pleased to send you what he can.

Yours sincerely

Gilbert Clive Binyon

Joe Brown

(286)

The Commonwealth
West Lanningfield
Chelmsford

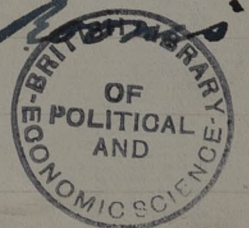
Answer

Essex May 9 1940

Dear Miss Lushbery

Excuse one of your dear father's oldest
friends writing, but I feel I must
say a few words, about the departing
of my dear old Comrade George. As a
young lad at Whitechapel School under
dear old Mr. Apter. I so well remember
the opening of the Coffee and Tea Room's

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2

Joe Brown
9 May 1940

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by your father in Whitechapel Road. and
I remember him and your dear Mother
going to Australia and coming back. I
had taken a rather active part in the
socialist movement, before I met him again.
in Co-operation with Lyndman Henry Fiddell,
William Morris, and others, but his
unselfish kindly life at Poplar, and
Mile End had made us all understand
his love for the Common people, which he
always retained. When he came down
here in 1916 after I had brought Jung

3)

Mc Brown
9 May 1840

(288)

Arthur Bryan and another C. O. down
from my Woolwich home. He came in
contact with my "Solotoy" brother
who a few years before, had thrown
his big business away, and come into this
lonely old village to find peace, as he felt
it to be impossible to combine, the self-interest
of Business, with the humble teaching
of "Solotoy's" Christianity. And your dear
father and my dear brother had applauded
chat on the subject. He wrote to me a
few months ago, asking me to take a C. O.

4)

Joe Brown
9 May 1940

(289)

But of course, I had to tell him I am
24 years older, than I was in 1916 and
so is my Wife, and for a dozen years
with have been struggling to bring up
five grandchildren, whose Mother died
with another child. And we find at our
age it is as much as we can struggle to do
now. I hope all your family will be
as happy as possible under the circumstances.
Knowing as you do, how bravely your
Dear Father and Mother struggled to overcome
theirs & of your Father's going, and what I

5)

9 May 1940

(290)

people are saying now, only makes
great numbers of people see. "That the
only joys that live and grow are those
you give to others." Then the passing of
your dear father will help bring about
that blessing to humanity, that he did so
much in life to achieve.

With kind regards to you all
Joe Brown

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Rev. Kenneth George Budd
Holy Trinity Vicarage, Trinity Crescent, London, S.W.17.
Phone: Balham 4790.

26th. January, 1949.

Dear Mr. Postgate,

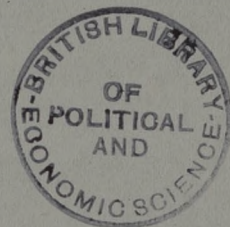
Some time ago you appealed in "The Times Literary Supplement" for any letters from George Lansbury in readers' hands, and I wondered if the enclosed would be of any interest to you. It came in response to a letter from me, asking if a greater measure of publicity could be given to the Christian pacifist point of view - and followed a personal meeting. Lansbury's *cri de cœur*, at that shadowed and bewildering period in our history, seems to me typical of the man and his simple faith.

Yours sincerely,

Kenneth Budd. (Rev).

Raymond Postgate, Esq.,
45, Hendon Lane,
LONDON, N. 3.

[letter from
G.L. dated
29 Jan. 1940,
q.v. in Section
I above]



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4th February, 1949.

The Rev. Kenneth Budd,
Holy Trinity Vicarage,
Trinity Crescent,
S.W.17.

Dear Mr. Budd,

Thank you very much for sending me that letter of
George Lansbury's. I will return it as soon as I have had
it copied.

Yours sincerely,



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7th February, 1949.

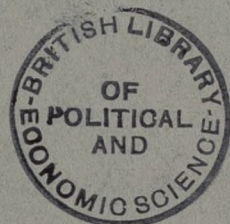
The Rev. Kenneth Budd,
Holy Trinity Vicarage,
Trinity Crescent,
S.W.17.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Postgate has asked me to return to you with his
thanks the letter of George Lansbury's which you recently sent
to him.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.



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"THE BAPTIST TIMES"

THE BAPTIST CHURCH HOUSE
4, SOUTHAMPTON ROW
LONDON, W.C.1

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

To which all communications
should be addressed

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Officier de l'instruction publique de France

TELEPHONE : HOLBORN 0315

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BAPTIST UNION OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

SECRETARY :

REV. M. E. AUBREY, C.H.

ENCL:

Rev. John Charles Carlile
(d. 1941)

9th August, 1940.

R. W. Postgate, Esq.,
45, Hendon Lane,
N. 3.

Dear Sir,

A letter of yours which we published, asking
for any information that might be of service in the
preparation of a paragraph on "Uncle George" leads me to
send you the enclosed, which I think gives the fullest
expression of his views on the subjects referred to.

Wishing you all success in your task.

Yours faithfully,

John C. Carlile

[see GL to Carlile of 22 Jan. 1931 : Section I
(Vol. 10, fols. 2-6)]



M449

Leonard Castle

119, VICTORIA ROAD,
MITCHAM, (295)
SURREY.

July 10th 1940.

Dear Sir,

In your 'Ch. Times' letter, I did not know whether
the enclosed will be of any use to you, if you are
travelling in Lancashire and the churches. Its value is the nature of
an anecdote.

Please don't trouble to acknowledge, as no doubt it
if ~~you have~~ it is just what you want.

With best wishes for the success of your biography.

Yours very truly

Leonard Castle



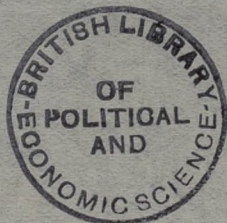
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P.S. We would not offend anybody, as a Union of Beneficial
Schemes has failed before into the church concerned, and
the personnel has changed.

Leonard Castle
10 July 1940

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A few years before his death, Mr. Lansbury, concerned at the attitude of the Church of England towards the unemployed, wrote to the "Times", and the Christian Socialist Rector of St. Edmund the King and Martyr, Lombard St., E.C.4., the Rev. & Hon. J.G. Adderley, then Rector, invited him to lecture at the church to tell churchpeople and the Banks in Lombard St. what the Church should do to alleviate the lot of the unemployed. George Lansbury accepted. The Rector circulated Tower Hill to ensure the speaker some support, and ^{Lansbury} ~~he~~ gave the lecture, saying that churchpeople should be Socialists and that if the Banks in the district opened their strongrooms and used idle money in a Christian way, that would assist. The congregation broke into warm applause. The Bankers were shocked, and protests were afterwards made to the Rector, the contention being that Lansbury had abused the Rector's hospitality. The Rector pointed out that Conservative, Liberal and Labour members of Parliament had given lectures in the church, and that Lansbury should not be singled out for criticism. But when Lansbury was invited to the church on a future occasion, he was asked to mind his p's and q's, and the congregation asked not to applaud.



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Raymond W. Postgate to Cudlipp (Percy)
and (Daily) Herald
15th October, 1945.

The Editor,
"The Daily Herald",
Wilson Street,
Long Acre,
W.C.2.

Dear Cudlipp,

Do you remember discussing with me the LIFE OF GEORGE LANSBURY that I am writing? Well, I have just got to the period where he takes over the "Daily Herald" and I am sadly short of material; I have a file of the paper, but nothing else. Are there in your records documents which I ought to see dealing with the administration and financial troubles of the paper for example; or the negotiations which ended in Hamilton Fyfe taking over? I think there must be something preserved of the old days, and I would be very grateful for an opportunity of inspecting it.

You said you wanted my Agent to let you look at it before he sold the Serial Rights and I will ask him to do so. The Agent is A.P. Watt & Son, 10, Norfolk Street, W.C.2. About 60,000 words are written, which you could see if you wished but they are very rough

//



M449

Daily Herald

EDITORIAL OFFICE

2-12, ENDELL STREET,
LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.2.

TELEPHONE: TEMPLE BAR ~~4700~~
1200
TELEGRAMS: DAILY HERALD.
INTELTUBE, LONDON.

PLEASE QUOTE
OUR REF:

Percy Cudlipp
(1905-)

October 26, 1948.

Dear Postgate,

I should be very glad indeed to help you in your search for material about the days when Lansbury took over the "Daily Herald", but I am afraid I must disappoint you.

I have asked the Editorial Director, John Dunbar, whether there is anything in our files which would throw light on the change, or on the period immediately preceding it, and he has nothing at all which would help you.

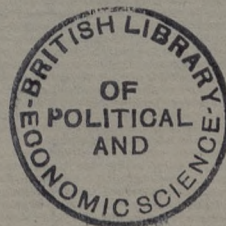
No doubt you have already made arrangements to talk to Hamilton Fyfe; and I am sure there are people on the staff to-day, such as Norman Ewer, who would be glad to help you with personal recollections of that time. There is, however, unfortunately nothing in documentary form.

Thanks for remembering that I said I would like to have a look at the book before the serial rights were sold. I agree that what you have done so far does not cover the period in which our readers are most likely to be interested. It might be better if I looked at the book at a later stage.

I am sorry to write so negatively, and urge you to get in touch with me again if there is anything with which you think I could help you, or if I can put you in touch with people who might help.

Yours sincerely,

R.W. Postgate, Esq.
45, Hendon Lane,
N.3.



Percy Cudlipp

M449

Elizabeth M.
Dice

32 Lancaster Road
Dollis Hill
N.W.10.

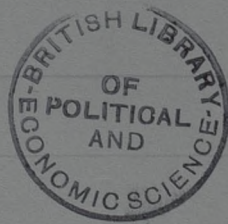
5th July 1939. 1940[?]

Dear Sir,

Having seen your appeal in the "Daily Herald" for anecdotes connected with the late esteemed Mr. George Lansbury, I am sending the enclosed, which may be one which you would not be likely to receive.

I have forgotten the date, but if necessary no doubt that could be obtained from the L.C.C. Special Schools' Committee.

Yours faithfully
Elizabeth M. Dice.



M449

Elizabeth M. Dice

5 July 1949

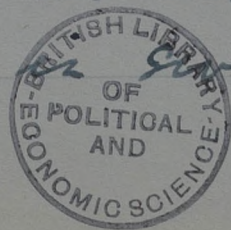
(300)

My memory of Mr. George Lansbury

The only occasion that I had the pleasure and privilege of seeing and hearing Mr. George Lansbury, was when, as an L.C.C. Teacher, I attended a Swimming Gala of the girls and boys of the Mentally Defective Schools of London, which was held at the Fulham Swimming Baths.

Mr. Lansbury had kindly consented to address the children, and to present the prizes, and I shall never forget his kindly manner nor the words he spoke.

He was so simple that even these children could understand, as he told how, when he was a boy, he had only a river in which to swim, and no baths such as those where they received instruction, and he then proceeded to urge the children to do their best in everything, not only in swimming, and



M449

Elizabeth M. Dice
5 July 1940

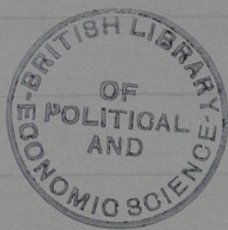
301

not only to win prizes, but because it was right to do so, to think not only of clean bodies, but of clean souls, - to live truly, cleanly and honestly, and to seek God's help and blessing throughout their whole lives in all that they did.

The children were greatly impressed, especially those who had won medals, and with whom he shook hands.

"Wasn't he nice? Mrs", was the way they put it, and they talked of that occasion many times afterwards.

Elizabeth M. Dice.



M449

Revd. Frederick Lewis Donaldson
(Canon of Westminster; 1860 -
1953)

21 Dean's Yard

Westminster Abbey S.W. 1

6.1.43

302

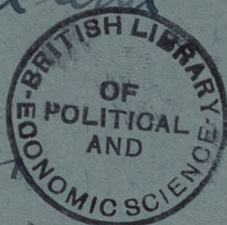
Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of
Dec. 14 about George Lansbury,
I deeply regret that all your good
library & papers & records were
destroyed at 3 Little Cloister here
by enemy action fire on May 10
of 1941 - & among them some
things which bear upon your request.

However, I will try to write
something about him soon; for
I have known him well for many
years.

I am sorry your letter
has been overlooked.
Yours very truly

Frederick Donaldson



M449

303

THE FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION

17, RED LION SQUARE, W.C.1

Telephone }
Telegrams } CHAncery 7917-8.

Tube Station: HOLBORN.

Chairman: The Rev. Prof. C. E. RAVEN, D.D.

General Secretary: The Rev. LESLIE ARTINGSTALL, B.A.

July 22nd.1940.

Mrs Daisy Postgate,
45 Hendon Lane,
N.3.

Dear Mrs Postgate,

I am sure you will like me to send on to you a copy of a letter I have received from one of our branches in far away Queensland. It has just come to hand and has reference to your father.

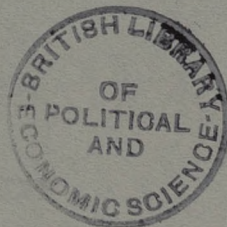
May I at the same time say how many such references I have had from all over the world, as one would expect.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

Rev. *Leslie Artingstall*

General Secretary.



M449

[with letter from London HQ of 22 July 1940
COPY. to Mrs Raymond Postgate]

3024

FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION

Rockhampton Branch,

Hon. Secretary.
H.F. Jones.
Thozat Road,
North Rockhampton.
Queensland,

Rockhampton,

Queensland. 10th May 1940.

The Secretary,
Fellowship of Reconciliation,
17 Red Lion Square,
London, W.C.1.

Dear Sir,

At the monthly meeting of the Local Branch held this evening, a resolution was carried in silence to the effect that the condolences of members of the Branch be conveyed to the family of the late Rt. Hon. George Lansbury P.C., M.P., in the sad loss they have sustained by reason of his passing.

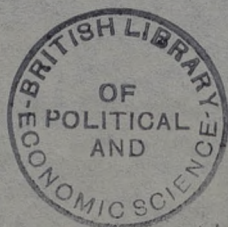
The Christian Pacifist cause has been deprived of the services of one whose championship had world-wide recognition

Will you please convey the contents of this letter to the family of the late George Lansbury, and oblige,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) Harold F. Jones.

Hon. Secretary.



M449

Sardar D.V. Gokhale,

M.A.

10-5-40.

To,

most noble Mrs. George Launsbury.

3, Bow-Road. London. England.

God Save the King.

श्रीगणेशाय नमः

卐

604 Sadashiv Peth
Poona City, India.

The 10th of May 1940.

305

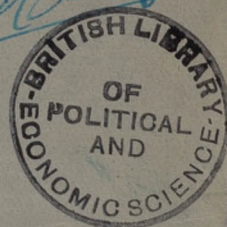
My Dear Madam,

I, Dattatraya Vasudeo Gokhale,
M.A.

belonging to the most respected, noble and loyal Sardar Gokhale house, felt very much shocked to read of the sad death of Rt. Hon. Mr. George Launsbury. In him we feel to have lost a great friend of India and sincere striver for public welfare and world peace. I and my family feel very sad and mourn for him, and pray God to bless him with heaven.

Yours most sincerely,

Dattatraya Gokhale



M449

Raymond W. Postgate

306

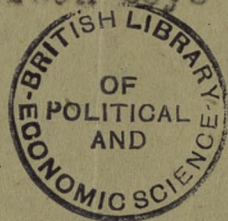
12th November, 1948.

Mrs. Mary Agnes Hamilton,
C/o. Messrs. William Heinemann Ltd.,
99, Great Russell Street, W.C.1.

Dear Mrs. Hamilton,

I cannot find your present address so I am writing C/o. Heinemann in the hope that it will find you. In your LIFE OF ARTHUR HENDERSON you mentioned a long correspondence between him and George Lansbury in the thirties. I am writing Lansbury's life now, and all records for that period seem to have disappeared. Can you tell me where those letters are, and may I see them? Both the Henderson boys tell me they have not got them.

Yours sincerely,



M449

Mary Agnes Hamilton

(309)

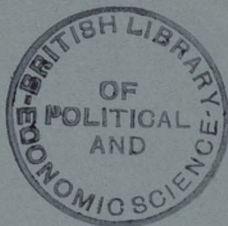


Nov 15.

1948

Dear Mr Porteforte

I am afraid that I
never saw his actual
letters between Allan
Henderson & George Laundy.
I don't think they were
kept: such papers as I
had, and they were few -
it was not his habit
to keep any - have, I



M449



fees, disappeared in my
various house-moving
since 1935; and therefore
to my great regret, I
cannot help you. I am
very sorry.

Yours sincerely
Mary Agnes Hamilton

Home address: 15 Mulberry
Close
Chelsea SW3

H. B. Hampton

308

June 23 1948.

Highfield,
Biggin Hill, Kent.

Dear Raymond Postgate,

I want to thank you for your very just and very kind references to Tom Mann. For many years, even before his residence at Biggin Hill, we had been friends. During his stay up here we saw a very great deal of each other, and he and Elsie were always extremely hospitable and good-neighbourly to me.

I have been a journalist now for the past 30 years but that made no difference to Tom. He knew, and I knew he knew, that I would not break confidences or run a story without his consent.

That is why I am writing you, as I have a little story which I feel can now be told.

After his last imprisonment, and on the morning of his release, the "News Chronicle" phoned me that he was on his way home, and of course I met him and got the dope, but the next morning the "N-C" was on the phone again to say that George Lansbury and the then ~~former~~ Mayor of, I think, Battersea (Tom Something or other) were on their way to see him., I lived near Tom and after warning him, I met the car and took the Leader of the Opposition down to Tom.

It was a steep and rocky road down the hill (Sunningvale avenue) and Lansbury asked to take my arm. After the interview, which Tom insisted I should attend, Lansbury went back to his car parked at the top of the hill. He again took my arm, and going up the ascent, turned to me and said "You know, if I had had Tom's courage and his conviction of right-doing I could have been a statesman and not a doddering, sympathetic old fool."

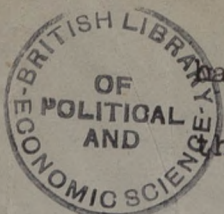
The words are accurate, although I have never heard the word "right doing" before. But to me, it seemed to show that, at any rate, in his later days, George knew his weakness.

Again thanks for your talk. I have a wealth of relics, photos booklets and communications from him (Tom) from all over the world.

I felt the story would interest you. It at least has the merit of being true and unvarnished. Which is saying a lot in these days.

Yours sincerely,

H. B. Hampton
(17)



M449

Raymond Postgate

H B Hampton

309

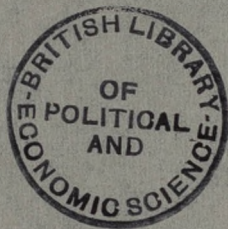
24 6 48

Dear Mr Hampton,

Thank you for sending me that interesting story of G.L. and Tom Mann. When I get round to it (I'm writing a Life of the old man) I will use it, if I may.

I wish someone would write a really good life of Tom Mann. He didn't do himself justice at all in his Autobiography. Have you thought of trying your hand?

Yours sincerely,



M449

The Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson, ^{Junr, I} M.P., The House of Commons,
London, S.W.1.

22nd October, 1948.

310

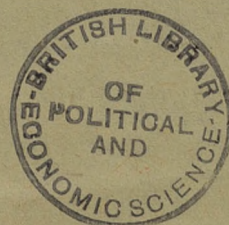
Raymond W. Postgate

Dear Henderson,

As you probably know, I am writing Lansbury's life. I am finding great difficulties because nearly all records have been destroyed and I noticed that in Mrs. Hamilton's life of your father she mentions a lengthy correspondence between him and George Lansbury in the early 30's. Could I have the loan of this please? There is practically no material extant about the relations between the two men. From about 1912 when your father prevented any official labour speakers helping Lansbury at the Bow by-election there was considerable antagonism between them, but in the last years I think they became quite close friends.

I wrote to your brother but I anachronistically addressed him as W. W. Henderson, M.P., and, either because the letter never reached him, or as a proper rebuke from a peer to a commoner, I never got a reply.

Yours sincerely,



M449



Arthur Henderson
(June 1893—)

311
AIR MINISTRY,
WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

25th October, 1948.

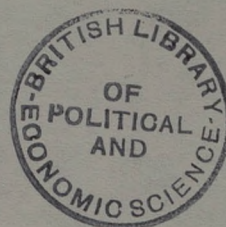
Dear Postgate,

Thank you for your letter. I will gladly do what I can to help in this matter, although I feel that my brother might be more able to assist. I will, therefore, consult him, and will hope to write to you again in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A. Henderson

Raymond Postgate, Esq.,
45 Hendon Lane,
N.3.



M449



William Watson Henderson
 (1st Baron Henderson ; 1891-

Foreign Office,
 S.W.1.

8th November, 1948.

Dear Postgate,

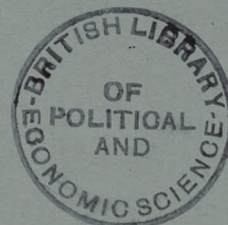
My brother passed your letter to me in the hope that I might be able to help you. It is true that lengthy correspondence passed between my father and G.L. in the early 30's but so far as I am aware it does not exist, unless it should happen to be in the Party archives at Transport House.

As regards their personal relations, I don't think it is true that there was considerable antagonism, because of the Bow by-election. There may have been some feeling at the time, but I always thought they had a pretty good respect for each other and were in pretty general agreement on most things although they did not see eye to eye on G.L.'s policy of unilateral disarmament, as you know. My father always stood for collective security and for general disarmament.

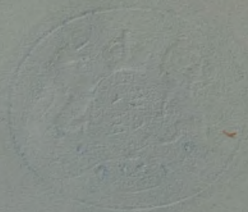
As a small personal recollection, I contemplated resignation at one time and G.L., who was Chairman of my Committee, urged me not to do so, saying "Never resign, Willy, never resign. I once resigned!" This was, of course, a reference to the by-election when he had resigned.

/By

Raymond Postgate, Esq.,
 45 Hendon Lane,
 N.3.



M449



By the way, I never received your earlier letter to which you refer. It should have reached me, and I think you know that I would certainly have replied at once had it come into my hands.

I am sorry not to be more helpful, but you might find it useful to get in touch with Jim Middleton or A.I. Scott at the Party Headquarters.

Yours sincerely,

W. A. Anderson

Raymond W. Postgate

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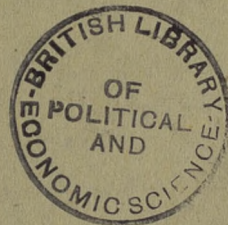
12th November, 1948.

Lord Henderson,
The Foreign Office,
LONDON. S.W.1.

Dear Henderson,

Thank you for your letter; it would be disastrous if that correspondence had disappeared. I am writing to Mrs. Hamilton who used it, in the hope that she may tell me where it is. If she doesn't I will try Jim Middleton.

Yours sincerely,



M449

314



MAYOR'S OFFICE
KARACHI

No. 890/57
40

21st May 1940.
22nd

To,
Mrs. George Lansbury,
L o n d o n .

Madam,

I have the honour to communicate to you the following resolution passed by the Corporation at their meeting held on the 17th instant:-

"That the Corporation have learnt with profound sorrow the sad news of the death after prolonged illness of Mr. George Lansbury, doyen of British Labour Movement and a prominent pacifist leader, which had event occurred in London on the 7th May 1940.

By his death, India has lost a great champion of her cause and the Corporation desire to extend their heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Lansbury and family in their sad bereavement."

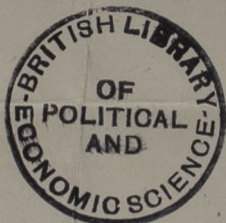
I have the honour to be,

Madam,

Your most obedient servant

Lalji Mehrotra

MAYOR.



M449

375

Raymond W. Postgate
to Charles Wm. Key

Charles W. Key, Esq. Minister of Works,

26th May, 1948.

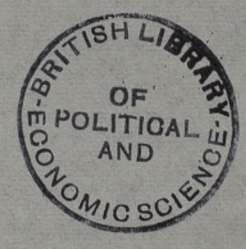
Dear Charlie,

I wonder if you could help me in a small matter, busy ^{much} that you are. I am writing GL's LIFE, and I am finding great difficulty in getting any material about his work in the East End. I have written to the Town Clerk of Poplar who answered me very ^{civily} ~~sillily~~ and referred me to the Librarian to whom I have written twice and had no answer. I have also written to the Secretary of the local Labour Party and had no answer. I know that Bow and Bromley L.P. got into trouble over its dinner to old-aged pensioners and probably the secretary was too busy to deal with my request. But there must be somewhere in the branch's records material about G.L's activities. The solitary document I have got is the first report of the Party in 1903 and there is nothing else whatever.

Could you possibly talk to whoever has the records of the Party for the last 40 years under his control, and ask if I could go through them? There must be priceless material about his activities, and after all he was the greatest of the citizens of Bow and if that material is not made available now it will never be of any use. There is no one else but yourself who I can bother. Edgar is dead, and so is Charlie Sumner; where Albert Easteal is I dont know.

Yours ever.

look again 18/8/48



M449



as from Charles W. Key

(316)

LAMBETH BRIDGE HOUSE,
LONDON, S.E.1.

20th August, 1948.

Dear Mr. Postgate,

You wrote to the Minister on August 18th asking him about early records of Mr. Lansbury's life.

Mr. Key is at present away from London and I am, therefore, unable to show him your letter. I have, however, forwarded it to the Bow Labour Party with a request that they should do anything they can to help you.

Yours very truly,

(L. J. SABATINI).
Private Secretary.

R. W. Postgate, Esq.,
45, Hendon Lane,
N. 3.



M449

Raymond W. Postgate

319

PERSONAL.

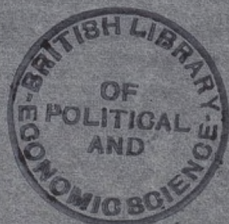
The Rt. Hon. C. W. Key, Ministry of Works, Lambeth Bridge House,
S. E. 1.

20th September, 1948.

Dear Charlie,

I wrote to you in August while you were on holiday about G.L.'s papers which the Bow Labour Party has still not let me hear about. Your Secretary, Mr. Sabatini, very kindly sent the letter down to Bow in the hope that they would do something about it but no result followed. I am afraid that, as the letter was intended only for your eye, it may have slightly offended the local secretary as it hinted at some disorganisation there. If it would be a good way out, I would very gladly take over the responsibility of going through all those records myself arranging them and picking out the important ones. I am getting fairly well ahead with the Life now but there are great blank spaces in my knowledge, of course this will be the definitive and quite possibly the only Life. If a proper record is not now made of G.L.'s work in the East End it never will be. I know you think as I do about this.

Yours ever,



M449



Charles W. Key

378

LAMBETH BRIDGE HOUSE,
LONDON, S.E.1.

21st September, 1948.

Dear Raymond,

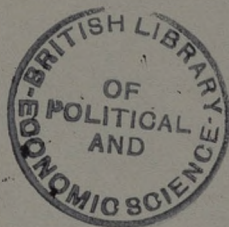
I am sorry not to have written to you before about G.L.'s papers. A search has been made at Bow but unfortunately without any result. I will mention the matter again but it looks as though we shall not be able to help you.

I am so sorry.

Yours sincerely,

Charles W. Key

R. Postgate, Esq.,
45, Hendon Lane,
N.3.



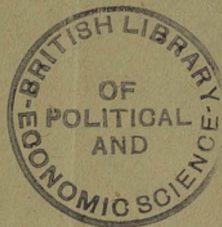
M449

Raymond W. Postgate

319

19th November, 1948.

A. L. Scott, Esq.,
The Labour Party,
Transport House,
Smith Square,
S.W.1.



Dear Scott,

M449

I am writing the LIFE of GEORGE LANSBURY, and am being very much impeded by the disappearance of records. Is there anything surviving at Transport House that would help me? In particular, there was a long correspondence between him and Arthur Henderson, after the fall of the second labour government, which was still existing when Mrs. Hamilton wrote her Life of Uncle Arthur. Neither she nor either of the Henderson boys know where it is now and

//Willy

Willy suggests you might have it in the Office. Or do you think
Jim Middleton would have anything?

Yours fraternally,

320
THE LABOUR PARTY

TRANSPORT HOUSE (South Block), SMITH SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1

Hon. Treasurer:

Hon. ARTHUR GREENWOOD, M.P.

DM

Secretary:

MORGAN PHILLIPS

Chief Woman Officer

MARY E. SUTHERLAND, J.P.

25th November, 1948

Mr. Raymond W. Postgate,
45 Hendon Lane,
N.3.

Dear Mr. Postgate,

Mr. Scott is not at present in the office,
but I have contacted him in connection with your
letter of 19th instant.

I am afraid that Mr. Scott says that
the correspondence between George Lansbury and
Arthur Henderson is not at this office. He
understood that Mrs. Hamilton had copies made of
the documents which she used when she wrote her
Life of Arthur Henderson, but as you say she
has not got it, she cannot have kept them.

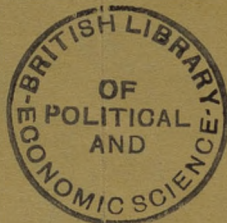
To Mr. Scott's knowledge we have nothing
here that will help you, and he does not think
Mr. Middleton will have anything either.

We are sorry that we cannot be more helpful.

Yours sincerely,

D. Malnick

Secretary to Mr. A.L.Scott



M449

[see at 24 Dec 1939]

321

Lady

Telephone: Holborn 7087.
Telegrams: "Pethlawro-Holb. London."

FROM THE RT. HON. ~~LORD~~ PETHICK-LAWRENCE OF PEASLAKE,

11 Old Square,
Lincoln's Inn, W.C.2.

6th. January, 1949.

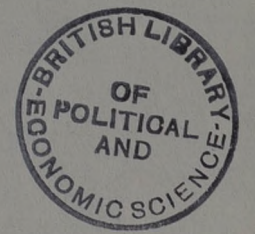
Dear Mr. Postgate,

In response to your appeal in a December last issue of the "New Statesman and Nation" for letters of the late George Lansbury, Lord and Lady Pethick-Lawrence have been looking through their files of correspondence with him. Lord Pethick-Lawrence's file did not yield anything which might be useful to you: but Lady Pethick-Lawrence has turned out the enclosed couple of letters and asked me to forward them for your inspection and use if needed. Will you let her have them back when you have quite finished with them, or, if you decide they are not what you want.

Yours sincerely,

Pethick-Lawrence
Secretary.

Raymond Postgate Esq.,
45, Hendon Lane,
London, N.3.



M449

[with Gk of 24 Dec 1939]

322

11th January, 1949.

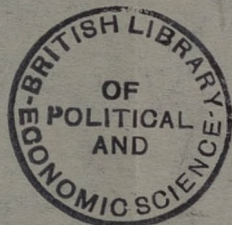
Miss Esther Knowles,
Secretary to The Rt. Hon. Lord Pethick-
Lawrence of Peaslake,
11, Old Square,
Lincoln's Inn,
W.C.2.

Dear Miss Knowles,

Mr. Postgate has instructed me to ask you to thank
Lady Pethick-Lawrence for lending him these two letters. Copies
have been taken of them and they are now returned herewith.

Yours sincerely,

Secretary.



M449

TELEPHONE:
AMHERST 3019.

Robert George
REV. R. G. LEGGE.

(see Crookford 1947)

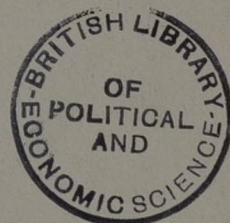
323
ST. MARK'S VICARAGE,
VICTORIA PARK,
LONDON, E.9.

9th Jan., 1943

Dear Mr. Portgate, Will you please deal with, acknowledge & write & follow up where necessary: enclosed. I thought I had better pass these on to you as I do not want to be thought to be exceeding your wishes in this matter. With every
Nice wish for 1943, Believe me

[see also, in this Section:
Andrew, Binyon, Donaldson,
Lester, Ritchie, Roberts,
Smith]

Yrs sincerely
R.G. Legge



M449

324

Muriel Lester

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION
INTERNATIONALER VERSÖHNUNGSBUND — LA RÉCONCILIATION

DRAYTON HOUSE, GORDON STREET, LONDON, W.C.1
(Drayton House is the west end of Friends House, Euston Road)
Telephone No. : Euston 5130

Chairman of the Council :
J. Nevin Sayre

Treasurer :
Barrow Cadbury

Chairman of the Executive Committee :
F. Siegmund-Schultze

Secretarial :
Percy W. Bartlett
Muriel Lester

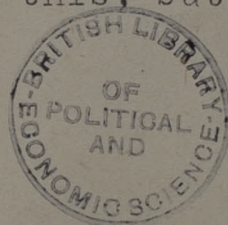
27th January, 1943.

Dear Mr. Postgate,

Thank you for your letter. But I didn't exactly "offer" my reminiscences to Mr. Legge. I don't know that I have sufficient cheek for that. He told me you were writing the book and asked if I had any useful reminiscences. As a matter of fact I would be awfully glad if it were not too much of a bore to you, to call on you some time. I would like to know the sort of thing you want. You see, for twenty-nine years ~~he~~ ^{gl.} he has been our fairy godfather in Bow, and I only want to send along to you the best and would like to get your idea of what would be the best. I realise there is no hurry to all this; but that is my suggestion.

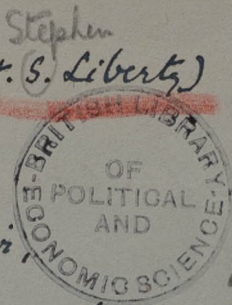
Yours sincerely,

Muriel Lester



M449

(from Rev. Dr. S. Liberty)



325
Bledington Vicarage
Oxford.

April 1st, 1943.

Dear Sir,

My friend G.C. Binyon, of Hinton-on-the-Green, Evesham, tells me that you are engaged on a memoir of George Lansbury, & urges me to write to you with any reminiscence that may occur to me. I am afraid there is very little 'ad rem' that I can supply; but, in common with other clerical members of the old Church Socialist Union, I saw & talked with him often from about 1907 onwards. Some time between 1910 & 1920 while I was Vicar of Walney Island (Barrow-in-Furness) he stayed at the Vicarage for a Sunday Labour meeting in Barrow Town Hall. I can only put a particular date to this occasion by remembering that he was just off on a visit to Russia afterwards. We had a

very jolly time, I remember, with him
and members of the Church congregation
at supper (these, strange as it may seem
to you, being for the most part keen
'Labour' men!). I am sorry I have
kept no letters, nor can I remember
any special sayings of Lansbury, except
a judgement on a contemporary Labour
leader now defunct, which there is no
point in repeating now.

But Biagon
says I ought to give you (for what it
is worth) a saying about George which
was made to me by a young parson in
our movement — "After listening to a
speech of Lansbury's one can quite
well suppose that St. Paul spoke with
a Cockney accent!" I think this well
reflects the genuine sense that Church
people had of the deep religious spirit
that was at the root of his great services
to the cause of humanity.

Yours very truly
Stephen Liberty.

Lingfoot

326

(To be Continued.)

SONG OF AN AWAKENED RADICAL.

George Lansbury, my Jo, George,
When we were first acquent,
I never thought that ye, George,
Would stand for Parleyment ;
But now the time is ripe, George,
For party feuds to go ;
We'll send ye linking to the poll
George Lansbury, my Jo.

George Lansbury, my Jo, George,
I ken your bonnie grit,
And all maun wish ye weel, mon,
Save coofs o' little wit.
We'll rally round the flag, George,
An' hand in hand we'll go,
And land ye on St. Stephen's floor,
George Lansbury, my Jo.

But mind ye what we say, George,
'Twill soon be unco queer
If once ye 'gin aturning
When ye have gotten there ;
No fear of that have I, yet
It's weel that ye should know,
Ye're but a Representative
George Lansbury, my Jo.

from an old copy of Justice

from Mrs. Lighter

500 Old Broad St

London E.C. 4

326

THE NORTH CAMBERWELL BRANCH are now running Democratic Teas at 6 o'clock on Sunday afternoons at 208, Camberwell Road. Comrades and friends who have not yet tried them are cordially invited to do so—those who have already attended, don't need a second invitation! No charge is made, but a collection is taken to defray expenses. Capital tea, good company, pleasant surroundings.—Tom H. COATES, sec.



Justice n.d.

M449

Merrigan

78 Darlington Rd
Dagenham

To Our Dear Old friend

April
1943

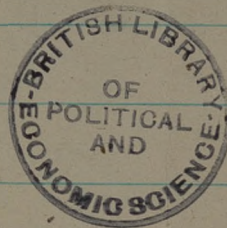
Mr. George Lansbury

((Memories))

In our garden of memories
There's flowers for you
Beautiful in colours
All spangled with dew
Red, white, and yellows
Blue pinks and browns
Minds me of pieces of
rom old fashion gowns
All patched together
And patterned with care
Filled with beautiful thoughts
All woven in prayer.
Tis fragrant this posy
All spangled with dew
Tis memories, sweet memories
Dear Lansbury of you.

him that gives a child a treat
Buds then blooms in memory

327



M449

E. Merrigan

To Miss Lamsbury
With Love.

Please { God and
Holy Mother }

Bless you as your
Dear Father did in his great work us
in love of Faith, hope, and help one another.
Good Luck.

Gone but not forgotten

328

"EVERSLEY,"

REV. A. STANLEY PARKER.

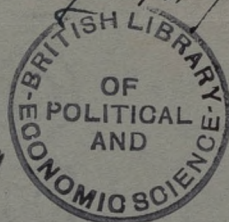
72 LEASOWE ROAD,
WALLASEY,
CHESHIRE.

29th July 1949.

Mr. Raymond W. Postgate

Dear Sir,

M449



I see you are writing the "Life" of my old friend, George Lansbury, and need letters of his dealing with "political and economic principles". I have torn some pages from a Scrap book of mine (1932/), and enclose same.

I knew "G. L." when I was the first minister of Plumstead Methodist Central Hall, now alas! many years ago. At the time I received the enclosed letter I was Supt. of Ashington Methodist Central Mission. There was great interest in

Mr. Lansbury's letter, and you
will notice how a Leeds minister
wanted to secure any helpful
points.

Well, I hope Mrs. may be a
little help in writing about
a really good man.

Very sincerely yours,
Stanley Parker

329

2nd August, 1949.

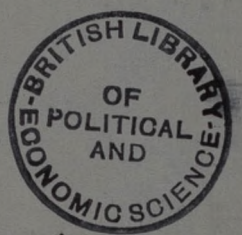
The Rev. A. Stanley Parker,
"Eversley",
72, Leasowe Road,
Cheshire.

Dear Mr. Parker,

It was very good of you to send me the enclosed typical
letter from George Lansbury. I have had a copy made. (X)

Yours sincerely,

(X) [see under G.L. at 15 Oct. 1932
(Section I: Vol. 10, fols. 274-5)]



M449

Peace Pledge Union

330

19 B Dyers Pass Rd,
Cashmere Hills,
Christchurch,
NEW ZEALAND.

20/5/40.

~~Self~~ Ackd 12 (VII) / 40

Secretary,
PEACE PLEDGE UNION,
3 Endsleigh St. London.

Dear Sir,

At a recent meeting of the Christchurch Branch of the
N.Z. Peace Pledge Union, a resolution was passed expressing regret at
the death of the Right Honourable Mr George Lansbury, and appreciation
of his life-long service to the cause of peace.

Surely no man had greater qualifications than Mr Lansbury to
claim the 1940 Nobel Peace Prize for which he was nominated.

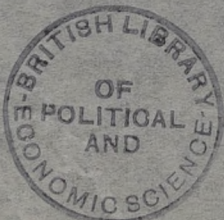
His untiring efforts in the face of great opposition will long
remain an inspiration to us who seek to follow where he has led.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

(Miss) Winifred M. Smith

(Secretary P.P.U. ChCh. N.Z.)



M449

331

"I RENOUNCE WAR AND I WILL NEVER SUPPORT OR SANCTION ANOTHER"



THE PEACE PLEDGE UNION

(Head Office: Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh Street, London, WCI)

President: George Lansbury
Chairman: Alex Wood
General Secretary: Stuart Morris
Hon. Treasurer: Maurice Rowntree
Tel: Euston 5501-2-3

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- WILFRED WELLOCK
- ARTHUR WRAGG

(Fred Hellowell)

GROUP, REGION or AREA
 NAME **HATLEX DRIVE,**
 ADDRESS **NEST BANK**
LANCASTER!
July 5th. 1940.

Dear Friend,

Regarding your letter in the M/c Guardian of to-day's date. Would the following be of help to you.

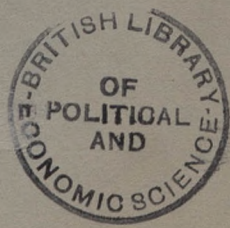
I remember the first time I met Mr. Lansbury, in Kendal early in 1938. He walked down the stairs, his hand gripping the stair rail because of his 'gammy' leg. He came up towards where I was standing and said 'Hello Brother'. In our conversation he kept calling me 'Comrade' and 'Brother' and I know full well that he meant what he said. I had a car waiting to take him on to Morecambe (the place of his next meeting) but before he would set off he walked into a little confectioners shop to buy some toffees and was there perhaps five minutes talking to his 'Sister' in the shop. At the meeting, crowded to capacity and with an overflow hall wired up with microphone holding 400 people, he spoke for nearly an hour, after saying that he 'reckoned nothing much to these things' (the microphone). Then he spoke to the microphone and said 'I'm coming over to see you people in the other hall' and he went across and talked for another 15 minutes. His message was of peace and brotherhood and his message rang true and people knew it because of his sincerity.

The following day I was privileged to be present at the short Quaker silent worship with George Lansbury and a few of the maids and attendants at the Friends Guest House where he was staying. George Lansbury said a few words of prayer and I shall allways remember that fifteen minutes on that early spring morning. It was not what he said, it was the earnestness of the man, it was the deep sincerity and humility of one who knew Christ, and of one who wanted his brothers and sisters to know Jesus as he knew Him.

I had to take Mr. Lansbury to Preston to catch an express for Glasgow (his next place of meeting) and an incident on the way comes back to my mind. Whilst passing through the streets of Preston we passed a 'chip cart' (a two wheeled flat cart piled with firewood) and George Lansbury's eyes lit up whilst he told us of how he had hawked firewood in Australia in the old days.

One just could not help loving George Lansbury because there was nothing that was not love in his heart. He radiated something that overcame our pettiness and our sense of rank and position. He surely could speak with Kings and Commoners as men and as brothers.

Yours sincerely
Fred Hellowell.



M449

Raymond W. Postgate

333

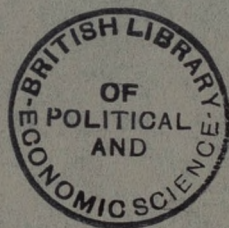
Hubert W. Peet, Esq.,
The Editor,
The Friend,
8, Endsleigh Gardens, W.C.1.

31st December, 1948.

Dear Mr. Peet,

Thank you very much for sending me that extract
concerning George Lansbury.

Yours sincerely,



M449

Hubert Wm. Peet (1886-1951)

332

Correspondence should
be addressed to
THE EDITOR
Phone EUSTON 7549

THE FRIEND

The Quaker Weekly Journal

Editorial Office

8 ENDSLEIGH GARDENS
LONDON, W.C.1

Dear Mr. Postgate,

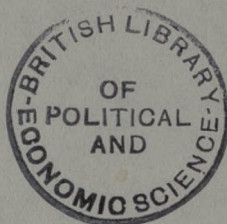
30th December, 1948.

I see you are enquiring about letters and material concerning George Lansbury. I thought I had one or two letters from him that I had kept but I have not been able to find them. I am, however, sending you a copy of his reply to a symposium on "Are Papers Too Cheap" which I ran in the 1914 issue of Sell's World's Press, the newspaper annual, two editions of which I edited. I believe I still have the original if you want to see it but I think probably a copy will be all you will need. It may be of some slight use to you in dealing with George Lansbury's journalistic adventures.

Of course don't want this copy back.

Yours sincerely,

Raymond Postgate, Esq.,
45, Hendon Lane,
LONDON, N. 3.



M449

Hubert Wm. Peet

F. Piercey
The Biography of Mr Geo Lansbury.

[say 6 July 1940] (334)

Dear Sir

in response to your appeal in "The Daily Herald" of July 5th. I have a little anecdote that is worthy of record. Some five years or so ago, (Unfortunately I destroyed papers). I was a member of West Wycombe Parish Council, in South Bucks. I had fought for several years to get a footpath made on a BOOKER Manorial Common for the benefit of children to get to school as, owing to motor traffic &c, this common for at least 6 months was simply a morass of mud. The lord of the manor gave permission for a path to be made. West Wycombe Parish Council said " We cannot make footpaths, we can only repair existing footpaths."

I saw members of the High Wycombe Labour Party, I enquired of them "Who would assist me best to get this job done?" Mr Lansbury of Bow, he is just the man for your job, he is so fond of children, that if he can help he will."

I wrote off to Mr Lansbury, who sent me a postcard by return of post with the following message.

Dear Sir

received your appeal, have put down a question to ask in the Commons for Thursday. Yours fraternally G.L. But owing to having lost or destroyed this card I cannot send it on to you, but I expect a record will be found in Hansard.

The name of village is BOOKER. HIGH WYCOMBE. BUCKS.

The Ministry of Transport sent down a representative to report on the Question, and arranged to go on the spot with the local surveyor, but: I received no notice of the ministry's actions, and as a result, the surveyor took the official to the wrong place, and of course we did not get the path made by the government, but we villagers made one ourselves.

I wrote repeatedly to the Ministry without avail.

As I have no records, these above statements are true, and if you decide to use them, I could then get the date of sending to Mr Lansbury.

I am Sir

yours faithfully Mr F. Piercey.

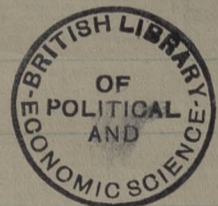
Limmeria.

New Road.

BOOKER.

HIGH WYCOMBE. BUCKS

F. Piercey



M449

Owen A. Rattenbury

335

Workers' Temperance League

A LEAGUE OF TOTAL ABSTAINERS

who are members of the Labour, Trade Union
or Co-operative Movements



Hon. Treasurer :

OWEN RATTENBURY, J.P.

68 Grosvenor Road

Muswell Hill

London, N.10

Telephone : TUDOR 4232

August 1 1949

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Councillor J. C. PRICE,

11 Oak Road,

Priory Estate,

Dudley, Worcs.

Telephone : Dudley 4072

My Dear Postgate,

This is not just what you ask for, but it may be useful to you. An yhow, you know how to select and discard.

I knew George Lansbury mostly as the President of the Workers' Temperance League. Occasionally the members of the League would meet in London, often as the guests of Mrs Somerville Hastings. On such occasions George would be there. I remember as a very obscure member of the League meeting him there. I have been accustomed all my life as a Methodist to people who call me "Brother" and send a cold shiver down my back as a result. Something like the Communist's "Comrade" as a preliminary to a very bitter jibe. One felt in other words that the epithet was more or less insincere - not always but very frequently. George Lansbury always met me with the word "Brother". Probably he only recognised me without recalling my name, and in such case "brother" was quite convenient. But with all those reservations, there was the ineradicable feeling that there was a real feeling of affection behind the expression. It was a shock at first to my Methodist amour propre to recognise that the reality of the expression which had been so notable among the early Methodists survived only in such a man as the Anglican George Lansbury. It indicated a spirit that his opponents in politics too were ever ready to recognise. They hated his politics but loved the man.

I remember that the Rev W.E. Clapham, whose Methodist Church at that time was right opposite George's house had a great project for starting a clinic and nursery school for the children of Bow Common. He had the conception, the design the will and the site but he could not get the money. One night coming away from the House of Commons on the Underground he happened to sit next to Lansbury, who was of course the M.P. for the constituency and he told him of his project. "Why, that is wonderful" said he. It will help my constituents and the little children. I'll help you. How much do you want?

I think it was about £6000. Lansbury immediately went along to Sir Louis Baron and got something like £2000. Then he saw Baldwin and got a large amount from the Pilgrim Trust. Just on Lansbury's word! Baldwin had the same affection and respect for him that everybody else had. Then he approached the Stepney and Poplar Councils and got promises of large annual grants. I am not sure whether he procured the Duchess of Kent for the opening and the Dowager Lady Reading to take the chair but I think he had something to do with it. Clapham got his clinic etc. and all from that one conversation when he was more or less at his wits' end as to where the money was to come from.

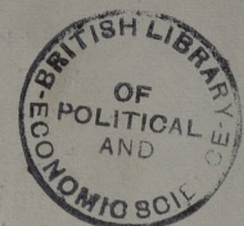
One other memory I have. Arthur Henderson died and my brother (Rev Dr J.E. Rattenbury) went up to Golders Green for the Funeral Service in the Methodist Church there. We went on later to the crematorium and George Lansbury spoke in really beautiful phraseology of his old friend. It was a most inspiring address. My brother and I went out after it. He had been a great friend of Arthur Henderson from the days when he was a youth in Newcastle on Tyne and Henderson had heard what we call a Trial Sermon, the necessary preliminary to his becoming a minister. They did not entirely share political ideas. My brother was a great personal friend also of Walter Runciman, and was inclined to share his politics, but they had a great affection for each other. My brother expressed the opinion to me as we came away that Lansbury had paid one of the most beautiful tributes to a friend that he had ever heard.

A few years later I was at Lansbury's own funeral service at Bow. It is not a habit I have, but when you feel a great affection for a man, admiring his qualities of mind and spirit, you just go, however difficult it may be. I don't think the family knew I was there. They would not have known who I was if they had. The spiritual power of the man was tremendous. I have no doubt you have that in mind, his kindness, his truth his fearlessness. But do not forget his great intellectual qualities either.

Yours sincerely,

Owen A. Rattenbury

Raymond Postgate Esq.



M449

Raymond W. Postgate
to Owen A. Rattenbury

336

9th August, 1949.

Owen Rattenbury, Esq.,
68, Grosvenor Road,
Muswell Hill,
N.10.

Dear Mr. Rattenbury,

Thank you for your kindness in sending those reminiscences of George Lansbury to me. I remember H.W. Nevinson saying that he was the only man who could call him "brother" without making him feel uncomfortable.

Yours sincerely,

TEL.
HASLEMERE 616.

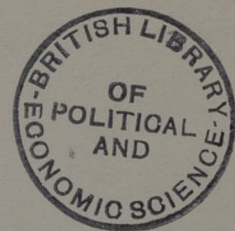
Rev. Andrew Baring Ritchie

HASLEMERE RECTORY,
SURREY.

337

Dec 18. 1842.

to R. C. Legg



M449

My dear Sir,

I fear that I cannot be much use to you in your task of collecting data for a life of Sir George Lausbury.

I have been out of touch with East London for so many years, and my contact with Lausbury was almost entirely confined to the years 1904-1910 when I was a very youthful Curate at St. Mary's, Stratford, Bow. We hardly met after wards.

I can of course join my tribute to the many who will tell you of the deep sincerity of Lausbury; personal character & of his religious convictions. His religion was indeed the motive force of his life, as his friends know.

I remember, for example, that during a governmental inquiry into the affairs of the Poplar Guardians, there was a good deal of severe criticism being made (and I fancy with some reason) and Lausbury, as a prominent member of the Board, inevitably came in for a good share of abuse. When the

Inquiry was over & the report mixed, Lausbury was of course
exonerated by the Inspector of any personal malpractice, but
it must have been a most trying & rather sad in experience
for a man of Lausbury's temperament. But my point in
recalling this incident is that during all the Inquiry George
~~was~~ used to come to Bow Church on a week day morning to
make his Communion. It was there that he turned for strength.

G. L. was not an easy man to quote from.
He was a good & persuasive speaker, because you felt that he
was so sincere, but he wasn't a 'merry' speaker or witty.
He was not given to making what the Americans call
wise-cracks, as for example Will Crooks was, and to sayings
of his didn't leap to the memory or make good copy.

The abiding impression G. L. made upon me was his
goodness of heart. He was not only negatively unselfish
in his attitude to men. He actively loved them, a
much harder thing to do. His religion inspired his life long
advocacy of the "under-dog".

I expect that you have already written to the Rt. Rev.
Bishop Maule who was in 1904 Rector of Poplar & knew G. L.
well.

Yours sincerely
A. B. Ritchie.

Rev. Wm. Corbett Roberts

338

SANDY
BEDS.

12. 1. '43.

Dear Mr. Postgate

[see jobs.
339-343
above]

The inclosed was just

ready to go to Mr. Legge, when
your letter came to day. So I
am sending it to you. If I
collect any further material, I
will send it on -

Yours sincerely

W.C. Roberts



M449

Rev. Wm. Corbett Roberts
(1873 - ~~1953~~)

(339)

THE RECTORY,
SUTTON,

STATION: BIGGLESWADE OR POTTON.

TELEGRAMS: POTTON.

Telephone: POTTON 257

NR. SANDY,

BEDS.

8.1. '43.

[sent to R.W. Postgate instead: see p. 344 below]

Dear Mr. Legge,

I have written down, and inclose, some notes about George Lansbury: but I am not good at remembering details, and have no newspaper cuttings etc. As regards what I have written:-

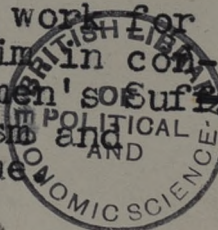
1) there would be a full report in the East ~~XX~~ London Observer of the meeting in 1903 at the Bromley Town Hall. That meeting was something of a sensation, and it would be worth while consulting the newspaper.

2) I think it possible that some members of his lads' Bible Class may be able to contribute something. I am trying to get in ~~XX~~ touch with one or two.

3) In the autumn of 1903 he helped Manley Power to start a branch of the C.E.M.S., but I don't think anything much came of that.

4) A former member of Bow Church who ~~was~~ worked for ~~30~~ 30 years at the Poplar workhouse is now in this parish: she has memories of him in the Institution, and I think also in the school in Essex, and I am going to see whether she can recall incidents which I can write out for you.

5) I have said nothing of his work for Women's Suffrage. I don't remember him in connexion with the Church League for Women's Suffrage, but this no less than Socialism and Pacifism was for him a religious issue.



M449

6) In quite recent years my wife was in contact with him in the P.P.U. and I am asking her to write an account of a memorable speaking tour to Blackpool.

As regards names and addresses of old friends and associates, I doubt whether I can give you any that would be new to you. The Rev. N.E.E. Swann, now rector of St. Margaret Pattens, would have memories of the C.S.L. in addition to those I have mentioned in my notes. Mrs. Langdon should be able to give you incidents in connexion with St. Matthew's, City Road, and Mrs. Gobat in the same way about Gedney. I haven't got their present addresses, but Gedney Vicarage would find Mrs. Gobat, and St. Matthew's Vicarage Mrs. Langdon.

Yours sincerely,

W.C. Roberts

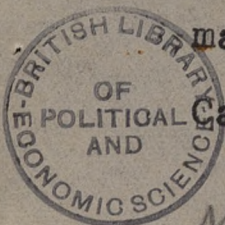
(W.C. Roberts)

I think it was early in 1902 that I first met George Lansbury. I was a curate at Bow Parish Church. I wanted help given — justice done -- to an old lady I had come across. Other sources failing, I wrote out of the blue to G.L. He at once did the right thing.

That was the beginning. A little later G.L. resumed his life in the Church. For several years he had identified himself with the Ethical Society, and his children were associated with it. But in earlier life he had been closely associated with Whitechapel Parish Church, and now convictions which had been dormant rather than dead sprang into new life. Church attendance and Holy Communion became regular habits again; in May 1902 Daisy, Nellie, Constance, and Violet were baptised at Bow Church; and in October G.L. set on foot a class for lads of sixteen and upwards.

This lads' club⁴⁵⁶ grew and flourished for many years; as might have been expected its members were from the first encouraged to busy themselves in the social life of the district; their first move was a big children's ^{Christmas} party which became an annual event.

In the winter of 1902—3 a branch of the Christian Social Union was set on foot in Bow, and a series of public meetings was held in the Bromley Town Hall. At the first of these on Feb. 2nd. 1903 George Lansbury spoke on 'Church and Labour' with Dr. Cosmo Lang, then Bishop of Stepney, in the chair. This was his public apologia for his renewed Christian faith, and naturally drew great attention from people of very ~~different~~ varying convictions. It may be worth recalling the subsequent lectures of the series-- they were given by Mr. C.F.G. Masterman, Mr. Arthur Sharwell, the temperance reformer, Mr. G.W.E. Russell, Canon Scott Holland, and the Rev. Percy Dearmer. There was some



stirring of a social conscience in local church circles; the rector, Mr. Manley Power — anything but a socialist politically, but speedily becoming on terms of real friendship with G.L. — became a member of the Board of Guardians and learnt a great deal; in October the C.S.U. organised a meeting in the Bow Baths in connexion with the municipal elections, the speakers being the Bishop of Stepney, G.L., and Lady Henry Somerset, who had recently settled with one or two others in a house in the Bow Road and was working in connexion with Bromley Parish Church.

At the end of 1903 I left Bow and cannot report anything in detail of subsequent years ^{there} ~~in Bow~~. G.L. continued in close association with the parish church. I had some contact with him while out of London, especially in connexion with the Church Socialist League. This was founded in 1903 (?) by those who had been members of Stewart Headlam's old Guild of St. Matthew and by others in the C.S.U. who were definitely Socialist in conviction. The leading members of the C.S.L. were James Adderley, F.L. Donaldson, Conrad Noel, and P.E.T. Widdrington; G.L. soon joined them. The League did good work, especially in towns such as Leicester, Bristol, and Birmingham, where it had members in charge of churches. In London it made less impression, though lectures and sermons in connexion with it were delivered at St. George's, Bloombury and other churches; G.L. took a leading part in the work of the League all over the country. But the war of 1914 -18 brought it to an end, and at a meeting in, I think, Birmingham, soon after the armistice, it was dissolved. Two other bodies came into existence — the League of the Kingdom of God, run by Widdrington and Maurice Reckitt, for those of the Anglo-Catholic intelligentsia interested in Christian Sociology, and



M449

the interdenominational Socialist Christian League, which still carries on. G.L. did not play an active part in either of these bodies, as he had done in the C.S.L. , mainly no doubt because of the ever increasing demands on him of political work.

From time to time he would speak at special services in churches~~XXX~~ served by his friends; an outstanding instance of this was his annual visit to St. Matthew's, City Road, the vicar of which officiated at his funeral; he took special pleasure in his visits, also, I think, annual events, to the Rev. T.C.Gobat's country parish in Lincolnshire; on several occasions he drew large numbers to St. George's, Bloomsbury -- especially notable was one Sunday afternoon during the war at the time of a railway strike, the strikers marching from Poplar to Bloomsbury led by G.L. and a young girl teacher.

At the last-mentioned church he met not only with Socialist but with Pacifist sympathisers, and as the shadow of war grew darker this cause became the one dominating thing in his life -- the cause for which he sacrificed all else, which broke , or made, according to the point of view taken up, his career as a statesman.

W.C.Roberts

Mrs. Wm. Corbett Roberts

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I remember vividly hearing G.L. address a meeting of the Church Congress at Bournemouth in 1937. G.L.'s subject was pacifism and it was a coldly hostile audience. When he sat down there was silence but for a few perfunctory ~~XXXX~~ ^{feeble} claps. The speaker who ~~was~~ — I think it was Page Crofts — followed/drew from the crowded hall a tremendous burst of applause by some allusion to Kitchener and Khartoum. I remember a plump little Archdeacon (or Dean) in front of me turning round to a friend — his little pink hands still busily clapping — as he exclaimed, delighted: "You see what a lot of ~~of~~ good a war can bring about!" No one spoke to G.L. when ~~the~~ meeting broke up. I edged my way towards him and thanked him. It was obvious as he replied that he was sick at heart.

Another vivid memory is of his appearance at a lunch-hour meeting at the Friends' House in London just after his return from visiting Hitler. He was heckled from the audience, one angry voice demanding whether he would shake the hand of an English murderer. "Yes, friend," was G.L.'s answer, "or that of any other fellow-sinner," or words to that effect.

G.L. was an old man and a lame man when in the summer of 1937 he addressed within three days four large pacifist meetings, in ~~or~~ ^{and} near Blackpool, with amazing vigour and enthusiasm. He spoke for well over an hour at each meeting and answered questions at the conclusion of his speeches with unabated energy. Nor was he passive in the intervals between the meetings. He was recognised and accosted as he limped along the street and had a genial word for everyone who spoke to him. Even at meals in his hotel he suffered himself to be interrogated by strangers, and lingered, when he should have been resting, to listen to arguments against



M449

his pacifism. He was uniformly gentle and courteous; the passage of years had mellowed him and brought him a very beautiful serenity.

He went to Church on the Sunday morning and was much moved by the little girls seated in the chancel, in their white frocks and coloured sashes, assembled for their Sunday School anniversary. Their singing touched him deeply as he looked ahead and thought of what might be — and was — awaiting them.

I was taking the place, at very short notice, of Ruth Fry who was ill, and I found myself scared at the ordeal. G.L.'s name was drawing huge audiences alike to Chapel, Cinema, and Tower Circus. (But the meeting that pleased G.L. best was the smallest, when he addressed the upper forms of a boys' school and met with eager response.) As we sat waiting to go on to the Cinema platform I found myself asking him to say a prayer for me. At once he bowed his head and prayed silently. His prayer and his gentle encouragement helped me through. All the week-end he was kind to me and quietly considerate. I was deeply drawn to him.

Ursula Roberts

(345)

Under Eaves
Kirby Rd.
Horsell,
Woking, Surrey.

Eric G. Ruffle

July 15^a 1940

Mr Raymond Postgate

Dear Sir

I was very interested to read your letter in a recent issue of the News-Chronicle and glad to hear that an authoritative life of the late George Lansbury is to be published.

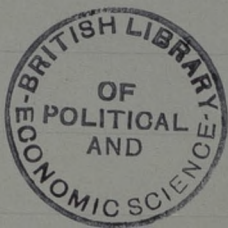
I always admired Mr Lansbury for his work for children and animals, his efforts for world peace and other good work, and was very grieved to hear of his passing.

I have enclosed herewith a cutting

from "The abolitionist" (do not want
it returned), and I hope that Mr
Lansbury's interest in the Anti-Viv-
isection movement will be well
mentioned in the biography.

Yours very truly

Eric J Raffle



M449

[with letter 15 July 1940 from
Eric G. Ruffell]

MR. GEORGE LANSBURY

The death of The Right Hon. George Lansbury, M.P., on May 7th, removes from our ranks one of the most influential supporters of anti-vivisection. It is no mere figure of speech to say that Mr. Lansbury was universally respected and loved. He certainly had friends all over the world and, as was stated in the obituary published in *The Daily Telegraph*, although he had "many critics" he had "no personal enemies." This is remarkable testimony to the fine character of a man with strong opinions and unpopular ideas, that he should die at the advanced age of 81, with a long record of public service, and leave not a single enemy.

Mr. Lansbury's interest in the Anti-Vivisection Movement was of long standing, and we remember in particular that his vote was among the 156 recorded for the re-introduction into the House of Commons of the Bill, promoted by the B.U.A.V., to prevent the expenditure of public money on vivisection. This move was defeated by 14 votes only, on the 16th December, 1930. In June, 1932, Mr. Lansbury spoke at a public meeting held under the auspices of the B.U.A.V. in the Caxton Hall, Westminster, when he declared that he had supported the Anti-vivisection Cause for many years, from the standpoint of a Christian and a Churchman, and he regretted that the Church as a whole had not taken up the Cause.

As an indication of the affection felt for Mr. Lansbury it may be mentioned that, according to the report in the *Evening Standard*, hours before the funeral service, which was held at St. Mary's, Bow, in his own constituency of East London, crowds lined the streets, and it is estimated that "five thousand people gathered to mourn the man they had known for so long and loved so well. Everyone was silent,

OBITUARY

Abolitionist

June 1940

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and many people were weeping. So many wreaths were sent that they were laid on the pavement in rows outside the house."

Who can doubt that this world is the better for his exemplary life?

PTE. ALFRED CARLISLE

Under the heading of "Soldier Dies After Inoculation" a report of an inquest, held by the South Leicestershire Coroner (Mr. G. E. Bouskell) and a jury, to investigate the death of Pte. Alfred Carlisle, was published in the *Nottingham Journal* of May 7th.

Evidence was given by Lieut. D. A. MacPherson, Medical Officer at Glen Parva Military Hospital, who stated he had inoculated 175 men with a second dose of vaccine. Pte. Alfred Carlisle, 33 years of age, a married man, was one of the men inoculated. He became ill, was taken to hospital, and died six hours after inoculation. The cause of death had been passed by a civil medical board as grade of death by an Army board as A1.

Mr. W. W. Mackarel, pathologist at the Leicester Infirmary, said that Carlisle's death was due to dilatation or acute palpitation of the right side of the heart, which had been brought about by a second inoculation when the man was not in a satisfactory condition and had not completely recovered from the first inoculation. He was a strongly built man, and only a post-mortem examination revealed heart trouble. He had been passed by five medical boards.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, the foreman saying that the death was not attached to anyone.

The Abolitionist. June 1940

H. W. Sewell

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36 Kings Rd,
Leytonstone, Ell.
3rd July 1940.

R. Postgate Esq.,
45 Hendon Lane N.3.

Dear Sir,

I see by today's News Chronicle that you are interested in letters etc. of Mr George Lansbury.

My father was one of his earliest friends, and amongst his papers are many letters and records, from and concerning G L. but I do not think, that as they are mainly personal, and connected with his younger days, that they are of much public interest, and I believe that Edgar had access to them, when he was writing.

time If however you would at any time like to go through them, you are welcome to. It would require a little to sort them out, so perhaps you would give me a few days notice.

I am enclosing an essay which illustrates my point, very interesting to his friends, but hardly of public interest.

Unless any of the family particularly want it I should like to have it again whenever you have finished with it.

I am

Yours sincerely

H. W. Sewell



M449

H.W. Sewell, Esq.,
36 Kings Road,
Leytonstone,
E.11.

4th
July,
1940.

Dear Mr. Sewell,

Thank you very much for your note and the enclosure. That essay by G.L. is very interesting indeed. Is there any means of putting a date to it? There appears to be nothing in the text to tell us. I would like to hold on to it for some time, as I think it may prove to be important as an indication of the development of his political views.

I think that the records your Father had are probably of prime importance. When the time comes to write G.L.'s Biography I want to do the life not merely of the public figure, but of the man too, and I think that what you have may turn out to be most important.

There does not seem to be a great deal in the material that was at 39 Bow Road. I would be deeply grateful therefore, and I am sure the rest of the family would be, if you would, at your leisure, look through them and arrange them as you suggest. If you would drop me a line when you have done so I will try and come to look at them.

Yours sincerely,

Raymond W. Postgate.



M449

Telephone :
GERRARD 3627.

H. W. Sewell

A
"Worthy"
Hat.

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Factory :
VILLA ROAD, LUTON

R. WORTHINGTON & CO., LTD.

Directors : H. W. SEWELL, J. S. MEADE

Millinery Manufacturers.

~~7 GT. MARLBOROUGH STREET, LONDON, W.1~~

36 Kings Rd,
Leytonstone, Ell.
5th July 1940.

R.W. Postgate, Esq.,
45 Hendon Lane,
London, N.3

Dear Mr Postgate

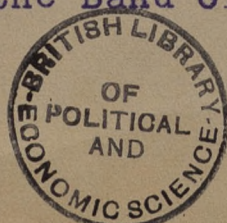
My father was a most methodical man, and I should imagine never destroyed a letter, or paper, consequently when he died, we were confronted with a room entirely filled with papers concerning all his various activities, religious, political, and social, which for the last two years I have been going through and destroying.

There is still a very considerable amount left and I do not think that I have got rid of anything which would be likely to be of interest to you. Most of his early papers are sorted into dates, and if you will fix a date at any time convenient to yourself, I will arrange to have ^{them} in some sort of order that they can be run through without loss of time.

Of course you are welcome to anything that you consider interesting enough to take away. The essay I should think was written when he was about 16 or 17 years old, and was in connexion with the Band of Hope which both he and my father belonged.

yours sincerely

H. W. Sewell



M449

H. W. Sewell

36 Kings Rd,
Leytonstone
E11.

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4th August 1940.

Dear Mr Postgate,

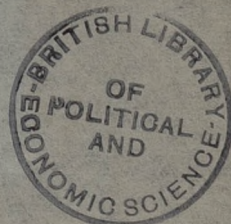
Since my last letter my sister has let her house furnished. I had not had an opportunity to complete the job but I think that most of the early stuff is sorted out and if you like I will put it in a suitcase and bring it over to you

I have to pay a visit to Edgware sometime during the week after next, and any evening convenient to you, would arrange to call on my way there and run through the stuff.

Dont bother to answer this, but I will give you a ring, and perhaps we could fix something up on the phone

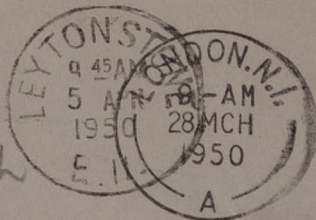
Yours sincerely,

H. W. Sewell



M449

[belongs to letter
from RP 27 March
1950]



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ROAD USERS
PLEASE USE THE
CHILDRIEN

UNDELIVERED FOR REASON STATED
RETURN TO SENDER

H. W. Sewell, Esq.,

36, Kings Road,

Leytonstone,

E.11.

not known.
not known
RP
a 7

from R. W. POSTGATE

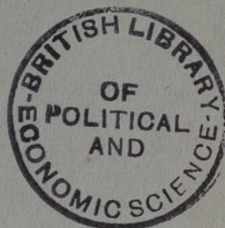
Raymond W. Postgate
to H. W. Sewell

27th March, 1950.

45 Hendon Lane
London . . . N.3

Tel.: FINchley 0688

Cable address
Rapostgate, London



H. W. Sewell, Esq.,
36, Kings Road,
Leytonstone,
E.11.

Dear Mr. Sewell,

After all this time I am at last near to the end of the M449
Life of George Lansbury. I have found your father's little
collection of his letters and records infinitely valuable, and I
think it would be a great pity if they were not available for students
in the future. The librarian of the London School of Economics has
agreed to accept all the other papers that I have (mostly letters to
G.L., many thousands in number). Will you authorise me to offer
your father's documents also to him? The only condition that

I made in handing over the other papers was that they should be accessible to any serious student whether a member of the school or not and to this he agreed immediately. When he receives the papers he is going to have them indexed and bound.

Yours sincerely,

Raymond P. Ryan

Memorandum from Raymond Postgate, 45 Hendon Lane, London, N.3

To

Date April 1950

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These are the property of H.W. Sewell.

I cannot trace him. I have telephoned many
Sewells in vain

RWP

[Refers to letters & papers of Wm
Chester Sewell (friend of G.L.'s
youth), now dispersed into their
chronological places in the Collection.]

Rev. Albert James Smith

354

ST PAUL'S VICARAGE

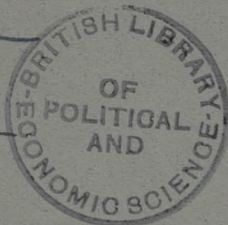
OLD FORD E.

Dec 21/42

Dear Legge

I have been thinking
over your request for matter
re. W. Kamsky. He lived in this
parish & attended my Church for some
years after I came, & I have been in
close touch with him after. So I
may be able to help, but I should
prefer to do it direct to the
Author. So if you will just
let W. Postgate in touch with me I
will do what I can to help -
With best wishes for the Season

Yours sincerely
A. J. Smith

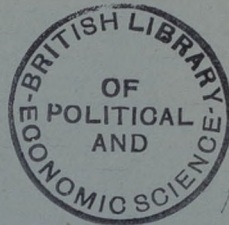


M449

[see copy of G. H. letter to Mary Stewart
of 24 Nov. 1939 in Section I (Vol. 17)
PEBBLE HILL COTTAGE fol. 138 above)
LIMPSFIELD.

July 8th 1940

SURREY.



M449

Dear Mr. Postgate.

Seeing in the paper that you are asking for letters of George Lamburns, I enclose this one, in case it is any use, though I rather think it may not be suitable for a biography.

It is one of my greatest treasures, as though I had not the pleasure of knowing him personally he is my great hero, for whom I have the most intense love & respect.

Enclosed is the poem referred to in the letter. (2 verses)

I do hope I shall live to read Mr. Lamburns's life - it will indeed be

PEBBLE HILL - COTTAGE
LIMPSFIELD
SURREY

a book worth having!

I went to the Memorial Service in Westminster Abbey & thought what a wonderful tribute it was to his character & the esteem in which he is held that a Memorial Service to a Pacifist should have been held there in war time.

If Britain had followed his lead, there might have been no war. He did his best & someday the rest of the world will see it too.

We miss him sorely but I sometimes think he may be doing even more where he is & he had well earned his rest.

Yrs Sincerely
Mary Stewart

" ^{with letter 8 July 1940 from Mary Stewart to R W Postgate}
For while the tired waves vainly breaking,
Seem here no painful inch to gain,
Far back, through creeks & inlets making,
Comes silent, flooding in, the main.

And not by eastern windows only,
When daylight comes, comes in the light;
In front the sun climbs slow, how slowly,
But westward look, the land is bright."

Arthur Hugh Clough.

356

Miss Mary Stewart,
Pebble Hill Cottage,
Limpsfield,
Surrey.

6th
August,
1940.

Dear Miss Stewart,

Thank you very much for letting me
have G.L.'s letter, which I now return;
I have taken a copy of it. (X)

Yours sincerely,

Raymond W. Postgate.



M449

L. N. Gubil [Sundarana]

358

Telkhatulam

Trichinopoly

South India

20th May 1940

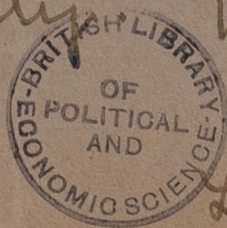
Respected Madam,

It is with deep regret that we people of this Country received the sad news of the passing away of that veteran Statesman Mr George Lansbury M. P. a staunch stalwart fighter of India's Cause. God's test is great.

May His Soul rest in peace.

but sympathies to one and all in the family. With kind regards

Mrs Lansbury



Yours sincerely

L. N. Gubil Sundarana

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3rd December, 1948.

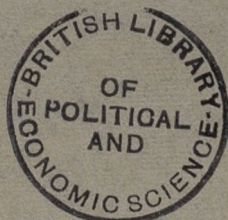
The Editor,
The Times Literary Supplement,
Printing House Square,
London, E.C.4.

Dear Sir,

I am at present writing the authorised life of George Lansbury and find to my distress that the greater portion of his records have disappeared. I would be most grateful for the loan of any letters of his of any length in your readers' hands, particularly those dealing with political matters. These will be acknowledged, taken great care of, and returned safely.

Yours faithfully,

R. W. Postgate.



M449

Also sent to New Statesman & Nation.

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3rd December, 1948.

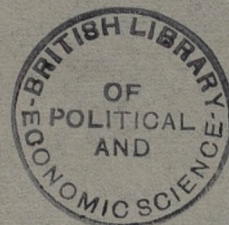
The Editor,
Tribune Publications Ltd.,
222, Strand,
W. C. 2.

Dear Sir,

I am at present writing the
authorised life of George Lansbury and
find to my distress that most of his
records have disappeared. Though I
applied
~~applied~~ some years ago for the loan of any
material still in private hands, I had
a very poor response. I would be most
grateful for the loan of any letters of
his of any length in your readers' hands,
particularly those dealing with political
matters. These will be acknowledged,
taken great care of, and returned safely.

Yours faithfully,

R. W. Postgate.



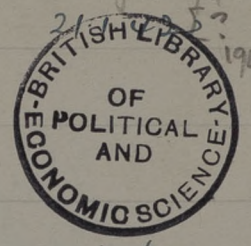
M449

(361)

Peter Whistkin

(m. Esme, d. of Wm. Arthur (son of G.L.)
65 Barton Road Harlington, Beds

21 Jan 1942



M449

Dear Ray,

My friends in Luton have promised to hunt up their papers about G.L.; I will give them a gentle reminder whenever you are really waiting.

I have been through the 200 or so obituaries in English & French which Roushke & Currice sent me and rejected the conventional. I enclose all those that may be wholly or partly, directly or indirectly valuable. There are 23, plus Lilliput containing probably his last article. I tried to classify them into anecdotes, important opinions of him, & historical, but they overlap & you must labour on them. Some are surprising, particularly the well written & interesting document from Lahore of all places. The Islington Gazette certainly did him justice & honour & I included these articles so that you could if you wished chase the authors for more facts which are probably available for the asking.

One of the anecdotes, about the P.P.U meeting at Maumbury, reminds me of Esmé's account of a P.P.U meeting at Golden Green Hippodrome.

The other leaders of P.P.U. were given ovations as they took the stage. G.L. was late and was not applauded or cheered; in dead silence the whole audience rose to their feet as G.L. limped on to the stage with his stick.

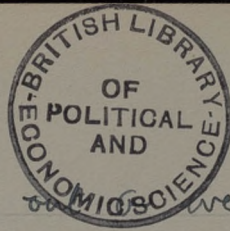
I have never heard of any but Royalty receiving such homage — a homage in this case being spontaneously given. With Royalty it is merely a custom.

Another of the cuttings relates an occasion when G.L. told Churchill in the House to "shut up." There was more to the occasion than that.

What happened was that Esmé & I had been to a concert in the London Museum & from the Staircase could see Churchill in the seats of honour behind the orchestra. The concert ended at 9 and we cut across the Horse Guards to the House of Commons and sent in a green

Peter Whiskin 3

21 Jan 1942



M449

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Card to G.L. He came to the meeting we mentioned about Churchill - he asked if we were sure, which we were. He found us seats.

The House was in the middle of a long & tiresome debate - I believe it was on the Exchange Equalisation Account, but will verify if you wish - and back benches were struggling for the Speaker's eye. Churchill came in & very soon was laying it on. G.L. spoke immediately after - he was Leader - and I think he was winding up. But he not only told Churchill to shut up, but he gave him a trouncing for wandering into the House at the end of the debate, exercising the custom of ex-ministers to speak, and airing himself without having troubled to listen to the contributions of others. G.L. fairly let himself go; the House filled rapidly & members were rocking with laughter at Churchill's discomfiture. Every time Churchill tried to complain to the Speaker or interrupt

so G.L. knocked him flat. It was a most exhilarating experience, & I think well mented in that even "the Times" in a First Leader took particular care to mention in parenthesis G.L.'s constant & regular attendance as Leader; the article deplored poor attendances of the ~~Common~~ "National" majority. (I enclose HANSARD's account²⁵).

All this may or may not be "biography", but it is happy memory, the only thing nobody can take away from one.

Another thing strikes me; G.L. found I was interested in currency topics & lent me some books among them Büchi's book on Gosell's Theory that money should be a wasting commodity. Afterwards we had a long talk, and that alone convinced me that the common opinion of G.L. as a sentimental idealist, an impractical dreamer, was worse than wrong. We agreed money must have a perishable quality to keep it to its proper function as a means of exchange and to prevent it causing "shumps"

Peter Whistkin
21 Jan 1942

5

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by going into retirement at the will of its owners when they couldn't take their usury.

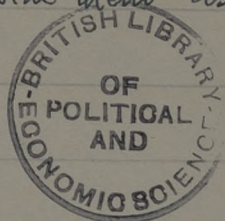
G.L. showed himself more real than the realists when he summed up by stating what the money reformers had all forgotten to say — that such changes in the character of money must follow the removal of the individual's necessity to save up for rainy days ~~old age~~ by the State taking responsibility for proper maintenance in & out of work. Qualify that idea or wrap it up how you will, it is the essence of the matter — remove the necessity for personal saving & the opponents of reforms that will ~~unsettle~~^{upset} the power of their money over men & ~~their~~^{men's} works have no platform.

Yet I have never seen it put its print — I have only heard it from G.L.'s lips.

I am sure you will not mind letting me have the cuttings etc. when you have finished with them as Sir Lansbury hasn't seen them.

Yours sincerely M449

Peter Whistkin P.T.O



P.S. About Gollanay, he writes he will put up a contract but first asks for 4p. synopsis which I am doing.

Please forgive common paper, which I loathe, & bad writing with borrowed pen. It is too cold to get out of this chair even for you. We are frozen up except for the WC. & in case that goes I am thinking of putting down a two-holer behind the wood-pile according to the excellent details supplied by Chick Sales Specialist. Do you think we could work up an illustrated article for "Design" or "Architecture" from my, ahem!, material?

Yours

I saw with joy your letter about the Home Ground & passed it round the village for some endorsement.

Sorry! I omitted this from the faced and will probably be soundly nailed by the qu'on. Hope you are all well. We are progressing according to plan and Gallon's branch is a little earlier. We have traced at last. Ha ha! "We do see life!" ESME.

R. White

WILL readers who have letters
or other records of the late
George Lansbury which would be
of value to his biographer let me
have them for that purpose?—
Raymond Postgate, 45, Hendon-
lane, N.3.

* * *

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28 Seafield Road
New Southgate. N.11.

7/7/40

Raymond Postgate Esq.
45 Hendon-lane N.3.

Dear Sir

In reference to yours above.

I have been wondering whether the following
personal experience with this great Englishman
might be of service to his biographer.

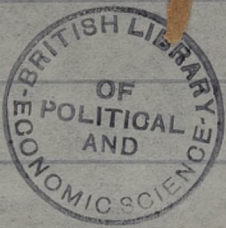
I am quite sure it is worth recording, as being
characteristic of the man throughout his life.

We ourselves, never ceased to respect him for this
one act alone.

A party of about 20 young socialists were returning
home after a stormy meeting Pro Boer at
the Shoreditch Town Hall.

We boarded a North London train

George Lansbury was little known to the public



M449

R. White
7 July 1940

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at the time and was the older man of our little party.

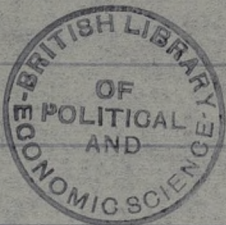
Feelings were running very high at the time, when into our compartment an elderly travelling fiddler stepped in to entertain us.

These strolling players were well known at the time on the North London Railway.

The fiddler had regaled us with a tune or two; Mr Lansbury then requested him to play *The Marseillaise* and we would give him the best collection he would take home that evening.

The fiddler's reply was to glare at our party, throw his hat on the floor of the compartment, and with the remark - "I'll see you all damned first" - stood up and played "God save the King".

The atmosphere was tense at the finish and the old man was in some danger from we younger folk, George Lansbury rose from his seat and with his lovely smile placed his hand on the old man's shoulder, silenced us



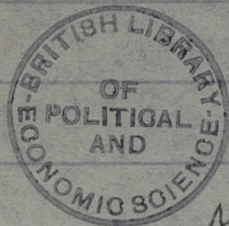
M449

7 July 1940

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all by raising his hand and remarked
Well friend every man is entitled to his opinion
we admire your courage immensely, we would
rather you had played "The Marseillaise"
but you shall have your collection just the
same, and passing round his bowler hat, the sum
of about half a crown was offered to the player;
It took all E. L.'s persuasive powers to make
him accept; he could not resist however
and must have gone home with a rare opinion
of a stranger, whom none thought at the
time would one day rise to be the best
loved man of his generation.

We have never forgotten the scene. "Two fine Englishmen" of
different types - yes!
but the lesson was not lost upon ourselves, and we
hope upon others who witnessed the scene.



M449

A very great Englishman.

Believe me
Dear Sir
Faithfully yours
R. White

(X) [see jobs 368-370 below]

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TELEPHONE:
UPPER WARLINGHAM.
194.

GRACEDIEU,
WARLINGHAM,
SURREY.

New address
George Ernest Winkerton 15 Oak Avenue
(1873 - 1942) Chichester

Dear Mr Postgate [Sat Aug.] 1940

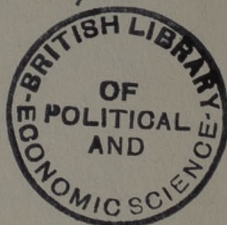
I have asked
the Editor of the Methodist Magazine
to send you a copy of the August
issue in which you will find my
article "George Lansbury as I knew
him". Perhaps this may be useful to
you. I also ^{asked him to} send you my interview with him
on the Peace issue in ~~the~~ earlier issue
As a member of the Workers Temperance
League I reported most of G.L.'s
speeches on that topic - Temperance -
for the Labour Abstainer. I have asked
Mr J.H. Hudson the Editor to send you
copies of the Labour Abstainer which
relate to G.L.'s work for the W.T.L.
I have also a number of personal

memoiranda I have made at
various times. As part of the process
of 'sorting out' due to my removal
to Chichester, I hope to collate these
memoirs and if I am able to do so
you may find something in them
which will be of service
G.L., as you know, had a multiplicity
of interests, and I scarcely say
your task in making a faithful
portrayal of them all

Sincerely
Yrs

Ernest Winter ton

A copy of your address was not given
in The New Statesman



M449

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GEORGE LANSBURY
WITH A PAL.

*Metropolitan
Magazine
Aug. 1940*

*[with letter from George
Ernest Winterton to
R W Postgate of
(say) Aug. 1940]*



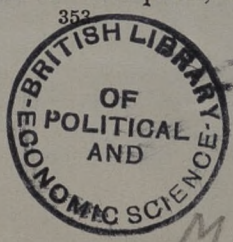
George Lansbury as I knew Him

By ^(George) ERNEST WINTERTON

IT was in the hectic days when the militant Suffragists, in order to call attention to their cause, were breaking windows, disturbing political meetings, or dropping lighted matches into postal pillar-boxes, that I first met George Lansbury. To his political intimates he was known as George; but to his closer comrades in press or social circles he was 'G.L.'—as great a contrast to another great political figure, 'L.G.' as could possibly be imagined.

When I first interviewed George Lansbury, about the year 1911, he was almost the sole champion in Parliament of

the Suffragettes—a support, by the by, which brought him a prison sentence in connexion with a speech he made at the Albert Hall. Under the direction of the late Arthur Henderson, Secretary of the People's Suffrage Federation, I was lobbying M.P.'s in favour of the vote for all men and women over twenty-one years of age, and I sought the help of G.L. as to which M.P.'s, in his judgement, ought to be interviewed. During a long and interesting conversation, he expressed himself very strongly concerning the obduracy of the Government, and especially of Mr. Asquith, then Prime Minister, and in their



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opposition to women's suffrage. 'Don't be too hard on them,' I said. 'One day you will be sitting on the front Government bench yourself.' 'I'll be hanged if ever I do!' he exclaimed. But he was wrong, for less than twenty years after, he was a member of the Labour Government, and I was privileged to sit behind him on the same side of the House.

My next vivid impression of G.L. was about the year 1917, in connexion with the Scarborough Conference of the Labour Party. I had arranged a breakfast gathering of the delegates at the invitation of the Strength of Britain Movement for War-time Prohibition. The late Arthur Henderson was the principal speaker, and I sat next to G.L., who had turned out at 7.30 a.m. in order to support him. It was, indeed, one of the strong characteristics of G.L. never to shirk association with unpopular causes, and even to go out of his way to show his colours.

More than once I have heard him tell how he and his brother were sent by their mother to the Band of Hope meeting conducted at the Christian Mission in the Mile End Road by Rev. William Booth, who afterward, as General Booth, founded the Salvation Army. These early influences and the drunkenness then rampant in the East End, made him a resolute teetotaller. Incidentally also, they made him, both in and out of Parliament, a loyal friend and champion of the Salvation Army.

G.L. was the most charitable man I ever knew. Although a strong abstainer and non-smoker himself, he showed a remarkable and comprehensive toleration of the weaknesses, and even the vices of his fellow men. It was part of his philosophy that no man was good enough to sit in judgement on his fellow men, and he lived in the spirit of the dictum, 'There, but for the grace of God, goes George Lansbury'! He had a profound belief in the rock-bottom goodness of human nature, however warped and twisted it

might be by calamitous circumstance or vicious environment. I saw instances of this toleration, both in private and in public, and it sometimes brought him in conflict with some of his best friends. One notable instance was during his term of office as First Commissioner of Works. He had determined to brighten up the Royal Parks as places of public resort. The transformation of the Serpentine in Hyde Park into a rendezvous for open-air bathing was one of his plans. A more dubious proposal was to permit the refreshment caterers to apply for licences so that open-air beer gardens could be established. The suggestion brought a storm of protest from the churches and from temperance reformers. Hundreds of 'British Women', meeting at the time in Annual Council, descended upon the House of Commons to interview their M.P.'s. One group caught sight of Mr. Lansbury himself as he was crossing the Strangers' Lobby; and, for a few minutes, the man who had made so many personal sacrifices on behalf of the rights of women, experienced in full measure the power and influence of their determined opinions! I never saw him so cornered as on that occasion. Equally unhappy was he when he consented to receive a deputation of Temperance M.P.'s in a committee room of the House of Commons. The press got wind of the matter, and the private gathering took on the nature of a public meeting. The room was packed, and Lady Astor, Lord Rhayader (then Lief Jones, M.P., Dr. Salter and myself put the case against the proposal. Hot and flushed, G.L. made his defence. He was, however, in my judgement, simply shielding the permanent officials who had led him into this strange by-path, for a few days afterwards the project for drink licences was dropped. To his friends, in later days, he alluded to the incident with a wry face: 'You fellows did put me through it!'

Some men would have harboured either

malice or resentment after such an experience, but I think it strengthened G.L.'s temperance faith; for on the death of Mr. Arthur Henderson he became President of the Workers' Temperance League, and like his predecessor, never failed to commend total abstinence to the workers, or to warn them that drink would impede and hamper the realization of their ideals. He knew, from many personal experiences in the Trade Union and Socialist movement, how much that warning was needed. I remember one occasion when, after a meeting, we were waiting for a train on the station platform. As we paced up and down in the half-light we passed a noisy group. The voice of a well-known Labour leader, who had obviously been imbibing freely, was prominent. 'Why, that is so-and-so,' I exclaimed. 'I didn't know he was in the town.' 'Nor did I,' said G.L. 'Let us keep at this end of the platform. I'm sure he wouldn't like me to see him in the state in which he now is.' A characteristic utterance of the man.

Toward the end of the Great War I became increasingly impressed with Lansbury's views on peace by negotiation, and the handling of post-war problems as advocated by him in the *Daily Herald*. In 1920 I joined the staff of the paper. G.L. was General Manager and Editor, though his multifarious public duties as M.P., councillor and propagandist prevented him from even attempting the day-to-day oversight of the paper, which was in the hands of a capable associate editor—the late Gerald Gould—assisted by other brilliant writers like W. N. Ewer and William Mellor, with many other special contributors. It was during this period that after-war poverty in the East End became alarmingly acute. G.L. and his friends controlled the Poplar Town Council, and their resolve not to allow the poor to starve, even if the rates soared high, brought them into conflict with Sir Alfred Mond at the Ministry of Health. The press took up the cry of the supposed

extravagance of 'Poplarism'. G.L. replied by demanding that the rich boroughs of London should help to bear the undue burden of Poplar's poverty. Men made their wealth in the poor East End, but migrated to live elsewhere, and thus escaped the burden. G.L. was himself on strong ground; for throughout his life, this champion of the poor, living in an unpretentious house in Bow Road, certainly not too big, if big enough, for his large family, was able to say, 'I dwell amongst my own people'.

It was during the time that G.L. and his associates were in prison rather than obey the fiat of Sir Alfred Mond, that Gerald Gould said to me: 'I have been to see G.L. to-day. He is in good physical health. Prison fare seems to suit him. But how he is chafing to get back to his public work! But you may take it he won't give in.' Nor did he. The Ministry of Health gave way; and the whole of London, and not the poorest part alone, now shares the burden of London's poverty. For the second time G.L.'s prison experiences had ended in the triumph of the cause he had espoused.

As official lecturer to *The Daily Herald*, part of my job was to organize conferences for G.L. and others to address, in the endeavour to increase the circulation of a newspaper which was so 'Left' in its advocacy that many advertisers boycotted it altogether. How it survived at all G.L. himself told in *The Miracle of Fleet Street*.

I remember that at a conference in the City Hall, Cardiff, many miners' delegates were present. As one means of 'raising the wind', photographs of G.L. were on sale. One delegate proposed that G.L. should autograph one of his photos and auction it to the highest bidder. 'Oh no,' said G.L. 'I don't mind you paying a shilling for the photo of a good-looking chap like me, but I am not for sale to the highest bidder—not even as a likeness. If you buy a photo I will autograph it for

nothing.' So the man who was 'not for sale' was kept busy for half an hour signing his name on the big stock of photos I had brought to the Conference.

I made quite a number of railway journeys with G.L. He was a delightful companion, but continually our talk would be interrupted as someone would pass down the corridor of the train and recognize him. He seemed to know every parson who ever travelled on a train. Somewhere or other they had heard him speak, or had taken the chair for him. I was not surprised when seventeen clergymen attended his funeral service. He was known and loved by hundreds of ministers of religion in all the denominations, and he was the lay archbishop of his own Church of England.

After the General Election of 1931 G.L. became leader of the Official Labour Opposition, with Mr. C. R. Attlee and Sir Stafford Cripps as his lieutenants. It was an onerous job for a man past seventy, and especially for one who wanted to apply his pacifist beliefs in a party which was steadily insisting on 'collective security', with its possible inevitable climax of war. G.L. told me, that in face of the growing divergence of his views from those of the influential Trade Union leaders, he was anxious to resign the leadership in favour of Sir Stafford Cripps, but the late Arthur Henderson just as steadily begged him to continue. 'I think,' he said, 'that he hoped to come back himself as leader, if and when he obtained any positive results from the Disarmament Conference, of which he was President. I think history will say that its failure finally broke the stout heart of Arthur Henderson, just as the outbreak of war last September broke the heart of Lansbury in the year that his name was being pressed forward in many lands for the Nobel Peace Prize.

During his leadership of the Labour Party, G.L. broke his leg at a Gainsborough gathering. At a meeting of

Labour candidates at the subsequent Party Conference at Southport, he made the following revealing observations. 'I have been on a sick bed—thinking—for three months. I warn you that if I come to speak in your support I shall preach peace more than I shall advocate party policy or tactics. To save the world from war is now the one and supreme task to which I mean to give the rest of my days.' He did not at that moment resign the leadership, but the call that came to him on the sick bed at Manor House Hospital made that step inevitable. No longer was the party willing to be led along the path that G.L. had marked out for himself.

Freed from the leadership, G.L. preached peace as never before. He did more. He bearded the dictators and formed peace links in every neutral nation, urging their rulers to take the initiative in calling a World Conference to settle the quarrel between the 'haves' and the 'have nots'. Ten days or so before Armageddon broke out, a few of us met at the Friends House, London, that he might tell us of his work behind the scenes; which resulted in the final appeal of the King of the Belgians and the Queen of Holland, that reason and not ruthlessness should be brought into play. It was a year ago last Whitsuntide that a second Labour Conference met at Southport. G.L., now under a cloud, attended only one session, that in which Sir Stafford Cripps made an appeal against his expulsion. He deemed Sir Stafford's tactics had been wrong; but nevertheless, I afterwards drove him to the hotel so that he might personally offer his sympathy to his erstwhile lieutenant, for whose integrity and ability, he had the highest admiration. An ordinary man can throw up his cap with the crowd. It takes an extraordinary man to condole with those who are in defeat or disgrace.

I saw much of G.L. that week, for we were guests in the same house. Owing to his lameness I drove him everywhere,

(Continued on p. 358)

Methodist Mag. Aug. 1940
(with Whitehead, George Ernest)

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BESS

If told to 'Kiss the Pony', she stands up on her hind legs and licks the mare's nose with her tongue. The pony understands all about it. Recently, another young horse was brought up from grass, and seeing it led into the stable Bess thought it was her pony and ran up to kiss it. Immediately she realized her mistake and expressed her indignation with 'wurrs' of disgust. Now she has learned the difference, and when her own pony comes out she dances in delight beside it, but when the other horse appears she protests.

She has a favourite walk she tries to make us go for by rushing ahead and then looking round pleading us to follow. She has a special side in the car where only she may sit. Woe betide if another

dog or a parcel monopolises it. Bess immediately climbs on the top of them. Given her own corner, she is a well-behaved little passenger and dearly loves a ride.

She is now seven years old, still practically tireless and possessed of a large appetite and the ways of a much younger dog. She has two companions, both black labradors, sentimental and docile—and careful where they go. Bess has none of these qualities. If the chase (a rabbit which she never catches) demands—nettles, brambles and water make no odds. She goes through anything, to return wet, panting, exhausted and sometimes scratched, but a triumphant gleam in her golden eyes. 'No luck, but it was well worth it!'

(Continued from p. 356)

principally to Southport's shore, that he might bask in the sunshine. How boyish he was! When a pedestrian crossed our path he would exclaim ironically, in imitation of the motor hog, 'Run him down. What right has *he* upon the road?' How appreciative he was of our hostess, and of the good things she provided. Like Ulysses, what tales he told of his wanderings, and how he had moved amongst kings and the great ones of the earth in his persistent quest for peace.

He believed, up to the last, that there was one point in those journeyings when

Hitler was willing to talk peace. 'We could have snatched peace at that time; but our statesmen were blind, talking about Hitler's bluff, instead of meeting him half way, as I urged them to do. But,' and these are the last words G.L. uttered to me, 'they would not listen to me.'

What a different world we might have seen if those in power had listened to one whom his friend and colleague, Mr. C. R. Attlee, M.P., so well described in a broadcast at his death, as 'A great Englishman, a great Socialist, and a great Christian'.

end of Section II
as end of
Vol. 17

CRIPPS

British Library of Political and
Economic Science

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JJ/ND

17th June, 1955.

Dear Sir:

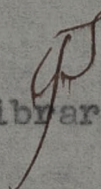
I wonder if you could very kindly help us to identify two persons of your surname from whom there are letters in the collection of George Lansbury's private papers, in this Library, now in the final stages of arranging and indexing.

They are: Mrs. Ada Cripps, "Arcana", Shelley Road, Worthing, whose letters date from 16th October 1911 to 12th August, 1913; and J.R. Cripps (of same address) whose only letter of 25th June, 1912 is subscribed: Secretary, Worthing I.L.P. Mrs. Cripps' first letter mentions "our son Jack, who is organizer to Worthing branch of the I.L.P." It is not quite clear whether her husband is still living.

We should be very grateful if you could, without any undue trouble, tell us: whether they are relatives of yours and persons of note, and if so if you know their dates of birth and death, and the full name or initials of Mrs. Cripps' husband.

Yours faithfully,

John S. Cripps Esq.,
"Filkins",
Lechlade,
Glos.


Librarian.

CRIPPS

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B.L.P.E.S.

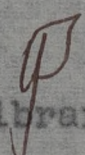
JJ/SW

22nd August, 1955.

Dear Sir:

In case my letter of 17th June last, sent to your private address as given in Who's Who 1955, has by some mischance not reached you, I enclose a copy. The index to the Lansbury papers is now completed in manuscript except for the points which we hope you may be able to settle before we have it finally typed.

Yours faithfully,


Librarian.

John S. Cripps Esq.,
"The Countryman",
Sheep Street,
Burford,
Oxon.

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THE COUNTRYMAN *A Quarterly Non-Party Review*
of Rural Life and Industry *Founded and Edited in the Country*

JOHN CRIPPS, *Editor*
FAITH SHARP } *Assistant Editors*
R. S. R. FITTER }
Founded 1927

Editorial Office
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Buses from and to
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The Librarian
British Library of Political
and Economic Science
Houghton Street
Aldwych
London W C 2

24th
Aug
1955

Dear Sir

I am sorry that I have not replied to your letter of June 17. The reason is that I have not been able to find the answers to your enquiries. I have asked several members of the family but they have not been able to help me.

One of our 'Countryman' correspondents is F.R.Cripps, The Droveaway, Heather Lane, High Salvington, Worthing; though I have not heard from him recently. I think that he might be able to supply the information that you want. If we are related, it is only remotely.

Yours faithfully,

ed/rr

CRIPPS.

B. L. P. E. S.

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GW/ND

25th August, 1955.

Dear Mr. Cripps:

Many thanks for your helpful letter of the 24th August; I am writing to Mr. F.R. Cripps as you suggest.

Yours sincerely,

J. Cripps Esq.,
Editor,

The Countryman,
Burford,
Oxford.

Yours faithfully,

J
L. J. Cripps

F. R. Cripps Esq.,
The Rectory,
Number Lane,
High Blarington,
Wokingham,
Berkshire.

Miss Johnson to read

B. L. P. E. S.

CRIPPS

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GW/ND

25th August, 1955.

Dear Sir:

I wonder if you could very kindly help us to identify two persons of your surname from whom there are letters in the collection of George Lansbury's private papers, in this Library, now in the final stages of arranging and indexing.

They are: Mrs. Ada Cripps, "Arcana", Shelley Road, Worthing, whose letter date from 16th October 1911 to 12th August, 1913; and J.R. Cripps (of same address) whose only letter of 25th June, 1912 is subscribed: Secretary, Worthing I.L.P. Mrs. Cripps' first letter mentions "our son Jack, who is organizer to Worthing branch of the I.L.P." It is not quite clear whether her husband is still living.

We should be very grateful if you would, without any undue trouble, tell us: whether they are relatives of yours and persons of note, and if so if you know their dates of birth and death, and the full name or initials of Mrs. Cripps' husband.

Yours faithfully,

J
Librarian.

F.R. Cripps Esq.,
The Droveaway,
Heather Lane,
High Slavington,
Worthing,
Sussex.

Miss Joshua to see!

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from F. R. Cripps,
The Droveaway,
Heather Lane,
Worthing. Tel:
Swandean 809.

29th August, 1955.

The Librarian,
British Library of Political and Economic Science.

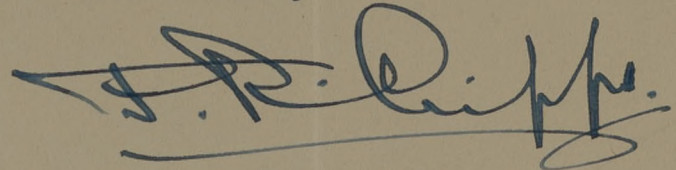
Dear Sir,

In answer to your inquiry I would say that : Mrs Ada Cripps was my Mother, who died in 1934, aged 91 ; Jack Cripps is L. J. R. Cripps, a retired architect, 70 yesterday ; my Father's name was Frederick Cripps. He died in 1916, aged 93.

I regret to say that we ^{are} people of no importance at all.

George Lansbury once stayed with me at Parkstone, and I well remember his prancing round the room with my son on his shoulder.

Yours faithfully



Miss Joshua.

End of Section II

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JJ/SW

1st September, 1955.

Dear Sir:

I am most grateful to you for your reply of 29th August to my enquiry of the 25th and for the most useful details concerning yourself and George Lansbury, and your family.

Yours faithfully,

G.L.

Librarian.

F.R. Cripps Esq.,
The Droveaway,
Heather Lane,
High Slavington,
Worthing,
Sussex.

End of Section
II.