

1987.102-111 and 1998.1095-1098

WSCT 8 May 1926
UNIONS SUPPORT THE MINERS

War time Regulations Revived

War time regulations have been revived and the Emergency Regulations Act 1926 put into force particularly with regard to the distribution and use of fuel, so that available supplies may be conserved.

At Horsham, whilst one part of the Town hall is frequently in use for administrative matters connected with the coal merchants, the Court Room is being utilised by the Volunteer Service Department for the Horsham District. It is under the Sussex District, which in turn comes under the Ministry of Health. Major R C Middleton, MC is in charge and with him are among others Mr Walter Burrell, Captain Webber Brown, Mr J H F Loveless, Mr Winch, Miss Burrell, and Captain W W Otter. At an early stage of the strike over 500 volunteers enrolled in Horsham district and between two hundred and three hundred cars were available. Market Square and vicinity are utilised for the parking of cars, and there have been many instances of remarkable service being rendered as emergency upon emergency arose.

Meanwhile the Horsham Trades and Labour Council have as headquarters the WEA Hall, where the strikers report themselves each morning, and in the evening have either a smoking concert or a protest meeting to while away the time and give occupation to those who have nothing to do.

Naturally there were some remarkable experiences during this historic week, and the long walks to offices have not been confined to those notable City marches that will no doubt be depicted later on with the return to normal conditions. A Brightonian caught a morning train, presumably the only one, with a retired servant of the Southern Railway as engine driver, and detraining at Three Bridges, had no alternative but to walk thence to his offices at Horsham. On that first morning there was quite a good attendance at the Horsham High School for Girls. One young lady cycled from Fittleworth, a distance of about seventeen miles, and there were other more or less heroic feats in the pursuit of continuation of education.

The dearth of news in the absence of daily papers led to a welcome and much appreciated innovation by Mr Fred Holmes, Printer, of 17, North Street, who, in collaboration with Mr S F Lampard, of local wireless fame, published the Government Broadcast Bulletin at 10 am, 2 pm and 6 pm. This has kept folk well informed and in good humour, It was to prevent rumours and false news that led to Mr Holmes' enterprise.

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4/5 May 1926 National Strike

End of the Strike

The King's message

After nine days' struggle the Trades Union Council, through Mr Arthur Pugh, Mr Bevin and Mr Smails, approached the Prime Minister on Wednesday and announced that the general strike was to be terminated forthwith in order that negotiations might proceed. The following message from the King to his People was issued on Wednesday evening.

Buckingham Palace

TO MY PEOPLE

The Nation has passed through a period of extreme anxiety.

It was today announced that the general strike had been brought to an end.

At such a moment it is supremely important to bring together all my People to confront the difficult situation which still remains.

This task requires the co-operation of all able and well disposed men in the country.

Even with such help it will be difficult, but will not be impossible.

Let us forget whatever elements of bitterness events of the past few days may have created, only remembering how steady and how orderly the country has remained, though severely tested, and forthwith address ourselves to the task of bringing into being a Peace which will be lasting because, forgetting the past, it looks only to this future with the hopefulness of a united people.
GEORGE VI.

A National Victory

In the House of Commons on Wednesday afternoon the Prime Minister said: "The Peace which I believe has come, and the victory won, is a victory of the common sense, not of any part of the country, but of what is best in the whole kingdom. It is of the utmost importance at a moment like this that the whole British people should look not backwards but forward. We should resume our work in a spirit of co-operation, putting behind us all malice."

Strikers and their jobs

Government Statement

His Majesty's Government have no power to compel employers to take back every man who has been on strike; nor have they entered into any obligations of any kind in this matter.

Some displacements are inevitable, in view of the reduction of business consequent upon the strike, as well as any obligation which may have been entered into by employers towards volunteers who have helped them to carry on during the last week.

Attention is, however, drawn to the hope expressed by the Prime Minister in his statement in the House of Commons that we should resume our work in a spirit of co-operation, putting behind us all malice and all vindictiveness.

The best course is for the various trade unions to get into immediate touch with the associations of employers concerned, in order that, if possible, a satisfactory agreement may be reached.