

1998.1189

West Sussex County Times 22 March 1924

## **Merrie England Bazaar**

### **LABOUR PARTY'S SUCCESSFUL EFFORT**

Much success attended the Merrie England Bazaar held at the New Hall, Horsham, on Thursday in aid of the funds of the Horsham and Worthing Divisional Labour Party. The main walls were curtained in white, with green in relief, one side of the hall being devoted entirely to nicely-arranged stalls and the other side in stalls and tea tables, partially screened with miniature fir trees. The centre was allotted to seats for the various concerts and entertainments on the prettily prepared stage, and the general effect was attractive and pleasing. There was a large attendance at the opening ceremony at three o'clock, and also throughout the evening.

Mr Ernest Stanford, the Prospective Labour candidate for the Division, presided at the opening, and was supported on the platform by Mr and Mrs Randall Wells on Slinfold Manor, Miss L J Churchman, J.P., Miss Lettice Arnold, Mrs Laughton, Messrs A F Lower (Chairman of the Divisional Party), Dan Huxslep, of Storrington (Assistant Secretary of the Divisional Party), Richmond (Coolham), G E Bottle (Rudgwick), E Lee and H Langley.

### **THE INDUSTRIAL TROUBLES**

The Chairman said it gave him very great pleasure to preside and open the first Labour bazaar in Horsham. He apologised for the absence of Mr Jack Mills, M.P. for Dartford, who had been appointed on the Bus Strike Committee, meeting that day. Much as they would like him to open the bazaar, Mr (Mr Stanford) was sure they would rather that he should be giving his services towards the settlement of the strike (applause). Mrs Randall Wells, President of the Bazaar Committee, had kindly promised to open the Bazaar in his stead. As to the industrial troubles, he pointed out that these strikes had been hanging over their heads for some months. It was unfortunate that they should all come to fruition just at a time when Labour assumed office. It was a curious coincidence, which was being interpreted by some of their opponents as being the result of Labour government. Nothing could be further from the truth. But if these troubles were to come, it was just as well they should happen at a time when Labour was responsible for the government of the country, because they felt sure a more equitable and lasting settlement was likely to come about. It was useless even to think of industrial peace, or to think in terms of unity all the time we were threatened so often with industrial strife. Labour sought to bring about a condition of affairs that would make these things impossible: and wanted to create a happy condition of affairs for the people and the workers. Then industrial disputes would not be called for and would not be justified. It was unfortunate that it happened now, but it had added to the responsibility of Mr MacDonald, and they were all looking to a speedy and lasting settlement of these strikes and disputes (applause).

### **"A NEW MATCHING"**

Mrs Randall Wells said it was a pity Mr Mills could not come and speak to them about those things in which they were all so deeply interested. In this constituency they had a great and glorious task in front of them: to win the seat at the next election for the Labour Party. If the enthusiasm went on increasing as steadily as at present they would return Mr Ernest Stanford to Parliament (applause), to be another cog in the wheel of the machine which was going to roll this country out of its present muddle. Indeed, they all knew Lord Winterton had sat so long and so snugly that she really thought he must be feeling a little "broody" and it was quite time they had a new hatching (laughter). The Labour Party, she said, should really know what it was they wanted. They should have a plan, decide for themselves quietly and definitely what sort of life they wanted and the sort of conditions they wished to hand on to their children, and direct their energies and work to its fulfilment. They did not mind how slowly they went so long as they were going in the right direction. That was the thing that mattered. She had much pleasure in declaring the bazaar open (applause).

In proposing a vote of thanks, Miss Churchman said Mrs Randall Wells was throwing heart and soul into this movement and she hoped the bazaar would be the beginning of a new state of energy. Mrs Laughton appropriately seconded. It was carried, and the sale proceeded.

#### **STALLS AND STALL-HOLDERS**

There was a concert of old English music and instruments by Mr Kapp (the well-known cartoonist) and Mrs Kapp, or Wigmore and Queen's Halls. Mr Ralph Chart delighted with a conjuring display and the "dove" illusion, and Mr A E Carter created much fun with an able The stalls were as follows:-

**Needlework** – Mrs Langley, Mrs Shaw, Mrs Gasson, Mrs Edwards and Mrs Murrell

**Fancy Work and Dolls** – Mrs Dinnage, Miss Garman and Mrs H Dinnage

**Soap and handkerchiefs** – Mrs Child, Mrs Tomsett and Mrs Penfold

**Cake and sweets** – Mrs Randall Wells and the Slinfold and Five Oaks Labour Group

**Country Produce Stall** – Mrs Baker, Mrs Ashby and Mrs Spicer.

**"Tommy Dodd" stall** – Mr Ernest Stanford and friend

**Picture stall** – Mr Ernest Stanford

**Refreshments** – Mesdames Bradford, Grinsted, White, Reeves, Rhodes, Stringer and Johnson,

**Parcels** – Mr Dummer

As to amusements, there were many. Before the opening ceremony and during the afternoon Mr Maslen (violin) and Miss Cooke (piano) rendered selections and there was orchestral music later by Messrs W Albery (jun), Herbert Smith, T Streeter (sen), T Streeter (jun., H Woods and Hodger, Miss Beryl Monro Higgs gave dancing displays; there was dancing by school children ; and there was a concert of old English music and instruments by Mr Kapp (the well known cartoonist) and Mrs Kapp, of Wigmore and Queen's Halls. Mr Ralph Chart delighted with a conjuring display and the "dove" illusion, and Mr A E Carter created much fun with an able ventriloquian interlude. Later in the evening Miss Stanford, of Crawley, gave a clever representation of world famous statues. Mr G Garman, of Slinfold, was in charge of a spinning jenny. Both for teas and suppers the refreshment tables were well patronised.