

THE LABOR MEN WHO LEAD FORCES IN BRITISH FIGHT

How Herbert Smith, Miners' President, Dropped His Prayer Book and Convinced a Detractor.

LONDON, Eng. — Neat little sketches of some labor leaders in the present British struggle are drawn by A. M. Thompson, the well known moderate labor correspondent, in an article contributed to the Daily Mail.

"Frank Hodges," writes Thompson, "secretary of the Miners' Federation, is 34 years of age, with a young and handsome face, fresh complexion, dark hair and deep-set eyes, alternately dreamy and flashing, of the poet and the fighter. A few years ago he was a working miner; then he was sent to Central College, where he studied economics; thence to Paris, where he acquired a correct and fluent knowledge of French, and now he discusses abstruse problems of finance and politics on terms of easy intellectual equality with the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer."

"Mr. Hodges has brains and also ideas. When the former, in seasoned maturity, assume full control of the latter, Hodges may make history."

Herbert Smith's Last Argument.

"Herbert Smith, President of the Miners' Federation, is totally different. He is burly and gruff, talks broad Yorkshire, and still wears the cap of his mining days. He was born in Barnsley Workhouse and has come to become the Poor Law Guardian of the district. His friends tell a tale of him which describes him better than I can.

"As he was walking to church with his daughter one Sunday during last year's strike he heard one of a group of wayward loafers remark, 'That's the chap that sold us.' Smith requested his daughter to walk on, deposited his prayer-book on the ground, stripped off his coat and with characteristic scorn of superfluous argument invited the critic to follow his example. The critic demurred but the Acting President of the Miners' Federation convinced him by effective physical persuasion that he would feel much more comfortable in shirt sleeves. The subsequent debate had reached its fourth clause when a horrified policeman appeared and reminded Smith that he was a magistrate. 'That's a wreat,' replied the miners' leader, 'but I think he's good enough for me.' A couple more rounds, then I'll talk to thee."

"But I understand that Smith completed his critic's conversion in the next round, put on his coat, picked up his prayer-book and then rejoined his daughter with the blithe feeling of a good Christian."

who had done his duty to a neighbor.

Contrives to Get There.

"James Henry Thomas, M.P., political secretary of the N. U. R., started his career 47 years ago as errand boy at the age of nine, became in turn cleaner, fireman and engineer on the Great Western Railway, president of the Railwaymen's Union, member of Parliament for Derby and Priory Councillor. He has had no education of the sort taught in the schools, but in some respects perhaps knows as much as some highly-tutored railway directors. Like Hodges and the Prime Minister, he is Welsh, and like one at least of these fellow-wranglers, he is smooth in debate and marvelously quick to snatch a chance. His enemies accuse him of a propensity to pose and an excessive readiness to compromise, but his admirers retort that, whatever the defects of his methods, they generally have the very excellent quality of successfulness. 'Jim Thomas may bend and Jim Thomas may wriggle,' I heard one of them say, 'but mostly contrives to get there.'"

Gentle Smiling Urbanity.

"C. T. Cramp, Industrial Secretary of the railwaymen, was formerly a passenger guard on the railway, and I should imagine his gentle smiling urbanity in that capacity must have won him at least the offer of a huge quonon of tips from the first-class passengers. The common impression of Cramp represents him as a long-haired, wild and frankly disheveled. He is, on the contrary, an essential gentleman of the most gentle and well-bred suavity, a studious reader, and I doubt whether he ever cut the throat even of an earwig."

"Robert Williams, of the Transport Workers, again is a contrast. He is a large and dapper figure and appears at public conferences as a mighty master in the subtleties of that sort of rhetoric which one associates with the bludgeon and the blunderbuss. He has a fine fit of vituperative passion and fury and sometimes seems so much in earnest that one is almost tempted to believe he really means what he says. Yet in private conference he is a consummate diplomat and negotiator."

Idealism and Bitterness.

"James Winstone was one of the party of union leaders whom I escorted during the war over the battlefields of the Somme. He had a sea in the thick of the fight, and his chief care was to seek him out, but all the soldiers from South

Wales were sons to his capacious and catholic sympathy. Yet all the while he secretly deplored the war and, though professing democratic views, appeared intensely hostile to his country's elected Government, and the democracy which has taken him and the other leaders of labor to representative distinction and power. A mixture of dreamy idealism and bitterness is present in most labor extremists, a most curious and characteristic contradiction."

CARVELL'S STATEMENTS CRITICIZED IN ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

TORONTO.—Hon. Frank Carvell, chairman of the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada, received criticism from still another quarter when Peter Heenan, Kenora, spoke in the Legislature last week on a question of privilege. He read extensively from a speech of Mr. Carvell in which the wages of railwaymen were said to be high operating costs. Mr. Heenan said that he was an engineer himself and knew something about their wages. The average wage of an engineer for an eight-hour day, he said, was \$7.50. That amounted to \$195 for a 24-day month, and \$230 for a 28-day month.

"If he makes more than that," said Mr. Heenan, "if the railway because of inefficient management, cannot get railroad men over 150 miles in eight hours, then it is inefficient."

"I don't think the person should be permitted to go through this country making such statements as he is making," concluded Mr. Heenan.

THE OUTCAST.

They called him "fool and traitor" As through the land he went; They called him "agitator" And "Brand of discontent!" From altar and from steeple Upon this man forlorn The priests and "better people" Hurled wrath and bitter scorn.

They called him "cheat" and "liar," And drove him from the door; They shouted "Mischiefmaker, Begone and come no more!" From border unto border They hounded him, lest he "Upset established order And bring on anarchy."

At length, they seized and tried him, That they might have their will, And so they crucified him, Upon a lonely hill. The outcast agitator, Driven by scourge and rod, They called him "fool" and "traitor," We call him Son of God.

—Berton Braley.

Mr. D.—Listen my dear, what on earth did I do at meal time that made you so angry?

Mrs. D.—You disgraced me! When the charlotte russe was passed around you tried to blow the foam off.

Conventions Of International Unions

April 29 and 30, New York City, Hotel Pennsylvania, National Print Cutters' Association of America.

May 2, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers of North America.

May 2-14, St. Paul, Minn., American Federation of Musicians.

May 2, Toledo, Ohio, Switchmen's Union of North America.

May 2, Wheeling, W. Va., McClure Hotel, International Brotherhood of Stationary Firemen.

May 2, Savannah, Ga., Order of Railroad Telegraphers.

May 14, St. Louis, Mo., Boot and Shoe Workers' Union.

July — Buffalo, N.Y., International Longshoremen's Association.

July 5, Sandusky, Ohio, American Flint Glass Workers' Union.

July 11, Montreal, Canada, Glass Bottle Blowers' Association.

July 11, New York City, International Photo-Engravers' Union of N. A.

July 11, New York City, Continental Hotel, International Steel and Copper Plate Engravers' Union.

July 12, Chicago, Ill., United States, Tile and Composition Roofers, Damp and Waterproof Workers' Association.

Sept. 12, Columbus, Ohio, International Association of Fire Fighters.

Sept. 12, Toronto, Canada, Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America.

Sept. 12, Atlanta, Ga., Amalgamated Association of Street & Electric Railway Employees of America.

Sept. 12, Philadelphia, Pa., Dockers' International Union.

Sept. 12, St. Louis, Mo., International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Sept. 19, Cincinnati, Ohio, Metal Polishers' International Union.

Sept. 24, Indianapolis, Ind., United Mine Workers of America.

Oct. 2, Toronto, Canada, The Commercial Telegraphers' Union of America.

Dec. — American Federation of Teachers.

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Just Plain Autocratic Radicalism

By GEO. BERRY, President of the International Union of Printing Pressmen and Assistants.

How often in the past few years have we read and heard expressed the opinion that the unions should not arbitrarily set a scale of wages or a condition? Trade unions were asked to consult with the employers and then to reason out the questions rather than fight them out. Some conservative leaders of organized labor realized that it would be a mistake for labor to act arbitrarily during this period of abnormal depression for labor. Some leaders, therefore, were kept busy holding the radicals in line and thus saved our industries millions of dollars and a lot of trouble. Conservative members of organized labor (they have always been in the majority) were careful not to act arbitrarily in demanding unwarranted increases in wages or working conditions because they realized that any such actions would eventually bring undesirable results.

Just as labor assumed this attitude, almost generally, conditions changed. Labor no longer has an

advantage but, on the other hand, if there is an advantage it rests temporarily with the employer. According to the expressions and actions of a good many employers, to act arbitrarily is a human trait not possessed by workers alone and not peculiar to trade unionists. There is an element among the employers that is proving conclusively that it is capable of being as radical as anybody. There are employers who are saying to their employees, "You will take a big reduction in wages or you will get out!"—no compromise, no chance to argue or arbitrate, no attempt thought necessary to show why these reductions in wages are necessary—just plain autocratic radicalism.

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