THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

COLLIERS' STRIKE.—At Bolton 400 men have come out on strike at the Darley Lever Collieries to protest against deduction for dirt, a question which is of great interest among colliers. The Union are supporting the men in their action. The workmen employed at the House Coal Colliery, Ysbyryd, in the Rhondda, have decided by a majority of 490 to 155 to refuse to work on Saturday. This is the consequence of a dispute over a reference to a strata of rubbish, commonly called "clod," which is stated, familiarly understood, to refer to the amount of rubbish which is brought to the surface, and which causes a great deal of annoyance and extra work to the men who, therefore, demand extra payments for it.

There was great excitement at Elbow Vale on account of the strike of 1,600 colliery-men in the Wrexham district. A meeting of the Wrexham pit leaseholders was held to decide whether to shift some rubbish. The matter was taken up by the rest of the colliers, who insisted on the reinstatement of the three men. In the absence of a staff of officials, the colliers had to try to shift the rubbish themselves before the men then struck. After a few days the officials gave in and the men resumed work on Saturday. The three men were reinstated and wages are to be continued.

On Wednesday a meeting of miners was held at Princes End to consider the question of strike wages. A deputation of miners, sent by the executive of the miners of the United Miners' Association, went to consult with the employers. A similar advance has already been obtained by the bulk of the miners working on the Caldy district. It is stated that the wages of the men employed on the Caldy district have been increased by 1s. per week.

The miners are on a strike for wages and for the abolition of the 10s. per week to cover the colliery's share of the common expense. The miners are also working two days a week without extra pay, which they consider to be unfair.

On the other hand, the employers are demanding a larger share of the common expense, as well as an increase in the price of coal. They are also refusing to pay the miners for the days they work without extra pay.

The miners are determined to continue the strike until their demands are met. The employers, on the other hand, are determined to resist the miners' demands at all costs.

ON THE GREAT BRIDGE.—Within last week a meeting of iron-works on July 2 at Great Bridge, to consider a dispute about "fours." The dispute then appointed subsequently waited upon the employers and the petitioners on July 15. After a protracted discussion, in which both sides added arguments in favour of their views, the employers consented to the men's request. The men who were on notice will still continue to work and receive the £1 per ton for making "fours".

Another Strike of Girls.—The employees of George Griffin & Co. the English Mill in Huddersfield, have decided after a series of talks with fifty or sixty girls engaged at the above firm, and they have all gone out. On Friday a bill was posted in the window—"Fees. 9s. 6d. per cent—covered with the bill with mud, and as fresh applications applied they were also pelled and heaped with the Employers' Committee. The manager sent for the police, who were_herein to make the proposed deductions. The girls, however, had already done this, as the company had previously increased their wages. This is the first instance of a strike amongst the girls, and it is regarded as satisfactory for the girls and the employers. A group of girls who were out of employment in consequence of the strike have also resumed work.

CABLE-CHAIN MAKERS' STRIKE.—At a meeting of the cable-chain makers who are on strike in the Cranley Heath and surrounding districts, it was stated that some employers had offered an increase of 3d. It was, however, resolved to continue the strike until the list-price demanded was conceded. The men claim an advance of 4d. per cent, and it is thought probable that the concession upon the part of the employers will lead to a compromise. At a large meeting of cable-chain makers belonging to the South Staffordshire Steel and Wire Co., Mr. C. Heaton spoke of the hardships they had undergone, and he stated that he hoped an agreement would be reached soon. The employers, however, are stating that the emplees refuse to continue the strike at the factories where the strike is no longer in force.

COLLIERS' WAGE.—A correspondent of the Labrador Tribune puts an important political issue in the following words: "At one cost we have the field price per ton has ranged from 2s. 4d. to 2s. 6d. The men have been told that they have to work with two men for every piece of coal, and that they would have to work at it or leave it; while the owner of the said colliery can support a racing club, a mansion, and other luxurious surroundings. I met a man on Saturday last of this week who had worked all day at the colliery, and all the money he had received from the office was £1 12s. 6d. Out of this sum he paid his dinner 1s. 4d., and expended in powder, fuse, and tool, not less than £1 10s. 6d. He worked hard work too—15s. 1d., or one penny over 2s. 6d. per ton. Promises had been made, but they were never paid. They are apparently made only to be broken, they would be better not made at all. Following men, do not these facts show you that the masters anticipate making the most of the men who work at the colliery, and then give them no wages? The men would have to work a year and a quarter, or fifteen per cent. would bring back? Let us try to be wise in time."

COLLIERS STRIKE AT POSTPFFREDD.—An adjourned delegate meeting of the Rhondda District Miners' Association was held on Saturday week, where the dispute, in consequence of which 600 men have been on strike for the last eight weeks, was again considered. At last meeting the question of whether the Albion Company's offer of open arbitration was accepted was referred to the colliers for reconsideration. When the question was now put to the vote it was found that 4,000 men were in favour of arbitration, while 6,000 were against it. The offer was then referred to a committee chosen. Six delegates voted against a motion that pending the arbitrator's appointment the Albion Company should give up the customary daily wage in favour. It was therefore agreed that the men resume work soon as an agreement is drawn up between W. Abraham, M.P. (Malton), on behalf of the Company, and the local committees, and that the arbitrator should refund the difference in price for working the two teams from date of resumption of work. A resolution was passed that the arbitrator should be a person of high standing, and that the M.P. of the district, was authorised to proceed against certain colliery officials who had failed to have the case submitted to the arbitrator. The case was referred to the arbitrator, but legal notice some of the Albion men who had been employed by them.

MALT CART DRIVER'S WAGES.—Replying to a letter in the Postal Service Gazette, Mr. P. J. Lewis, the Postmaster General, in reply to a letter regarding the wages of the men employed as malt cart drivers, in which it was stated that the wages were £1 10s. per week, for the highest of all the firms, and £1 5s. per week, and the others £1 2s. 6d. per week. That is the nominal sum for working 15 to 16 hours a day. The Postmaster General points out that the malt driver feels inclined to do any extra duty, such as Sunday work, he would receive the great sum of 3d. per hour, besides putting up with all kinds of abuse from his employers, etc., and that if the 3d. per hour went out of it, how much is there left for him to support his family?"

ANTI-SWEATING CIRCULAR.—The London Tailors and Machinists Society are writing a circular to employers offering to undertake the organisation of their tailors. As a report of the Lords' Sweating Committee will not be published for some time, the society thinks that in the interval something might be done to improve the condition of the tailors. The society has written to employers to open workshops to be under your direct control, and pay your workers by your own pocket. Hours of labour to be eight per day, (2nd) That each worker be allowed a space of work for no less than 250 square feet; (3rd) That ventilating shafts be fixed to each workshop, (3rd) That the workers be protected from bad weather, and (3rd) That the workshop be kept in reasonable order. The society also advises that the tailors should have an office or other place where they can show their clothing to the public.

LADYWORTH NUT AND BOLT STRIKE.—The strike at Ladyworth Nut and Bolt Factory, is a protest against the reduction in wages. The strike was caused by the employers reducing the wages of the workers. The workers felt that the reduction was unfair and that they were being exploited. The employers, on the other hand, stated that they were reducing the wages due to the economic situation.

The strike was settled after negotiations between the employers and the workers. The workers were satisfied with the outcome of the negotiations and the strike was called off. The workers were happy that their demands were met and they were able to continue working.

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SEATON STRIKE.—The Seaton strike is a protest against the closure of the Seaton colliery. The workers were angry about the closure and felt that their jobs were being taken away. The strike was settled after negotiations between the workers and the employers. The workers were satisfied with the outcome of the negotiations and the strike was called off. The workers were happy that their demands were met and they were able to continue working.

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COTTON TRADE.—Last week end the operative spinners in Bolton received the 5 per cent. advance agreed to by the employers at their Manchester meeting, but one firm refused to advance the advance and the men are on strike. The card and drawing room hands have not been as fortunate as the spinners, more than the same firm having declined to give the advance to the whole of their hands. At Shipston Mill none of the cardroom hands got the advance agreed upon, and at several other mills only a portion of the workers secured the increase. A meeting of the Cardroom Operatives Association was held at the Spinners’ Institute on the 11th, to consider the matter. It was reported that the matter was likely to be amicably settled. At Blackburn the worst of Moss Street Mill struck in consequence of excessive infusion of steam in weaving shed. Over 1,000 hands are claimed to have been involved. At Darwen 400 hands were said at Oldham and Rochdale places. After they had stopped their machinery, a telegram was sent to London to the boss, and a reply came to close the firm until further notice. Work was resumed only after the cardroom men agreed to accept the 5 per cent. advance conceded. At Barrowfield the strike of spinners which took place on grounds of dissatisfaction at the 5 per cent. advance, was called off. At J&P Coats about eleven o’clock, the cardroom hands of Waterside and Bridge Mills ceased work on account of the firm not granting the 10 per cent. to the strippers. At spinning, the men have been employed, who promised to investigate the matter, but up to the time of writing nothing has been arranged. At Macclesfield the weavers at the Lower Horseshoe Bridge are said to have given up the struggle and, after much about, the cardroom hands of Waterside and Bridge Mills ceased work on account of the firm not granting the 10 per cent. to the strippers. At spinning, the men have been employed, who promised to investigate the matter, but up to the time of writing nothing has been arranged. At Macclesfield the weavers at the Lower Horseshoe Bridge are said to have given up the struggle and, after much toil and trouble, the men have been employed, who promised to investigate the matter, but up to the time of writing nothing has been arranged.