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GL

8th August, 1937.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Lansbury has asked me to thank you for your letter of the 19th July. He thinks it is very kind indeed of you to have taken the trouble to send him so nice a note, which he appreciates very much.

Yours very truly,

Private Secretary.

F.G. Salter, Esq.,
515, West Eleventh Street,
Claremont,
CALIFORNIA.

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GL

10th August, 1931.

Dear Madam,

Mr. Lansbury has asked me to thank you for your letter of the 29th July, and to say that he thinks it is more than kind of you to have taken the trouble to write to him. He appreciates it very much indeed.

Yours very truly,

Private Secretary.

Mrs. A. Yates Brownlee,
1300, Sacramento Street,
San Francisco, CALIFORNIA.



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11, DOWNING STREET,
WHITEHALL, S.W.

12th Viscountess Snowden
(Ms. Ethel Annakin)

Aug. 12/ 31.

My dear Mr. Lansbury:

We have both read your manuscript with very great pleasure, eshhing your desires in our own hearts as we do. Our only regret is that we did not hear you make the speech. We always seem to be miles from the wireless when anything really interesting happens.

I am enclosing a bill about our English Season of Opera at Covent Garden. I do hope your young people will help me to make it known. It is the first English Season there - I mean the first Season in which all the Stars as well as Chorus and Orchestra are British. I do so long for it to be a success.

I have heard still another rumour of a scheme to build a big Opera House somewhere near ~~Knightsbridge~~ but there may be nothing in it.

Our united affectionate regards,

Ethel Snowden

Defw.

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and 3 St. Andrew Street, Holborn Circus, E.C.1.

Telephone: CITY 4963.

Glasgow Evening Citizen

Published at St. Vincent Place, Glasgow.

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Cutting from issue dated 25 AUG 1931.....193

TWO of the retiring Ministers of Mr MacDonal'd's Government for whose departure there will undoubtedly be the most regret will be Mr Lansbury and Mr Herbert Morrison.

They have both filled offices which have little to do with politics with great efficiency. It is agreed by everyone that at the Office of Works Mr Lansbury has displayed more imagination than any previous First Commissioner, and future generations will have him to thank for improving many of the public amenities in the parks under his control. Mr Lansbury will be sorry to have many of his schemes uncompleted.

Mr Morrison, who has worked as hard as any man in the Government, will be remembered for his skilful handling of the Road Traffic Act through Parliament, and for his impartial dealing with a problem on which he is now an acknowledged expert.

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M449

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Leicester Mail

37 London Road, Leicester.

Cutting from issue dated.....25 AUG 1931.....193-



MEN BEHIND THE CRISIS

MOODY PREMIER AND A FIERY SPIRIT

If you can visualise the great, broad stretch of Whitehall lined with patient and silent men and women; if you can see an ill-lit side-turning, at the entrance of which stand four policemen, and at the far end of which are gathered a group of men earnestly in conversation; if you can sense the electric atmosphere; if you can wait, and wait, and wait while Big Ben interminably booms the passage of time; then that is CRISIS (writes a "Leicester Evening Mail" special political correspondent).

CRISIS—the stage in the country's history where a trivial action may mean ruin or salvation; the stage that is the greatest testing time of the men who hold the reins of government.

In normal times the people are apt to look upon politicians rather as puppets who lift across the scene of events. One vaguely knows that Mr. Ramsay MacDonald is the Prime Minister and a Scotsman, that Mr. Baldwin smokes a pipe and leads the Conservative Opposition, and that Mr. Lloyd George tries to hold a fractious band of Liberals in check.

Only a crisis of such magnitude as to threaten things near and dear, that may turn a margin of comfort into a borderline of poverty, that may set the former whispering of Britain's stability—only such a thing can bring us up short.

Then the centre of events draws like a powerful magnet. The Houses of Parliament, Downing-street—and our erstwhile puppets are men of tremendous, overwhelming importance.

This crisis has been no different from others that have preceded it. Let us then look at the MEN.

THE PREMIER

Ramsay MacDonald, tall and now bowed of shoulder, stands the first personality. You see his high, intellectual forehead, the curiously soft brown eyes, the grim and determined chin overshadowed, as it were, by a drooping white moustache.

Almost can you see the two sides of his nature; the side that has fought and fought for principles, and the side that craves culture, good books, and the rarer things on earth.

He is moody. I saw him smiling gaily after his first visit to the King on Sunday and he waved a hand. Many hours later he strode out of the garden entrance of No. 10. His hands were shaking and there were cold beads of perspiration on his brow. He muttered something unintelligible as he brushed by me.

THE FIERY SPIRIT

Next the man who sits propped up in his bed, sleepless, gritting his teeth in effort to restrain the fiery, eager spirit that must be imprisoned in a frail body—David Lloyd George, one-time solicitor in an obscure Welsh town, and the man who did more than any other single person to win the war.

Now, in this second hour of crisis, almost as great as the first, he is forced to keep in the background through ill-health.

When you have thought of these, who next? Who among the ranks of Conservatives, Socialists and Liberals stands out above his fellows? Mr. Stanley Baldwin? I should say not.

This man of high integrity, steadfast character and straightforward dealing lacks the vital quality that distinguishes men of lesser ability. He inspires loyalty and trust, but men do not leap to his banner eager to be led. He is no Richard Cœur de Lion of politics.

MASTER OF TACTICS

Sir Herbert Samuel, the deputy of the stricken Lloyd George? Hardly.

He has a razor-like brain and is a master of tactics; he fights with a small force at his back, but with the knowledge that they are a deciding factor. He has to bargain, and drive a hard bargain at that.

I saw him leave No. 10 after midnight last night with a puzzled frown on his forehead. "There is no statement, no statement," he flung at us.

Philip Snowden? Ah, here is our personality, a man who seeks no pity yet must demand it. He is crippled and must walk with sticks, and yet he is a man in the full sense of the word.

There is nothing more delightful than the queer, wintry smile that lights up

his drawn, austere face. He smiles with his eyes. We know him for a Yorkshire man who sees a duty and does it.

We may yet see this mite of humanity in the Premier's chair.

SILVER-TONGUED

The task to pick them out now grows harder.

One thinks of lovable "Jimmy" Thomas, fascinatingly ugly and having a silver tongue. Shafts of wit fall from him as the leaves from trees in autumn. He loves his country and the Empire with a fervour that is for ever brimming over in his speeches.

They say he is a clever man, and indeed he must be to make a Cabinet Minister of himself from a railway-engine-driver.

Arthur Henderson—very much of the Baldwin type but with a flash of the brilliance that the Conservative leader lacks. He is the perfect diplomat, the man upon whom the warm cloak of "Uncle" falls with natural and becoming grace.

Sir Samuel Hoare—a refinement of the Snowden type, with a cutting, bitter tongue and suave manners. He, too, is very clever. I am irresistibly reminded of a fencer when I hear Sir Samuel Hoare speak. There is the deadly thrust, the perfect parry, the poise and coolness.

CHAMBERLAIN BROTHERS

There are the brothers Chamberlain, Sir Austen and Mr. Neville, perfect Conservatives.

Sir Austen has something of the grand manner; Neville is more virile, more pushful and downright. He has a passion for organising, for setting schedules, and time-tables, and for working things down to slide-rule accuracy. It is a wrench at his heart-strings if so much as a detail is left undone.

George Lansbury, another man who is an "uncle." Fame came to him when he built the Lido in Hyde Park, London, though this was among the very least of his work for "the people."

There is no formality about him. You walk into the Office of Works and ask for Mr. Lansbury—and see him. He greets you like a Devonshire farmer, and you are told to sit down and drawn immediately into confessing your soul.

Last night he got a greater cheer from the crowd than MacDonald himself.

See how we have passed over the Liberals. Significant!

But there is Lord Reading, though his star is waning. I should rank him level with Sir John Simon, who has strayed from the fold, in intellect, and he is a great ruler of men—but not parties.

MYSTERY MAN

Now comes big business, led by that mystery man of picturesque appearance, Mr. Montagu Norman.

He has not been at the fateful meetings, but has been represented by Sir Ernest Musgrave Harvey and Sir Josiah Stamp. But Mr. Norman has played a great part, as usual, behind the scenes.

About him he has, by his very silence and sudden movements, woven a very fine-spun romance. He has been Governor of the Bank of England for more years in succession than any other man.

I have left the King until last, the man, whose love is the sea, has had the sweeping, turbulent power of seven seas in his nature.

These are democratic days, and yet has a King in history inspired by true affection as ever holds for him. He has played a part in this great national drama of tact and wisdom.

Copy

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The Star

19-22 Bouverie Street, E.C.4.

25 AUG 1931

Cutting from issue dated.....

RESTORING ALEXANDRA PALACE.

Mr. George Lansbury and the Lord Mayor of London are to attend Alexandra Palace, Wood Green, on October 14 to inaugurate the demolition work in connection with the £200,000 scheme for the restoration of the park and palace. Representatives of the various local authorities which have contributed to the scheme will also be present.

It is expected that the scheme of restoration will take about two years to complete, and will employ between 500 and 600 men.



DURRANT'S PRESS CUTTING

St. Andrew's House, 32 to 34
and 3 St. Andrew Street, Holborn, London, W.C.2.

TELEPHONE: CITY 4983.

Daily Herald

67 Long Acre, W.C.2.

Cutting from issue dated 26 AUG 1931

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EIGHT MEN Who Matter To-Day



Arthur Henderson, "forty years devoted to the Labour Party," in discussion with Arthur Greenwood, "one of the best of the younger men"—left, George Lansbury, "London's Good Uncle"—right, Tom Johnston, "a practical idealist."



When Harold Laski, writing of Arthur Henderson in the "Daily Herald" some time ago, described him as the "greatest Party organiser since Schnadhorst," he was simply stating without exaggeration the debt the Labour Party owes to Henderson's genius.

"Uncle Arthur," as he is affectionately known, is 67 years of age, and 40 of those years have been entirely devoted to the creation of the Party as we know it to-day.

It is largely to his personal influence and capacity for patient, solid work that the Labour Party owed its emergence to power after the dark days of the War. His organising ability and his loyalty to the Movement's policies made it possible for Ramsay MacDonald to come back again as Premier after it had seemed that his career was over.

His work as Foreign Secretary has been of inestimable value to the country; his championship of Disarmament has placed the whole civilised world in his debt. Whether he sits in a Cabinet or not makes no matter to his prestige in the ranks of Labour.

With "Uncle Arthur" goes "Uncle George" Lansbury, around whom more personal affection and trust centres than is lavished on any other politician of any party.

He made his office of First Commissioner of Works a living reality.

An Evangelist

He has been the evangelist of the Labour Movement, preaching its gospel day in and day out with a fervour that only comes from sincerity in a great ideal. Lansbury is passionately sincere, and has a passionate love of justice. It is because of these two characteristics that he took his stand.

"Uncle George" is seventy-two; but old in years, he is young in spirit.

Among the veterans of the eight "Willie" Adamson, the ex-Secretary of State for Scotland, represents a strong contrast to "Uncle George,"

Seal, was the latest recruit to the Cabinet. He is another man from whose palpable sincerity and courage might have been prophesied a decided negative to a proposal that violated one of his firmest convictions.

The value Mr. MacDonald set upon his merits may be adjudged by the fact that on the death of Mr. Vernon Hartshorn he chose Tom Johnston to take over, under him, the primary responsibility for the Government's unemployment policy.

William Graham has for some time been regarded as the inevitable successor to Mr. Snowden. He has youth on his side (he is only 44), and whatever happens to him now he seems assured of a big future.

Sterling Sense

As President of the Board of Trade, and as Mr. Snowden's aide-camp on many occasions, notably at The Hague, he revealed an astonishing capacity for the assimilation and exposition of financial detail—a capacity never excelled and possibly never equalled in the House of Commons.

"Great in sterling common sense, always equipped with the necessary knowledge, accurate, patient, hard-headed."

Such are the supreme qualities of William Graham.

The ex-First Lord of the Admiralty represents the Co-operative Movement's protest against wage and "dole" cuts, for it was as Co-operative member for the Hillsborough Division of Sheffield that Mr. Alexander made his first mark in Parliament. Like William Graham, he has youth on his side, whatever fate may befall him now, for he has not yet seen fifty.

Undying Faith

So far back as April he told a meeting that "I am going to set my face rigidly against a policy of general reduction of real wages and against a policy of reducing them indirectly by tariffs on the goods that the workers use."

Dr. Addison, ex-Minister of Agriculture, is a man whose faith in his own convictions is unvarying in face of opposition. Mr. Lloyd George discovered him and afterwards discarded him to appease the Tories, in a brutal manner, during the post-war Coalition.

The record of his department during the last session fairly bore out his claim "to have done more for the countryside than any previous Government."

Unlike in so many other respects, these eight men are alike in this—that they are all animated by a sincerity of purpose and a clear conception of their ideals. And it is this sincerity and truth to their deepest convictions that makes them matter so much to-day.

THE National Executive of the Labour Party meets to-day. In the interval, since the resignation of the Labour Government, eight men have been the real custodians of the ideals of the Labour Party.

The eight are—Arthur Henderson, George Lansbury, William Graham, Arthur Greenwood, William Adamson, A. V. Alexander, Tom Johnston and Dr. Addison.

Everyone knows of the firm and fateful stand they made against Budget-balancing by means of wage and "dole" cuts.

Great Organiser

At their head is Mr. Arthur Henderson, without whose genius for organisation, sincerity, and loyalty to the principles for which the Labour Movement stands there would never have been a great Party in the country carrying votes enough to place its leaders in the seat of Government.

The eight who uttered such an uncompromising "No" represent also both the old and new school of Labour politicians.

We have such veterans as Arthur Henderson, George Lansbury, and Willie Adamson, whose entire lives have been spent in the service of Labour, united in the hour of crisis with the best of the younger men, to whom the torch has been handed on—William Graham, Arthur Greenwood, A. V. Alexander and Tom Johnston.

Finally, there is Dr. Addison, a convert to the Labour Party, after years in the Liberal camp, with personal experience of the decay that Coalition brought to his old Party.

in that he is dour and silent as Mr. Lansbury is genial and affable.

He is typical of the hard-working loyal Scot who will not surrender the beliefs that he holds. He speaks little, keeping his own counsel till the last moment.

He is sixty-eight years old, the son of a miner, and his steady, deep-set eyes twinkle with Scottish shrewdness.

Wide Vision

After Arthur Henderson and George Lansbury, no leader has played a bigger part in shaping the present-day policy of the Labour Party than Arthur Greenwood.

He set his heart upon the total abolition of slums, and behind his Town Planning Bill is the vision of a man whose ideal was a happy and contented Britain.

He is an excellent debater and speaker, and of all the younger men in the late Cabinet—he has only just passed the fifty mark—he was the most sought after as a speaker at Labour demonstrations and by-elections throughout the country.

An idealist with a practical outlook is the obvious description of Tom Johnston, who, as Lord Privy

09/11

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The Daily Mail

Carmelite House, Carmelite Street, E.C.4.

Cutting from issue dated.....

MR. LANSBURY ON HIS FUTURE.

"AN HONEST DIFFERENCE OF OPINION."

A stirring message of confidence in the ability of the country to overcome its present difficulties was given to me yesterday by Mr. George Lansbury, the retiring Socialist First Commissioner of Works, writes a *Daily Mail* reporter.

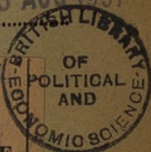
"I have absolute faith and confidence," he said, "that the nation will come out on the right side. I have no feeling of despair about the British people."

Mr. Lansbury was as jovial as ever. I asked him about his future relationship with Mr. MacDonald, now the head of the National Government.

"So far as I am concerned," said Mr. Lansbury, "there will be no recriminations. There was an honest difference of opinion. Therefore, I go one way and MacDonald goes the other."

"I have had two happy years at the Office of Works," he went on, "and I must take this opportunity of thanking *The Daily Mail* for the help it has given me. It was through its columns that I obtained the money for many of the schemes which I have completed in the parks."

I asked Mr. Lansbury what he was going to do. He is now 72, and his life has been devoted during the last quarter of a century to politics. "I am going to do as I always have done—work," he answered. "I shall continue in politics under the leadership of Mr. Henderson, and I shall do some writing and lecturing."



Oofw

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Evening News

Carmelite House, Carmelite Street, E.C.



Cutting from issue dated.....2-6 AUG 1931

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Mr. George Lansbury, who yesterday visited the Office of Works to say good-bye—he is not a supporter of the new National Government—early this morning was out attending to his garden. He spared a few moments to play with his pet airedale, Buddy.

Roland Arthur Barker
(1892 - 1954)

·DORE·

·ENGLEFIELD·GREEN·

·SURREY·

159

27.8.31

Dear Mr. Lansbury

I feel I cannot
let you leave the Office of
Works without writing a line
to express my own great regret
that you should have had
to leave. I am quite
certain that no private Secretary
has ever found a kinder

or more considerable chief.

As time went on & I felt
I hope rightly - that I was gain-
ing your confidence, the belief
gave me more pleasure &
satisfaction than anything else
that could have occurred.

I shall always look back
upon the past two years as
the happiest that my official

career has ever brought me.

I hope that you will feel
the benefit of a rest from
duties here. If ever you do
find yourself travelling down
the Southwest road through
Egham I hope you will turn
to the left at the top of the
hill where, about 100 yards down
you will always find a warm
welcome at Dore from

Yours very sincerely,

P. Augustus Barker

Frank Smith

THE NATIONAL LABOUR CLUB,
58 ROMNEY STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W. 1.

TELEPHONES OFFICE - VICTORIA 1817.
MEMBERS - VICTORIA 4795.

Room 4
Craven Hotel
Craven St
Shand.

(161)

[? end Aug. 1931]

My Dear George

A silly thing happened this morning
I was sending off some cards, and the folks at
home thought they would be helpful & stuck
 $\frac{1}{2}$ stamps on nothing! - including a note
to you which sh^d have had $1\frac{1}{2}$ - Sorry.
Hope it will reach you even though it means
extra postage.

However this gives me another opportunity
to join in the chorus of approval which
I know you will be hearing of the splendid
battle you have been leading all
the session - Would that I could have
been of some use.

But what a mob you have been
battling against. As soulless as

has
never been known.

This national appeal for charity
to take the place of proper state organisation
is an outrage. It's just a scientific
side tracking effort to keep the well intentioned
busy in handing out inadequate doses in
order to soothe their consciences & so
prevent their demanding action.

Thanks too, for your action re our
old friend Tom. With their ideals
we are both in agreement. Alas that
their methods & tactics prevent cooperation.

Mac's slobbering broadcast was disgusting
as also is the refusal to give you a ~~return~~
reply - However, the time will come & then!

All love to you & yours
Frank



M449

P.S. As you will see the Labour Club has shifted its location.
We are now at the Craven Hotel - Craven St. Strand

162 Sir Lionel Karle
(1866-1948)

Dr. F. Dengler's Sanatorium
Baden-Baden

3. Sept 1931.



M449

Dear Mrs Lambury,

I am deeply distressed that recent events have parted us, in our official relations & I can only hope that it may be my good fortune to serve under you again before I retire from the service. I have been really happy under you & although we have had one or two slight

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differences of opinion I can honestly say that you have been one of the best & most broadminded Ministers that I have ever served, at the Office of Books. I only hope that our lives will not drift apart & that I shall have the pleasure of keeping in touch with you & seeing you from time to time.

I had a delightful 14 days on the yacht in the Norwegian Fjords with only 4 wet or dull days. They are very

beautiful but somewhat
monotonous & I never want
to see them again. I left the
yacht at Bergen went by
rail to Oslo, inspected the
Legation & was able to save
£1200 being spent on the
Garden wall, by arranging
for this cliff of rock to be
handpicked for loose stones
& if this be done say every
two years, I think the
Municipality will be
satisfied. Everything else
was in very good order

He then went to Copenhagen,
where everything was a. l.
but the Minister was away
& then on here where I am
taking a cure for 14 days
as it made a new man
of me 11 years ago when
I was done in after the war
Dr Bengler reports very
favourably of my general
condition thanks to my
every morning walks &
breathing in the London
Parks. I hope to be back about
the 16th with every good wish to
you & yours. Yours very sincerely
Herschel Cook

Sir Benjamin Drage

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TELEPHONE LINGFIELD 10.

WEIR COURTNEY,
LINGFIELD,
SURREY.

4th September 1931

My dear Friend,

Whatever the end, I shall ever have before me the charm and personality of a man I respect above all other men. Whatever path you tread, you are my friend, and so I shall regard your comings and your goings with nervous interest.

My views upon the political situation and the grave crisis that confronts the country to-day are not of importance, but because you have occasionally listened to me with heroic patience I venture with your letter before me to tell you a little about what I am thinking to-day.

I am outstandingly sensitive of the great sacrifice you have made in vacating office for the furtherance of what has been to you a lifelong gospel - the cause of the under dog. You have always and ever been at once the servant and the protector of those who have neither the power nor the initiative to look after themselves, but I am sure you will be the first to agree that there may be another way of affording protection to the workers of the country, and in looking around for that other way, which may or may not be a better way, one cannot ignore the views of those great public servants who have devoted a lifetime of anxious study to what after all is an economic problem.

When one sees great public servants with a lifetime's knowledge and experience, like the Prime Minister, Mr. Snowden and Mr. Thomas, sacrificing the whole of their political future in furtherance of what they consider to be the right policy for balancing the Budget, and endeavouring to bring back the £ sterling

Sir Benjamin Drage

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TELEPHONE LINGFIELD 10.

WEIR COURTNEY,
LINGFIELD,
SURREY.

-2-

4 Sept. 1931

to something approaching equilibrium, one must pause and think whether the way that "may lead to revolution" is the right way, whether there is not a better way.

No decent man would approve of the repeal of the Unemployment Insurance Act, but if the well-informed and experienced men of affairs would say where that Act is administered in view of the national emergency with anything approaching extravagance, then there must be some amendment made.

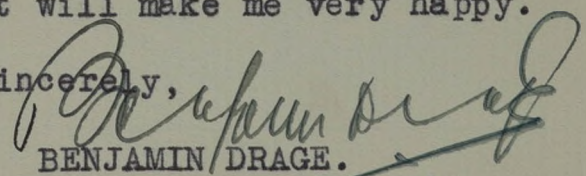
If it is found that insurance benefit, as now established, is beyond the power of the country to pay, and that its continuation would lead to national bankruptcy, to destitution, and to ruin, then one is bound to choose the lesser of the two evils - amendment or repeal, and as a reasonable man - and you have never found me unreasonable - I would rather choose amendment to repeal. I would rather choose half a loaf than no bread at all.

If the onward and upward march of improved social amenities of the working classes of this country has got to pause awhile until we gather fresh strength then it cannot be helped.

That is how I view the situation, and it is only because I want one whose respect and esteem I want to retain above all other things to understand that I am placing my views on paper before you.

I am already making enquiries about your grand-daughter, and if I can place her in an agreeable situation you know quite well it will make me very happy.

Yours sincerely,



The Rt. Hon. George Lansbury, M.P.

BENJAMIN DRAGE.

Sir Benjamin Drage

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PRIMROSE 0212.

Thank you

George Leuskey MP

28, ETON AVENUE,
N.W.3.

7th September 1931

My dear friend

I have been worrying and bothering about the letter I wrote to you last week. It did not convey exactly what I thought. I want you to put this letter in place of the other one, to read this letter and forget the other one.

I have been thinking of the bitter struggle through which you have gone, and of the temptations that have been yours. I feel that you want around you these days the support and the sympathy of all those whose respect and affection you have by a lifetime's service so worthily won. So I want you to understand that, ~~although~~ ^{path-} ~~on the present issue~~ I would not have taken your ~~path~~, maybe perhaps because the iron of life had not bitten so deeply into me, yet I will gladly help if in any other direction during this crisis you could find my help of use.

What a brilliant and noble rebel you have been all your life. I envy you your wonderful courage, your vision and spirit of sacrifice.

This letter may seem a little tame to one who sees before him the possibility of battle, of battle, I am sure, that will not flow beyond the margin of the platform, but I write as I feel. I am a born peacemaker, and quite useless unless I can tread down the ugliness of life, smooth the path around the corners that may jar and hurt the other fellow.

My love to Mrs Leuskey
& send her all your thanks,
& good health & good speed

to you -
Yours sincerely
Benjamin Drage

When you write by Dec 20
for Birtley - I'll send it along
if there's no hurry !!!

Thomas Johnston
(1882—
MONTEVIOT,

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KIRKINTILLOCH, SCOTTISH OFFICE,
WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

23. 10. 31

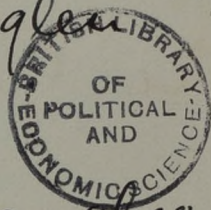
Dear George Lansbury.

Congratulations upon your
'STH' article today.

In the fourth par from
end you refer to a public
utility speech on iron & steel
which got its author into
Treasury trouble.

You may have mixed
up Graham's name with

mine, for I got captured
at the instance of the
Treasury for such a
speed at the Rutheglass
bye-election.



Of course Graham may also
have got captured at some
other time.

But I simply write you
this note in case Snowden
seizes upon the Graham
par and denies it.

I have my letter from JRM
and copy of my reply.

Good luck, and a thousand
thanks to you, are
Yours truly, JRM

[pre 27 Oct. 1931]

Parliamentary Election, 1931

BOW & BROMLEY DIVISION.



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39, Bow Road,

Bow, E. 3

Dear Friends,

Enclosed you will find a Poll Card which tells you where to vote, also your number on the Register. **Will you very kindly go to the poll early and give your vote to George Lansbury.**

We are fighting the same age-long fight against man-made poverty and man-made evil. Our opponents try to frighten you by stories of violence and outrage said to have taken place elsewhere.

Reforms too long delayed bring about Revolution. Crushing the poor, starving the unemployed, driving men and women to desperation by denying them the means of life, these are the cruel injustices which create violence and disorder. Labour's policy of complete social and industrial re-construction with control of finance and banking in the interests of the nation is the only policy which will bring peace and prosperity to our land.

Our Nation is not in danger of bankruptcy. We are still one of the richest nations in the world. As a nation many more thousands of millions of pounds is owing to us than **as a Nation** we owe other people.

We have **cancelled over 520 million pounds owing to us by Italy.** We have **forgiven France 400 million pounds owing to us.** We are paying America, **over a period of sixty years, 2 thousand million pounds.** What a stupid, criminal lie it is to say our nation is bankrupt when every pay day we pay our dues and also pay the debts of our late Allies.

Our National Income since 1914 has more than doubled, **97 thousand persons out of 45 millions** draw between them **541 millions** each year. Two-thirds of the Budget is spent paying huge sums of interest to war profiteers, and other expenses of the late war, and preparing for future wars. **Why not cut war debt interest by 20%?** **Cost of living should apply to them as well as to workers.**

No, our nation is wealthy, but its wealth is wrongly distributed.

We want you to vote for George Lansbury and his policy, because it will demand **efficient organisation of labour with shorter hours and higher wages under National Control, the abolition of usury and Stock Exchange gambling, such as has landed many financiers and gamblers into prison, and while this is being accomplished he will strive to secure work or maintenance for the unemployed.** He will vote for the repeal of the Orders in Council, which now crush the poor and the unemployed.

Finally, George Lansbury did run away from the **Flesh-pots of Office** He voluntarily and rightly gave up his salary of **£2,000 a year** rather than run away from his principles and sacrifice the poor and the unemployed, who by their votes at scores of elections have again and again given him their confidence.

We have no apologies to make, nothing to hide from you, our lives are lived in your midst, we are here all the time. Bow is good enough for us, and you have had our life and service for nearly 50 years. We ask your votes for George Lansbury, not for his work in the past only. We ask for your support because he will continue to work and vote for the well-being of the whole nation, **he is the true National Candidate who fights for the masses against the money lords**

Yours sincerely,

Bessie & George Lansbury

28/10/31.

Sir Lionel Fane

(169)

14, Sloane Gardens,
S.W.1.

Dear Mr Sandbery.

I am very glad
that you have held your
seat. I knew you would,
but I like to feel you
are still in Paris.

The turn over is beyond
what I thought but
I always expected the
best of you to have a

Majority of about 200.

Hay has got his motor
thanks to Londonderry's
generosity & more
particularly, I think,
because you brought
the case to the notice
of L.

Long to see you &

have a talk. So come
& lunch one day when
you are up west. I
hope Mrs Lambury is
well. I am sorry Mrs
Lhurst has lost his
seat.

Have you read a book
called "Red Bread" by
a Russian who wrote
"Humanity uprooted"?

170
It is all about the peasants
in the Ukraine & the
effects of Soviet systems
5 year Plan etc. It
interests me.

Yours v. sincerely,

Lionel George



M449

PHONE:
SHEPHERDS BUSH,
3280.

FROM THE

Mary Jane
REV. W. A. SIMMONDS,

ST. MATTHEW'S VICARAGE,

113, SINCLAIR ROAD,

W. KENSINGTON, W.14.

171
29. X. 31.

My Dear Mr. Lansbury,

Although so much has
happened since the quietness of our
holiday at St. Margaret's Bay, I do just
want to send you one line of
congratulation on getting in again for
Poplar.

I must confess I voted Nationalist, but
I am so pleased you are to be in the
new House of Commons.

With kindest greetings to Mrs. Lansbury

Yours v. sincerely

W. A. Simmonds.

Oct. 29. 1931.

STATION,
SCOT'S CAP, VIA MORPETH.
TELEGRAMS, CAMBO.

WALLINGTON,
CAMBO,
MORPETH.

172

Sir Charles Philips
Trevelyan (Bart.)
1870 —)



M449

Dear George,

A puzzled, deceived
and rather frightened
nation has played for
safety. I am afraid
it will have a bitter
period to repent in.

I wish you luck in
your hard and
unpleasant task in

Parliament. I hope you
and Cripps and whoever
are left will take a
strong line of
uncompromising socialism
so that when the
revival comes it may
be known that our party
will dare to be the
deliverer. My fine
friend, this later work
of yours, which seems
to have been thrust
upon you, may be the

Travelyan

173

29 Oct. 1931

STATION,
SCOT'S CAP. VIA MORPETH.
TELEGRAMS, CAMBO.



WALLINGTON,
CAMBO,
MORPETH.

M449

greatest you have
ever had to do.

My hopes and my
earnest good wishes
go with you.

Will you be sure
whenever you come
up to Durham or
Northumberland to
let me know. I should
like to give you some
days of interest and

29 Oct. 1931

rest and beauty here
if the opportunity
arises. I shall be
devoting myself to my
400 people here, while
you are doing your
best with the 45 million

Yours affectionately,
Charles Trevelyan.

Ada C. G. Wright

(174)

Oct: 30. 1931.

20, Talbot House,
St. Martin's Lane,
W. C. 2.

Dear Mr. Laubman,

Though I am
a "Nationalist" - I hope
you will let me
tell you how glad
I am that you are
in the new Parliament.
I never forget how
you stood by us in

the Suffrage agitation,
+ how you resigned
your seat for the
sake of justice.

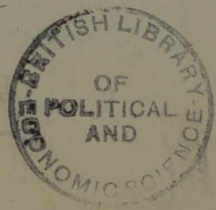
I wish this Government
would appoint you
to your old post,
+ that we could
still see your
influence in the

amenities of life in
the parks + elsewhere.
Whenever I saw
those comfortable
chairs + those beautiful
orange coloured
umbrellas, I said
to myself, "That's
Mr. Lausbury's
doing."

175

Toms with continued
gratitude + affection,
in spite of all
political differences,
Ada C. F. Knight.

George Lansbury, Esq. M.P.
House of Commons.



M449

David C. Lamb

176

66, Chalkwell Avenue,
Westcliff-on-Sea.

31st October 1931.

My dear Friend,

Much as I feel, I am not going to give time to congratulations or condolences, but I want to say this that I have been greatly pleased and encouraged, as others have been, by the lofty and simple spirit reflected in the various reports of press interviews with your good self which have appeared since the election.

Much will depend upon you in the Commons, and I feel sure the zeal, courage and sanctified commonsense which ^{has} marked so much of your life will be equal to the new conditions now confronting you. Continue to keep the standard high and flag of the needs of the poor flying at the masthead! We must not at this stage worry overmuch about ways and means.

God bless you and help you - we shall think of you and perhaps see you from time to time.

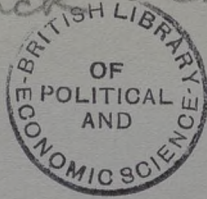
As ever, yours sincerely,

David C. Lamb

Commissioner.

R. Hon. Gen. Lansbury
D.C. M.P.

Frederick Jenkins



M449

6 Crown Street
Bagenham.

177

1. XI. 31.

Dear Sir,

I was interested in your article in the "Daily Express". Labour had to take the knock but a great number of us feel like you that it will return with redoubled strength, and we hope a new policy. Before the Crisis came I wished to write to you but I refrained from doing so as I thought you would be too busy. At that time I sought help and saw the Inter. Social Secretary of the Salvation Army, and put up to him a solution of our troubles with which he agreed and desired me to get in touch with a prominent politician.

I base my arguments upon one which I see you quote. There is misery in the midst of plenty. This need not be. Socialism in its present form, however, is not the cure. You would nationalise the banks and ruin everything. Part of my cure is to internationalise credit. This may sound a similar scheme to yours but there is an essential difference. The world's worst

recent troubles have been largely caused by individual countries taking actions in themselves sound, if taken simultaneously by all nations, but fatal when taken alone. So it would have been had we done nationalised our banks.

If the Labour Party could be induced to stick to its last and work on a sound formula it must win through. Now I argue that the production of food and material is at about half-capacity or that the world's needs are about double our present output. Taking this as a standard we have to work out a formula for distribution and to settle the credit system by means of which it can be carried out. I have done this in a book "The End of the World". I have submitted this to one publisher untyped but think it might interest the Labour Press if I can bring it before them.

I am so poor and introduced, in 1916 with the help of Sir Oliver Lodge, the new theory that everything is made of vibration or wave-motion.

Jenkins 1 Nov. 1931
his theory which is gradually becoming recognised ⁽¹⁷⁸⁾
is going to have a profound influence on human
thought and will I think have more to do with
deciding which way we shall turn than a casual
observer might imagine. It is more than a
scientific theory it is the modern philosophy, and
although Loane seems to have recognised it as such
it will be the modern religion. Mankind is at
the turning of the ways.

If it would be possible I should like to
have a talk with you as I really feel that I
could help our party if I could be allowed to
do so.

Yours truly

Fredk. Jenkins

180

His loving smile, his gentle ways,
Are pleasing to recall,
Sincere and true in heart and mind,
A beautiful memory left behind.

179

In Ever Loving Memory

OF

Arthur James Cook,

Who fell asleep November 2nd, 1931,

AGED 47 YEARS.



CREMATED AT GOLDER'S GREEN CREMATORIUM.

181

PERFORMING AND CAPTIVE ANIMALS' DEFENCE LEAGUE
AND JACK LONDON CLUB

Founded in 1914

President FRANCES, COUNTESS OF WARWICK

Vice-Presidents

Hon. Treasurer
ROBERT H. SPURRIER

MARY, DUCHESS OF HAMILTON SIR JOHN MARTIN HARVEY
RT. HON. LORD BUCKMASTER LADY WYNDHAM CHILDS

Hon. Secretary
EDMUND T. MACMICHAEL

Telephone Temple Bar 4080

17 Buckingham Street
Adelphi, London, W.C.2

November 3rd 1931

My dear G.L.,

Many thanks for your letter, which I have read with great interest and attention. I am of course aware the real Government has never been at Westminster. As I understand it now our real Government is in the Federal Bank of New York which, again, I understand, controls our erstwhile master, the Bank of England. You say that this nation is not a Socialist nation, and you speak truly, the chief reason being that people are afraid of words. If we substitute Security of Income for the word Socialism, we should get on a great deal faster than we do.

By the way, Humanitarianism embraces true Socialism. The abolition of the major forms of cruelty to animals seems to me after careful thought, to be impossible under Capitalism. You may be right about not taking on a Minority Government and I don't want to "argue" the point, but having done so I think it would have been wise, long before two years had elapsed, to go to the country on the simple issue that they could not, without Security of Income, bring in sound legislation.

As I see things, Mr. MacDonald made the biggest mistake any Premier in any country has ever made. He said that if any friend of his had Appendicitis he would not give him a lecture on Vegetarianism; he would advise an immediate operation. From the Medical point of view, I have proved this to be false in my own body. In 1912 I had an acute attack of appendicitis and without the necessary £150 for the operation; the doctor prescribed a four days fast with water and a little fruit

MacMichael
3 Nov. 1931

(182)

(2)

juice. I still have my appendix (one of the most useful and not useless, as our false scientists tell us, parts of my body) and have never had a return of the trouble.

^{lively} What MacDonald said, in effect, was that he had no faith in Socialism. Had he asked for a Dictatorship (i.e. "Free hand") to bring in Security of Income within six months, or be hanged for high treason if he failed to do so, he and the Party would at worst have "died like gentlemen". Other than that it seems to me that there was no possible course but to cut the pay of the unemployed, since it is impossible for any Government materially to control the number of persons unemployed under the present system, or lack of system.

Last and most important of all. The Labour Party is, I understand, going to overhaul its policy. If it goes out sincerely and primarily for security and equality of income (with exceptions above the general line) and humane legislation, it will succeed; if not, the only thing for one to do is to endeavour to get up another party that will.

I note what you say about propoganda re the late Government. I shall be constructive, and there is a way of gaining lessons from the past without indulging in any sort of "mudbath".

We all think the way you are bearing up is really magnificent. You have had many trials in your political life, but none equal to this. But if you see in it a blessing rather than a disaster, as I do, you will find hope and courage for the future. I have never doubted your sincerity for one moment. Dot says she saw you on the screen yesterday, and that you were very hoarse.

Yadil tastes disgusting till you get used to it but it is really good. If ~~and~~ when you buy it, ask for Veterinary Yadil. It's exactly the same as the other without the patent medicine tax, said he patriotically.

With best wishes to you all,

Ernest Mac Michael

See Vol. 28. a, fos. 187-188 for a circular
to Members of the Parliamentary Labour Party,
dated Nov. 6th. 1931.

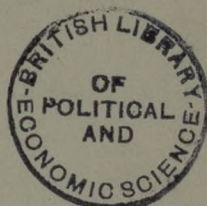


10, Downing Street,
Whitehall.

183

J. R. MacDonald

The Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister presents his
compliments to Mr. Lansbury and
forwards to him, in accordance
with the customary practice, the
attached copy of the King's Speech
for his confidential information.



M449

9th November, 1931.

[with letter 9 Nov. 1931 from P.M.]

184

The King's Speech on the Opening of Parliament.

NOVEMBER 10TH, 1931.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

MY relations with foreign Powers continue to be friendly.

My Government intend to pursue the policy of promoting peace and goodwill and to continue their active interest in the work of the League of Nations. Particularly, they are giving close attention to the preparations for the approaching Disarmament Conference, the successful result of which would, I am convinced, produce great and universal benefit.

Handwritten

The serious financial and economic situation of the world deeply concerns My Government. They will do their utmost in co-operation with other Governments, and in the spirit of mutual helpfulness, to find ways for restoring the volume of international trade.

Conference

The Indian Round Table Conference continues its work, and a Conference with Representatives of Burma will very shortly assemble. It is My earnest prayer that the deliberations of both these Conferences may be crowned with success.

Condition of India

In conformity with the undertaking given to the Representatives of My Dominions in 1930, a Measure will be laid before you to give statutory effect to certain of the Declarations and Resolutions of the Imperial Conferences of 1926 and 1930. This Measure is designed to make clear the powers of Dominion Parliaments and to promote the spirit of free co-operation amongst Members of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

My Government have received from the Government of My Dominion of Canada a proposal that the Economic Conference, which was adjourned in 1930, should be convened at Ottawa as soon as possible. This invitation has been welcomed by My Ministers and will be considered in the most sympathetic spirit and with an earnest desire to come to some mutually advantageous arrangement with the Governments of My Dominions.

When is this likely to take place

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

The Estimates for the public services will be laid before you in due course.

Public Purchase

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

The Nation, at the General Election, endorsed those measures for securing economy and balancing the National Budget which constituted the first essential steps in the solution of the financial and economic problems with which the country has been confronted.

Development

The Nation was also invited by My Ministers to empower them to pursue a policy designed fully to re-establish confidence in our financial stability and to give them authority to frame plans for ensuring a favourable balance of trade.

This is not true

They further sought from the Nation unfettered discretion to consider every proposal likely to be of assistance in these matters.

about

My Ministers have now received a clear and emphatic mandate to that effect.

and

The important problems involved are already under detailed examination by My Government. Decisions will be taken and applied with the least possible delay, and in due course any legislation that may be required will be submitted to Parliament.

And I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your deliberations.

Joseph Ricardo

(185)

TELEPHONE
2729 CENTRAL.

6, CROWN OFFICE ROW,
TEMPLE, E.C.

9. XI. 31

Dear Sir,

The Enclosed may
interest you.

I put it before the
powers that were so long
ago as 1925. The banks
do not like it.

It shows how we can
regain prosperity, without
the "aid" of tariffs.

Your views would be
appreciated yours faithfully

The Right Hon. G. Lansbury

Joseph Ricardo

with letter 9.11.1931 from author

Reprinted from "The Iron and Coal Trades Review," October 16, 1931.

186

The £ and the Empire.

By JOSEPH RICARDO.

Currency and finance are matters concerning which most of us have but the haziest ideas. The speeches that were made shortly before and after the introduction of the Economy Budget, though not so intended, were calculated to make the stoutest of us tremble as to what would happen if we failed to keep the £ at its par value. The dreaded has come to pass. We are off the gold standard and the £ is at a substantial discount. The behaviour of the man in the street is the most heartening augury as to our future. None of the dreadful things has happened, prices so far have not risen perceptibly, no bank has had to sustain a run; in fact, if there be any change it is for the better. A demand for our goods in the home and foreign markets has sprung up, factories, furnaces and mills which have been closed or have only been working part time have now more work than they have had for years. The foreigner has not only ceased to dump, but, in cases where orders were placed on a sterling basis, is refusing delivery; Spain, France and Canada even accuse us of dumping.

So much for the immediate effect of going off the gold standard. What of the future? Those countries who have stabilised their currency at par are suffering most in the so-called world depression, whilst those which have stabilised their currencies at a depreciated value, if not prosperous, have escaped the rigours of the storm.

It is more than doubtful whether the distinction between inflation and devalorisation is appreciated. I shall attempt to show the distinction—inflation takes place when a nation's currency is not exchangeable for gold at any fixed rate, devalorisation occurs when its currency is exchangeable for a smaller but, fixed quantity of gold, than its nominal par value. By way of illustration—Germany inflated her currency, neither her banks nor her Government were under any legal obligation to sell gold to the holders of her currency at any price. The result we all know. On the other hand, France, Belgium and Italy devalued their respective currencies, that is after a period of inflation. They each enacted that their respective currencies conferred upon the holders the legal right to call for a fixed quantity of gold. France stabilised the franc at 124.21 to the £, Italy the lira at 92.46 to the £, and Belgium the franc at 175 to the £. The effect of this devalorisation was of the utmost benefit to all these countries, to France especially, because the French Empire is almost self-sufficient, *i.e.*, capable of satisfying the bulk of its requirements in food and raw material. The following are a few of the benefits she has derived from this devalorisation:—Her pre- and post-war national debt expressed in gold has been reduced by 80 per cent. Her devalued currency operates as a bounty on exports and a duty on imports. Her inter-empire trade, due to the fact that she has one currency, has increased enormously. She has no unemployment problem, in fact she has some thousands

of imported workers. For years since stabilisation she has had a favourable balance of payments and has been able to reduce taxation. She has accumulated £500,000,000 in gold, and notwithstanding the methods by which she has attained these desirable results her credit throughout the world is higher than that of any other nation. Compare her condition with that existing in America and the British Empire, all of whom remained on the gold standard with their respective currencies at par.

America has protection and unlimited natural resources. With the exception of rubber and manganese she is self-sufficient, and has accumulated £1,000,000,000 of gold. Yet she has:—A deficit in her budget estimated at £300,000,000; a larger percentage of unemployed than even we have; a decrease of 40 per cent. in her exports; an epidemic of bank failures.

Why should not we profit by the experience of France? We are more favourably circumstanced than even she is. With the exception of petrol, champagne and some other luxury articles the Empire, unlike France, is self-sufficient, but owing to the fact that hitherto each member of the Empire has remained on the gold standard each has drawn its supplies of food, raw material and manufactured goods largely from outside. By way of illustration: only about 35 per cent. of our requirements in foodstuffs and raw material were purchased within the Empire, whilst we hitherto have only supplied some 30 per cent. of the purchases of manufactured goods made by the Dominions. The retention of the gold standard is the cause of this state of affairs, as gold is the magnet which attracts the products of the world, and a country on the gold standard is always beaten in competition with a country with a depreciated currency, because it pays for its labour in gold.

What of the future? To-day to all intents and purposes we, Australia, New Zealand, North and South Rhodesia and India are off the gold standard, with the result that the trade between us and them has increased enormously. As already stated, our depreciated currency has caused a demand for our goods and has stopped the inflow of foreign merchandise. How long will this beneficial effect of depreciation continue? The answer is so long as our cost of production does not rise so high as to affect our present ability to undersell the foreigner. As we have to import food and raw material it is imperative that we should take steps to ensure our future supplies at prices as close as possible to those ruling before we depreciated. What we are getting from Australia, New Zealand, Rhodesia and India will cost us very little more; this fact points the way.

The solution is to induce the whole of the Empire to depreciate its respective currencies to the level of the Australian £ and then for each member of the Empire to stabilise its currency at that level, so that the currency of each member of the Empire would be devalorised to the extent of 30 per cent.

The following beneficial results would ensue:—The currency of each member of the Empire would have a par value within the Empire and be at a discount of 30 per cent. outside the Empire. This would be equivalent to a duty on imports and a bounty on exports of 30 per cent. Each member of the Empire would of necessity make its purchases within the Empire, the Dominions would have an assured market for their products and we for our manufactured goods. It would reduce the national debt of the Empire by 30 per cent. (expressed in gold). The cost of living would not be appreciably increased because the Empire is self-sufficient. In time of war the Empire would not be dependent on the goodwill of any other nation for the supply of necessities. We thus would obtain all the benefits of protection without any of its disadvantages, and an Empire preference of 30 per cent. without interfering with the fiscal policy of any member of the Empire.

To-day Canada imports some £250,000,000 of manufactured goods, mostly from America. She has a tariff of about 40 per cent., and so derives a revenue from this source of £100,000,000. Thus, quite apart from the fact that she wishes to foster her own industries, it is clear she cannot give our goods free entry. If this devalorisation took place her \$ would be worth 70 cents in America and 100 cents here, she would buy from us instead of from America. It has been said that Canada and South Africa would not agree to this proposal. I am inclined to the view that when these Dominions see Australia, New Zealand and India, etc., finding ready markets for their products, whilst theirs are unsaleable, they will see the wisdom of entertaining it. They will take time, possibly years, to come into line, unless this proposal is put to them in terms, when they would take at most, months. In other words, we shall "muddle through," the £ will fluctuate from day to day, making it difficult for anyone to do business abroad, both buying and selling; ultimately one by one the Dominions will all come in. Why go through this lengthy process when it can be shortened by conferring with our brothers in the Dominions. It is said we shall lose the benefit of depreciation as other countries abandon the gold standard. The answer is only those countries which are self-sufficient can benefit by depreciation; in other cases it raises the cost of production and depreciates the ability to compete.

The time to put these proposals before those Dominions still on the gold standard at par is now; if we wait till the £ is further depreciated it will take longer to bring about the desired unity of action. This scheme visualises the Empire as an economic unit—up till now the Empire has been kept together largely by sentiment—these proposals will in addition give the solidarity of the Empire a material basis, the restoration of prosperity to all its industries.

B or C

Edgar Lansbury

No. *310*

POST OFFICE



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187

This form, and if possible the envelope, should accompany any enquiry respecting this Telegram.

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.



From

London

7-10p

London T 25

To

THE INFORMATION OVERLEAF WILL INTEREST YOU.

George Lansbury

House of Commons

*Congratulations on your first
engagement with the enemy and
the traitors and love*

*Moyna Edgar Solde Bidsie and
The Twins*



Sir Lionel Earle

(188)
**H.M. OFFICE OF WORKS,
STOREY'S GATE,
WESTMINSTER, S.W.**

27th November, 1931.

My dear Mr. Lansbury,

On behalf of the Department I write to thank you very warmly for the quite excellent photograph of your good self, which will be a real addition to the collection, and much appreciated by all those who knew you in the Department. It radiates all the human qualities which you possess in such a very marked degree.

Yours very sincerely,

Lionel Earle

The Rt. Hon. George Lansbury, M.P.,
39, Bow Road,
E.5.

PRIMROSE 0212.

Sir Benjamin Drage

(189)

28, ETON AVENUE,
N.W.3.

9th December 1931

The Rt. Hon. George Lansbury, M.P.
39, Bow Road,
E.

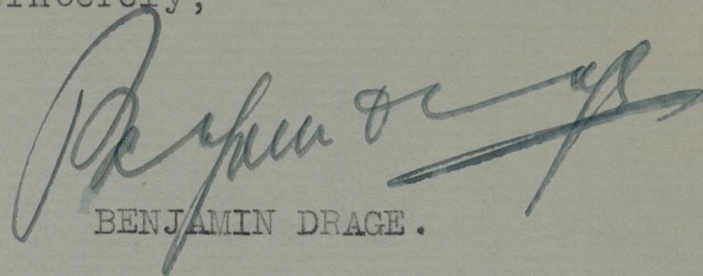
My dear Mr. Lansbury,

The enclosed letter from Mr. Lavers, the Secretary of the Birtley Miners' Welfare Scheme, makes kindly reference to you, and rightly so, because without your inspiration and fine example I am quite sure I should never have risen to the opportunity of performing public work.

I am sending the letter on for you to keep, although it can only be one of tens of thousands of tributes you, through a long and great career, must have received.

I hope to see you very shortly, and with all goodwishes,

Yours sincerely,


BENJAMIN DRAGE.

P.S. Do not bother to send the letter back; I have already acknowledged it.

Enclosure

with Drage 9 Dec. 1931

BIRTLEY MINERS' WELFARE SCHEME.

Comprising Ouston "E" Bewicke Main, and Black House Collieries.

190



From The Secretary

Address 5, Neville Cres.
Birtley, Co Durham

Date 5TH December 1931.

To Mr. Benjamin Drage

Address West Courtney, Lingfield,
Surrey.

Dear Sir,

My Committee have been informed that your cheque for £780, towards the cost of new recreation ground has been received by the Clerk of the Chester-le-Street Rural District Council.

We feel Sir, that you are entitled to our most sincere thanks for what you have done for us. It is a well known fact to a few of us who have piloted this Scheme through to its present position, that but for your gracious act we should have not been able to commence the job. We want you to feel that you have brightened the drab conditions of the mining population in this Township, just imagine Sir, this place of ours with a population of 16,000, had not a single amenity for the children. Thanks to your assistance, this has been changed. We sincerely hope that one day you will pay a visit to this pleasure spot & see the joy it is giving to both young & old. Of course we are deeply indebted to your friend Mr. Lansbury, for his splendid activity on our behalf. We ask you Sir, on behalf of the Miners & the public of Birtley, to again accept our sincere thanks. Yours faithfully, Sydney Lavers

W. TEIGNMOUTH SHORE

(d. 3 Jan. 1932)

18 TEMPLARS AVENUE
Golders Green, London, N.W. 11

(191)
[pre-1932]

My dear G. H.,

Just to wish you & yours all good
luck.

Yours ever

W. T. S.

end of 1931

Vol. 10

Section I

1932

(fols. 192-314)

End of
Vol. 10

Charles Coates

The Grey House
Cambridge Rd
Middletown

1932

January 1st 1932

My dear Lansbury,
My wife & I
have been talking
& thinking about you
& your work a good
deal lately & I
wish to take the
opportunity at
a season like this
to say to you how
much we admire &

appreciate your
leadership of the
Labour Party since
the tragic betrayal
of the Party by
our former leaders.

1933

We hope you
will be able to
continue your
inspiring work
& wish ^{to you} ^{the best} wishes
for
1933 We remain

Yours very sincerely
Chas. Walter Schofield Coates

Cannot we get you here for
a meeting. We will fill
the Town Hall for you?

64. RUE D'AULNAY
CHATENAY (SEINE)

TÉL. 24

Le 11 fév. 32

Anita Longuet
[? Mme Jean Longuet]

194

Chère Madame,

Nous avons été vraiment très
touchés de votre accueil si
cordial.

Nous garderons le meilleur
souvenir de la bonne soirée
passée dans votre agréable
demeure, au milieu de votre
famille si sympathique.
C'était si familial et

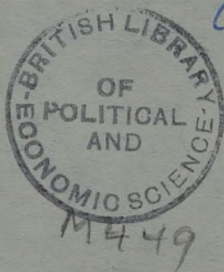
si sincère!

J'ai seulement regretté de
ne pouvoir m'entretenir avec vous
et vous dire tout le plaisir que
nous avons eu à faire votre con-
naissance.

J'espère bien vous voir un
jour à Paris, vous ou l'un des
chers vôtres.

Avec tous nos remerciements,
Croyez, chère Madame, à nos
sentiments de réelle sympathie
pour vous et votre aimable
famille.

Anita Longuet



Anita Longuet
[TRANSLATION
of original above]

11 Feb. 1932

195

Dear Madam,

We were really very touched by your cordial reception of us.

We shall keep a very happy memory of the very pleasant evening passed in your ^{nice} pleasant house among your ^{friendly} charming family. It was so homelike and ^{simple} sincere.

My only regret was not to be able to talk ^{with} to you and tell you what pleasure it gave us to make your acquaintance.

I much hope to see you in Paris one day, or one of your ^{dear} charming family.

With thanks and best wishes to you and all yours.

Anita Longuet.

See vol. 28. a, fos. 189-191 for a letter of Sir Richard Stafford Cripps, dated Jan. 13th 1932.

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[? Alicia] Scurr
(daughter of John Scurr)
46, Hornsey Lane Gardens,
Highgate, N. 6.

(196)

Feb 17th 1932.

Dear Mr Landbury,

I feel I should
have written many times to
thank you for visiting
my father in the Mason
House Hospital. I am
very grateful to you
as I know how little
time you must have to
spare. Progress in



M449

his health so far has
been very very slow
but we are praying
for the recovery - after
all the kind ministrations
he receives in the hospital

I hope you and
Miss Langley are quite
well

With kindest regards.

Yours sincerely

Alina Scam

Wait Chester
Sewell

33, KINGS ROAD,

LEYTONSTONE, E.M.

197

Feb 19. 32

Dear George

Thanks for your Bessie's
birthday wishes & your
stimulating recollections
of the past.

When I look back ^{on} our
boyhoods dreams I feel so
glad that you have not only
reached the places of
honor we talked about but
that you have done it
without "rowing the race
to Paul."

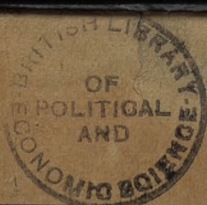
198

It is a matter of great thankful
that we still have health & strength
at our age & I am looking hopefully
forward to seeing bigger things
being done before you lay down
your sword in England's great
& pleasant land.

With all other good wishes for
Sunday & all the days following
& love to Bessie & all your folk
from Aunt Cissie, Mr. Hall &
Miss Pether &

Yours sincerely
W. Ait.

With aching hands & bleeding feet
The toil & day, heap stone on stone
We bear the burden & the heat
Of the long day & wish it were done
Not till the hours of light return
all we have built do we discern



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20 Feb. 1932

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CHANCE



MANY HAPPY RETURNS.—Mr. George Lansbury, Leader of the Opposition, who celebrates his 73rd birthday to-morrow. With him is Mrs. Lansbury.