

Vol. 8

(fols. 71 - 103)

1919

See also vol. 28.a, fo. 111 for a letter from  
Gerald Gould, apparently of December 1918





Philip Snowden (1st Viscount Snowden)

(1864 - 1937)

Jan 14<sup>th</sup>

[? 1919]

(11)

Dear George.

Mrs Snowden and I thank you & Mr. Lansbury for your kind letter.

If you get off to Paris to see Col. House would you mind asking him if he would see Mrs Snowden when she is in Paris. She expects to be there the end of this coming week. She is very anxious to put some things to him.

With sincere good wishes.

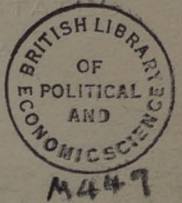
Philip Snowden



5  
Woodrow Wilson  
(1856 - 1924)

72

THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA



Paris - 14 February, 1919.

My dear Mr. Lansbury:

It is a matter of sincere regret to me that I had to postpone the pleasure of seeing you, but shall look forward with genuine pleasure to having the opportunity to do so when I come back to France.

Admiral Grayson has told me how considerate you have been and I am very much obliged to you for your kindness. These have been truly distracting days when I have done what I found it absolutely necessary to do and not what I wanted to do.

With cordial regards,

In haste.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. J. Lansbury,  
39 Bow Road,  
London, England.



Mary R. MacArthur (Mrs. Wm. C. Anderson) 73  
(1880-1921) 42 WOODSTOCK ROAD,

Telephone :  
FINCHLEY 942

GOLDERS GREEN, N.W.4.

14th March, 1919.

*The one thing that has comforted me in my sorrow has been the affectionate tributes to my husband's worth and character which have reached me from so many friends—known and unknown.*

*Amongst these was a letter from you, for which I thank you. It will be carefully kept with the others for his little daughter, so that when she is old enough she may find in them inspiration to try to be worthy of such a father.*

*It will be many months before I can reply to all our friends individually, but I hope to do so in time.*

*Meantime please accept in this general acknowledgment my heartfelt gratitude.*

MARY R. ANDERSON.



Rt. Rev. Edward Stuart Talbot  
(Bishop of Winchester; 1844 - 1934)

Farnham Castle,  
Surrey.

Apr. 11. 1919.

74

My dear Lansbury,

May I introduce to you my friend the Rev. Gerald Savory? Mr. Savory was a student of our Farnham Hostel of preparation for Holy Orders, & has since worked in my Diocese. He took Orders late, being a man of 40. He was previously concerned in the management, & perhaps ownership, of a factory. After the War broke out he did some service of a manual labour kind, & afterwards went to the Front in a Labour Battalion. He is full of earnestness, & I think of desire to utilize his experience: & he desires an introduction to yourself. I am sure you will be kind to him.

I am,

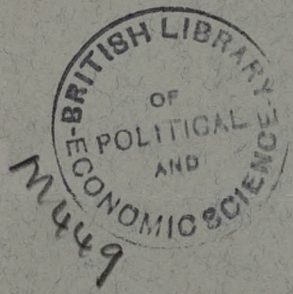
Yours sincerely,


Edw. Winton:



Charles Merz  
Copied S.A. 1893

75



  
The New  
REPUBLIC  
421 West 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
New York City

May 12, 1919.

Dear Mr. Lansbury:

I want to thank you for the job you are doing with the Herald. Not only is the spirit of the paper fine—that much we should expect; but you are also doing a remarkable piece of work in the way you gather and present your news. The paper is indispensable to those of us in America who want to understand England. We are enthusiastic about the work you are doing.

Sincerely yours,

Charles Merz

George Lansbury,  
The Herald,  
London.



76

For Queen Mary  
and Sir Harry Lloyd Verney  
(1872-1950)



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

15th May 1919.

Dear Mr Lansbury,

The Queen wishes me to write to you as Chairman of the Poplar Guardians to tell you once more how keenly interested Her Majesty was in her visit yesterday to the Poplar Training School, and in all she was enabled to see in connection with the ordinary daily life of the young inhabitants.

I feel sure you realised the great pleasure which both The Queen and Princess Mary derived from their inspection of the School, and from seeing those hundreds of children in their happy, healthy, and beautiful surroundings.

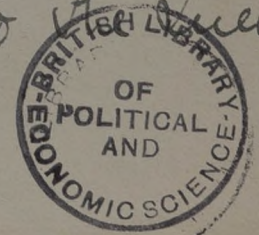
The Queen desires me to thank you personally for your own efforts to render her visit so enjoyable.

Yours very truly,

*Harry L Verney*

George Lansbury Esq,  
Chairman,  
Poplar Guardians.

*Private Secretary to The Queen.*



M449



For

*Hub:* *Harold*

# DURRANT'S PRESS CUTTINGS,

77

St. Andrew's House, 32 to 34 Holborn Viaduct,  
and 3 St. Andrew Street, Holborn Circus, E.C.

TELEPHONE: CITY 4963

## Evening News

Carmelite House, Carmelite Street, E.C.

Cutting from issue dated

*May 13*

1919

191

### PRINCESS MARY AND THE POOR.

77

Mr. Lansbury Talks Dickens with the  
Royal Family.

Mr. George Lansbury, who escorted the Queen and Princess Mary round an ideal Poor Law school at Shenfield, Essex, yesterday, had two hours' conversation with the Royal visitors.

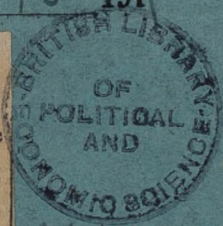
"We did not touch upon the war or politics or Socialism," said Mr. Lansbury to-day.

"Instead we discussed Dickens and the changes in the care of poor children since 'Oliver Twist' was written. Princess Mary told me she was very fond of Dickens.

"I was impressed with the remarkable intelligence of the Princess, who evidently thinks deeply about things.

"When I suggested to the Queen that there should be a really big experiment made in housing, including a scheme for central heating, common rooms, central laundry, and baths, both she and the Princess stated they would like to see some such experiment made.

"The Queen then stated that at Kennington they were doing their best to deal with the housing difficulties."



M749



For

*Lab.*

78

# DURRANT'S PRESS CUTTINGS,

St. Andrew's House, 32 to 34 Holborn Viaduct,  
and 8 St. Andrew Street, Holborn Circus, E.C.

TELEPHONE: CITY 4963

## North Mail

High Bridge, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Cutting from issue dated

15 May 9

191

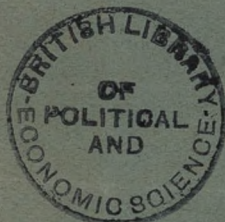
### Looking Around.

#### No House Work.

Mr George Lansbury does not always impress me, but I like his suggestion that housework should be abolished. Housework is largely a battle against dirt. It is going on always, from early morning till late at night, and the lady of the house always has a feeling that she is defeated. There is just as much dirt in the house this morning as there was yesterday morning—though how it all contrived to get back again nobody seems to know. The fact is that she no sooner gets it out of one corner than it gets into another—and so ad infinitum.

\* \* \* \* \*

If I should be the architect of the new era, there would be no corners in houses, no staircases, no carpets, and no fire-places—just an electrical stove, a parquet floor, an electric elevator, and graceful curving walls where no dust could find a corner or crevice to settle in. But then, if I were the architect of the new era, the R.I.B.A. undoubtedly would stop the new era.



M449



For

*Daily Herald* 79

# DURRANT'S PRESS CUTTINGS,

St. Andrew's House, 32 to 34 Holborn Viaduct,  
and 3 St. Andrew Street, Holborn Circus, E.C.

TELEPHONE: CITY 4963

## The Star

19-22 Bouverie Street, E.C.

Cutting from issue dated

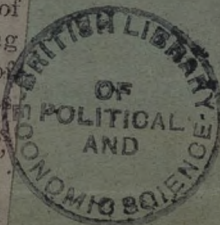
*15 May*

191

### George and the Queen.

There never was such a topsy-turvy world as this in which we are living just now. At the very moment when Mr. Bonar Law was threatening darkly to consider the prosecution of the "Daily Herald" for publishing confidential documents, the editor of that organ, Mr. George Lansbury, was escorting the Queen and Princess Mary round the Poplar Guardians' admirable schools.

It reminds one of that occasion when the late Empress Frederick inspected a famous art dealer's picture gallery in Bloomsbury, and the horrified police escort found in the suave proprietor a once-famous Anarchist.



M449



Sir Harry Lloyd Verney



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

(80)  
May 21. 1919.

Dear Mr. Lansbury.

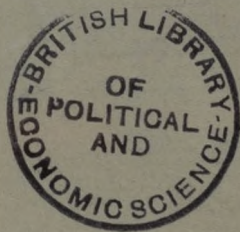
Thanks you for such a  
kind letter.

That was a stupid mistake  
of mine as to the B of Gd<sup>no</sup>. I  
wish I could pretend that Mr. Hoar  
had given me false information! but  
I am afraid I am alone to blame. Forgive me!



I shall not soon forget  
that jolly day with those children

Yours sincerely  
Harry L Verney.



M449



See 28.a fo. 112 for letters of  
Muriel, Countess DeLa Warr to G.L  
12 June 1919



St. Andrew's House, 32 to 34 Holborn Viaduct,  
 and 3 St. Andrew Street, Holborn Circus, E.C.  
 TELEPHONE: CITY 4963

CUTTING FROM THE



*American*

# The Real Democrats in Great Britain Are Not for Imperialism

**R**OBERT WILLIAMS, Robert Smillie and George Lansbury are among the most influential and best known men in Great Britain. Our readers will recall that Robert Smillie is the head of the great miners' union. He is the man who recently put English noblemen upon the witness stand in a controversy before an investigating committee and cross-examined them concerning their titles to coal land, and in that cross-examination created such a sensation in the thoughtful world.

Smillie is one of the most powerful men in political influence and inherent character which the British world possesses to-day. George Lansbury is the editor of the Daily London Herald. Lansbury's influence is greater than that of his paper, great as it is.

These men represent a very large body of liberal opinions. They have signed an appeal to men and women throughout the British Empire against the oppression now being practised by the British Government upon 315 million white people in India. They have called attention of the world to the violation by the British Government of the right of self-determination in India. We print this letter:

"We, the undersigned, appeal to our fellow countrymen and women to give thought and attention to the condition of affairs in India.

"That country, which contains 315 millions of human beings, is at present ruled by a handful of officials whose gross incompetence and ignorance have brought these peaceful, law-abiding people to the verge of open, undisguised revolution.

"Indians ask the same rights, the same duties, the same recognition as Siberia, Poland and other small European peoples. The bureaucrats of India reply with a coercion act which robs Indians of all freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of public meeting.

"Indians are unarmed, yet they are bombed from aeroplanes and shot down with machine guns.

"We cannot believe our countrymen and women understand these things; neither do we think they realize that these autocratic methods place in jeopardy the lives of thousands of British men, women and children.

"We therefore ask you to join us in our protest against the bombing and shooting of unarmed men and women, and in our demand for a public inquiry into these outrages, the complete withdrawal of the coercion bills, and the immediate introduction of self-government, giving to the millions of Indians the same rights as now enjoyed by Canada, Australia and Africa."

The whole body of Liberals in England and Scotland are joining in this protest against the British treatment of her colonies in Egypt and India. These men speak for an element of the British population which is as distinct from the British Tory as white is from black.

More than any other country in the world, the English people have the character of a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. No population on earth has a blacker element, more unscrupulous, more cynical, more stained with blood and treachery than the British Tory element.

When they are in power almost invariably Britain's transgressions against human rights and the rights of little nations have been perpetrated. The British Tory element has won for Great Britain the title of "perfidious Albion." The Tory element has stained the name of Great Britain with deeper shame in her international relations than attaches to any other country since the Dark Ages.

On the other hand, Great Britain contains an element of her population comprised of her workmen, her middle class non-conformists and that body of people that adheres ordinarily to the Liberal party, which is unsurpassed in character, in adherence to principle, in capacity for self-restraint and self-reproach and self-sacrifice.

To this class America has long owed a debt of gratitude which she has only recently paid. During her Civil War, when our country was torn apart and the armies of the South were winning victories, and to an outside observer the cause of the Union looked dark, the British Tory rejoiced. He saw in the fall of the Republic an example of the failure of republics. He saw the discouragement of radical opinion throughout the world with the failure of the American Republic. The British Tories wanted to add to Lincoln's burden the last straw—which would have been the recognition of the belligerency of the South.

Lincoln sent Henry Ward Beecher to England to oppose this scheme to consummate the disorganization of a republic for the edification of the European monarchies and aristocracies. The Tories were hoping to get the aid of the British workmen and the British middle classes in their scheme to complete the disruption and decay of American democracy.

Their hope of engaging the British workmen and the British middle classes in their scheme to complete the disruption and decay of American democracy was shattered by the blockade of the cotton mills from the English mills to manufacture their cotton yarn.

This was one of the greatest British industries, and the looms were being idle and the working people were on the streets without work, and it was contended slyly by the British Tory aristocracy that Lincoln's blockade was unlawful, and that the workmen were being starved by an unlawful assertion of power by the North under Lincoln.

Henry Ward Beecher, Lincoln's emissary, went among the workmen and addressed

great meetings. He did not deny the blockade. He did not deny that the blockade would continue. He gave them little or no hope of an early resumption of work, but he asked them to remember that the war was being waged to free human beings from slavery. He asked them if English workmen were not willing to make a sacrifice of hunger when the American workmen were making a sacrifice of blood to relieve America and the world of the stain of human slavery. Those British workmen responded to our appeal and the Tory scheme for recognition failed.

We want it always understood when we hold up to America Great Britain's international crimes that we do not include the British workmen or the British Liberal classes generally.

Under Article 10 of the League of Nations America will be called upon to guarantee British oppression such as is set forth in the appeal which Messrs. Williams, Smillie and Lansbury have issued against British conduct in India. Let us remember that we shall, if we ratify the treaty of peace as it now stands with Article 10, undertake to aid with the lives of our young men British conduct toward three hundred millions of people in India, if any nation should go to the aid of the people of India.

Under the treaty of peace, which this League of Nations guarantees, Shantung is torn from China and given to Japan. Four hundred million people in China resent that outrage. The Chinese are a brave and efficient people. All military experts admit their fighting capacity once they are well organized and equipped.

Is there any intelligent human being that does not believe that China will try to take back Shantung the moment she feels that she can? Her population is more than five times greater than Japan's. Her resources are more than ten times greater. She has become a REPUBLIC. She is building railroads, canals, industrial plants. She is becoming more and more efficient while her

population is increasing beyond comparison.

The time is not distant when she will be herself capable of measuring swords with Japan, and squaring all the wrongs which she feels that Japan has done her in the last twenty-five years of Japanese IMPERIALISM in the East. Under the present League of Nations, if we ratify it, Japan can call upon America to defend her in the possession of Shantung against Chinese hordes.

There is every reason to believe that there is a scheme afloat among the nations committed to the League of Nations to disrupt Russia. Russia has 180 millions of people, whose fighting capacity the whole world knows. There is not power enough in the world to keep Russia down. Under the settlement of this treaty, if this suspicion is confirmed concerning Russia, America will be bound to wage war at any time to keep 180 million people of the same blood apart.

We leave out all consideration of danger to the peace of the world from the present attitude of the German race. But anybody who thinks that the German race can be made a race of slaves by foreign masters does not know anything about German history.

Does such a League of Nations tend to prevent war or does it tend to provoke war?



For *Day Hero*  
DURRANT'S P

82

DANIEL KIEFER  
~~WILMINGTON, (ARDEN) DELAWARE~~

Philadelphia, July 14th, 1919.

George Landsbury,  
# 2 Carmelite St.  
London,  
E-C-4  
England.

My Dear Landsbury:

The New York Call is using an occasional editorial of yours, from which I take it the Herald is allowed passage across and through the American mails uncensored; a privilege denied to our own radical papers, until recently.

As I finished your "Let us have peace", I remarked to Mrs. Kiefer, that it was no wonder Joseph Fels sought you out and that you meant so much to him. It is inconceivable to me that were he here, any of his money would have gone to the support of a publication any less unmistakable in its attitude than you make the Herald; and to sustain and be responsible for anything as debased as the one-time worthy Chicago, now the New York Public.

I have said, in public and in other ways, that if Joseph Fels were here, he would have been sent to jail. Can you, knowing him as you did, believe that he would have accepted quietly, without protest, any more than you have much that has been said and done?

Our three boys are again in normal pursuits, all unhurt, enough to be grateful for; but the Bourbon in me will not let me forget.

Please put me on for a year's subscription to the Herald and send me bill. Note that we are no longer in Cincinnati, but permanently located in Philadelphia, at #1814 Spruce St. Please remember us all to Mrs. Landsbury.

It would gratify me to have a line from you.

Yours truly,

*Daniel Kiefer*

"That we should do unto others as we would have them do unto us—that we should respect the rights of others as scrupulously as we would have our rights respected—is not a mere counsel of perfection to individuals—but it is the law to which we must conform social institutions and national policy—if we would secure the blessings of abundance and peace".—HENRY GEORGE.

*In Mr. Kiefer's absence*

*and signing the letter*



Rev. H. J. Kitcat

83

The Factory, Bow  
July 15. 1919

My dear Sawbury

I only know that the  
man appointed to J. Mack's comes  
from Birmingham, but I  
neither his name nor address.  
I will try to find out. May it  
be more fortunate than  
it has been in the past.

I had no idea Hunt had  
acted as you tell me. It is  
a scandal.

What you say about myself just  
gives me the opening to say what  
I have long ~~and~~ wanted to say &  
just simply tell you what only of the  
regard but the real affection which  
I have always felt & shall always  
feel for you. I often feel - & to my  
sorrow - that often I have dis-  
-appointed & do disappoint you: &  
yet I humbly believe - I hope I do  
not deceive myself - that my heart



H. J. Kitcat  
15 July 1929

(84)

goes out to labour, & that all  
my sympathy is with you in your  
vision of what should be, & might  
be, were it I could honestly see  
quite eye to eye with you as to  
the way it can best & most wisely  
be brought about.

The two boys are doing splendidly  
at Bradfield & both gloriously happy.  
Jack went up into the upper school  
at Easter & is settling down. He  
was for a school scholarship, but un-  
successfully. He is plodding & of good  
average ability & will do all right.  
Jerome of course is still in the  
junior house. He rather promises  
to be a little brilliant, if he can  
succeed in having pack, application  
& concentration. He is eleven  
tomorrow. I'll send him your  
message.

Here's a little personal letter I had  
like to have a chat with you about  
— personal to myself — if you ed. spare  
me a moment sometime.  
Love from us all — God bless you  
ever  
H. J. Kitcat

Pitchie has broken down in his way to  
in Scotland; but I hope he will be all well.  
I'm acting for him in regard to the  
man with a son a fortnight ago.



85  
Doston Lake  
Dunston, Essex

August 10<sup>th</sup> 1919



Frances Evelyn,  
Countess of Warwick  
(1861 - 1938)

My dear Mr. Gausbury

It's very peaceful here, & I hope  
Mrs. Gausbury may be in need of  
a rest near town. Will you come

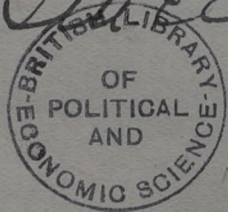
here any time between 18<sup>th</sup> &  
25<sup>th</sup> or I might postpone going  
away till 30<sup>th</sup> if it suited you  
better? We can talk in the

garden. Conrad Noel & Percy  
Widdrington will love to see you - &  
I should so like you to bring some



of your Herald staff - during the  
time. I want to be of more use  
to the Herald. & to hear very  
much from you. My family go  
to Devonshire, so I shall be alone  
here. I have no servants. & cook  
for myself. but will make you  
& W<sup>o</sup>. Gausbury comfortable -  
I can meet any train at Bishop's  
Stortford (40 minutes), or our station  
here is Easton Lodge - in the Park -

Y<sup>rs</sup> very sincere  
Leuchter



M449



86

Sept. 1919

Woodrow Wilson  
(1856-1924) Sept. 1919

86

"Peace? Why, my fellow-citizens, is there any man here or any woman - let me say is there any child - who does not know that the seed of war in the modern world is industrial and commercial rivalry? The War was a commercial and industrial war. It was not a political war. The reason that the War we have just finished took place was that Germany was afraid her commercial rivals were going to get the better of her; and the reason why some of the nations went into the War against Germany was that they thought Germany would get the commercial advantage of them. The seed of the jealousy, the seed of the deep-rooted hatred, was not commercial and industrial rivalry."

(President Wilson, speaking at St. Louis, September, 1919)

M4469







23 Dec. 1919  
[printed 5 Jan. 1920] 87

Metropolitan Borough of Poplar.

DEPUTATION

TO

THE PRIME MINISTER

OF

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF GREATER LONDON

ON THE QUESTION OF

THE SUPPLY, PRICE AND DISTRIBUTION

OF MILK AND OF COAL.

AT 10, DOWNING STREET, WESTMINSTER.

Tuesday, December 23rd, 1919.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by:

Dr. ADDISON, M.P. (Minister of Health),

Mr. G. H. ROBERTS, M.P. (Minister of Food),

Mr. J. T. DAVIES, M.P., Private Secretary.

The Deputation consisted of the following:—

Battersea, Councillor W. Okines; Bermondsey, Alderman H. R. Trott; Bethnal Green, Councillor J. J. Vaughan, J.P. (Mayor); Camberwell, Councillor A. Andrews; Deptford, Alderman W. H. Green; Greenwich, Councillor Mrs. S. A. Kelly; Hackney, Councillor H. W. Bingley; Hammersmith, Mr. L. Gordon, Town Clerk; Hampstead, Alderman Greenhill; Islington, Councillor P. H. Black; Lambeth, Councillor W. S. Bishop, R.N.R.; Paddington, Alderman H. V. Kenyon; Poplar, Councillor G. Lansbury, J.P. (Mayor), Councillor S. March, L.C.C., Councillor C. W. Key; S. Marylebone, Sir Henry New; S. Pancras, Councillor J. Mills; Shoreditch, Councillor A. Linard; Stepney, Major C. R. Atlee, J.P., M.A. (Mayor); Stoke Newington, Councillor Miss C. Maude Eve; Woolwich, Alderman Mrs. E. Dormer; Essex County Council, Mr. W. Langman, C.C.; Surrey County Council, Mr. P. Smith, C.C.; County and Municipal Boroughs: Bromley, Alderman Gillett; Ealing, Mr. W. E. Marshall; East Ham, Councillor T. M. McGiff; Hornsey, Mrs. Gentle; Kingston-on-Thames, Alderman A. W. Hall; Richmond, Mr. George Laws, Food Control Office; West Ham, Alderman W. Devenay, J.P. (Mayor); Wimbledon, Alderman L. Allen; Urban District Councils: Acton, Councillor the Rev. R. G. Davies; Barking, Councillor Mrs. J. Clarke; Beckenham, Mr. F. Wedlake Lewis; Barnes, Mr. A. H. Hinton; Barnet, Councillor H. E. Fern, C.C.; Cheshunt, Mr. G. J. Kitteringham (Chairman); Enfield, Mr. J. Spencer Hill, J.P. (Chairman); Epsom, Mr. W. H. Marton, Inspector of Nuisances; Finchley, Mrs. F. H. Gleed; Friern Barnet, Councillor F. Kershaw; Hanwell, Mr. W. Pywell, J.P.; Harrow, Councillor A. H. Bartle; Leyton, Councillor T. P. Haines, E.C.C.; Merton and Morden, Mr. W. A. Godin, J.P.; Penge, Mr. A. Wilkinson; Southall-Norwood, Councillor J. A. Chard; Southgate, Councillor W. B. Pinching; Surbiton, Mr. W. Nerfield; Sutton, Councillor Bennetts, J.P.; Tottenham, Councillor T. Vickery; Twickenham, Councillor B. A. Wade, B.A.; Walthamstow, Councillor H. W. Dongray; Woodford, Mr. R. Steel.



Mr. GEORGE LANSBURY: I am sorry to say that the Lord Mayor, who had kindly promised to come, found that this time was quite inconvenient for him to be here; so I have to—not take his place, but to do my best to introduce the Deputation. The Deputation is one that was elected at a Conference of 66 Local Authorities, representing the Metropolitan area, that is, the Metropolitan Borough Councils, and the County Councils of Essex, Surrey and Middlesex; and a number of Urban District Councils, and County and Municipal Borough Authorities outside London. I think the general opinion is that the Conference at the Guildhall was one of the most representative Conferences that have ever been held on a question of this kind; and the Resolutions, copies of which I think you have, were passed unanimously, which also I think is rather a record in that kind of gathering. We came together because we found that the question of the supply of milk, and the question of the supply of coal, were becoming very acute questions, especially in the poorer districts of London. What we would like to impress upon you this morning is, that apart altogether from the question of the production of milk, about which I understand there is a very wide diversity of opinion, based upon facts which also seem to be very diversified, we feel that the supply of milk to the poorer districts is of such tremendous importance that at all costs the price should come down. You found that you had to reduce the price of bread by a fairly big subsidy; and whatever the reason for that subsidy, or the justice of the subsidy, we feel that had that not taken place, there would have been very considerable trouble; because, like milk, bread is also absolutely necessary to the life of the people. But the people who suffer the most under the present arrangement with regard to the milk are the children. I see sitting by your side Dr. Addison, who I think all of us agree, so far as Public Health is concerned, has tried to waken all us people up, who have to administer locally; I at least recognise that in his circulars and letters he has tried to inspire us with a big ideal of Public Health. One of the duties imposed upon us, is to supply children under five and expectant mothers and nursing mothers. I would point out to you that the mere supply of the necessary quantity of milk to the poor in districts like the East and South-East, in fact all round London, would be a tremendous burden under normal conditions; but under the conditions of 1/- a quart, or anything approximating to 1/-, it is ruinous expenditure to any of us, even although the Local Government Board pays a portion of it. I want to point out further, that there are larger numbers of people even than those named in the Ministry of Health circular, who also need milk, and to whom this price is quite prohibitive. I want very strongly to suggest to you, that from the point of view of Public Health, during the next few months some great effort should be made on the part of the Government to reduce this price. No one knows better than the Minister of Health that the next three months of the Winter are always pretty critical months for children in the Metropolis; and he also knows that milk is one of the things that helps to stave off sickness by keeping children more or less in decent health. We have come to you definitely to ask that the price shall come down. I am not going into the other details connected with the Resolutions, the other speakers will do that.

With regard to coal, I only want to say this: Coal is also a tremendous problem; it is more than 100 per cent. up in price even now. We have to face two difficulties there: one the question of price; and the other the question of distribution. We feel that London is being very severely handicapped, very severely penalised as it were, in regard to coal, and, as I have already said, in regard to milk; and we think, as representing our people, that we have a right to come to you and ask that some steps shall be taken, and taken immediately, to deal with these two problems. I will not take up any more of your time, except to say this: I think I can, on behalf of the whole Deputation, thank you very much indeed for sparing the time to see us this morning.

The PRIME MINISTER: Mr. Lansbury, the facts are fairly well-known; what I should like to ask the Deputation is this: would they like control taken off?

Mr. GEORGE LANSBURY: On that I think at the Guildhall we most definitely said No, we did not want the control taken off; we said it was not a question of taking the control off.

The PRIME MINISTER: Would you like to take your chance of the market?

Mr. GEORGE LANSBURY: We said we would like to change Controllers, or some of the Controllers. If you would not mind me saying so, you must not put us in that position—it will take a long time to argue the question of control; we believe you must control these commodities; and we would like control carried much further, according to our resolution, we would like to have the distribution of milk in our hands, we would like to have the distribution of coal in our hands.

The PRIME MINISTER: Would you like the production of milk in your hands?

Mr. GEORGE LANSBURY: Not in our hands.

The PRIME MINISTER: There would be much less milk.

Mr. GEORGE LANSBURY: It is not we people in towns who ought to control the supply of milk; but we would like the supply of milk controlled by the nation; I think there is no doubt about that. We are quite certain many of us get poisoned by the filthy stuff sent round to us. It is a question of clean milk, as well as the supply. You will hear about that from other members of the Deputation.

The PRIME MINISTER: It is no use saying 1/- is high; there is no doubt about that, that is a fact compared with the price before the war; and you need not convince me that it is very, very important that you should get milk for the children and mothers. That, of course, goes without saying. The whole question is whether the industry can supply the milk at a price which is less than 1/-; and upon that there is considerable doubt. I have been reading the case on both sides, and upon my honour I really couldn't tell you who is right. There is only one way of testing it, that is by taking the control off, and letting the thing be fought out in the usual way in the market. There would be no Controllers to blame then; there is that disadvantage, I agree.

Mr. GEORGE LANSBURY: That is all right: but the point I want to put to you is this: there are some services in the nation that have to be paid for irrespective of whether you are making profit or whether you are making loss in the money sense. We are putting it to you that the

88

health of the young children and the mothers is of such supreme importance, that if under the commercial arrangements it is impossible to produce milk at less than 1/-, then the nation must in some other way make up the deficit: that is our point.

The PRIME MINISTER: I am not sure that it is the nation.

A REPRESENTATIVE: You have not quite the view of the whole Deputation.

The PRIME MINISTER: I want to know. The suggestion there is, that we should have what is known as another dole to provide milk. Doles are pretty heavy as it is now. There is the bread subsidy, which economically you cannot defend. We are only doing it because it is essential that there should be abundance of bread for the people at a price within reach of the poorest. Some of the Local Authorities are supplying milk below cost price; that is their responsibility. There are some 305 Local Authorities in England and Wales, providing milk under cost price; they have just as much power to do it as the Government.

Mr. GEORGE LANSBURY: Only you make the poor keep the poor. I do not know where these gentlemen come from; I come from the East End, where rates are going up to £1 in the £1; and this obligation put upon us by the Ministry of Health is an unbearable one. If we supplied milk to all the children and women who needed it, our rates would be over 20/- in the £. I do not see myself the difference in principle between a subsidy by the Local Authority and a subsidy by the nation: it is a subsidy anyhow.

The PRIME MINISTER: But I want to know what the Deputation say.

Mr. GEORGE LANSBURY: Our Deputation comes on those Resolutions, which were carried unanimously; there is no disagreement about that.

The PRIME MINISTER: You are asking the Government to do something. I have a Cabinet meeting in half-an-hour or three-quarters: and I shall present to them your request, and we shall discuss it; and I want to know what the request is. If you say farmers are charging too much, or that the Food Controller has fixed too high a maximum (Hear, hear), there is one way of dealing with that, that is, to take the control off, and leave it to the free play of the market. Under the free play of the market before the war you got the milk at 4d. You are either here to ask me to do something, or you are not. I want to put to you what I want to know. I want to know first of all what it is the Deputation are asking for. Are they asking that the Government should reduce this price of 1/-, without reference to whether the farmer loses money on it or not; or do they say that the farmer is charging too much?

A REPRESENTATIVE: The farmer is charging too much.

The PRIME MINISTER: If the farmer is charging too much you must leave it to the play of the market, because there is just as much milk in the country as there was before the war. If you say he is charging more than he ought to, the market price will come down, or are you going to say even if the farmer cannot produce it at less than 1/- the State ought to step in and subsidise it?

Mr. G. LANSBURY: The first thing is, there is the resolution quite definite in front of you, that would save a good deal of questioning amongst the Deputation as to what we are here to ask you to do.

The PRIME MINISTER: You are asking the Government to reduce the price of milk. At whose expense? At the expense of the farmer, or at the expense of the nation?

Mr. WADE: At the expense of the farmer.

The PRIME MINISTER: Whether he can produce it at that figure or not?

Mr. WADE: We say he can. I was one of the Deputation to the Food Controller at his Office, and the Food Controller gave certain figures which the Deputation queried. The Food Controller stuck by his figures as furnished to him by his officials under him. The Deputation, who came from all parts of England, Scotland, and Wales, to a man said those figures were not reliable, and the Food Controller, Mr. Roberts, said if a Committee was appointed and went into those figures and found they were not what he had put forward he would seriously consider, if they recommended milk should be reduced, that it should be reduced. I believe that you will find that in print in the Times. That Deputation has reported three or four weeks ago, and their report has never been printed and put before the public, but it has been stated to me, as one of the members of the Deputation, by many who were there, that they reported the milk could be produced and sold at 10d. a quart.

The PRIME MINISTER: That is a Deputation of consumers?

Mr. WADE: Yes, but there were also some connected with the business on it; at any rate they were from the agricultural districts.

The PRIME MINISTER: That is a different thing. There are consumers in agricultural districts as in other districts, people who buy and people who produce. If you say the farmer is charging more than he ought to, there is one test, and that is that you can de-control it and leave the farmer to be prosecuted for profiteering.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Lloyd George, we in the East End of London want something done. We have not come here to be fenced with.

The PRIME MINISTER: You have come here to be civil and courteous, or you do not remain here at all.

Mr. VAUGHAN: I mean to put the facts in my own way and in my own language, just the same way as you do. You say: Do we want the control taken off? Perhaps it is within your knowledge, at any rate it must be within the knowledge of Dr. Addison, that since 1914 in London a huge combine has sprung up whose capital has gone from £2,000,000 to £8,000,000, and these people now prevent small shopkeepers from getting possession of milk unless they buy the actual utensils which they serve. They have to buy the vessel in which it is put when delivered by the combine. I suggest to you, Mr. Lloyd George, with all your knowledge of economics, with all your



ideas of the commercial life of this nation, that this combine can get over any Profiteering Act that you like to bring in. They arrange matters in such a way that if you were to investigate the various channels through which the milk passes, in all probability you would find they were not profiteering according to the Act. But if you track the profit from the producer to when it reaches the consumer, you would find it is a very material profit indeed. I will take your mind back to 1916 and 1917. We are given to understand that the high cost of milk is due to production. We are given to understand that they have oil cake, so you have to put the price of the milk up. In 1916 and 1917 milk was being sold at 5d. a quart, and at that time there was a shortage of oilcake, and there was a potato shortage at that period. The Government in their wisdom sold swedes to the public of England at 1½d. a lb., which is the food of the cattle, and yet I find on examination that the milk then was being sold for 5d. a quart, and I suggest to you that if you were to go into the machinations of the farmers in the cost of production, you would find it is very much below what you are led to believe. I have evidence in my possession to show to you, I could show you, that the Farmers' Union and the Milk Combine have, through the Press, led the public to believe that the cost of production of milk is very high, whilst on the other hand the public Press of this country has suppressed evidence which has been supplied by an impartial authority, and men who are accredited authorities on this particular subject. You have already alluded to the fact that there is plenty of milk in the country, so it is not necessary for me to draw your attention to the fact that certain chocolate manufacturers have fleets of cars with which they collect their milk. I suggest that if you were to examine the prices that they pay for their milk it would not come near 1/- a quart. We are of the opinion that all this talk about the cost of producing milk is so much nonsense. I would suggest to you these figures. In connection with oil-cake, I am given to understand that it is estimated that 4 lbs. of oil-cake per day is necessary to feed a cow. There are roughly 2,000,000 cows in this country producing milk, that means 8,000,000 lbs. of oil-cake a day, which means 500,000,000 tons in five months. I do not claim to be an authority on this particular subject, but it falls to my lot as a workman to have to go through the docks at the Port of London, and I have been to Liverpool and all the other great centres, and I have yet to learn that 500,000,000 tons of oil-cake comes into this country in any one year for the feeding of cows. I suggest that the figures put forward by the Farmers' Union and the Milk Combine are not proved and, as a matter of fact, examination would reveal that in some way or other these people can manipulate strings which enable them to get big profits. I could demonstrate to you cases where these people are making 400 or 500 per cent. on their outlay during the year. These facts ought to be known to Dr. Addison and to Mr. Roberts. Mr. Roberts has undoubtedly been misled in my opinion, if I may say so, by his authority. He goes to an authority, and we are rather suspicious as to his authority when we know who the gentlemen are, when we find these gentlemen are connected with producing milk themselves, and we suggest to you, Mr. Lloyd George, that it is not the best authority to go to. I think Dr. Addison will bear me out in this, when he takes his memory back to the time when he was Minister of Munitions during the war. He knows very well—I do not like to use strong language—that he could not rely all the time on the reports that came from employers regarding the cost of production in their factories. He was very suspicious at the time, or at least we workmen were. I want to make this personal appeal to you on behalf of the poor of the East End of London. I suggest to you the first duty of the State is to look after the children of the State. We from the East End of London are confronted every day by the fact of children who are anæmic as the result of having anæmic mothers, mothers who, like themselves, have never had the opportunity to develop their physical faculties, and that these children die off in hundreds and thousands like rotten sheep. We know from the Medical Officer's reports on our Public Health Committees what it means to the poor in the East End not getting this milk. I suggest to the Government it is no good setting up Medical Officers of Health, it is no good setting up a Health Department if it is not going to deal with the health of the people. If our Sanitary Inspector was here and our Medical Officer of Health, they could tell you of an appalling increase in connection with the destruction of child life through their not getting milk in the East End of London.

Just a passing word in connection with coal. I do not know if it has ever been your experience, I have read that you have had tremendous experience in all walks of life. I do not know whether you have had the experience of seeing, on a cold day with the snow on the ground and other conditions about, people lined up for 7 lbs. or 14 lbs. of coal, waiting in the pouring rain with no boots or shoes on, to drag their coal home to their doors. What we, as authorities who have the honour to represent the people where we live, desire to say is that you and the authorities responsible should see to it that we get the coal into the East End of London. We go to the Coal Controller and he tells us that he is not responsible. Sir Auckland Geddes tells us that he is not responsible, and we do not know who is responsible. We pin them down, and at last they blame the Great Eastern Railway for not carrying the coal. I suggest to you that it is the business of the Government to see to it that the transport necessary for the carrying of coal is obtained and put into operation, that we in the East End of London who have not the opportunity, and even if we had the opportunity, have not the space, to store coal, should have an opportunity of getting that coal when the occasion arises, and we suggest that you should not only let the sellers of coal, the coal merchants, have the coal, but you should enable the Local Authority to have a big reserve so that we can do away with this waiting in queues by the poor people and, when the necessity arises, we, the Borough Council, can take round to the doors of the people the coal that is necessary.

Mr. Lloyd George, I appeal to you, if I may, to see that something is done in this question of milk and coal. I am not going to threaten you, Mr. Lloyd George, but I will tell you this, that there is considerable feeling on this matter. You know that there are many soldiers who have been demobilised, and who are now back with their families. We, in Bethnal Green, have thousands of these men, and they are getting restless, so restless that one Saturday they stopped a coal van and took the coal off it and took it to the houses of the poor people. I only tell you this because that is only the beginning of worse trouble unless something is done in that direction. It only needs a match to be lighted for the flame to be started, and you may not be able to control it without bloodshed. I appeal to you to see that we get milk reduced in price, and that we get the necessary coal, with a further reduction in the price of that coal.

89

Mr. C. W. KEY: I wish to bring the matter back more to the Resolution itself. The Resolution consists of two parts. It deals first of all with the price of milk. I have read most carefully all the statements that have been made by the Ministry of Food upon the matter and I must say that I am not convinced at all that there is any necessity for the high price of milk. Granted that the cost of production has increased even perhaps to the extent of adding 150 to 200 per cent. to the pre-War cost, that in itself does not warrant a maximum winter producers price of 3/3, which is an addition of 330 to 350 per cent. on the pre-War figures. Then again in the table of costs as submitted by the Director of Milk Supplies there are many items which personal knowledge and careful enquiry have convinced me are not included in actual practice however desirable they may be in theory. It may be that if you start a model dairy farm these are the costs that you would expect, but we know that in actual practice even the cost of labour, certainly the cost of cake and so forth are not actually practised amongst the farmers at the present time. But we say that whatever the necessity may be that causes the high price the national welfare demands that some way must be found of reducing that price to the consumer, and if nothing else will bring it about, the Guildhall Conference was of opinion that the Government must of necessity subsidise the milk production. At the present time the Ministry of Food is subsidising the manufacture of cheese from the milk whose high price has excluded it from the market. I am certain I shall be erring on the side of moderation if I put that subsidy at 1/- a gallon in the milk used in cheese manufacture. On that I want to make two statements, first, that it is a subsidy upon the milk which is unsold in order to keep up the price of the milk for which a sale is found, and, secondly, that it is really a subsidy on food distribution, for the Astor Committee say that of the nutritious constituents originally in fresh milk 40 per cent. are lost in the manufacture of cheese. From whichever point of view you judge it that cannot but be regarded as a very mistaken policy. Surely it were far better to subsidise milk as milk, rather than subsidise it on the inferior food form of cheese. Then again with regard to the powers that have been given to us by the Ministry of Health to supply milk at a reduced charge or free of cost to mothers and infants, we are very glad indeed to have those powers, and under existing conditions we shall make an endeavour to make very good use of them, but here again I want to submit that you have an indirect subsidy to keep up the price of milk, and a subsidy the burden of which, so far as the cost is concerned from our local funds falls most heavily upon those less able to bear it, so that the high price of milk is most burdensome on the poorest in their capacity both as consumers and ratepayers. With regard to the second part of the Resolution, that dealing with distribution, the present methods of distribution involve not merely a waste of labour and a waste of material, but result in an impure and adulterated supply. Whilst good milk either directly as child food, or indirectly as the food of nursing and expectant mothers, is the first requisite for the rearing of healthy children, bad milk is responsible directly and indirectly for a very large part of the high infant mortality in our poorer localities, and we who are local Councillors can never hope to discharge our duties adequately, until we are given full powers to ensure the purity of so vital a necessity as milk. In the observations in which I make too on the branch of this subject I am going to quote almost exclusively from a memorandum issued by the Ministry of Food dealing with the supply of milk. In paragraphs 40 and 41 of that memorandum it is pointed out that there is much waste of labour, transport, etc., in the conveyance of milk between urban stations to which it is consigned and the retail shops. There is too much of such waste in its actual retailing, there are more retailers than are required for the proper service of the trade. Many retailers deliver to houses in the same street, and also it is not an uncommon practice for roundsmen to make money by delivering short quantities to the consumers, or by diluting the milk, selling the balance, and appropriating the money that they thus make. With respect to adulteration the memorandum says that the adulteration of the milk at the present time is more prevalent than at any time in the memory of the trade, and as the price still increases so the temptation to adulteration increases also. The checking of adulteration the memorandum points out is rendered almost impossible by the difficulty of proving that the adulteration has been caused at any particular stage of the milk's distribution. Then on the question of contamination the same memorandum is equally emphatic. It says milk is often poured from one churn to another, froth being formed which the milkman may blow off, or skim off, with dirty hands; sometimes it is transferred by dipping a dirty vessel into the churns; in either case before it is transferred, in order that the cream may be distributed, the milk is stirred up with a plunger or dasher taken up from a filthy platform. I have myself seen these dashers placed on the filthy bottoms of delivery vans, and carried wet through the streets exposed to all the dust and infection in the streets, used time after time at each small shop or dairy at which the delivery is made introducing disease at every halt. That accounts to a large extent for the high infant mortality in Poplar, Bethnal Green, Shoreditch and Stepney. The memorandum speaks also of the unsuitable equipment, of the exposure of milk, of improper handling during delivery, and using dirty churns and cans. Then, again, the souring of milk of is increased by every unnecessary delay, and every other difficulty in its distribution. On this point the Astor Committee estimate that with milk at 2s. a gallon this results in an annual loss of £90,000 in London alone. With milk at its present price that loss cannot well be less than £150,000, and that takes no account whatever of the milk that turns sour in the peoples houses. Then, finally, and this I want you to see is the considered opinion of the Ministry of Food, or, rather of a Committee for whom the Ministry were responsible. They say that unless the present methods of milk distribution in large urban centres are improved it will be impossible at once to ensure a fair price to the consumer, and to deliver milk to the urban consumer at a price within reach of the poorer classes. We aim not merely at cheaper, but at more wholesome milk, and we are convinced from our experience as local Councillors that no amount of inspection will suffice to remove the evils which I have tried to enumerate. Moreover, the multiplication of inspectors entails an uneconomic expenditure, while a municipally controlled supply would be far more effective in securing the objects at which we aim, whilst the economy that would result from a purer milk supply judged from the view point of public health would, I believe, be incalculable. We urge that powers be given us to establish and to maintain depots for the sale of milk at not less than a price to all members of the community. Under Section 12 of the Milk and Dairies Consolidation Act, 1915, an Act which, I believe, has not yet come into operation, we have a power as sanitary authorities to maintain such depots for the sale of milk for infants under the age of 2, a thing which



in practice would itself prove it to be impracticable. Since then the duty has been placed upon us of supplying milk to nursing and expectant mothers, and to children under the age of 5, and we submit that the efficient performance of these duties can only be rendered possible by some extension of our powers as we are here to urge this morning. Finally, we all feel that there is no greater duty devolving upon us as local Councillors than that of protecting and fostering child life. Our success will depend not less upon our powers than upon our will to achieve, and we urge you, Sir, to supplement our eager goodwill by powers which are really adequate to the task which we have in hand.

Mrs. GENTLE: I should like to put before you the information we have gathered in Hornsey among the children attending elementary schools. These enquiries were made by the Women's Co-operative Guild in conjunction with school teachers. Out of 1,732 families with 3,908 children of school age, 776 below school age, 696 invalids, old people requiring more milk, there were only 42 families not reducing their milk owing to high prices; they cannot afford to buy it. It does not matter if there is ever so much milk if they cannot afford to buy it, it is no good to them. The original papers the Food Controller has in his hands, and I should like you to see some of those papers; there were very pathetic answers in some of them; soldiers coming home that were heroes a time back could only get a very little of what they were ordered to have for their recovery; there were babies 7 months old ordered a quart a day when the mother could only buy a very small quantity. A quart a day for one child would be 7 shillings a week for that one child. There were expectant and nursing mothers who should have the milk that they need, and it was impossible to get it owing to the high price. I hope something will be done. It can be done, and it should be done. I should like to know why it is 2d. more this year than it was last year. As regards the feeding of the cattle; grass costs no more, turnips a very little more, and as regards the cake there is very little being used, as far as I know about it, and I hope that the price of milk will be reduced as the result of this Deputation attending here to-day.

Mr. PINCHING: Will Mr. Roberts tell us what he is going to do about the Sub-Committee appointed by his Conference. I happen to be the proposer of the resolution under which that Sub-Committee was formed. Mr. Roberts' definite promise was that he would follow the recommendation of that committee, and Mr. Buckley stated that Mr. Roberts made no such promise. I am certain the promise was made.

The PRIME MINISTER: What Committee was that?

Mr. PINCHING: A Conference called by the Food Controller. We were tired of listening to speeches, and, acting on the hint thrown out by Mr. Roberts, I proposed that this Sub-Committee should be appointed, and that Mr. Roberts should lay before that Sub-Committee the whole of the data. I further stated that we in the room were convinced that milk could come down; Mr. Roberts said he was convinced it could not. We must have respect to each other's opinions when they are proved. Mr. Roberts replied he would be only too glad if someone would show him that milk could be reduced. He did not wish any longer to be accused of murdering babies or being a Hun. That Committee sat and recommended a reduction in the price of milk.

The PRIME MINISTER: What reduction?

Mr. PINCHING: I think it is to 10d.

Mr. ROBERTS: A penny a quart for the season.

Mr. PINCHING: I understand the Report has not been published.

The PRIME MINISTER: It is no use arguing about that; that is something that is known. What is the recommendation?

Mr. ROBERTS: 3½d. per gallon. A summary was published in the Press, and we have undertaken to print it, and I believe the first distribution is made to the local control committees themselves; there is nothing whatever to hide.

Mr. PINCHING: At the Guildhall Conference Mr. Buckley denied that Mr. Roberts promised to pay any attention to that sub-committee. I should like to know what is to happen.

Mr. G. LANSBURY: I should like to appeal to the Deputation to hear the Prime Minister now.

The PRIME MINISTER: That is exactly what I want. I want a little time to discuss the matter.

(The Prime Minister left the room for a short time).

The PRIME MINISTER: Well, gentlemen, although one is naturally very hard pressed to clear up a good many things before the end of the year, I felt that this Deputation was on a subject which was so important to the vast masses of the population of this great city, that it was due that I should make every arrangement to meet you; and I am very glad to learn your point of view; but it is one of the most difficult problems that can ever confront the Government. You have municipal responsibilities, we have imperial responsibilities; in character they are the same, they are only different in degree. We are all trustees for a body of men who have given their confidence to us to administer their affairs fairly, and to do justice between man and man. You have, on the one hand, always to consider the burdens which you are casting upon others, whilst you are attempting to relieve another section; and you never know quite how to adjust the balance. Sometimes your sympathies are appealed to, and you feel that you must at all hazards take a certain action. Then you begin to realise that you do that at the expense of other sections of the community, who are also hard pressed, and who are not so vocal. That is one of the difficulties with which you have been confronted. Many of you are new to municipal work, but you will find, I make this prediction, as you go on from month to month and from year to year, the difficulty, and the increasing difficulty, of administering affairs in accordance with your own sympathies. I say that in all kindness to you; and therefore I want you to realise the position in which anyone who is administering imperial affairs is placed. You have a gigantic national debt, you have taxation which has reached the height which no one ever dreamed of years ago, you have claims for redressing evils here and wrongs there, you are removing the burdens in other directions, all clamouring at your door, and it needs all the clearness of mind and the strength of will which anyone possesses, to be able to come to just and fair conclusions as between these competing claims.

Now there can be no stronger case than the case which has been put forward by several of the speakers here to-day on behalf of the children. It appeals naturally to all of us, especially those who love children, and we all do; it is a hard thing to contemplate little children growing up in feebleness, and storing up all kinds of possibilities of disease, misery and wretchedness to themselves and to those around them, for lack of proper sustenance. There can be no stronger appeal to any Government or to any municipality than that. But when you have said that, you are only at the beginning of your difficulties. How are you to do it? Take milk. Milk in this country has trebled in cost, in France it has quadrupled; I believe that is the case in Italy. I believe it is cheaper in this country than in any country in Europe at the present moment. Do not let it be imagined that this is something which is peculiar to this country; it is part of the price which we are paying for a very terrible world convulsion. We are just sort of living and pulling things together after the great earthquake, and the problem with which ministers and councillors are confronted [in this country, men in the same fiduciary position are confronted with in other lands, only the problem is worse there. So far as bread is concerned we have met it by a big subsidy, but that is £50,000,000 a year, which is a tremendous burden upon the shoulders of the taxpayers of the country.

There are three ways of dealing with this: one is that you should say that you must sell this milk at so much; the second is that you should say: "Very well, sell it at that price, but we, the Government, or we, the municipalities, will come in and subsidise it"; the third is that you should say: "Well, control is keeping up prices, therefore let us de-control, and let us leave the commodity to the play of the market." Those are the three methods with which we are confronted. Now take the first, because after all we must examine these things reasonably and calmly. I understand there was a Committee of Investigation appointed, which was referred to by a gentleman over there, but I understand it was a committee of consumers. Well, one must be fair. It has been one of the difficulties of the country to keep up production in this country, and it is essential you should do it, and especially keep up food production in this country, because if you keep up food production in this country, not merely does it strengthen the security of the country, for in future we should not be in such a precarious position as we were when the submarines were roving around our shores; not merely that, but it increases the real wealth of the country, not as gold or paper, but the real wealth of the land. It provides labour of the healthiest character, and in addition to that it provides food which is of the freshest. Therefore anything that conduces to food production in this country is something which it ought to be the first business of statesmanship of any party or of any section to apply itself to. Anything that would take the people away from these unhealthy surroundings which you have described, and which really appal men when they begin to contemplate them, to the healthier atmosphere of the country, so long as they can get reasonable and profitable employment, is in itself something which is worth applying one's mind and one's energy to. But if you discourage production, or make it unprofitable, that is delivering an evil blow at the very purpose which you have at heart, and therefore we must see before we decree that producers must sell at a certain figure, that it is not a figure which is so unfair that they will say: "Very well, then, it is better for us not to employ labour, not to spend our capital and our time, not to incur these risks and these anxieties—it is better that we should turn our minds to something else." You must take care of that. As a matter of fact what one ought to do in this country is not to diminish the production of milk, but to increase the production of milk. In Germany and in Denmark it has been shown to be quite possible to increase the production of milk, whilst at the same time increasing the production of corn. You can do both in this country, they are not incompatible. That is one of the fundamental errors which has been made in the past, to imagine that you have to choose between milk and corn. But you must not make it an unprofitable enterprise. I am not going to say that 1s. is a fair figure now; I should like a little more time to look into it after what you have said, but I would call attention to the fact that this committee, a committee of consumers, came to the conclusion that all you could reduce it by was something under one penny. I am not going to say a penny is not a very substantial thing in a household, a penny a quart, but that is not going to make a difference in the very distressing cases which Mrs. Gentle referred to; it is under one penny, and that is not going to make the difference in those cases. It must be something very much more substantial than that if it can be done. Now I want the gentleman over there to remember that even his committee only said that it was something under a penny that you could spare in that respect. That is rather significant.

Now I come to the second, and that is the suggestion of a subsidy either municipal or from the State. Well, frankly, I think the opinion of this country is against subsidies. Most of the ladies and gentlemen here would probably take the same view. I think if you ask the public generally they think it is something which is justifiable during war, when you must resort to exceptional and abnormal methods to keep things going, but that when you return to peace the sooner you get the machine to work normally the better it is for all classes, keeping an eye upon abuses, evils and oppressions, and checking those. But, subject to that, the sooner you allow the machine to work fairly and normally the better it will be for the general health of the community, and I must say frankly, having regard to the state of the national finances, that I cannot see my way to advise my colleagues to incur the very considerable additional expenditure which would be involved in a great milk subsidy, because once you begin it I can see no end to it; you would have to keep up bread, you would have to keep up milk, and ultimately you would be just like the Roman Empire in its decadent days, you would be feeding the public out of the Treasury.

Now that is fatal to the good health of any community. It is bad in principle and it is bound to end in disaster, and I think in degrading the general level of the virility and manliness of a country. Therefore the object really ought to be rather to get out of subsidies than to get into them.

Now I come to the third proposal. The third proposal is to de-control all dairy produce. Well, I am not going to express an opinion without a little more conversation here, and without putting it before my colleagues.

Mr. MARSHALL: As a Deputation we have not suggested de-control.

Mr. G. LANSBURY: We are against it; while you were out of the room we decided against it.



THE PRIME MINISTER: I fully realise that. Now the case was very powerfully put by my friend over there who was a little bit angry with me at the beginning, and I was a little bit angry with him, but we got on better as we went along—I am not sure. There are two views about it. Of course, there is this to be said against control. You must of course fix control at a figure which will enable the second-class producer and the second-class distributor to put their goods on the market at something which will pay them—you must do it, otherwise you drive both of them out of business altogether. There is the man who can produce on a large scale, and there is the man who has exceptional gifts of management, whether as producer or as distributor, who can always cut prices. But if you fix the price at something which would suit him, you would drive everybody else out.

Now that is really one of the difficulties of course of control. You must fix your price at something which will be a fair maximum for everybody, and of course there is always a danger that when you fix a maximum it tends to become a minimum. If you say that the price is 1s., well, people sell at 1s., even those who could sell at a good deal less. I am not sure that it could be put on the market at 1s. What I am told by some of our advisers is that probably milk would go down if you de-controlled, but butter would go up. We have to consider whether we are gaining anything so far as the whole community are concerned by doing so. Certainly the home butter would go up, and go up very very considerably. Home butter is sold now at a price which certainly does not pay. It is only through control that you can take the rough and the smooth, the butter that comes in from abroad and the butter which you produce here, and you sell it at an average price. If you de-controlled, the home butter would go up enormously.

Mrs. GENTLE: Excuse me, Sir, the poor do not get butter now.

Mr. LANSBURY: That would not make any difference.

THE PRIME MINISTER: Therefore you see if you get milk cheaper, and the butter you do not get does not go up, it does not make any difference. There may be a good deal to be said you must remember from the point of view of de-control. What you really want is the price down. Therefore we have the same object in view, and I should like very much to consider a little more carefully whether de-control might not put down the price of milk. It will certainly put up cheese; it will certainly put up butter; and therefore I should like to consider all that very very carefully before coming to a decision upon it. I have suggested that you might have a mixed tribunal of producers and consumers, which would have been more fair, to have gone into the price, but you see if even the Consumers Committee only reduce it by less than a penny I do not think you are going to gain very much out of a tribunal on which consumers and producers are both represented; and I should like to consider very carefully if you would not gain more by leaving free competition in the matter of milk to be reintroduced. The great difficulty as you know this year is that there is a shortage of food-stuff because of the season. Because of the season you have a shortage of hay, and it is very difficult to get it as I happen know.

Dr. ADDISON: And roots.

THE PRIME MINISTER: Quite true. That is because of the season. That makes the present state of things very exceptional, and it is very distressing that children should suffer from those things.

Now I come to the problem of coal.

Mr. MARSHALL: May I ask you to touch upon the question of the power of the municipality to be able to sell milk at not less than cost price. We should like to go the farmer and get milk sent direct to the municipality, and for us to distribute the milk direct to the consumer without the aid of the business. We think we could bring the price down very considerably if we had that power.

Mr. G. LANSBURY: And we think you would substitute municipal trading for State control if you de-controlled at present. There is a terrific ring in London at the present time.

THE PRIME MINISTER: It is not altogether that of course. It is substituting the Profiteering Act for control. That is really what it comes to.

Mr. G. LANSBURY: It would want tightening up a bit.

Mr. BENNETT: Would it be possible to have a meeting between the farmers who supply London with milk, and the gentlemen who are representing the consumers here this morning without the combine, and to let us have a good talk?

THE PRIME MINISTER: That is a very good suggestion.

Mr. BENNETT: I think if the farmers could prove that they are not making such tremendous profits as we think they are the thing would become easier. We are of opinion, rightly or wrongly, I am inclined to think wrongly to some extent, that the farmers are making a tremendous profit. I have reason to know the cost of feeding stuff for cattle at this moment is very high, and we know labour is very high, but if we were satisfied by the farmer that the combination is not thinning us we should feel very much better, that is the trouble.

Mr. LANGHAM: I happen to represent the metropolitan farmers of the county of Essex, and I should like to reply, Sir, to the last gentleman who has just made some remarks as to the cost of the production of milk. I happen to be not directly interested in the production of milk, but I happen to have two sons who are farmers. When I cut these returns out of the *Telegraph* the other day, I was rather struck with the average quantity of milk produced by each cow. As a layman, Sir, it strikes me there is something wrong with the production, and there is something wrong with the cost. We want to be very careful, and we want to take a level-headed view.

THE PRIME MINISTER: What is the level-headed view? What is your recommendation? Just come to that.

Mr. LANGHAM: As regards the cost of production of milk, I am in a position to show any local representative where he can go down and feed the cows himself and take the actual cost of production, and having done that I undertake to say that they will, as reasonable men, come to the conclusion that there is not a big profit being made.

THE PRIME MINISTER: I am now on the subject of municipal control. The Government have undertaken to introduce a Bill amending the Milk and Dairies Act which will (1) enable municipal authorities to deal with retail distribution; (2) control prices in times of emergency; and (3) improve the quality by licensing milk dealers.

Now I have to say a word about coal, and I am sorry to say I have only a few minutes because the Cabinet will be here. On the question of coal, the difficulty here I understand is a difficulty of distribution, and I regret that the difficulty bears with special hardship upon the East-end. I have been making some enquiries of the Coal Controller, and he promised to try and get into communication with the Great Eastern Railway Company on the subject to see whether an improvement cannot be effected in that respect. There is no doubt at all there is a good deal of hardship inflicted upon householders in that very populous area owing to difficulties in that matter of distribution which I think ought to be overcome. Of course the difficulties of distribution you must bear in mind are very great throughout the whole of the country now. We are short of wagons. That is the result of the war. We are short of locomotives. The hours of labour have been reduced, and the transportation services of the country have not adjusted themselves to that change; they will in course of time. There is the fact that the sea-borne traffic has gone down enormously, and there are difficulties of that kind, but I think the East-end has been hit harder in this respect probably than any other part of the country, and the Coal Controller has promised to immediately represent to the Great Eastern Railway Company the case of the East-end in order to see whether something cannot be done. I have asked him to do so on behalf of the Government as soon as this Deputation is over, and I hope that there will be an improvement effected in that respect. It is no consolation to London to know that Paris is very much worse off, but, as a matter of fact, if you had M. Clemenceau sitting in the chair now occupied by Dr. Addison, giving the case of Paris, you would have realised how very much better off people were here; and as far as Italy is concerned, although it is a sunnier land, still at this time of the year there are parts of Italy which are very much colder than London, and there is a good deal of distress owing to the lack of coal, and even in some districts a shortage in the essentials of life; and in Central Europe, I am sorry to say, people are dying by scores and even hundreds of thousands. These are things we have to work through, and it is hard to say that it may take time, but I am afraid it will. The world cannot embark upon such a conflict out of which we have emerged, destroying the resources of civilisation in a way which has been unprecedented in the whole of its history, without the people in all these lands suffering, and suffering very severely. All we can do is to do our best to minimise that suffering, help each other through the period of suffering, and to make an effort that will pull the country out of all its difficulties as soon as possible by co-operation and by working together. Once we do that, we shall emerge quite successfully out of this period. We are emerging more rapidly than any other land; that, at any rate, is a comfort, and I hope in the course of the next year, when we meet at another Christmas, there will be a very different tale to tell.

Mr. MARCH: Will there be any consideration given to the request made that the local authorities may also have the right of purchasing and distributing coal in their own districts as well as milk?

Mr. G. LANSBURY: I want, Mr. Lloyd George, before the Deputation goes, just to say that we, I do not suppose we are all satisfied with all that you have said by any manner of means, but I think we are all satisfied with the last statement you made about the Bill you are going to bring in. We hope that that Bill will be one of the first, and that it will be pushed through rapidly. We believe that it will help to solve a good deal of the difficulty that we are faced with just now; but we do recognise, I do, and I think that everybody else here recognises, that it has been a great tax upon your time meeting us this morning, and we are extremely grateful to you for having done so.

Mr. MARSHALL: Allow me, sir, and my brother Councillors, both male and female, to wish you and all the gentlemen associated with you, a very happy Christmas.

THE PRIME MINISTER: I heartily reciprocate that sentiment.



COAL.

The following Memorandum was handed to the Prime Minister by Mr. S. March, L.C.C. (Poplar):—

Notwithstanding the 10/- reduction in the selling price of coal for household purposes, we contend that the price is still unnecessarily high—that the present differentiation in price between household and industrial coal has resulted in an acute shortage of household coal, collieries and merchants naturally preferring to sell at the higher rates, while the impossibility of fixing any clear division as between household and industrial coal has resulted in chaos in the coal trade. Meanwhile, the poorer inhabitants of Greater London, who buy in cwts. or half cwts., or even smaller quantities, are unable to obtain supplies; queues of these constantly wait upon the Fuel Overseer, and there is great danger of the most serious trouble in industrial areas should exceptionally severe weather set in, as is not improbable at this season of the year.

As regards my own Borough of Poplar, I am informed by the Fuel Overseer that seven of the large coal merchants are absolutely without coal, and none of them have any reserve stocks. Coal trollies which serve the small consumers are raided daily, owing to the impossibility of dealers supplying all their customers; dealers lose their sacks in the scrimmage, and are unwilling to send out their trollies without police protection unless they can have an adequate supply of coal, while the assistance afforded by the Coal Controller in securing supplies is ineffective. Last July the Ministry of Health and the Board of Trade urged Local Authorities to build up reserve stocks in view of such an emergency as the present, but although the Poplar Council at once met and placed an order with the Coal Controller for 2,000 tons of special emergency coal, the scheme was subsequently abandoned by the Coal Controller. Although the Coal Controller has given the Fuel Overseer power to commandeer industrial coal, yet only last Saturday, while there was an acute shortage of household coal for small consumers in the District, approximately 300 wagons loaded with industrial coal were standing at Poplar (North London Railway), and although the Fuel Overseer picked out six as being suitable for household purposes, to meet a very real emergency on that day, both he and the Coal Controller were unable to obtain even this meagre amount, as the firm to which they were consigned pleaded "Admiralty Priority" on dredging work.

We are told that the shortage is due to transport difficulties, but these difficulties are multiplied by the present method of allocation. The Poplar Electricity Works which uses 800 to 1,100 tons per week, complied with the Coal Controller's request to burn slack coal during the war to enable graded coal to be allocated to the Munition Works, and is now required to continue to take the proportion of slack voluntarily taken during the war. The result is that, owing to inferior coal and the large proportion of rubbish in the coal, while the pre-war proportion of refuse taken to a shoot was about 12 per cent., it is now about 50 per cent., involving an enormous amount of unnecessary transport of incombustible material from the collieries, and again to the shoots, the boiler grates acting practically as screens for the collieries, while the Council has also to provide for installation of additional boiler power, owing to the poor calorific value of the coal supplied. This experience, multiplied by the number of other undertakings in similar circumstances, will account for a considerable amount of unnecessary transport of coal. If graded coal of the highest calorific value were allocated to the places at the greatest distance from the producing collieries there would be an enormous saving in transport. In fixing the additional prices for coal, also, the same flat rate of increase was placed on all grades, the result in the case of the Poplar undertaking being that we are paying an increase of 83.65 per cent. for graded coal, and an increase of 176.34 per cent. for fine slack, which is obviously unjust. The increased price should vary according to the calorific value of the coal. Much saving in transport might also be effected by the use of the fork instead of the shovel in coal getting, in re-starting as quickly as possible the coal washing plants at the collieries, and meanwhile supplying undertakings with graded coal in proportion to the quantity of slack taken.

The wagon shortage is no doubt a great factor in the present coal shortage, but we would urge that the Government should formulate a priority scheme, which would ensure an adequate number of wagons being exclusively reserved for coal, and take immediate steps to secure the repair of wagons which we are informed are lying up and down the country out of use, needing repair, and meanwhile the Government should provide local motor transport to equalise available supplies in the Greater London Area.

We call upon the Government as the Controlling Authority of the Railway Executive, to give precedence on railways, canals, and waterways, for the conveyance of coal, milk, and foodstuffs, and to liberate for immediate use empty goods wagons and trucks, whether privately owned or otherwise, in order to facilitate transport.

We do not suggest abandonment of Control of Coal, but that it should be made more efficient and effective.

We ask also that the Government shall take the necessary steps to secure to all Local Authorities desiring them, powers to take over and conduct the sale and distribution of coal within their areas, and also to ensure to such Local Authorities an adequate supply of coal direct from the mines for the household and industrial needs of their Districts.

92  
The Resolutions, unanimously adopted by the Guildhall Conference of Local Authorities of Greater London on 10th December, 1919, and submitted to the Prime Minister, were as follows:

MILK

(1) That this Conference of Local Authorities in the Greater Metropolitan Area demands that the present price of milk be reduced at once.

In its opinion the present price is fixed at an unreasonably high figure in relation to the cost of production and distribution, with the consequence that families have either to do without milk or reduce their consumption below what is necessary, with serious results to the health of growing children.

It also calls upon the Government to introduce legislation extending the operation of Clause 12 of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, so that local authorities may establish and maintain depots for the sale at not less than cost price of milk for all members of the community.

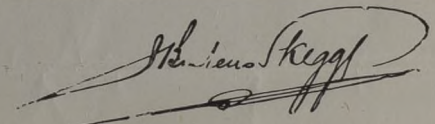
(2) That this Conference of Local Authorities of Greater London urges upon the Education Authorities the supreme necessity of supplying to all necessitous children attending the Public Elementary Schools milk free of charge, and that the Education Authorities be asked to instruct their Children's Care Committees to act in this direction.

COAL.

That this Conference of Local Authorities in the Greater Metropolitan Area calls upon His Majesty's Government to reduce forthwith the price of coal to the consumer, as the prices at present charged operate adversely against the well-being of all sections of the community except those financially interested in the means of production and distribution; and hamper all industry, thereby contributing towards increasing the volume of unemployment.

It further calls upon the Government as the controlling authority of the Railway Executive Committee to give precedence on railways, canals and waterways for the conveyance of coal, milk and foodstuffs. Also that steps be taken to liberate for use immediately the empty goods wagons and trucks, whether privately owned or otherwise, so as to facilitate coal transport.

Further, the Conference calls upon the Government to take the necessary steps to secure to all local authorities requesting same, powers whereby they can take over and conduct the sale and distribution of coal within their areas; and also to ensure to such local authorities an adequate supply of coal direct from the mines for the household and industrial needs of their districts.



Town Clerk, Poplar.  
Clerk to the Conference.

COUNCIL OFFICERS,  
POPLAR.

5th January, 1920.



Francis Maynell

93

67 ROMNEY STREET  
WESTMINSTER  
S.W.1

Christmas 1919

Victoria  
4637

Dearest George

This book of selections from *Plato* & *Aristotle* seems to me the finest book of rhetoric in the language — and you know that by rhetoric I don't mean only great writing only in the literary sense. Some day you must let me read you some of it aloud. It is easy for the ear, though the elaborate punctuation & queer spelling make it difficult for the eyes just at first.

Hilda & I send you our love — a word casually used very often, but not this time. You are the word of humankindness made flesh for us in our lucky day — lucky because it coincides with yours.

Yours ever

Francis

Christmas 1919



Mrs. Reginald  
McKenna  
(n. Pamela Tekyll)

TELEPHONE  
GODALMING 4.

27. XII. 19.

MUNSTEAD HOUSE.

GODALMING.

94

Dear Mr. Lansbury -

How sweet of you  
to send me your good  
wishes and Mr. Goulton's  
poem - both are  
joy to have.

I'd been hoping  
for a copy of the  
Herald Time-book  
to send you, but  
it



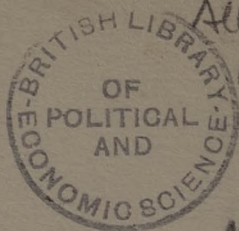
is still wandering  
between printers and  
publishers and cock-  
designers.

You've done wonders  
this year with  
the paper and the  
best result can  
send you is that  
its position will  
be

firmly established in  
1920, and that all  
your hopes for the  
work it is intended  
to do may be  
realised.

Yours ever sincerely  
Janet McKenna





Albert Mansbridge  
~~1876~~ (1876—)

Calais Gate,

Myatts Park

Camberwell

(96)

M449

Dec 29<sup>th</sup> 1885

[1919-1922]

Dear Lansbury

It was nice to receive your Christmas greetings in the Country this year. I would like you to see, ~~from the~~ these drawings of us by Will Rothenstein. The one of my wife is very good. I am caught in a fierce mood.

You will be glad to know that I am better than for years. I've 3 big jobs in hand.



The Central Library for Students (which it would pay a 'Herald' man  
to look at) - The World Assoon for Adult Educn -  
a powerful force for human brotherhood - and  
The Royal Commission on Oxford & Cambridge. [1919-22]

So you see even if I had a 'party' mind - I  
have no time for politics as such. Can't help it.

But I'm determined to do all I can to get  
each child a full educational chance - that's  
my job.

Forgive my confidences. Don't bother to answer.

but when we meet bid me 'good deed' - and  
remember me as I will you - on Sundays or on  
Sunday shots in week days  
Yours always  
A Mansbridge

My wife sends her remembrance  
to you.



Charles E. Turner 18, Darlington-rd, <sup>97</sup>  
Withington, M/cr  
31-12-19.

Dear Mr. Lansbury,

In the hustle of yesterday I forgot what I was most anxious to remember -- to thank you very much for including me in the list of those to whom Mrs. Lansbury and you sent your good wishes for this season and always. I'm very sorry I missed the chance of saying to you personally how much I appreciated your remembrance of me. Thank you both *veyy* much indeed. And though it is now too late to include Xmas in my greetings, will you please accept my most sincere and cordial wishes for all that is good in all your undertakings in 1920 and on all occasions?

As to yesterday, one could wish that there had been a ~~few~~ more friends to meet you, but I felt that the people there were the right people and that things will now definitely move forward in this area. I hope you did not feel that a journey undertaken at so great personal inconvenience was in vain -- in fact, I hope that it will eventually prove to have been thoroughly worth while.

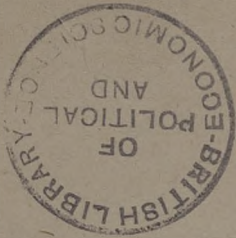
By the way, W.C. Robinson did not want to say much when I got him to-day but is anxious for our assistance as soon as it is known whether Sir Albert Stanley gets a peerage. That may be known to-morrow.

With renewed thanks and good wishes,

*Yours very sincerely*  
Charles E. Turner



M449



IF USED FOR TRANSMISSION TO ANY PLACE ABROAD TO WHICH THE 1½D. RATE OF LETTER POSTAGE DOES NOT APPLY, THE ADDITIONAL POSTAGE REQUIRED SHOULD BE PREPAID BY MEANS OF ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMPS.

LETTER CARD



Mr. George Lansbury,  
39, Bow Road,  
LONDON, E.



William Henry Dyson  
(1883-1938) 308 Lake Place

[1919]

98

My dear Lansing

Thank you very much  
for my own note. It is a well  
known Ruby bird & I am as  
unable to believe it or bear it as at  
first. It is the desolating & misapprehensible  
loneliness that is terrible. Thank  
God the duty is starting & there  
will be plenty of work to do.  
Yours sincerely  
Will Dyson



? 1919

99

### LANSBURY AT LLANELLY

LLANELLY, Sunday.—Speaking at Llanelly to-day, George Lansbury said the Labour movement, as he saw it, had either got to save civilisation or civilisation would go down. He saw nowhere any sign that the religious leaders, or the leaders either of the Tory, Coalition, or Liberal parties, had any sort of scheme for curing the economic and industrial evils of our time.

Society was not based (he said) on the principle of Christ, but on the principle of money worship.

Referring to Ireland, he said the position there was due to the downright cowardice of Mr. Asquith in 1914 in not dealing with Sir Edward Carson as he ought to have been dealt with. No workman would have been allowed to arm and drill and import arms.

The British policy in Ireland of trying to hold the country down by force was one which had never succeeded in any civilised country.

The solution of unemployment and poverty was a simple one. Let the railways be run for public usage and not for profit; grow food for the people to eat, make clothes for the people to wear and build houses for the people to live in.

Unemployment was not due merely to the war, but was part of the system we were living under.



### WHY KAISER ESCAPED

"There never was a time more critical in the history of our country than that through which we are now passing," said Lansbury, speaking at Briton Ferry in the evening.

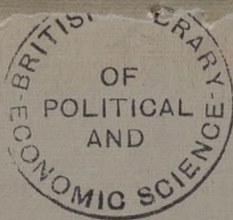
The talk about the hanging of the Kaiser was all lies, he said, Mr. Lloyd George knew he could not hang the Kaiser, as the powers that be would not allow a cousin of King George to be hanged. Instead, however, of being honest and admitting in the House of Commons that he told lies at the last election, he got up and camouflaged.

"When we are a little more wise than we are to-day," added Lansbury, "we will see that our children are not kept out of school at the age of 14, but are allowed to continue their education as long as the children of the capitalist class.

"At this moment we are witnessing the collapse of capital and imperialism. The Churches are bankrupt because they are not true to their creed."

M 449





~~Arthur Lansburg~~ 86 Milton St  
(brother of GL)  
M449

Stratford  
Ontario  
Canada

180

[1919-20, after the War]

Dear George Besse & all

well it is with

the greatest pleasure I have in writing these few lines to you hoping this will find you all well as I am pleased to say we all are now for a start I hope you will forgive me for not seeing you when I was over but I had such a lot to do and go to in fact I took a lot of the young fellows round to see the sights that was with me and I can tell you we had a good time



I was nearly all over France & Belgium  
putting Railways down and we were one good  
branch though you know to take the Rough  
with the smooth I liked it just fine  
now when I came back I found things  
quite different new men to work with  
new Bosses but when they knew I was  
Home in fact they put ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> in the  
Local Papers so you cant get out of it  
they sent for me so when I was ready  
I started that is 2 yrs this March well  
the wages have gone up in fact my  
money is  $54\frac{3}{4}$  an hour that is only from  
last May when it was only  $40\frac{3}{4}$  but things  
have gone up in fact I dont think it  
could get much higher for instance 2<sup>d</sup>  
a ton for coal then you come to Rent well  
last summer & the summer before that  
you could not Rent you had to Bury  
so I left Nellie & the 2 girls in Ashhouse  
when I went away so we bought this you  
know you put so much down then



(B) (101)  
so much a month after with  
interest Will George after all that  
I will tell you about ourselves  
we are all having good health &  
Hettie said we shall soon be where  
we started for we have one of the  
girls married and the other on in  
August so we'll a Big House and  
only I in it as I must tell you we  
have Hettie's Brother with us  
we can have a fresh Bedroom  
every night we have quite a lot  
out of work just now but I  
think it will not be long before  
things will boom again how



Arthur Lansbury [1919-20] 102

do you ~~think~~ find things over  
there I have 2 chums just come  
over for a trip I know when I  
was there the price of stuff was  
I believe worst than out here but  
as far as out here is sometimes you  
buy a Bag of sugar at the time <sup>10s</sup> 1.00  
well that was up 22 <sup>10s</sup> now the other  
week you could buy one for 11 <sup>10s</sup>  
and things like that but we cant  
get Coals down yett still we might  
see a drop when winter is over  
which up to now is very mild well  
George I think this is all for



(6)

P. S. Give our Love to Jim  
& Harry and all the Rest  
I just got your Card

this time but dont forget to  
answer this one as I sent you  
3 from France & got no <sup>answer</sup>  
but if you can spare a moment  
drop a line now Nellie & the  
2 girls join with me in wishing  
you all a Happy & Prosperous  
New year with Lots of Love  
to you all

I Remain  
your Loving Brother  
Arthur

(end of 1919)

103