

Vol. 9

1930

(fols. 229-371)

end of  
Vol. 9



Sir George (Wm.) Paton  
(1859 - 1934)

229  
FAIRFIELD WORKS,  
BOW, LONDON, E.3.

January 1<sup>st</sup> 1930.

Dear Mr. Lansbury

I cannot let the day  
close without writing to express  
to you the heartfelt thanks of  
my wife & myself for all your  
kindness - first your letter and  
then your warm hand shake &  
later your far too kind words,  
Very much of it undeserved, for  
I have only tried to do my

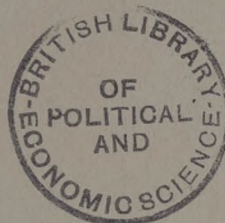
230

little bit with those I have  
had the privilege to work -

Again our united warm  
thanks yours very sincerely

Geo. W. Paton

The Rt. Hon. George Lansbury M.P.



M449



Edward Noel - Buxton  
(1st Baron) } 3 1/2 MILES.  
STATIONS { LOUGHTON, WALTHAM CROSS }  
TELEGRAMS, UPSHIRE. Noel - Buxton;  
1869 - 1948)

UPSHIRE BURY  
WALTHAM ABBEY.

3rd January. 1930.

My dear Lansbury,

Many thanks for your charming card  
and Best Wishes for 1930 to you and Mrs.  
Lansbury.

Yours very truly  
W Noel - Buxton

Sir Louis Bernhard Baron  
(Bart.; 1876 — 1934)

(232)

MAYFAIR 1313.

93, PARK STREET,

W.1.

6th. January 1930.

Dear Mr. Lansbury,

Your kind letter of  
congratulation upon the honour just  
conferred upon me, is very much appreciated.

I also thank you for  
your kind remarks regarding my father.  
You may be assured that I will do what  
I can to uphold the tradition associated  
with his name.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*Louis B. Baron*

The Rt. Hon. George Lansbury, M.P.  
39, Bow Road,  
E.3.



with letter George Lansbury  
Melbourne, Australia Jan. 11 1930  
11 Jan. 1930

### GEORGE LANSBURY AS MIGRANT.

#### HARD TIMES IN 1884-85.

Just before the famous and popular George Lansbury, now well in his seventies, became Commissioner for Works in the present MacDonal Cabinet he gave a long interview to the London "Graphic" on his hard and bitter experiences as a migrant to Queensland in the four eighties, before even Queensland Labor had become a power. The story is a sad one, but worth the telling, and Mr. Lansbury, now grown broader in his views of Sunday, though still a subject of anxiety to colleagues, tells it well. He is a well read and deeply sincere Anglican of the Anglo-Catholic school, but this has not prevented the overcoloring of his story of "My Hard Times as An Emigrant." Nevertheless, the story is interesting, though it has always to be remembered that to-day conditions have in every way been revolutionised to the great advantage of the migrant. Its more interesting features are as follow:—

The most eventful episode in my life, apart from those of a political and public character, took place in the years 1884-85, when with my wife and three children, all under four years of age, and a younger brother who was not eleven, I emigrated to Australia.

The reasons which induced us to undertake what was at the time so uprooting, if not revolutionary, a course were these. My wife and I were members of

buoyed up with the belief that we were bound for a new Eldorado, where we should all make our fortune. The feeling was intensified when we reached Australia, and were going up the Brisbane River.

When we landed on the quay outside the emigrants' depot, we realised without a word from anyone that we were not being landed amid the pleasant surroundings we had imagined. It is well over 40 years since the day we reached Australia, but I can see that emigrants' depot now, with its bare walls and no furniture, and hear the officials talking in a rather hectoring manner. There was no food for us; in fact, only discomforts.

The most important thing for me was, of course, to get work. I had never been out of work in my life before, but in this land I found none for eight weeks, although I was out early and late looking for it. I offered to labor on the land, on the roads, or to do any kind of laboring or clerical work. I had introductions to leading men in Queensland, from the Bishop of Brisbane downwards. They were all very kind, very sympathetic, but nobody could find me a job.

After describing his first Brisbane job and a very unpleasant time on his first farm, Mr. Lansbury proceeds:—

Nothing happened, except that I got on another farm outside Brisbane and again took part in every process of work on it. Then a man, whom I had met at various meetings when I was unemployed and who had become a friend, told me of a job in Brisbane. Without him and others, whose friendship I had made in similar cir-



Mr. and Mrs. GEORGE LANSBURY.

a little band of youngsters connected with the Whitechapel church. When the average age of the members was about 14 we began to discuss every question under the sun. We read Butler's "Analogy," and took sides with Mr. Gladstone in connection with the Bulgarian atrocities, about which he wrote so vehemently and vigorously in those days.

When my wife was 19 and I was just 21 we got married. We were the first of the little band to do so, and our home was thrown open to our friends, who made it into what might be likened to a small parliament. Soon we were discussing the subject of Socialism, especially the Socialism of Disraeli's "Sybil" and Kingsley's "Alton Locke."

Constantly the question of emigration and the far-away lands over the seas came up for discussion. At that time I was very sick of the competition for daily bread. I was a small contractor engaged with my brother in a business which we had taken over from our father, who was dead. Although I was so young I always felt that whatever comfort we had was gained from the labor of others. I objected very strongly to this then, as I object very strongly to it now.

On a bright April morning in 1884 we steamed out of Plymouth Harbor to seek the Holy Grail of a new life. On the steamer there were about 500 other emigrants, herded together in the most wretched accommodation which could be meted out to human beings. Privacy was something that did not exist on the vessel. We slept on egg boxes, packed like sardines in a tin, and were supplied with such bad food that had we not taken supplies with us and bought more at the various ports at which we stopped we must assuredly have starved.

My wife was ill during the whole eight weeks of the voyage, and recovered from sea sickness only on the few days we happened to arrive at some port. I had therefore to take care of the babies, one of whom was only six months old. The bathing and dressing of them, especially in the tropics, where I washed them in the buckets while the men were washing down the decks, was an event that caused considerable excitement among the two or three hundred women on board.

All our discomforts were endured

circumstances, we should have done very badly indeed.

This new job was a parcel delivery man. I stuck at it for the rest of the time I was in Australia. My wage was 50/ a week and a house to live in at a place called Toowong, five miles out of Brisbane.

There is not much to tell about the work, except that the hours were from 8 in the morning until 12 or 1 o'clock next morning on many days. The roads around Brisbane were nothing like what they may be now, and often it was only the lights from streaks of lightning running along the roads which saved the cart from tumbling over the sides of the hills.

During all the twelve months or more that I passed in Queensland I enjoyed exceptional health. The outdoor life and hard work did not hurt me one bit, but my wife and children suffered severely. For this reason we made up our minds to ask for the money to go back home.

Neither my wife nor I ever regretted our emigration experience, hard and bitter as this was at times, because it taught us, as nothing else could, what life is. Although our parents were not rich we had both been brought up in a sort of well-to-do working class comfort, and we discovered in Queensland what it was to be out of work through no fault of our own.

People sometimes wonder why I should be so bitter and angry about unemployment in this country. It is because I know the soul-destroying effect of this curse that I get sick at heart.

Then, too, we understood what it meant to be really poor. We experienced this also when we came back home. We both knew what it was not to have enough money to get through the week, so that on Friday our food was much shorter than on Sunday. It is these facts which have made me understand, too, that it is the mother who, in the working class home, goes short.

I came back home a rebel, and I am still a rebel against the present man-made poverty and destitution. I also came home a feminist, convinced that human society will only be redeemed and purified by the conscious co-operation of men and women.



George A. Mason  
244. Glen-Huntly Rd  
Elwood  
Melbourne  
Australia  
11/1/30

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Dear Mr Lansbury/

I had the pleasure  
of meeting you several times before  
I came to this country.

An article was  
published in today Melbourne  
'Age' giving some of your  
history when you were in  
Queensland, I thought the

cutting would interest you,

[fol. 237  
above]

so am enclosing a copy.

It gave me a good  
deal of satisfaction to note  
that the English Public  
returned the only party

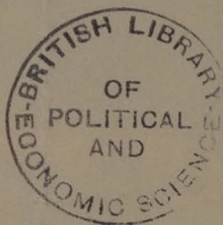


23  
Parliament of the last Election  
and particularly your  
appointment to office.

Please accept my  
best wishes for the new  
year to yourself, wife and  
Isaac. L. who was in  
my time the Mayor of Poplar.

Yours very truly

Geo. Mason



M449

V. S. Srinivasa Sastri  
1869 - 1946  
Basavanagudi Bangalore City  
South India : 15 Jan<sup>r</sup> 1930

Approved (286)

My dear Mr Lanebury,

I thank you from my heart for a beautiful Christmas card. The noble poem inscribed there recalls to me the story of our great South Indian teacher of five hundred years ago named Rāmānuja. Of him it is said that when he had been taught the Truth, he refused to heed all priestly warning and imprecation but mounted a high tower and proclaimed the saving mantra to all and sundry. The lower castes were admitted by him and his followers to the sacred rites;

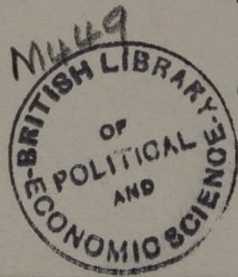


but in course of time the original impulse perished and these converts became themselves a closed caste and are now among the most exclusive and pharisaical Brahmans communities.

I am more happy than I can tell that you are in the Cabinet to-day. You have a heart both large and brave and nothing narrow or petty will get your consent. Go on, citizen of God's Kingdom and recognise no barrier to human brotherhood

Affectionately yours

Ch. Srinivasa Sastri





2nd Mrs. Edgar Lansbury  
(nee Moyna McGill)

(237)

THE STUDIO,  
64<sup>#</sup> HAMILTON TERRACE,  
ST JOHN'S WOOD, N.W. 8.  
Maida Vale 4715.

Jan 29.  
1.

29 Jan.  
[1930 or later]

Dearest G.L.

Thank you ever ever  
so much for your lovely  
present to the twins - it  
must far too good of you I  
can't tell you how delighted  
Edgar & I were when we  
had your letter this morning.  
I'll buy them something they  
need - & whisper to them that  
their Granddad & Gran-dama gave

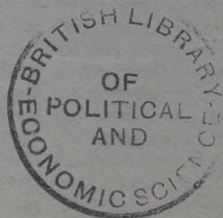


it to them

With Tender Love & Kisses  
from them & from us both.

from

Mrs. J. G.



M449



Mr G Lambury Esq

T. Rainbottom

2/2/30

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Sir

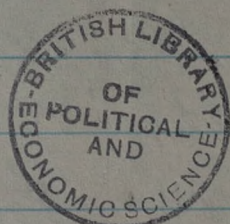
I saw the bit you put in the Daily Herald on Saturday which rather disappointed me you are one of the stalwarts for pensions and if you get wreck kneed we shall stand a poor chance. I have heard you speak at the Picture Palace in Long Shuffad when I lived there and I believe you to be an earnest man for any good cause. I do not know whether you have visited any place where the progress system is in operation you would see what a hopeless position a man of 60 and over is placed in. A young man does a job at a price and the remainder regardless of age must do the same. of course we cannot all have easy jobs like R H Fox otherwise we should want to work as long as we lived but there are different kinds of work and I think if Fox was put on progress system for a week he would want a pension the next week. I can assure <sup>you</sup> that a good number will never draw their pension that are now simply dragging along hoping their will soon be a scheme either for pension or a five day week. They are adopting it in America and their output is greater it ought to be a lesson to us. If they the employers wanted more work done they could employ more men and relieve unemployment. I think myself if it was only a small pension it would help us along and we should live a little longer.



Could not a scheme be brought out whereby a man paying say 1/- per week would be able to draw a pension at 60. I have spoken to several young men and they all seem willing to pay. If each large works had a scheme like that and a little Government assistance it would be like a self supporter as the young paying into it continually it would always remain solvent. There is no doubt about it there is some brains in parliament and I anxiously watching for news about pensions I am nearly 62 and it is a great strain for me there are others that are worse than me and are simply dragging along in hope that men like yourself will try and do what you can when the time for the Social Insurance Bill comes along

Yours Truly

J Rambottom  
49 Gold Street  
Northampton



M449

Re Scheme for Pensions

I mention all young men in employment in all works to start paying at once 1/- per week which would then help the pensions for men of 60 to come into force immediately and relieve unemployment



Refused Daniel Isaacs  
(1st Earl Reading;  
1860 - 1935)

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GROSVENOR 2014.

32 CURZON STREET, MAYFAIR, W.

July 9/30

My dear Hansbury.

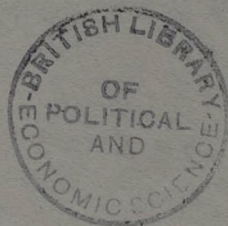
I return to our so  
familiar mode of address  
to thank you very warmly  
for your touching message  
to me in your letter.  
You say very true  
things. Sometimes little  
understood in these  
days but they remain  
immutable for all time.



I deeply appreciate  
your thought of me  
at this moment &  
especially when you  
have so many preoccupations.

It was worth  
the writing for it helped  
me and that is what  
you intended.

Yours always gratefully  
Reading



M449



Wait Chester Sewell

240

36, KINGS ROAD,

LEYTONSTONE, E.11.

Feb 20. 20

Dear George

Many happy returns  
of tomorrow + health &  
strength to carry on your  
work & to see some of the  
fruits of your labours  
in the burden & heat of  
the years past.

All your friends are  
proud & happy to



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See that this time the prophet  
is having him even among  
his own friends

With all our good wishes  
to yourself & Bessie

Yours sincerely  
W. A. T.



Bogomoloff

POST OFFICE



TELEGRAPHS.

This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

London T

Charges } s. d.  
to pay }

Handed }  
in at }

1894  
M.,

Received }  
here at }

TO {

George Landsbury in P. Herby

Congratulations and good wishes

you 41 st Birthday

D.V. Bogomoloff

R(P) 701  
J HF (47) 14  
Five year plan  
(1931)



Mr. Rev. Henry Russell  
Wakefield (Bishop of Birmingham)  
1854-1933

TELEPHONE  
HOVE 4868.

243  
5<sup>th</sup> April 1930  
20, PALMEIRA COURT,

HOVE, SUSSEX.

My dear Lambury -

I have just received what is called the Final Report of the Central Body (unemployed) and I notice that practically no acknowledgement is made of your services to us. It is simply by a bare statement of your holding one office that you are recognised.

I of course had nothing to do with the issue of the Report but I cannot understand why more is not said of you. You were a great inspiration to



me and to many others, and  
in my old age I want to  
thank you for all you did.

It is delightful to read of  
your taking such a big natural  
part today - But our efforts  
of years ago were not all  
unworthy. I miss you very  
much. You used to scold  
me at times, but you to bore  
with me as chairman, and  
helped me to be efficient  
often when otherwise I might  
have failed. Thank you and  
God bless you. We were side by  
side many times in many places

I still thank God I signed  
the Minority Report. I was  
the least important of those  
signatures, but I was one after  
all. It is quaint that now  
that Report is regarded as  
moderate, whilst in 1909 it was  
thought almost revolutionary!

If ever you want a breath of  
sea air come down & see me.  
A day here does good, & I have  
"bite and sup" always at your  
disposal. - I am afraid  
your colleagues think me poor

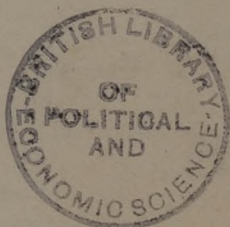


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stuff, but at any rate for  
54 years of grown up life  
I have worked on lines not  
all unlike those dear to you -  
As to the Central Body you  
were on many matters its  
very life

Your old friend

H. Munro & Keppell



M449



Charles Roden Buxton  
(1875-1942)

2005



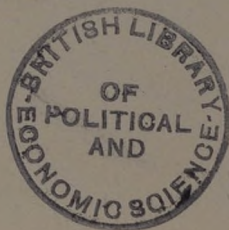
24th April, 1930

Dear Lansbury,

The enclosed has been submitted by the Consultative Committee to the Cabinet. I thought you would like to have a copy.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Roden Buxton



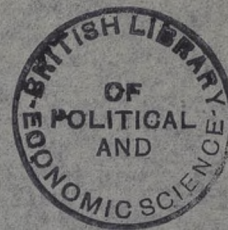
M449



Charles Roden Buxton  
(1875 - 1942)

To J.R.M.

11/11/29



( COPY )

[with Buxton letter  
24 Apr. 1930]

I understand that East Africa will come before the Cabinet shortly. I have no inside information, but if the forecast of our policy given in the Manchester Guardian (Oct. 29) is correct, I feel great anxiety. It will, in my opinion, be quite ~~inconsistent~~ inconsistent with Labour Party policy as laid down in Labour and the Nation, Labour and the Empire: Africa, and elsewhere.

The Consultative Committee has already had an interview with Passfield. But it would appear that their views have not prevailed, and I should be glad if I could have a few minutes talk with you, as my personal feeling about it is very strong, and I may claim to have followed the subject closely.

Quite apart from the Hilton Young Report, I would urge the need of a new departure in Native Affairs, on the lines of our Party policy. A sharp break with the past is expected of us. If we fail here, there will be great disappointment among our friends everywhere, including many colonial officials who hold our views, but cannot speak out. Opposition is also to be expected, of course, especially in the many circles influenced by the Kenya Settlers.

As to Hilton Young and Wilson, the granting of an unofficial majority in Kenya, without a counterpoise in the shape of full executive power in the hands of some authority



[with Buxton letter 24 Apr. 1930]

(24)

2.

charged with carrying out a definite Native policy, would be quite impossible for us to accept. Powers given to a High Commissioner to preside over Conferences, to report home, or even to reserve bills, would not provide a sufficient counterpoise.

In holding this view, we have the support of the Hilton Young Commission itself, of Lugard and other peers, of weighty authorities who have been lately writing in the Times (e.g., the Archbishop of York), of the India Office, etc.

As to the franchise, it cannot be solved except on the basis of a common roll of electors, and an identical "civilisation test" for all. We are explicitly committed to this in our Party literature and resolutions. I enclose a separate note of some of the reasons in its favour.

As to our colleagues here, I have the names of no less than 44 who are deeply interested in these questions, and are not inclined to let them drop. I have talked with many of them, and I believe there are more whom I do not know.

I would add that the line taken by our Party on the Palestine and East Africa Loans Bill, in 1926, was very strong, and our speeches could be quoted against us with devastating effect, if we do not act up to them.

Yours sincerely,  
CHARLES RODEN BUXTON.



[with Buxton letter 24 Apr. 1930]

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EAST AFRICA.

Franchise for Natives (as well as Indians) on a common roll of electors, with a "civilisation test".

+++++

- (1) We gain the support of Indian opinion.
- (2) We gain the support of the Liberals.
- (3) We are in line with the best traditions of the Empire, expressed in official Proclamations, declarations of statesmen, etc., re equality before the law.
- (4) It was given in other parts of the Empire, notably the West Indies, where it has been the saving of the situation.
- (5) It is demanded by the only representative native body in Kenya.
- (6) However few Natives come on at first, it is the mere fact of equality which makes a powerful appeal.
- (7) We produce a favourable effect on Native opinion all over Africa.
- (8) Separation of races in the matter of franchise increases inter-racial antagonism.
- (9) South Africa:-
  - (a) A powerful non-party Manifesto at Cape Town recently (Archbishop, etc) advocates its retention.
  - (b) It has proved of practical value in the Cape, in protecting Natives against injustices.
  - (c) Even Herzog does not say that Natives are unfit for franchise (he only uses "swamping" argument)



M449



[with Buxton letter 24 Apr. 1930]

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CONFIDENTIAL

15th April, 1930.

## MEMORIAL ON AFRICAN POLICY

(Transmitted by the Consultative Committee).

[of Joint Councils of Europeans and Bantu?]

**W**E, the undersigned, wish to represent to the Government, in the most friendly spirit, the dissatisfaction which we feel as to the non-fulfilment of Labour's policy with regard to native races, particularly in connection with East Africa.

This policy has been clearly set forth in Conference resolutions, in *LABOUR AND THE NATION*, in the pamphlet *LABOUR AND THE EMPIRE: AFRICA*, etc.

Broadly speaking, though a Labour Government has been in office for nearly a year, and though efforts are doubtless being made, nothing has yet been actually accomplished to put this policy into effect. Many of our fellow-countrymen in the Empire who are in sympathy with us, are already saying that the Labour Government is, after all, doing nothing but follow up the policy of its Tory predecessors.

In particular, no steps have been taken to secure the land rights of the natives, to alter the restrictive labour conditions, to revise the unjust systems of taxation, to increase the proportion of public expenditure on native areas, or to establish equal rights before the law.

Reference may be made, by way of example, to such subjects as expenditure on native areas (including education), alienation of Crown lands to white settlers, collective punishment ordinance, restrictive action against Kikuyu tribe, pressure on Chief of Bechuanaland to grant mining concession to British South Africa Company.

In some cases, definitely reactionary steps have been taken, e.g., the status of the Chief Commissioner in Kenya has been lowered; while in Southern Rhodesia the clause protecting the right of natives to purchase land in certain areas is being eliminated from the constitution of the Colony, without any condition being insisted upon as to reserving an adequate quantity of land for the Native Purchase Area.

In view of the above, we urge that

- (1) The Government should, without delay, publish a comprehensive statement of the general principles by which their native policy in tropical areas will be guided.
- (2) This should be done without waiting for a decision on the constitutional changes suggested by the Commission on Closer Union in East Africa, if such decision cannot be expedited.
- (3) Instructions should be sent, without delay, by the Secretary of State, outlining at least the preliminary steps required for a thorough overhaul of the Land, Taxation and Labour systems, and of the expenditure on native and white areas respectively, and for the establishment of equal rights before the law.



P.T.O.

M449



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NORMAN ANGELL.  
J. ARNOTT.  
P. J. NOEL BAKER.  
JAMES BARR.  
ETHEL BENTHAM.  
A. FENNER BROCKWAY.  
J. W. BOWEN.  
C. R. BUXTON.  
A. G. CAMERON.  
W. CARTER.  
R. J. DAVIES.  
D. R. GRENFELL.  
T. GRIFFITHS.  
W. G. HALL.  
SOMERVILLE HASTINGS.  
P. C. HOFFMAN.  
J. F. HERRABIN.  
J. H. HUDSON.  
F. W. JOWETT.  
J. M. KENWORTHY.  
F. LEE.  
A. McELWEE.  
M. MARCUS.

J. MARLEY.  
L. W. MATTERS.  
D. L. MORT.  
G. MUFF.  
W. PALING.  
PHILLIPS PRICE.  
B. RILEY.  
RENNIE SMITH.  
R. SORENSEN.  
CAMPBELL STEPHEN.  
J. STEWART.  
W. B. TAYLOR.  
E. THURTLÉ.  
J. C. WEDGWOOD.  
W. WELLOCK.  
J. C. WELSH.  
ELLEN WILKINSON.  
T. WILLIAMS.  
C. H. WILSON.  
E. WINTERTON.  
E. F. WISE.  
R. S. YOUNG.