

Edith Ruth Mansell Moullin

286

Decr 23. 27.

28, VICTORIA ROAD, W. 8.

WESTERN 1118.

Dear Comrade,

I want you to allow me to identify myself with the Ruas treats you give to the poor Bidoies in Bow. I know you appealed last year through your paper & probably you are not able now to make a wide appeal. I enclose cheque for £5. for them.

I want to thank you with all my heart for your article "Lifting of Comfort & Joy" in this week's 'New Leader', you exactly express what I know & feel.

At present, we can only each do our little bit, & relieve a tiny drop of the sadness & suffering in the world, but all the time we must never lose the vision



M449

of what this world ought to be, & work
ceaselessly for it. You, above all others,
have helped & are helping to keep this
vision clear - May God bless you &
yours - & all your noble work.

I have adopted 10 of the most stricken
families in the minefields for this I was,
it seems oh! such a tiny drop in the ocean,
but, at any rate, it gives me a taste
of what a real I was ought to be, for
they are noble souls, & they do far more
& help me along than I do for them.

Thank you & Mrs. Leusbury do much
for yr beautiful I was Church -
Yours most sincerely
Lolita Ruth Mausell Moulton.

Rt. Rev. Charles Gore
(1853 — 4/3 2727 Eaton Terrace (287)
New address

S.W.
Dec. 1927

With every good wish for
Christmas! Thank you
for your card. It is
good of you to remember me.

Charles Gore

POST

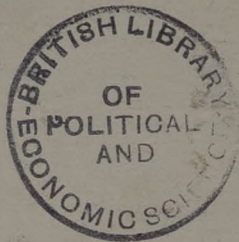


CARD

POST EARLY
- FOR -
CHRISTMAS



George Dawson Esq.
M.P.
19 Bow Road
London



M449

288 Mrs. David Graham Pole
(n. Jessie Hair)

TELEPHONE, WIMBLEDON 4724.
TELEGRAMS, DAGRAMPOL, PHONE, LONDON.

WESTWARD HO,
WIMBLEDON COMMON,
LONDON, S. W. 19.

Christmas Eve
1927

Dear "G.L." & Mrs Laubrey,

Every good wish for Christmas
and the coming year. May you
be blest with strength & health
for all your work. I do hope
you are both very well.

I see poor Fennee Brookway
is in hospital. It is very hard
lines on him, he will have to
miss the Congress.

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I hope to have a letter from
Liden by this mail, and will
send on any interesting items
there may be. I hope my
writing is legible!

With all loving wishes to you both

Yours affectionately

Jessie Graham Pole



M449

Harry Day

(29)
2


B or C.	Charges to pay
RECEIVED	s. d.
At 12/23 M.	
From	
By	

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.



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THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM.

No. of Telegram		Office Stamp
SENT		
At	M.	
To		
By		

Prefix	Time handed in	Office of Origin and Service Instructions	Words
	12.26 M.	London SW	19

Lansbury 19. Bow Rd E.

merry Christmas and best wishes
for the new year regards
Harry and Katie D.

Joseph Bentley

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6 Grantham Terrace, Horton,
Bradford, 30th Decr. 1927.

Dear George Lansbury:

The number of your friends must be legion. And, I trow, you cannot, ordinarily, visualise them, save in the mass. And yet, when a season like Yuletide comes around, you do not fail to recall the personality of a number - perhaps a chosen few - and to make those the recipients of a loving greeting which for character and chasteness leaves nothing to be desired. Hence, my wife and I desire to thank you and Mrs. Lansbury for the tasteful Greeting Card which arrived here from 39 Bow Road, E., on the eve of Christmas.

Christmas, as has been well said, is a
time

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time when there is manifested, more than at any other season, the spirit of love and good-will towards others; the spirit of which the world stands so much in need, and it will be a sad day for the world if it ever allows its growing complexity to obscure and crowd out that spirit, of which Christ is at once the originator and the symbol.

Along with yourself, in this faith, we shall (D.V.) enter on the year 1928 determined to do what in us lies to restrict and reduce the world's misery and injustice; to expand and spread over its share of joy and content.

Looking forward into the New Year
what

What shall we pray for? —

LIGHT upon the path we have to tread;
STRENGTH to help our fellows on and on;
LOVE to lighten duty's daily load;
And HOPE, in Heaven at last, to hear
"Well done!"

And now, to yourself and Mrs Lansbury,
and the various members of your family
we send you every good wish and
trust that you may have health,
happiness and prosperity in what
we hope will prove to be a Bright
and Happy New Year.

Yours heartily,

Joseph & Lucy Bentley

George Lansbury, M.P.,
Bow, E.

end of
1927

Vol. 8.

(Fols. 293 - 320)

1928

[end of Vol. 8]

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1928 or earlier

MP.'S BROTHER KILLED

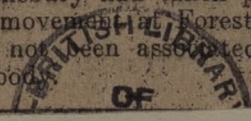
Mr. James Lansbury Found Dead on Railway

Mr. James Lansbury, brother of Mr. George Lansbury, M.P., was found dead on the railway, near Forest Gate Station, yesterday morning.

He left his home at Forest Gate on Sunday night with the intention of going to chapel, but it has not been definitely ascertained whether he actually attended a place of worship.

A man of 70, he lost a daughter a few weeks ago, but was stated to have been bright and cheerful in the past week.

Mr. J. Lansbury had taken part in the Labour movement at Forest Gate, but he had not been associated with any public body.



Joe Brown

Worryweather

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West Hanningfield

Jan 13th 1928

Dear old George

I see by today's Herald that our
old Comrade Art Watts has passed
over, very soon after his dear Wife.
Those of us who have known him so
many years will feel the loss, but
after all old friend, death, is like life,
exactly what we make it. Those of
us who live with Nature, know that

Joe Brown

13 Jan. 1928

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so-called death, is merely obeying Nature's
law, in the passing from one form of
manifestation to another, and the
inevitable always happens, that
whatsoever we sow we also reap, Nature
does not take into account whether we
are conscious of it or not, "you disobey
my law you will have to suffer" says
Nature or if you like old Field God,
words do not matter much, it is with
like a number of others of the earlier
movement, claimed for his ideal, serve

PK

Joe Brown

(296)

13 Jan. 1928

The Common good, because that is the
Spiritual impulse, on which all real
progress is possible, and so far as
he is concerned that was his portion
in Life, those of us who remain, have
also got to continue to rail. That
emblem to the Mast, despite the material
or Physical discomforts. Greater Love have
no man than he give his life for his
fellows, thereby fulfilling the Law
nature God gave it to him for, I am
afraid I cannot get up to the funeral

Joe Brown

13 Jan. 1928

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owing to this spine trouble I have not
left home for eight months, as it is
dangerous for me to travel alone,
although I am fairly well here busy
with my land and animals, but am
looking forward to the better weather
to enable me to get up and see young
Kennard, meanwhile I must do what
elf Watts tried to do forget myself, by
serving others

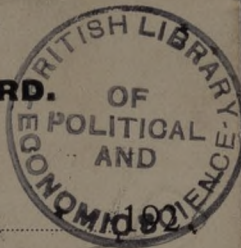
With kindest regards

Joe Brown

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"MILLTHORPE," MOUNTSIDE, GUILDFORD.

Edward Carpenter
(1844 - 28 June 1929)



26 Jan

[? 1928
or 1929]

M449

My dear George L.

I am very pleased with the Songs of
"Expense", and think they will be very use-
ful for circulation, and in the great Cause.

England is slowly slowly (as her habit is)
waking up. A day may come - in the

far future, when she will be fully awake!
May that day be soon!

If circumstances ever prompt you & your wife to
come down here for an hour or two, do come.

Yours ever faithfully

Ed. Carpenter

Please have a dozen more of the "Songs"
sent to me, with w/c for same.

More likely to be
1926

The ^{songbook} ~~book~~ "Sixteen
Songs for Sixpence"
was published in
December 1926 and the
Dec 12 issue of Lansbury's
Labour Weekly announced
that it was "on sale
everywhere."

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 9th FEBRUARY, 1928.

[*Extract from Official Report.*]

UNEMPLOYMENT.

SPEECH BY MR. GEORGE LANSBURY, M.P.

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

Motion made, and Question proposed,

“That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, as followeth:

“MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the Gracious Speech which Your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.”

Amendment proposed: At the end of the Question, to add the words,

“But regret that no mention is made of measures designed to grapple with the pressing urgency of unemployment, especially in the coal and other basic industries, and its menacing effect on many areas where industrial enterprise is being crippled and local government is breaking down.”—
[*Mr. Arthur Henderson.*]

* * * * *

Mr. LANSBURY: I should have thought that every agriculturist in the country, and certainly those who are continually speaking on behalf of agriculture in this House, would have welcomed any proposal for dealing with what I believe everyone who knows anything about the land of this country knows is a very great evil indeed, and one which cannot be dealt with by the ordinary local authorities or by the landlords. I do not think it is feasible for the ordinary landlord to deal with the results of floods and of

years of neglect of proper drainage. Further, if what the hon. and gallant Member for Louth (Lieut.-Colonel Heneage) says is at all correct, the future development of agriculture, about which there is so much talk, must be a hopeless business altogether. As a townsman, I do not take so gloomy a view about the land of this country. I believe that both the land and the labour of this country are among the best in the whole wide world, and, if both had been treated properly and given proper opportunities, there would be a much larger proportion of the land under cultivation than there is at the present time.

As to miners not being able to do this particular kind of drainage work, I should have thought that anyone who knew anything of the mining industry, and of the men employed in it, would have known they are just the sort of men who would be able to do the kind of work that drainage involves. I think someone proposed in this House a year or two ago that we should take young men, especially from the towns and mining villages, in much the same manner as we took them during the War to train for service overseas, and put them into encampments to clear up what is at present derelict land, and bring it back into proper cultivation. When people talk about giving land away, I would suggest that, if there are any landlords who are prepared to give away land, they should give the land to

the nation or to the local authorities, many of whom, no doubt, would find a decent use for it, especially if the State undertook the task of bringing whatever land was not at present fit for cultivation back to a condition in which it would be fit for cultivation. Although I live in East London, I have enough experience of dealing with land by men from the East End of London to know that almost derelict land, by the labour of organised unemployed men, has been brought into a state of cultivation equal to a garden. Classical instances of that can be seen at the present moment at Laindon in Essex, or at Hollesley Bay in Suffolk. The fact that both those estates were derelict when they were taken over has convinced me that, by proper organisation and a reasonable expenditure of money, it would be possible to do what I have just suggested bring land back to a proper state of cultivation.

Lieut.-Colonel HENEAGE: May I say that, when speaking of miners, I thought I made it clear that I was not suggesting that they were not suitable for any scheme of drainage work, but merely that they were not suitable for settlement on the land?

Mr. LANSBURY: I question that statement, because, if it be right, it is also true they are not fit for emigration, and, therefore, another of the propositions of hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite "goes west." They are continually telling us that we should encourage emigration, and a month or two ago one noted Tory newspaper, advertised the fact that it had taken 100 or more young miners out to the Colonies, where they were doing very well on the land. I think, myself, that with proper organisation and a proper backing—the same kind of backing that those men get abroad—the same miners would do very well in this country. I would not be so certain about this if it was mere theory, but I have seen, not one, but scores of men taken off the streets of London. Men who have had a very little training at Hollesley and many of them are now doing well either in Canada or in Australia or in this country. I am certain more would be able to get their living on the land in this country if we

paid as much attention and spent as much money on them as we do to send them abroad. It is just a question whether we have the will and the money and are determined the job shall be done.

The Minister of Health treated us with the same kind of cynical, contemptuous indifference that he always does. [HON. MEMBERS: "Oh!"] That is the effect on me. The right hon. Gentleman has certain talents in that direction and I recognise them. He treated the Debate in the thinnest manner possible and rode off at a tangent about Russia and about safeguarding and took up very little time in defending his own administration. I should have thought any intelligent member of the House would know that in Russia Socialism has not yet been applied. I have been challenged why do I not live a Socialist life. I cannot live a Socialist life because I am living in the midst of a society that determines very largely the kind of economic life I am obliged to live, there would be no reason for Socialists to carry on propaganda or to come to this House and talk about Socialism if they could live as Socialists apart from their fellow men and women. In exactly the same way no one nation—that is why Socialists are international—can become a purely Socialist nation with the rest of the world living under competitive conditions. I should have thought any ordinary student of the Bolshevik theory would understand that is the reason why the Third International carries on propaganda for international revolution. The sort of nonsense the right hon. Gentleman and others have talked, that the fact that Socialism does not exist in the way we Socialists want it to exist in Russia is an argument against our fundamental position, shows that hon. Members have not taken the trouble to understand our position. We Socialists have never said that by a single Act of Parliament you could bring in Socialism. We have never said that because we believe Socialism would remove social and industrial evils, that could be done by producing a Bill and getting it passed through Parliament. The whole of our argument is that society is progressing and never stands still, and the only logical move forward is a movement towards

more social control and development and towards co-operation as against competition.

The whole of this Debate to-night is on a subject which 25 years ago would have merited very little attention and which the Government of the day would have scorned to take any part in whatever. What has brought the 10.0 p.m. subject right up to the front, as it is to-day? In 1911, when I made my first speech in this place, I remember quite well how the whole House, except a handful of Labour men, refused to admit the right of Parliament even to discuss the question, to say nothing of taking action in regard to unemployment, but within a very short time this House had to interfere with the right of private individuals to do what they like with their own by insisting upon a Government scheme of national health insurance, and so on. In those days it was a handful of trades and industries that felt the pinch of unemployment. It was mainly people employed in unskilled trades or employed around the docks, the victims of casual and intermittent employment. To-day we are faced with an entirely new situation. It may very well be, as the right hon. Gentleman said, that the War has accentuated the evil but those who have been preaching to us about what is done in America are going to have a very rude awakening within the next few months. We know now that all the boasted prosperity, with no unemployment, in America is coming to an end and that the problem of unemployment is having to be faced in that great country just as it is here, and that proves the truth of my right hon. Friend's statement that unemployment is inherent in the capitalist system and is part and parcel of that system, and that you cannot get rid of it until you get rid of the system. You are now faced with a fact that not, relatively speaking, a handful of men in the East End of London or around the docks at Liverpool or Southampton are clamouring for work. The basic industries of the country are in so parlous a condition that when the biggest champion of private enterprise in the House, I mean the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Carmarthen Boroughs (Sir A. Mond), spoke shortly before the end of the Session every word he uttered was in favour of some national action for the mining industry.

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What is the use of talking of the benefits and the glories of private enterprise when you have to come to this House and ask it to find the means of rescuing private enterprise from the ruin the system has brought upon it? The right hon. Gentleman himself told us that someone had got to take out of the industry all those men who are at present not wanted there. But it is not merely the mining industry that you are faced with. The people in East London and similar districts have an almost age-long experience of this evil they are experiencing it in exactly the same manner as it is being experienced in South Wales. When you have taken your 200,000 miners out, what are you going to do with our 10,000 in Poplar and the East End? What are you going to do with those myriads of people in West Ham who are being starved into mere existence? What are you going to do with all the other men and women up and down the country for whom admittedly there is no room? There are a million men out of work and a million who are under the Poor Law. There are 200,000, we are told, in the mining areas. You are going to shift a few of them about, but what does the Government propose to do with the rest of them? Nothing at all. You just fasten on this one big, basic industry and one big bunch of men and talk of them as if that was the whole problem. They are only a tiny fraction of the problem you have to deal with. The Government are bankrupt of any proposal for dealing with them. In their hearts, if they believe in anything, they believe in Protection. In their hearts, they believe in the theory of tariffs, the keeping out of foreign goods. In their souls, they know that it has been tried, found wanting and been rejected by this country time after time, and that it cannot save us. It is not even saving the United States. Within a very few months that country will be faced with the problem of what to do with the tremendous accumulation of goods that goes on day after day. The right hon. Gentleman the Prime Minister—I have quoted him from platforms many and many a time—made a speech which any Socialist could have made diagnosing the position. He put it this way. He will forgive me if I put it in my own words instead of his; if I misrepresent him I will give way

for him to correct me. I think it was on the King's Speech in the first Session after he was made Prime Minister. He said the problem we had to face was this, that during the War our power to produce had so much increased because of the necessities of the War, that when the War was over and all the men had come back from the War we had more men and more machinery to do the work. Our markets were contracted because of the War. His remedy was that we should have more emigration to the Colonies so that the new Colonies would grow food in exchange for our manufactured commodities. But he went on to say that always there is great suffering during a great period of change, just as there was when we turned over from hand-made goods to machine-made goods. That is the right hon. Gentleman's statement.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Baldwin): That is quite true.

Mr. LANSBURY: I agree with that. The right hon. Gentleman has not carried it any further. He says somebody has to suffer. You cannot say that in the same way to-day and have it accepted as it could have been said and accepted in 1834. You have had elementary education since 1870, and the fact that I am standing here talking at this Box, and that my comrades are here too, proves this, that the working people are not going to accept the doctrine that, because we are able to produce more goods and because we have got more machinery to get more goods, they have to suffer and endure poverty and destitution. They will never accept that, and whether this House finds a way out or not, somebody will have to find a way out. We are not going to submit—I am an old man and in the very few more years that I have to live I will not submit without a protest to the doctrine that, because we are able to produce more wealth, those poor people among whom I live have to starve as their fathers did. The right hon. Gentleman had in his mind, I am sure, something that was written of the times of which he spoke when those people who could only work with their hands found themselves driven out and died, "clemmed to death," as they say in the North amid the hills and dales of Lancashire and Yorkshire. People will not submit to that position to-day.

The Socialist movement does not come to you and say, "Pass an Act of Parliament and everything will be well with you." We are not such lunatics as to say that. You may very well put that forward as what you imagine to be our proposition. What is it that we have asked you to do at least three times? We have asked this House on three occasions to let us have a round-table talk through a Committee representative of all parties to discuss what can be done here and now to deal with the situation. How have we been replied to? "No, no useful purpose will be served." Very well, we put our proposition. My hon. Friend the Member for Dundee (Mr. Johnston) almost on the last day of the last Session put this proposition from this Box and asked that a Committee should be appointed—a Committee on which you would be in a majority—in order to discuss how we should deal with this situation. The Government refused, and now they have come forward with a King's Speech which has nothing in it at all except a few words leaving the situation exactly where it was except, as I shall show in a minute or two, very much worse.

We have said this to you over and over again. First of all, we know that we cannot transform this system from a competitive one to Socialism immediately, and so industry must be carried on. We have asked you over and over again to remove some of the hindrances that keep industry back in this country. The rates! What does anyone trouble about the rates until they get to a point where people cannot pay them? We have asked you to deal with the question of royalties and with the question of the improved value that comes to land only by the presence of population. Take our district of Bow and Bromley. We are owned by a very decent man. He cannot help being born a Viscount. He was born that way, and he has the estate. I am not saying a word against him as an individual, but he takes out of our poverty-stricken district hundreds of pounds each year and gives us nothing back in return. If you sat round a table and you were face to face with that sort of thing there would not be a man who could defend it. Why should I as an individual pay him £20 a year for the privilege of living in a house that he never built and never paid a halfpenny

towards building, simply because he says he owns the piece of land on which the house is built. I pay the rates. I help pay for everything. Whatever improvements are there, I help pay for them. We think that that is one of the things that should be socialised right away and that we should have all that increment value for the service of the community. If that were done in our district, in Poplar, it would help our rates very considerably indeed. It would help the rates in the mining areas, and if they could rate mining royalties, the mining areas would be helped still further. I would not have said so much about Socialism except for the sneering references of the Minister of Health.

Let us come to the Minister of Health's own position. Here he is faced with a situation similar to that with which the 1834 Commission had to deal. Whatever may be said about Socialist administrators, whatever may be said derogatory of any of us in regard to the expenditure of public money, this House has allowed to grow up in working-class areas a burden which none of those areas are able themselves to bear. This House often discusses poverty as if it were only a matter of unemployment but it is not that. There are questions of old age, of sickness, of widowhood, of orphanhood and it is always where the poor are that those questions are most acute. How is the Minister of Health facing up to the situation? The right hon. Gentleman paid not the least attention to the speech of one of the most respected Members of this House, the hon. Member for Abertillery (Mr. Barker). That speech, I thought, would have moved a heart of stone but the Minister of Health passed it by with his usual cynicism. Because we cannot produce statistics that children and men and women are dying of starvation, it is not to be assumed that starvation is non-existent. Every doctor will tell you that the results of malnutrition and under-feeding do not show themselves at once and you are laying up for yourselves trouble from this point of view—that when the children who are being half starved to-day in these districts grow up to be young men and women they will have no physique worth the name.

My own district is going down. I would like the Prime Minister to listen to this.

I concede you everything as to extravagance. You can get up and prove whatever you like—that we paid this man 2s. and that man 5s. more than we ought to have paid. But take it big and broad and wide, what is being done by the members of boards of guardians who have been administering on what are called Labour and Socialist lines? In my own district, the death rate among children was about 150 per thousand and we reduced it to 70 per thousand. If we had never done anything else, I should be proud of that. I should be proud if we had saved the life of only one child. If a baby were lying there in this House dying for want of something, there is not a man here who would not want to give the child whatever was necessary to it; but when we are dealing with these matters and the children in question are away from us, hon. Members do not see these things. What is the Minister of Health doing in these circumstances? The House of Commons and the country have put these burdens on local authorities. When we have not enough money to go round in districts like Abertillery, Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire generally, what does the Minister do? I admired his cynicism this afternoon. Had he been on the stage I would have admired it more. Had he been acting a part I would have felt like giving him a jolly good cheer when he stood at that Box and said that he had two Socialists and an Independent and that these three were doing this, that and the other as if they were doing it of their own free will.

The right hon. Gentleman knows these men have been doing this simply because he has informed them that there will be no money unless they do it. They are obliged to reduce the lighting of the streets. The collection of refuse from the streets is only to be done once a week instead of twice a week, and the right hon. Gentleman boasts of what he has done. The Minister of Health! He might rather be called the Minister of Death. That is what the Minister of Health has sunk to in this country. This man stands here and tells us that these three officials are carrying out this work as if they were doing it of their own free will. There is also the cutting down of the salaries of the teaching staff. That is what we have come to in this, the richest country in the world. These dis-

tricts are in their present situation through no fault of their own and all the Minister can do is to put a pistol to the heads of the council and compel them to administer their areas in this awful manner. I can think of no other word for it. I expect the right hon. Gentleman's assistant will stand there to-morrow or Monday and say that the Poplar Board have been brought to heel. And so they have; but not because they believe in the policy of the right hon. Gentleman but because they can do nothing else. When men and women are put in the position of capitulating or allowing the Minister to come in to do what he has done at West Ham, they have to choose the least of two evils.

Yesterday this House in regard to Lord Haig did a thing which I think proves that there is good solid feeling and respect for any man whom they regard as a great fine figure of a man. We have in the Poplar district to-day 1,200 ex-Service men, and their wives and dependants on Poor Law Relief. They have been there for months. And why? Because this nation will not find them work. If this House has any respect for the memory of Lord Haig, or for the men who went out and fought in the War, it would say, "We will go into Committee of Supply to-morrow and find the necessary money, at whatever cost, to take these men and their wives and families off Poor Law relief." With regard to young men, sons of the men who went to the War, many of them have never had a chance to work. I spent the last recess trying to understand the situation of each individual unemployed man in my Division. I have interviewed hundreds of men and women and as they have gone through the Committee rooms I tell you my heart sinks. The longer they are kept on Poor Law relief the more demoralised they get; but it is a choice of starving them, or partially starving them, and giving them Poor Law relief. You give us no other option. The Minister of Health says, "Strike them off," and we have the district auditor sitting at the board table, with a dozen assistants, going through every case. In some cases, where there is a family income, he strikes them off, and also in some cases where there is a pension.

The Minister of Health has the impudence, positively the impudence, to say

that local government has not broken down. In unions such as Poplar the board of guardians do not exist. They have no power to administer. The district auditor sits in the board room, picks out cases, determines what they are to have and the function of the boards of guardians is wiped out. In addition, inspectors of the Department go round visiting cases. I do not object to that, it should have been done a long time ago, but the point is that there is no policy at all except the old policy of 1834; that is pushing people off the Poor Law. What does it mean? In Abertillery it means that the people who want light for their streets, the refuse cleaned away, and the teachers who want decent salaries for their work, have to pay for unemployment. They have to bear the burden of what ought to be a national charge. They are called upon to bear the cost of something which is not theirs at all. You cannot put the responsibility for the manner in which work at the docks is organised on Poplar. You cannot put on the shoulders of the people of Monmouth and Glamorgan, the responsibility for the plight in which the mining industry is. We make you a present of everything you can bring against us in regard to extravagance. When that is done, when you have proved all that, the problem remains for you to deal with it, and the manner in which the right hon. Gentleman is dealing with it is not the way to deal with a social problem of this kind.

I will give another reason for saying that, apart from my principles as a Socialist. I had to hear the evidence on which the Report of the Poor Law Commission was based. Read the story written by Lord George Hamilton in the Majority Report of the Poor Law Commission, and then read the Minority Report that Beatrice Webb and Sidney Webb wrote, and you will find agreement in the two Reports that this proposed penal treatment or continued penal treatment of people because they are poor, leads nowhere at all. The whole workhouse system of 1834, even Mr. Disraeli in his day cursed as any decent man who knew anything about it must have cursed it. That system broke down because in our people, even in those days, there was something that would not tolerate it. The working people will not tolerate it to-day. Although it is true

that the right hon. Gentleman, with the strength of the majority behind him, will smash our Amendment and get a majority to back up the Minister of Health in the nefarious work he is carrying on against the poor, I am certain that the nation will reap what it is sowing. Small-pox is a very deadly disease when it gets going, and so are typhoid and other diseases. How is it that you have not had these diseases during all this recent bad period? It has been because people's physique has been maintained. Every man knows that the best guarantee against disease is a healthy body and healthy mind. Food is one of the necessary things for a healthy body. The best safeguard against small-pox—

Dr. WATTS: Vaccination.

Mr. LANSBURY: Vaccination without food would not save anyone from small-pox, and everyone knows it. I would like to ask the hon. Gentleman, who is a good doctor, "Do you agree that muck and refuse should be left about the streets and be removed only once a week instead of twice a week?"

Dr. WATTS: No.

Mr. LANSBURY: Then the hon. Member is on my side. I want to bring the House back to consider the case of the ex-service men. Everyone knows my views. My own friends know that I gave time and energy and thought on behalf of the victims of the late War, long before the British Legion was started. I had in my room this morning first a woman and then a man, both of them victims of the War, and both of them taken off the relief list by the auditor, acting not exactly on the instructions of the Minister, but on a general sort of policy. It may be that I am wrong in saying that they should have assistance out of the Poor Law. Will some hon. Member tell me what is to be done with them, and who is to look after them? When I came back to the House I remember that Dr. Macnamara, every time he spoke in a Debate about unemployment, talked about the "living wall" that stood between us and the enemy in Flanders. Will some of you tell me what you really think ought to be done with those unemployed ex-service men and the mothers of ex-service men?

I hear you are to discuss and perhaps to determine that none of them shall have votes; but I do not want to discuss that now. If you are to take their votes away, are you also to take the means of living away from them? Are you to be more ruthless than the Germans were? Are you going to starve them? None of us here has ever felt the pangs of involuntary hunger; I never have. Yet here are men who have; you cannot deny it. I could parade them by thousands, men who fought in the War.

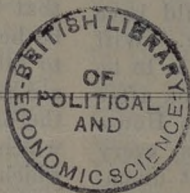
Go out of this House along the Embankment to-night, or go along any cold night. You will say, "They are only the wastrels." Yes, but they are wastrels who fought for you in France and Flanders, many of them. Go through the casual wards in this country. In 1905 I took the late Lord Long, Mr. Gerald Balfour, and two or three other leading members of the Conservative party to Laindon and Hollesley Bay and we spoke to the men about their past. The overwhelming majority of them had fought in the Boer War. Both the right hon. Gentlemen I have named, for whom I had a high respect because of their humanity, hung their heads, and so did all of us. What will you say to these men when you meet them, and you must meet these men? I am sorry the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Carnarvon Boroughs (Mr. Lloyd George) is not here to-night. I am sorry many of those who also made speeches during the War and wrote articles at the end of the War are not here. There was one period towards the end of the War, when the Archbishop put me on a committee with many other people, when I had a vague sort of idea that we were going to change. I had a sort of notion that the world, even though it seemed rather insane to think it after that bath of blood, was really going to be better, and that we would never have to talk about the kind of things that we are talking about to-night. I turned up the other day a report of the first speech which I made in the first Parliament which I attended, and I could repeat that speech, and it would be *apropos* of the present situation. Is it not a dreadful thing after all the terrific, heroic things that were done in the War? I am not one of those who think that the comradeship of the trenches and battlefields is of

no account. But where is it to-day? When the men came back wounded and bruised many women of the upper class and the middle class, to their honour, engaged in nursing work and washing up and in many other kinds of occupations. Is it not worth the while of this country now to do a very big thing for the whole of the common people? I had an idea to-night of reading out a passage from Ruskin, but I have not brought the book. I had not pluck enough to put the book into my pocket, but there is a passage in "Unto this last" in which he says to all those who read his book: "Raise the veil boldly; face the light."

Let us face the light and lift up the veil. I do not believe, I cannot believe that the Prime Minister really does not mean some of the big things that he says. I listened to him yesterday, and he carried me away with the speech he made, but it is true that words count for nothing unless they are followed by actions. He cannot do anything alone, and I cannot do anything alone—God knows I would do it if I could, and perhaps he would too—but collectively this nation could do what it pleased, if we would but give up the idea that mere wealth, the making of money, was the only thing that mattered. In the War you said it was necessary for all classes to sacrifice together. I say that it is worth while that the nation should all sacrifice together to get rid of poverty and destitution out of the land. I have lived with it all my life, and people say that I am coloured by it. It has not yet envenomed

my mind, and I do not think it will now, as I am too old, but it has done this for me—it has made me feel that the only thing that is worth while for this country is to take this problem in hand in exactly the same manner that it took the War in hand, and to determine that poverty shall cease.

I believe, as I said in this House once before, that our people have the most God-given opportunity ever given to any nation to build a new world, if we would give up fighting merely as partisans and settle down, without any preconceived notions whatever, to take hold of the wealth and the power to create wealth that there is in this land and determine that we would use it first, as Ruskin says, to give life to the common people; and then, because of your greater brain power, because you are cleverer than they, show them the way upward to a better and a nobler life. I am not a pessimist either. I believe that the future of the world is with the working people of this and other countries. I believe that my countrymen, the common, ordinary "hewers of wood and drawers of water," those who bear us on their backs by their industry, because they have got education, because they have got knowledge, because they are gaining understanding, and because they have got political power, will in the end win their way, but it is a long road of suffering. If you have the goodwill to be joined with them, you can shorten that way and hasten the day when poverty will be no more.



M449

Henry William Lee
(1865-1932)

303
30, TURNPIKE LANE,
HORNSEY,
LONDON, N.8.

February 14th., 1928.

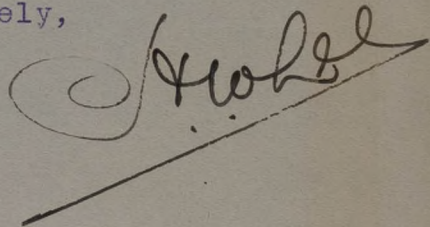
Mr. G. Lansbury, M.P.,
39, Bow Road,
E. 3.

Dear Lansbury,

So our old friend and colleague, A. A. Watts, has gone. I cannot say that I am sorry in the circumstances of his terrible suffering, and death of his wife. When I saw them at Selwyn Road a little while ago I came away utterly depressed at the tragedy which had overtaken them. Watts remarked how he had looked forward for a few years of quiet enjoyment together before the inevitable came.

Please accept an expression of our gratitude from the "old 'uns" for all the help you have rendered him and the kindness you have shown to him.

Yours sincerely,



THE SHOP
FOR
Gentlemen's Headwear.

Tailoring in all its Branches
on the Premises.

AGENTS FOR
N. & C. Raincoats & Overcoats.

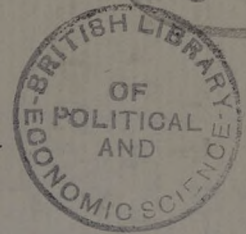
William H. Lee

of NORTON & CO.,

(PROPRIETORS: W. H. & C. E. LEE)

Ladies' & Gent's Tailors & Outfitters,

48, BROAD STREET, WORCESTER.



M449

My Dear Comrade

Feby: 15th 1928

I hope you were none the worse for your week-end & that you found your wife & all quite alright upon your return. Everybody I've seen, almost, since I left you on Monday have had to say something about our meeting on Sunday, or the B'hood. On my way from station a man stopped me & asked if I knew where you were staying as his brother used to meet one of your daughters at National Union of Clerks meetings & always spoke so highly of her that he had to attend both your meetings & would have liked to have seen you to enquire after your daughter who made such an impression on his brother a number of years ago. Of course I said, well he's not staying he's gone back & yours too late. Fred Grosley has just brought back my umbrella - the third time I've seen him since Sunday - he is still excited over meeting you, poor chap doesn't meet many people nowadays of a kindred mind. I sent off a report to New Leader on Monday evening but it may not get in this week. Tho Lewis, Sec: Bewdley Divisional Lab. P. 5: called in on Monday &

wrote

wanted to pay something towards the expenses but I told him exactly how things were & we all feel very grateful indeed for your assistance. Would you mind passing the enclosed on to

Ellen Wilkinson for me & when you do it, will you just tell her what a fine chance awaits those who can manage to give us a help in this Backward Area. How conveniently we can use, so as to

get the full value of a two hour trip from town, any assistance both in Worcester itself & in Baldwin's constituency & Evesham for that matter. Worcestershire came into the orbit of Labour about

20 years after ~~most~~ parts but our progress compares with many other such districts 20 yrs ago, so with help we ought to be able to get the old Bus running in a higher gear than was possible in the past. Which

reminds me, Comrade Barrs has a New Car on order which is a saloon & will be more convenient than his present one, it should be minus that draught hole by your car.

Donald has not been to school this week, he has developed a cold but not worse than on Sunday as regards his cough, in fact we think he is better in that respect. I shall let you know how we finish for finance, sufficient to say at moment we are better than we expected, have not got in all ticket money yet but records all the way for the series. Very best wishes yours fraternally
W. Lee.

P.S.

J. Coates of Puirwin
wrote me a letter
the while his wife
& son etc were
listening to you.

I told him he'll
have to get a
trailer if car
will not take
them all.

He's not giving
up I.L.P.
memberships of
our Branch.

There is a possibility
that the Midland
Divisional Summer
School ^{I.L.P.} may be held
here next August
Perriman comes on
Thursday week to
look over Kempsey
Home as to its
suitability.

That is the Private
School I spoke to
you about where C
Hathaway teaches.

Frank Smith, M.P.

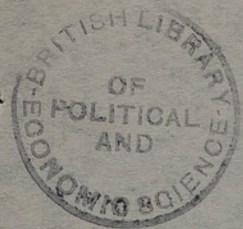
305

67. Longley R. 9
Tooting S.W. 17
Feb 21st / 28

Dear old Boy!

Here's just to wish you
with all my heart & soul
many, very many happy
returns of Today.

I don't very often get
a chance to see you - worse
luck! These days - But there
are not many days when
I do not think of you, &



M449

~~#~~
Frank Smith, M.P.

(306)
21 Feb. 1928

Send along the Spiritual
News. A God bless you &
jolly good luck to you &
yours.

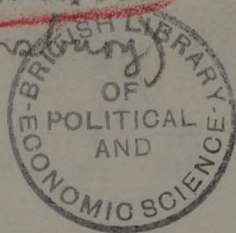
Thank God for what &
all you are doing. I wish
I could do more. However
I'm toddling along doing
what I can.

All good love to you
& all your dear ones

Very yours
Franky

Thanks muchly for Hansard.

Mrs. Ernest Thistle
(n. Dorothy Lansbury)



M449

Bose (309)
cf. Mr Bhowe,

1, Woodburn Park,
Calcutta.

21. 2. 28.

Dear Dad & Mother:

Here we are in Calcutta
staying as you see, with Mr Bhowe
brother of Sukhas Bhowe who has recently
come out of jail after 3 years.

We attended the most
wonderful meeting either Jno has
ever seen last night - about 15,000
people of all Castes & sects -
untouchables cheek by jowl with
high Caste Indians, most marvellous
of all, about 1000 women - Puddah

ladies for the most part, many of them originally from the Punjab, now settled in Bombay. As you know, the Bhois are as popular in Calcutta as you are in Bombay when we arrived a deafening shout went up "Bande Mataram" which freely interpreted means "Honor be to Mother India." Of course the people at the back could hear nothing at all but they kept perfect order during the speeches. The meeting called for a boycott of English cloth until India is free & the audience was asked to repeat the oath not to use any but Swadeshi cloth until that time.

This was most impressive. The speakers were Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, all sections & the enthusiasm was terrific. The meeting started at 5.45 & finished at 8, but for the fact that the Union Commission was in Calcutta the organizers are certain the police would have tried to start a riot. I suggested that we should form up in procession & deep walk past the Club where the Commission was dining. This was considered inadvisable as the Bhois were sure the police would interfere. However another meeting was being held rather near this Club & we heard this morning that a large number of people went from there &

(308)
paraded outside the Club demonstrating
against the Commission. This bears out
the theory that the police were on their
best behavior. A more amusing
thing is that the "Englishman" came out
this morning with a yarn that the
demonstration was in support of the
Commission.

Some babam people called on us
this ~~evening~~ morning, one going to arrange
some meeting for us on Thursday. E is
going to try to defend the babam Pat, at a Moch
Parliament. They are also going to try
to arrange a meeting of Purdah ladies
for me to talk to. Goswami has
promised to take us into the Mofussil
to show us some villages.

I saw Annie Besant for a minute

Mrs. Ernest Thistle

21.2.28

309

1, Woodburn Park,

Calcutta.

at Delhi introduced myself. She sent
her love to you.

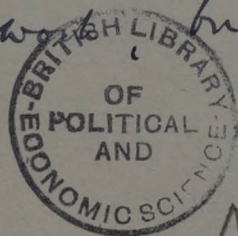
You have probably seen ~~about~~
the latest attack on the unfortunate
Natha. We are awayed at the
things we have been told about the
Government of India not only in this
case but in many others. It seems
to me to be a medieval despotism.
A visit to India throws a flood of light
on many things. I wish you and
mother could find it possible to come in the
next cold weather season. I am also
convinced that a liaison office between

England & India is absolutely necessary -
rather a clearing house of information
that is really reliable on the dump of the
Government of India. They seem to be
able to do anything they like without
any adequate reason. The Viceroys &
the Secretary for India simply fall in. After
hearing some ^{thing} of their behavior one is
not surprised at the rapid growth of the
Swaraj movement.

We called on Eric Johnson &
his wife today & are dining with them
tomorrow. Poor Eric is working very
hard 7.45 am till about 6 but his wife
leads the usual easy European life - no
work, bridge, tea, dancing, tennis etc.

lots of love from us both.

Dolly.



M449

Friday April 19th 1923

A. W. Brine
12 Broomhill Road

Arthur W. Brine

Goodmayes (310)
Ilford

Essex

Dear G.L. ✓

I have put off writing this letter for a long time, but Bissy has today begged me to write, and as it concerns her future I hope you will excuse me for worrying you. Bissy has been engaged to be married for some time now, and having bought all their furniture were within 2 months of getting married when the boy falls out of work, this has lasted for nearly two years now, and at the present moment all that is left of their savings is 2/- and the furniture, which Bissy is now afraid will have to go, and with it her hope of ever getting married.

311

I do hope you will believe me when I say that I should not have worried you with this letter unless things were in a very very bad way with them and also that Cissy herself has asked me to appeal to you for her.

Hoping against hope.

Best of good wishes to all

your
Auntie



M449

write
handing

P.S. I am at work on the phone every evening up to 11-30, except Wed & Saturday.

The Victoria Home Number City 1811.

[Signature]

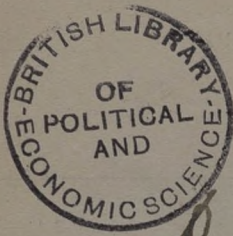
(2)

this last 6 months she has begun to feel the hopelessness of it all, and it has begun to tell on her I really dont know what to expect from you.

such hundreds of appeals reach you at different times that it is impossible for you to enquire or help individual cases. I have tried to point this out to Vera, and asked her not to build up too much hope on this letter.

(3)

If you could only give him a letter to some definite person or place, instead of this aimlessly wandering about every day, the little extra push may give him the chance he wants, he is a good earnest worker, and at his own trade & Electrician (wireman) can hold his own. I dont know what to expect from you, but I do know that if possible you will give them some hope for the future.



W. Dingwall

M449

2 Carnegie Park Gardens.
Part Glasgow, Scotland,
20/5/28.

312

Dear Comrade Lansbury.

I see you are to speak at the Southgate Ch tonight on Labour & Communism. Well, I don't know what you are going to do about it. I have always considered myself a Communist because I was a Socialist. But this brand that now menaces the Working class movement generally all over the world is something we never before were up against. to wit: Imperialism & Anarchism.

We had to fight them & I suppose will have to fight this also. But we have to realize that this is a much stiffer job because they have the financial help of the Comintern of Russia behind them. But I will have it there.

Last week I noticed that you were to have a Parliamentary Holiday of several weeks to recover but I am thinking that the Money-Savage case will keep you in attendance until it's all cleared up so far as the House is concerned. But I trust you will take the first opportunity to get out of it & into the sunshine for as long as you can. There is strenuous times ahead & you will need all your strength to meet it.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your visit here I think just five weeks today.

I cannot tell you here how pleased I was to meet you in the flesh once again. The only regret I have is that my deafness interfered with its full enjoyment.

But I trust you enjoyed yourself while here.

I need not say that the visit awakened old memories wishes & whatnots too numerous to mention.

I had a letter from Darry last week. He tells me that he has to work very hard now. that he has no time for other things. Hopes to go to Switzerland for Holiday.

Also that J R Macdonald is an Arch Humbler. Altho a Scotchman. He is leading the workers into Liberalism etc.

I have replied with some home truths which I trust will do him good. perhaps that's impossible.

Now my old friend take good care of yourself.

All here join me in sending you their kindest wishes & hopes for long life & prosperity to you & your Wife & family where ever they may be.

Yours truly - ever yours

W Dinsmore

Mrs. James Francis Nov 19/38
Wm Horabin

314

6 MECKLENBURGH SQUARE,
W.C.1.

Dear G.L.

I felt I must write to you
to send my love & respect.

"The Sunday Worker's"
buckeful of brige wouit hurt
you I know but here's
a little bouquet.

Some of us with lots of
swagger & talk about militancy
cherish in our hearts a
thought that is rather like
a prayer. It's the hope that
we'll be able to stick it
as long & as well as you've
done.

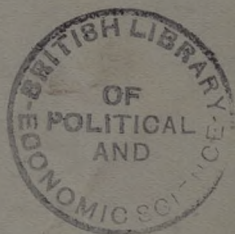
I don't think myself that
courage in youth is
very wonderful. What is
wonderful is courage in
wee! Let's say
middle age.

Thanks for what you
are & have been & will
be.

Yours

Wm Horrabai

and Frank too.



M449

Elsie M. Clayton
(n. Barralet)

P. O. Box 1594

Durban

Natal. S.A.

Nov. 26. 1928.

George Lansbury, M.P.
House of Commons,
Westminster,
London.

Dear Comrade Lansbury,
Here's to wish
you & the rest of the Labour comrades. a
peaceful Xmas & a very bright &
inspiring New Year — from all of us
out in South Africa!

We heartily hope 1929
will see a real live Labour Government
in power. Above all we earnestly
hope that there will be no Pact of
any description. It has ruined
Labour in this country & now we are
faced with the morbid outlook of
two Labour men contesting each seat —
Breswellitis vs the National Council! Behind
all the quarrels & dissensions we have
the spectre of Gen. Smuts coming back
in full power & force. Woe to the workers!
Madeley who has been the

only one to carry out any labour principles
has been thrown out the cabinet for
daring to meet the native union the I. B. U.

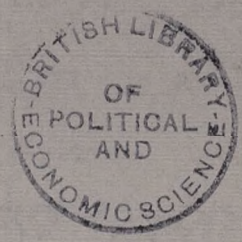
Thus all we have to cheer
ourselves up with. is by keeping our eyes
over your side - we know all that honey
there - but its ten times worse here.

The dry rot has certainly set in!
The "new leader" he get all the news thro'
is to be found in the good old "Daily Herald"
all power to your elbow!

I am,

Yours fraternally,
Elsie M. Clayton
nee Barralet.

P.S Please tell Ellen Wilkinson we love
her articles & her pluck!



M449

3163

BOW CENTRAL HALL MISSION
BRUCE ROAD, E.3.

DEACONESS:

SISTER LILIAN,
124, CAMPBELL ROAD,
BOW, E.3.

SUPERINTENDENT:

REV. HARRY WILLIAMS,
41, ADDINGTON ROAD,
BOW, E.3.

Dec 20th, 1928.

Phone East 6283.

Dear Mr and Mrs Lahsbury,

Just a line to wish

you the old wish,- old, but ever new .

May your Xmas bring you satisfaction and joy
as you look back and contemplate all that you
have been able to do, to make the world a
happier place. And may the New Year bring you
fresh opportunities, and renewed strength, to
go on building the Kingdom.

Ever yours,

Harry Williams.

Henry J.

Kitecat

HILLINGDON VICARAGE,

UXBRIDGE.

(317)

1928

21/12/28

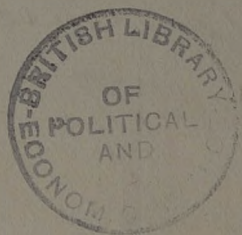
My dear Sawbury

Thanks so gratefully
to you & Mr Sawbury
for your card &
remembrance of us.
Every good wish from
us a little to you & yours.
We are reading with
pleasure your auto-
biography. It was
so jolly to have Dolly
to luncheon with us
the other day. Please
write us for news.

HILLINGDON VICTORIAN

PERMITS

Jack in Liberia
at Wee-kee-Wee
God bless you all
Ever yours
H. J. Kiteak



M449

Rt. Rev. Charles Gore 27 Eaton Terrace ⁽³¹⁸⁾
(1853-1932)

S. W. J.
21 Dec 1928

I do indeed heartily
reciprocate your good
wishes

Charles Gore

POST



CARD

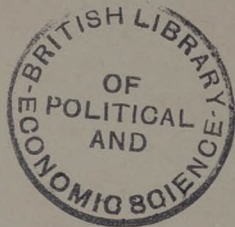
POST EARLY
— FOR —
CHRISTMAS



George Lambury Esq. M.P.

39 Bow Road

E.



M449

Cosmo Gordon Lang

~~Lambeth Palace, S.E.1.~~

~~Old Palace, Canterbury.~~

319

22 ~~December~~ 1928.

Let me thank you for your kind
remembrance and send you my best wishes for
your Christmas time and the coming year.

Cosmo Gordon Lang

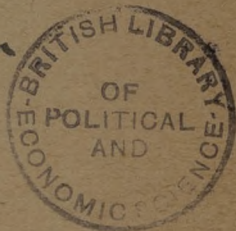
POST CARD



George Lansbury Esq., M.P.

39, Bow Road, E.

London



M449

Tom Shaw
~~1812~~ - 1938

Dec 28/38



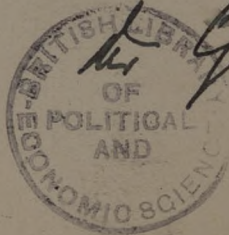
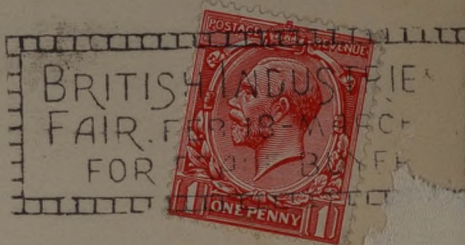
Dear Genl.

320

Many thanks for
your card and best wishes
for the New Year to you and
Mrs Lansbury - and
everybody.

Tom Shaw

end of
vol. 8



M449

Mr G Lansbury MP,

39 Bow Rd,

London E.

See vol. 28. a, fo. 181 for letter of A. Nuorteva
dated 25 August 1926