
CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

Mr. T. RICHARDS (Vice-President) : The Chairman will deliver his opening address :—

GENTLEMEN,—I have once again the honour, as President, of extending to the delegates and their friends a hearty welcome to Blackpool, as I did on the last occasion in 1922.

We are often criticised by some who profess to be our friends and others who are manifestly not our friends for holding our Annual, and other Conferences at such places as these. I ask, why not, so long as our business is conducted in a proper manner, and with dispatch ? Why should not those who have borne the heat and burden of the day during the twelve months be afforded an opportunity of meeting under conditions which I feel sure will make everyone as happy as it is possible under the prevailing state of affairs ? And when they leave they will be all the stronger physically and mentally for having absorbed some of the tonic air this resort is so famous for.

For the information of the delegates, our friends in Lancashire, recognising the value of this coast, have erected a magnificent Convalescent Home for their people who have suffered through accident, sickness, etc., to recuperate. This has been achieved out of funds accumulated from the Miners Welfare Levy.

Yorkshire also took the opportunity of buying property at Lytham for a convalescent home, but on a much more modest scale.

I have no doubt that facilities can be given for those delegates who wish to pay a visit to these two institutions during their stay in Blackpool.

MEMBERSHIP.

You will pardon me for again stressing the question of membership, because it is a matter of the utmost concern. The fact that thousands of men and boys have lost their employment has not only adversely, but gravely, affected our membership. Last year I gave a comparison between two periods. On this occasion I only propose to show what our membership now is, namely, 543,822, and what it was at this time last year, namely, 625,716.

I think we shall all frankly recognise the seriousness of the position which faces us, and should, in itself, be sufficient to spur on our efforts to gather together all our forces to stay the downward tendency, and reclaim those who have fallen away from our ranks. I cannot imagine that hostility to Trade Unionism is the sole cause of these abstentions.

In face, however, of the obvious state of affairs which exists we must find ways and means of enabling our fellow-workers outside the fold to come inside, because, whilst they remain away from us, they are a grave menace to our members and a tremendous drag on our progress.

If one were to delve into the history of the coal trade, I am sure that a parallel could not be found to the straits our men, women and children have been put to during the last twelve months.

We have had to depend to a large extent on public generosity. Unemployment and under-employment have been responsible for thousands of our people being on the verge of starvation. Had it not been for what little assistance our associations could give, and the gifts of money and kind from the public, many would never have survived the ordeal. It has left its mark both physically and mentally.

Charity has somewhat assisted in saving whole sections of the mining community from perishing from sheer want. I do not use the word "charity" with any disrespect to all those who have in any way helped the mineworkers, but I do most solemnly suggest that it is not charity, but a little justice for the wrong we suffered in 1926, and since.

We do not ask for charity in the sense some people understand the term. All we ask for our people is opportunity to work if they are physically capable. If not, then adequate provisions should be made in order to maintain them and their dependents in reasonable comfort.

If a worker is ready, willing and capable he should have the opportunity to work, or maintenance until there is work. On the other hand, if a worker has got beyond the hard laborious nature of pit work through sickness, injury, or old age, he should be placed beyond the region of having to scrounge round to try and eke out a miserable existence on doles and charity, until death puts an end to his misery.

The mineworker deserves better of the nation than such a termination to a life which has been useful to the community. Gentlemen, the mining population as a whole has earned, and is entitled to look forward to, something better than what is nothing short of pauperisation.

REORGANISATION OF INDUSTRY.

Many and varied have been the schemes for reorganising our industry by which the promoters urged we should move onwards toward economic recovery, and improved conditions for the workers.

May I suggest that if the method as outlined on behalf of this Federation had been adopted, a better state of affairs would have existed.

We have advocated unification of the districts and co-ordination of their activities under national direction and control, as a first step to ultimate stability through international regulation by agreement. Also, the development of coal treatment and coal utilisation in conjunction with the work of production.

We have been unable to induce the owners to break away from long existing traditions, and re-organise on the basis we feel is necessary before a solution is found.

The lessons we have learnt have been in the hard school of starvation and privation, and there is not the slightest doubt this will continue until some people are compelled to see **THE LIGHT**.

It may be information to many of you to point out that one district at least has recognised the urgent need for changed methods by originating a scheme known as the Five Counties Scheme. I do not think any useful purpose would be served by elaborating that scheme, except it has failed to:—

Promote a more scientific or efficient system of selling, or

Improve the conditions of the workers.

I strongly object to these isolated district schemes. It is only by acting on national lines can we hope to SALVE THIS INDUSTRY.

National co-ordination must be the key note. A national scheme however, is not our ultimate goal. It is merely a preliminary canter towards the international regulation of our industry. Before this can operate, each country must be in a position to control its own units.

In order, therefore, to safeguard the British industry from a vicious circle of reduced prices, lower standards of life, and save it from total ruin, it is absolutely essential that the responsible people should boldly face up to the situation, which has for its ultimate object nationalisation of mines, minerals, and bye-products, etc.

With regard to the position of the miners internationally, I am glad to say that by determined pressure and persistency we have prevailed upon the economic organisation of the League of Nations to take evidence on questions affecting the coal industry. Whilst the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, through its accredited representatives, were deprived of giving evidence direct as to the workmen's points of view, we had an able advocate in the person of Professor Tawney, in his capacity as an "expert."

Evidence was submitted showing the situation and the disadvantages, nationally and internationally, of the present suicidal cut-throat competition, instead of international co-operation, and consequently the employees in the coal industry were suffering acutely.

Arising out of that conference there were four suggestions:—

(a) That international agreements between producers should be arranged, concerning output, markets, and prices.

(b) That a special International Committee representative of all interests—Governments, employers, miners, merchants, and consumers—should be set up.

(c) That measures should be taken for assimilating, if not equalising, wages, hours, and the social conditions of labour.

(d) That the existing artificial restrictions to trade in coal, and artificial stimuli to production, should be abolished.

If those four objects are accepted by the League of Nations, then a conference can be called to agree upon a policy involved in those items, and this, I am convinced, would be a step in the right direction.

It will be remembered that at the Miners' International Congress held at Nimes in 1928, the following resolutions were passed:—

"(1) This Congress having heard the discussion on the coal problem, demands that the International Labour Office and the Economic Organisation of the League of Nations shall call a World Conference of coal-producing countries, and that the International Committee of mineworkers shall prepare a case and secure representation with equal rights to put the miners' case concerning the whole subject.

"(2) The Congress, considering it highly desirable that hours of labour in the coal industries of the different nations should be equalised

at seven hours a day, including winding times, in accordance with the general lines of its previous resolutions, requests the governing body of the International Labour Office to call a special conference of coal-producing States to achieve this aim."

From which it will be seen the International Committee were instructed to get in touch with the International Labour Office at Geneva.

Ultimately, a meeting was arranged, which took place on May 22nd and 23rd, to deal with the resolutions covering hours and working conditions, etc. They were discussed at great length, and I am glad to report that the opinion of the majority at that meeting was in favour of a conference being called to discuss the principles involved, as it was generally felt that international intervention was required. As usual, the British coalowners' representative spoke against this conference being convened. The president of the International Labour Office will carry this report to the League of Nations at Geneva. We are hoping it will be dealt with expeditiously, and arrangements made for calling a world-wide conference of coal-producing countries, to discuss mining questions in all aspects.

In bringing these points forward in this brief form you will recognise that underlying them is an enormous amount of reorganisation, reconstruction, and detail work to be done. But they are matters which we have got to concentrate upon in the near future.

PENSIONS.

The urgent need for the provision of an adequate pension has been intensified by the ever-increasing number of our mine workers being brought out of the coal industry without the slightest consideration paid to their future by the employers.

It is estimated that in the mining industry there are 78,400 workers over the age of 60 ; 34,200 of these are over the age of 65. If all mine workers over 60 were paid a superannuation benefit which would ensure some degree of comfort—what would that mean ? To the extent you relieve the industry in this way, employment would be found for many of our young men who are dependent solely on unemployment insurance.

Perhaps it would not be out of place to make a few comparisons on pensions: Take the Field Marshal. When he arrives at the position of retiring on half-pay, he receives £1,692 per year, or about £32 per week. An Army Captain or Lieutenant would receive about £5 9s. per week. Coming to the Soldier or the ordinary "Tommy" with 20 years' service, he would only receive 2s. 6d. per day. Turning to the Naval Services, an Admiral of the Fleet has £32 10s. per week. Incidentally, his widow would receive nearly £6 per week. If her husband's death was due to service, the pension would be double. A Commodore £8 per week ; a Naval Seaman, or Royal Marine, after 22 years' service, has only 2s. 9d. per day. With regard to the Law, one of H.M. Judges of the Higher Court, on retirement, gets £67 per week, and a County Court Judge £20 per week. Government Departments Civil Servants, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries : There are 72 with an average of £4 17s. pension per week ; Ministry of Health, 161, with an average of £5 12s. pension per week ; Mines Department, 21, with an average of £7 5s. pension per week. Then you have the Police Pensioner, who after 25 years' service, receives a pension of £153 11s. 3d. per year.

What I have to complain of in this respect is, that some of these people are not satisfied with a pension of this character, but immediately take other positions.

I am not opposing pensions, but when people are in possession of an adequate pension (with the exception of the Naval Seaman or Royal Marine and Soldier), which I think is amply proved by these figures, they should not then be competitors in the labour market.

When I turn to pensions for the workers we find quite a different story. I know I may be told that some of the pensions I have quoted are contributory. That is perfectly true.

The worker at 65 years of age has a contributory pension at present, with its various anomalies, which I am satisfied will be rectified in a very short time, of the magnificent sum of 10s. per week, and if his wife has attained the age of 65 she also gets 10s. per week, or £52 per year for the two of them. A sum which it is impossible to live upon.

There is also a non-contributory pension for persons of 70 years with its limitations.

When talking about adequate pensions, we must have some regard to the pensions which are actually paid. I emphatically declare that the worker should have at least a pension which will compare favourably with those granted to other classes.

The people who are responsible for these Acts which give such niggardly pensions to the workers, would never dream of suggesting similar ones to members of their own class, as proved by the examples which I have quoted.

The sum granted is less than the scale adopted by any humane Board of Guardians, and it is remarkable to me the workers have not shown more resentment to what is a travesty on pensions where there are such class distinctions shown.

HOURS.

So far as the question of hours is concerned, very little fresh can be said, except it has been necessary in various districts to exercise the utmost vigilance in order to prevent encroachment by owners on the hours forced upon the various districts after 1926.

One of the worst evils we have had to contend with is the increasing amount of week-end work, getting and filling coal Saturday afternoons and Sundays. One can visualise the temptation offered to men who have had to undergo such terrible privations when they see an opportunity of taking home a little more at the week-end.

Principles are, however, sacred, and we have at all times discouraged this week-end work, and will continue to do so.

We are looking forward with the greatest confidence to a reduction in the hours of labour in our industry during the present year.

ACCIDENTS.

So far as fatal and non-fatal accidents are concerned, in spite of rules and regulations, in spite of systematic research, in spite of stations which have been set up for gas testing, etc., the toll of deaths and serious accidents continues practically undiminished.

Disasters which have taken place since 1928 are :—

November 23rd, 1928.—Backworth Eccles Pit, Northumberland.
Explosion of firedamp. Four killed.

January 17th, 1929.—Harecastle (Maryhill) Colliery, Stafford. Inrush of water. Three persons lost their lives.

February, 1929.—Brandon Colliery, Durham. Runaway locomotive and wagons. Four killed.

March 18th, 1929.—Coombs Wood Colliery, Worcester. Underground fire. Eight killed.

May 17th, 1929.—South Garesfield Colliery, Durham. Shotfiring and poisonous gases. Four killed.

July 10th, 1929.—Milfraen Colliery, Blaenavon, South Wales. Explosion. Eight killed, six injured.

July 10th, 1929.—Braysdown Colliery, Somerset. Shaft accident. Two killed.

The number of fatal accidents for 1928 was 1,009.

The number of non-fatal accidents for 1928 was 161,790.

The mere quoting of such figures does not always convey the real meaning behind them, and in order to bring more closely their true significance to your notice, may I ask you just for a moment to imagine a procession 35 miles long, men four abreast, each $1\frac{1}{2}$ yds. apart, where every 14 yds. an ambulance would be required to pick up one of the number seriously injured, and every 60 yds. a hearse to convey a corpse.

The tragedy of men and boys cut off in most cases instantaneously, and the suffering which accidents entail, leaves us with no other alternative but to keep plodding on, however irritating the delay may be, in our efforts to secure the maximum safety for our men and boys both above and below ground.

We have been advocating, what in our opinion would materially assist towards this end. We are looking forward eagerly to increased vigilance in our mines; better legislation; and tightening up all round.

I have been struck by the fact that practically half the deaths caused by accidents below, and more than one-third of all non-fatal accidents, have been caused by falls of roof. Also by the increasing number of deaths and serious accidents to young persons.

Here is a phase of this subject to which we must direct our attention in particular. I believe less speeding up and a stricter application to the regulations now in operation, a more systematic and a more regular inspection of our mines by inspectors appointed by the workmen, and under State control, would tend to eliminate many of these accidents.

When disasters of any magnitude occur, tremendous sympathy is aroused, and the public are not slow to recognise the dangers of mining, but in the cottage home of our people there is the same tragedy, the same heartache, and the same suffering in one fatal accident, and may I respectfully suggest the same need to assist those who have lost their all.

I would like, therefore, to throw out this hint; that surplus funds subscribed after all reasonable requirements have been met should be pooled for the benefit of those for whom no provision has been made as in the case of disasters where several lives have been lost.

WAGES.

Referring to the wages question, I am compelled to admit the past year has been one of the worst on record by reason of low percentages and lessened number of days worked. Most districts have been down on the minimum, and

under the present system of ascertainment, incurred in addition, enormous deficits. In some districts the minima originally fixed by the district agreements have been reduced still more. Attempts have been made to even reduce the subsistence allowances, which I regret to say have unfortunately met with success.

The agreements which were foisted upon us after the stoppage of 1926 are rapidly coming to an end, and, in my opinion, this Conference ought to instruct the Executive Committee to at once approach the National Coalowners' Association asking for a meeting to be arranged with a view to a national agreement being arrived at.

No national agreement, however, can be complete unless it contains the principles which have been laid down from time to time by this Federation, and I would specially particularise the inclusion in the ascertainment, returns from coke ovens and bye-products, and other undertakings, etc.

We should also press politically for an amended Minimum Wage Act, for the provision of a national minimum wage for workers in or about mines. This, I believe, would be in unison with the policy of this Federation, that is, with a national agreement—a national guaranteed minimum for all workers engaged in and about the mining industry.

CONFERENCE AGENDA.

It is not part of my business at this stage to anticipate what will be discussed this week. There are, however, one or two important matters I desire to emphasise.

THE TRADE UNIONS AND TRADE DISPUTES ACT.

I am now looking forward to something being accomplished in relation to this Act. At least, we require to have the anomalous clauses expunged which the late Government placed therein to our detriment.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

So far as compensation is concerned, we cannot rest until adequate provision is made for dependents of those who have been killed, and a weekly scale of payment to our injured workmen fixed, which will allow them to live in comparative comfort until fit to resume work.

No Workmen's Compensation Act, however, can be satisfactory which does not guarantee, when a worker is certified fit for work, being found employment, or full compensation paid.

It may be of interest to point out that for the year 1927, for which statistics are available, of the total amount of compensation paid, £3,322,408 or 52.6 per cent. was paid by Mutual Indemnity Associations, £1,536,349 or 24.3 per cent. by insurance companies, and £1,457,046 or 23.1 by uninsured employers.

In the mining industry, 70.7 per cent. of the compensation paid was paid by Mutual Indemnity Associations; 9.1 per cent. by insurance companies; and 20.2 per cent. by uninsured employers.

The cost per person employed on compensation paid has dropped from £3 2s. 9d. in 1923 to £2 11s. 4d. in 1927. On the other hand, the profits of Indemnity Insurance Companies have increased. Their income in 1927 was

£5,907,576. Of this sum, £54.84 out of each £100 was paid in legal and medical expenses, and compensation; £31.80 out of each £100 "Commission"; and £13.36 out of every £100 profits.

Everyone will admit, I am sure, that there is unnecessary waste in management and excessive profits. The workmen's dependents in cases of fatal accidents and injured workmen must get the benefit to a much larger extent.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

Unemployment and under-employment is a problem at once the greatest and gravest which we in this country have to face, and not only in Great Britain, but throughout the world.

It not only is disastrous to the workers immediately concerned, but all classes of the community must realise that they are intimately affected by reason of the tremendous number of unemployed workers.

It is, therefore, incumbent upon every man and woman and every citizen to give careful thought to this question. When we realise that for week ending March 4th, 1929, there were 1,387,332 unemployed, which at a rough estimate means with their dependents something like 4,000,000 to 5,000,000 all told on the verge of starvation.

We are anticipating (and I do not believe we shall be disappointed, with the change of Government, although it is not with a majority I would have liked) brighter times are in store, because no country ought to have on the one side affluence, and on the other poverty.

Whatever Act is passed to deal with unemployment must have as a salient principle the human touch—

**"DO UNTO OTHERS AS YE WOULD THAT THEY SHOULD
DO UNTO YOU."**

I repeat that when workers are physically fit, employment should be provided, or maintenance until such times as they are offered work under fair conditions.

POLITICAL.

As a preface to any remarks I propose to make on the political side of our movement, I desire to record our grateful appreciation of the efforts of our people in making possible the magnificent victory at the recent election, this being accomplished in spite of the tremendous handicap placed upon us by the late Government.

Of the 43 Members of Parliament returned on behalf of this Federation, a number have been honoured by the Prime Minister with responsible positions under the Government. We express to all our Members of Parliament the wish that they may have the best of health, and will loyally carry out their duties, remembering that every vote now will be required.

Whilst congratulating those who have been returned, we must not overlook the deeds performed by friends and colleagues who have decided to go into retirement, believing that the time has arrived when they should cast aside the mantle for younger men to pick up. I refer to Messrs. Bob Smillie and George Barker. We can only ask them to accept our sincere thanks for the services they have rendered in the past, and hope health and strength will be given to them to enjoy the remainder of their days in peace and quietude. We have also Mr. Tom Greenall, who has retired from

Parliamentary life, to devote the whole of his time to the industrial side. We appreciate his service in the political arena, and hope he will long be spared to continue his activities for the mineworkers of Lancashire and this Federation.

There is very little I need say about the political side of our movement just now. All our expectations of a year ago have been justified. When I said that Labour had every likelihood of receiving solid support from the new army of young women voters, I felt that the Labour Party, after all that our older men and women have done, was still the party of youth.

There is no attraction in the policies of the old parties for the active, thoughtful young men and women who have to shoulder the burdens of life as we lay them down. We have fought our fight in years gone by for more comfort, more security, more satisfaction in the everyday life of our working folk.

We know, when we compare even the unsatisfactory conditions of to-day with those that prevailed 30, 40, or 50 years ago, that we have made some progress as a result of all our efforts.

We have again got a Labour Government in Office, though not yet with the power necessary to carry through its full Labour programme. The return of Ramsay MacDonald to Downing Street was hailed with gladness by our people, and with not a little satisfaction by a good many other people at home and abroad who were depressed with the hopelessness of Mr. Baldwin and his Tory friends. Retribution for the "Red Letter" fraud has come at last, and it was long overdue.

The increase in the number of Labour candidates from 514 to 569, and the increase in their votes from 5,487,620 in 1924, to 8,362,594 in 1929, is a striking evidence of our Party's strength and virility. The increase in the number of Labour members from 151 in 1924, to 287 in 1929, marks the high-water mark of Labour achievement so far.

It is true that the fortune of the three-cornered fight has favoured Labour in many constituencies this time, and Mr. Lloyd George seems to be very badly upset about it. Remembering that he is almost the oldest M.P. in Parliament, it is strange that after all his years of office and power he only now discovers this unfairness in our elections. Perhaps if he lives long enough he may realise that the appointment of Peers for lump sums of cash down is not exactly a fair and just way of securing representatives in the House of Lords. And when he has spent all his millions on more fruitless "stunts" he will probably discover that the limitation of expenditure by central political organisations may also be a desirable reform. One feels that it only wants someone to pinch and publish the list of contributors to his fund to convert even him to the paths of financial and political purity.

By some curious mathematical juggling, Mr. Lloyd George argues that there has been a majority of votes recorded against the Tories and their policy; a majority against the Labour Party and our policy; and yet, by the same token, the Liberals and their policy, represented by only 5,300,947 votes out of a total of 22,639,117 cast altogether, alone represent the nation's demands.

It was something between a tragedy and a comedy to think of Lloyd George masquerading during the Election in the old cloth cap and tweeds of our old leader, Keir Hardie. Everybody wants to help the unemployed now, and "L.G." most of all! That was bad enough, but it is folly to imagine that the working people of the country are going to stand for Mr. Lloyd George seeking to boss the House of Commons as though he had a majority instead of a balancing and uncertain minority.

Really, somebody must tell him that he is not the Prime Minister this time! That even if, as he says, his party represents 5,300,947 voters, equal to the whole membership of the Trade Union Movement, it must be pointed out to him that he has no right to overlook the obvious fact that the Liberal vote includes men and women, sons and daughters, and that if he applies the same factors to our Trade Union membership, his Liberal vote will be handsomely swamped. Mr. Lloyd George must keep some sense of proportion. or other districts will soon follow the example of our mining districts and send him and his henchmen out of public life for good.

We miners have done our part in sending Labour Members from our mining districts to voice our desires in the House of Commons. Election after election our people have stood loyally behind our mining M.P.s, and it is a fine thing to see our women folk, young and old, doing their share, now they have the vote, to swell our Labour majorities. The mining constituencies are done, once and for all, with Liberalism and Toryism.

But we find our progress is blocked because other constituencies are not so advanced as we are. We find that all the many changes and improvements we want for our mining communities, both underground and on top, in their home lives, are delayed because the workers in the country districts do not realise our need. Indeed, they do not yet seem to realise their own need if one can judge from their wages and working conditions, and the way in which they vote at elections.

We know that in many of the country districts Trade Unionism is difficult to preach, that in the remote villages there is something very like the victimisation of active men that we miners suffered in the early days of our own mining unions.

We always remember that it was a successful attempt at victimising Keir Hardie that led him into his wider work for independent political action, and although we are badly off in some of our districts to-day we are overcoming the worst forms of intimidation in most of them.

We feel politically that our mining constituencies are impregnable fortresses, and we all have satisfaction that the strongest of them all has had the honour of returning Ramsay MacDonald as its Member, with a record majority.

Everybody interested in our work as a Federation knows that our members and our officials in most of our coalfields have to put forward combined efforts to secure a stronger membership for the unions in the Federation. That work must go on; but I would like to urge that our own Parliamentary Members should take their share with their other friends in the Parliamentary Party, and the political side generally, in stirring up the working men and working women in the countryside.

I cannot help feeling that in assisting in this work to the very best of our powers, we are hastening the day of our own success. Some of our younger miner M.P.s have already done work of this kind, and I hope that as the opportunities offer, more of them will help.

I feel sure there are many corners in the rural districts which do not understand our case and claims, just as in some of the south country towns and cities they never stop to think how the coal they burn is brought to bank and at what sacrifice it is won.

Our Labour Party is a wonderful movement. To bring it into being and develop it to its present strength within a space of 30 years is something like a miracle, but it is nothing to what can be done by the same sort of united effort, the same sort of sacrifice, and the same steady purpose.

We are living in great times, my friends. It has been good to be alive these last 30 years, despite all the black bitterness we have suffered. But we are coming up to daylight again, and like all our daily toil below ground, our political work too will warm and cheer and comfort our people everywhere, and if properly and not wastefully utilised will make for unlimited and unknown power for the world's good and light for the world's guidance.

PEACE AND WAR.

We welcome any movement from whatever source which has for its object peace and goodwill amongst nations, to the extent of submitting all international questions to arbitration. We never wish to see again the happenings of 1914-18, when there were killed 9,743,914, wounded 20,927,459, missing 3,000,000. Wars are always a massacre of the innocents.

THINK.

We are spending about 4s. 2d. per minute on peace through the League of Nations, and £200 per minute on war.

We are looking to our present Government as being the first to break down the idea that war is inevitable in settling international questions.

OBITUARIES.

I have referred to the fatal accidents which have happened each succeeding year, and now I must reluctantly record the passing of friends and colleagues since last we met.

The Rt. Hon. S. Walsh, M.P. (Lancs.), held the respect of everyone with whom he came in contact, and whose activity, both industrially and politically, will ever be remembered in Lancashire and also in this Federation.

Mr. Frank Varley, M.P. (Notts.), a young man practically on the threshold of his life's work, who strove to do what he thought was in the best interest of the men he served.

Mr. G. H. Warne, M.P. (Northumberland), a comparatively young man, who endeared himself to all those with whom he worked, industrially and, latterly, politically.

Mr. Evan Thomas (South Wales). I can scarcely imagine a meeting of this Federation without his cheery presence. He very seldom spoke in our conferences but none the less he was an energetic worker.

Messrs. T. Duffy and J. Martin, of the Cokemen, were probably not so widely known throughout the Federation, but were held in the highest esteem by their own Association, and by those who knew them outside their own Association for the part they played.

Also I wish to put on record the death of our colleague, a respected leader of the mineworkers in the Leicestershire coalfield, Mr. Levi Lovett, who retired a few years ago.

These are personalities the movement can ill spare, and we who are left behind must endeavour to carry on their work.