

Friday May 7th. 1936.

1.0. p.m. News.

Trains. Owing to the bulk of information received by the B.B.C. in regard to trains and other means of transport during this time of industrial unrest, it has been decided to issue special transport bulletins during the evening in order to interfere as little as possible with items of more general news interest and the B.B.C. normal programmes. There will be two evening transport bulletins, the first at 6.30.p.m. and the second at approximately 11.0.p.m. after the close of the evening concert. A certain amount of transport news will still be included in the ordinary news bulletins at 10.0.a.m. 1.0.p.m. and 4.0.p.m.

The B.B.C. announce that certain people are attempting to discredit the authenticity of the news broadcast because sometimes it does not include descriptions of local incidents they themselves have witnessed. It must be appreciated that the B.B.C. are attempting to give objective and national news and that local incidents which to individuals may appear important have little or no bearing upon the general situation.

The Secretary of the Automobile Association will give a broadcast talk at 8.0.p.m. to-night addressed to inexperienced motor drivers.

HOME OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Yesterday. At Preston the power stations were working normally and the Town is quiet.

Bus services are fair in Lancashire on the whole.

At Salford special constables are on duty.

At Pendleton 200 Co-operative employees delivering milk, bread and coal have struck and 70 returned yesterday. A meeting of railwaymen was poorly attended and was postponed owing to the non-arrival of the speaker.

West Riding is reported quiet with ordinary services well maintained.

At Halifax 50 transport workers returned to duty to-day. Some textile mills have closed down for want of coal.

170 engineers at Pudsey went back yesterday

Large fish supplies are going to London by road via Selby.

At Hull the independent bus services have re-started. Only a small quantity of food has been unloaded.

At Bradford a large number of men in the building trade have ceased work.

At Newark the police were compelled to disperse strikers who held up a train at a level crossing. 75 special constables have been enrolled. There is no improvement in the train service but the buses are fairly normal.

3,000 men who tried to hold up trains at Leeds were dispersed by baton charge by Police and one was arrested. 57 trams and buses are now running in Leeds.

700 engineers have returned to work at Armley.

No serious disturbances are reported in the Midland Division beyond attempts to interfere with vehicles. Six men are in custody. There is no shortage of food and fuel.

At Coventry the situation is quiet but there are no trams or buses.

Beyond attempts to interfere with motor traffic all is quiet in the North Midlands.

At Northampton more shoe hands have ceased work through lack of trade

3,000 men at Stanton Iron Works withdrew yesterday.

At Yarmouth the electrical station is partly staffed by volunteers. There are no trams but the men are gradually offering to return. A bus service has commenced.

At Norwich there are no trains, but transport is satisfactory. There are about 3,000 on strike in the City.

At Kings Lynn the Dockers are out, but there has been no trouble.

At Ipswich there have been slight disturbances.

In the Eastern Division buses everywhere are almost normal.

In the Midlands Division the train service is improved and road transport proceeding satisfactorily..

To-day. In the North Midlands Division coal stocks held are satisfactory.

In the London area districts the position still remains generally quiet, although a certain number of cases of rowdyism and intimidation are reported.

In Grimsby it is expected that the local newspapers will resume normal publications to-day.

South Shields Corporation workers refuse to come out.

The Board of Education announce that owing to the non-arrival of examination papers at several centres throughout the division, the examinations for science and the Whitworth Scholarships due to be held to-morrow will have to be postponed. The Headmasters of the classes will receive further instructions.

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London Docks. As a result of the withdrawal of T.U.C. permits more work generally was done and more lorries left yesterday than on any previous day. 6,000 sacks of flour were removed from one of the Docks by lorry yesterday.

Westminster Abbey. Daily <sup>intercession</sup> services are being held at Westminster Abbey at 1.30 p.m. and 3.40 p.m.

Rotterdam. The British Consul General at Rotterdam reports that the Central Union of Transport Workers there have issued a proclamation calling upon transport workers and seamen to prevent the loading of coal on ships bound for England and to prevent bunkering of ships which would have been coaled in this country but for the strike. The Consul General doubts whether the full effect will be given to this proclamation.

Disposal of House Refuse. Representations have been made to the Mercantile Marine Department by the Ministry of Health of a large number of boroughs as to the necessity for immediate action being taken to get rid of the accumulations of house refuse. It has been ascertained that the position is not yet acute and as the Contractors responsible for the removal of the rubbish are hopeful of getting their men back to work to-day no attempt to obtain volunteer labour has yet been made.

Two men have been arrested for distributing pamphlets saying that the Police at Dover are on strike. There is absolutely no truth in the report.

There are large supplies of fish at Billingsgate and the prices are very reasonable.

The Miners Executive were in session this morning from 9.30. till 11.30 at the Federation Headquarters. Just before noon Mr. Herbert Smith accompanied by Mr. Cook left to consult with the general council of the T.U.C. Several of the members on leaving the Federation Headquarters went to the House of Commons. It was stated that up to the present there is no change in the development of the situation.

Cabinet Meeting. A meeting of the Cabinet was held in the Prime Minister's room in the House of Commons to-day.

Imprisonment of Saklatvala. At the beginning of the proceedings at the House of Commons this morning the Speaker read a letter from the Bow St. magistrate formally notifying him of the imprisonment of Mr. Saklatvala. Mr. Kirkwood, Labour, asked on a point of order asked if there was no way in which the House could protect its members particularly having regard to the fact that Mr. Saklatvala was a member of the House and also a stranger within our gates. This remark was greeted with ministerial laughter. The Speaker said that Mr. Kirkwood could only speak on a point of order and must not argue on a matter which was the result of proceedings in a Court of Justice. Mr. Kirkwood said "Is there no way in which

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this all-powerful House is big enough to say that this member is not to be interfered with in this manner?" The speaker replied that a member of the House was, in regard to the criminal law, in exactly the same position as any other person. Mr. Kirkwood said "Isn't a member of the House privileged?" and the speaker replied "No. The privilege of a member does not apply to any breach of the criminal law".

Letters were delivered in the City considerably earlier than during the first day of the strike. The posts were heavy.

Mr. Cook on the situation. Mr. A.J. Cook, the Miners' Secretary this morning repudiated the remark attributed to him that "It is all hopeless, we have realised that". Mr. Cook said "I am still hopeful that common sense will prevail and that the Miners will get a fair settlement".

Mr. Ben Tillett. At a Mass Meeting of Workers at Reading last night Mr. Ben Tillett said he considered the position one of hopefulness but asked the men to remain firm and maintain order. A man unfurling a red flag at the meeting met with a mixed reception.

Portsmouth electricians. Members of the Electricians Trade Union at Portsmouth are remaining at work.

Peace negotiations between the Rifles and the French and Spanish have been broken off.

The S.R. Co., announce that over 500 trains ran on their lines yesterday.

Volunteers at Maidstone. Between three and four hundred volunteers have registered at Maidstone and more than half have expressed their willingness to be drafted to any part of England. A considerable proportion are skilled motor drivers. There is now a practically full service of the Corporation tramways.

The Womens Auxiliary Corps has amalgamated with Mrs. Baldwin's Transport Service.