

# BRITISH LABOR LOOKING TO ITS OWN FUTURE

Russell Says Workingmen Inefficient In Turning Out War Supplies, Not Because He Drank Too Much, But Because He Had Too Little to Eat—Government Takes Over Roads.

(By Charles Edward Russell.)  
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LONDON, May 7.—On April 7 the announcement was officially promulgated that because of the evils created by the drinking habits of British workingmen, His Majesty George the Fifth had banished all alcoholic beverages from his table. The connection was not perfectly apparent, since the king isn't a workman and could not be charged with any share of the evils mentioned, but the idea was that as the British workman holds his king in great awe and reverence, if the king should quit the booze the British workman would quit also.

What particularly led the gracious king to ascend the gracious water wagon for this pious purpose was a sudden and horrible outcry about the inefficiency of the workman and what led to the horrible outcry was the bitter complaint of the war office that it could not get the tools of war. As thus:

The war is not actively presented because we can't get the munitions. We can't get the munitions because the British workman is inefficient. The British workman is inefficient because he drinks.

Therefore, down with the drink—but not in the way favored by the roystering old song.

**Prohibition Only a Dream**  
A violent agitation sprang up against drink—for workingmen—and many persons dreamed dreams, not to be realized, of national prohibition. If we cannot have both drink (for workingmen) and death-dealing munitions, why, eat out the drink (for workingmen) because the death-dealing munitions we have plumb got to have!

Increased war taxes had already driven up the prices of beer and ale, and very likely the best way was to pile on more taxes and thus make the beastly stuff (beer and ale) cost so much the workman couldn't buy it. Nothing was said then about putting up the prices of drinks at our club so that we couldn't buy them, but of course those drinks don't interfere with efficiency nor with supplies of the death-dealing.

A promised movement to get moral support for the abstinence proclaimed by the king failed to get very far because it failed to awaken that chord of enthusiasm that you might expect to be struck. The house of commons contemptuously refused to throw down the rum fiend, in its precincts, and only two of the cabinet followed the king into the grape juice contingent.

Meantime, in the hysteria, three salient points had been overlooked:

1. How on earth can you expect men to be efficient when they live in caves and never have enough to eat?

2. The German workman is admitted to be very efficient, and yet he drinks.

3. Assuredly, if British workingmen drank to excess they did so chiefly because their lives were so bleak and miserable that drink was forced upon them.

**Not Too Much Drink, Too Little Eat**  
The real trouble seemed to be, not that the British workman drank too much, but that he ate too little.

In other words, here was poverty, the internal foe, striking once more at the vitals of the nation.

Nevertheless, the singular delusion lingered that if the king, surrounded with every luxury, and provided with every diversion, could get along with only beer, the workman, ill-fed, ill-nourished, leading a monotonous life in squalid surroundings, could easily be satisfied with more tea.

As a matter of fact, while the agitation neither increased the supply of munitions nor visibly daunted the rum fiend, it helped the government otherwise, for it served as a "feeler" toward the nationalization of the great and profitable brewery business, which the government has up its sleeve.

This marked one stage in the marvelous transformation that, almost unmarked elsewhere, has been going on here ever since the war began.

The government is assuming new and startling functions and new and startling relations to the citizenship. It is taking over enterprise after enterprise always hitherto in private hands.

It has done this and is doing it because of the exigencies created by the war.

Therefore, it has disproved and repudiated the theory so common among us that private enterprise can also do anything much better than the government can do it.

**To Have Best, Government Does It**

In the stress of war, the government, driven by an inexorable necessity, must have the best of everything; the best of service, materials, products. To get the best the government is taking the work out of private hands and doing that work itself.

Railroads, for instance. The first act of the government after it declared war was to take over the entire railroad system of Great Britain.

Now, this was something that an entire generation had quarreled about. To every plea for the nationalization of railroads insuperable obstacles were raised. It would be a long and troublesome job; it would cost too much; the complications would be too great.

Yet when the time came the thing was done in thirty minutes and with childlike ease. The government merely announced that it would take the railroads, guarantee to stockholders the dividends they had received the year before and pay the interest on the bonds.

That was all there was to it. The railroads passed into the government's hands and have remained there ever since. The government needed the best possible service and took this way to get what it needed, sweeping away a thousand fine-spun theories.

**Railroads Taken Over for Good**

To provide for actual operation it formed a railroad committee composed of its representatives and the managers of the important lines; these administer the whole system.

Conservative and reactionary minds, recovering from this shock, now assert that the government has taken the railroads for the period of the war only, and with peace the properties will be returned to the companies.

Will they? I have been looking into that, and I have practically the highest authority in the country for saying that they will not.

The change has come to stay. When the war is over the system will pass definitely and permanently into national ownership.

And high time, too; for private ownership has made of these roads a sorry hash. They are badly managed, they are enormously overcapitalized, and for several years some of them have with difficulty kept afloat.

The government had applied the limit of the "regulation" we so much admire and this was the result.

But when the war is over and these railroads become permanent national property some new and puzzling problems will be created.

At present the British railroad rates, because of overcapitalization and the great cost of construction, are very high. Under private ownership some of the lines have deteriorated in roadbed and equipment. If the government buys the railroads on the basis of the present capitalization or if it continues the present plan of guaranteeing dividends, the first question will be whether it can reduce the extortionate rates and make the needed improvements.

**Men Will Demand Better Conditions**

There will also be difficult questions about the employees. Under private ownership these have been badly treated and badly paid, and the discontent always rife among them has had memorable outbreaks.

With extreme difficulty the railroad companies have been able to keep the men down to poor pay, and long hours. As soon as the government took charge it was obliged to grant a 20 per cent increase of wages as a temporary war bonus. It will never be able to rescind this when the war ends and it can look for further demands for better conditions. How it can grant them with the present extravagant railroad capitalization no man can see.

For the fact is, the whole working population of Great Britain is restless and uneasy. It already sees as a result of the war a rapid increase in the cost of living while enormous fortunes are being made by manufacturers and contractors. The price of bread has advanced 50 per cent in nine months. The price of coal has advanced about as much. But the mine owners, millers, wheat factors and big baking establishments are published as making great profits. Except in industries directly affected the workers are getting peace time prices for their day's work. They are in no mood to stand much more of this, patriotism or no patriotism.

Already there are ominous signs, such as the protests of the postoffice employees and the strike vote of the Welsh miners. We are now having in the swift and widespread advance of government ownership the greatest industrial revolution of our times. Old standards are being knocked to pieces by this war. When readjustment comes the workingmen will have to be considered, or there will be storm signals.

With Medford Trade in Medford Made

## SOCIETY WOMAN AIDS AFFLICTED SERBIA



MRS. H. C. CHATFIELD-TAYLOR

Mrs. Hobart C. Chatfield-Taylor, Chicago society leader, who is interesting herself in the needs of Serbia and raising funds with which to check the progress of typhus and cholera in that war-ridden country.

## AMERICA ISSUES PROCLAMATION FOR ITALIAN NEUTRALITY

WASHINGTON, May 25.—A neutrality proclamation by the United States covering the entry in the European war was published by the state department under date of May 24.

The proclamation cautions American citizens that "the laws and treaties of the United States without interfering with the free expression of opinion and sympathy, or with the commercial manufacture or sale of arms or munitions of war, nevertheless impose upon all persons who may be within their territory and jurisdiction the duty of impartial neutrality during the existence of the contest."

The language of the proclamation is identical with the other neutrality proclamation issued during the present war.

## CHAMBERLAIN HOME FROM WASHINGTON

PORTLAND, May 25.—United States Senator Chamberlain arrived in Portland yesterday from California, glad to return to his home and more satisfied than ever before that Oregon is one of the real bright spots in the union.

Senator Chamberlain predicted a great trade revival in this country when the open door to the orient is fully realized and the producers and manufacturers of the Pacific northwest find a ready market for the products in the orient.

That President Wilson will do all in his power to keep the United States out of war with any of the foreign powers was the prediction of the senator, who added that he believed that Wilson's effort in this direction will be successful.

## WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE

may eventually give to women rights to which they are entitled, but good health, which is the birthright of every American woman, must be hers before she can fully enjoy the privileges which woman's suffrage will bring. Women who suffer from those dreadful pains, backache, headaches, irritability, nervousness and depression, symptoms of organic trouble, should rely on Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, which is made from roots and herbs, to restore them to a normal and healthy condition as it has thousands of other American women. Paid Adv.

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Headquarters for Californians while visiting the Exposition.

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No Raise in Rates  
\$1.50 Per Day Up

Management  
Chester W. Kelley

"Meet me at the Manx"

## COUNTY CLERK'S SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT FOR SIX MONTHS ENDING MARCH 31st, 1915

ITEMIZED STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES							
General Fund							
	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	Total.
Roads and highways	\$ 120.00	\$ 8.70	\$ 125.00	\$ 63.47	\$ 12.70	\$ 3.55	\$ 269.95
Registration and elections	75.25	4,850.61	611.80	9.95			5,601.08
Sheriff's office	463.24	457.97	484.76	535.59	432.44	457.03	2,831.03
Clerk's office	378.46	436.02	353.83	442.20	480.84	361.72	2,453.07
Recorder's office	210.21	331.06	349.56	354.35	258.94	315.66	1,919.88
Treasurer's office	405.16	330.16	233.25	380.50	291.00	299.32	1,939.39
Surveyor's office	271.55	49.80	708.19	64.28	178.50	227.85	1,220.18
Assessors office	537.85	501.45	545.50	694.99	566.00	299.12	3,484.54
Court house	198.20	242.53	95.50	167.27	123.50	101.32	919.32
Circuit court	58.35	1,502.50	134.35	42.80	64.20	909.75	2,719.95
County court and commissioners	697.95	462.95	426.49	709.96	669.12	450.68	3,417.15
Justice court	68.75	78.20	92.20	115.45	126.75	35.56	516.91
Coroner	121.40	41.70	22.60	129.35	58.90		364.95
Insane	13.00		5.00	5.00	45.00		68.00
School superintendent	628.01	814.96	527.75	624.65	524.70	476.91	3,596.98
Health officer	102.72			258.72	12.54	2.00	375.98
Fruit inspector	2,874.45	836.00	679.15	349.00	159.75	210.85	5,139.20
Indigent soldiers				30.00	45.00		75.00
Widows' pension	542.50	542.50	532.50	487.50	512.50	512.50	3,130.00
Care of poor	1,190.14	1,157.67	1,287.54	1,634.41	1,166.73	1,231.99	7,668.48
Jail expense	241.28	567.73	269.99	276.11	348.40	227.08	1,930.59
Ferries	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	150.00
Advertising	305.48	158.49	153.24	210.91	686.41	968.78	2,483.41
Scalp bounty	49.50	62.50	184.50	208.00	270.50	286.00	1,062.00
Sealer of weights and measures	123.75	138.75	114.00	132.00	120.35	101.46	730.30
Assessment and collection of taxes	168.22	83.50	103.75	132.50	80.86	1,951.56	2,670.38
Reform school commitments and regular allowance to Boys & Girls' Aid Society	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	60.00
Stock inspector	50.00			50.00			100.00
Totals	\$10,031.42	\$13,711.85	\$ 7,475.56	\$ 8,116.01	\$ 7,310.57	\$ 8,845.31	\$56,489.72
Total expenditures (general fund) for the six months ending March 31st, 1915, as per foregoing itemized report							\$56,489.72
Total warrants issued (general fund) for the six months ending March 31st, 1915							\$56,489.72

ITEMIZED STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES							
Road Fund							
	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	Total.
District No. 1—Labor	\$ 66.37	\$ 209.61					\$ 275.98
Material	21.91	299.25		344.25	12.50	15.22	49.63
District No. 2—Labor	914.44	181.50			297.75	357.02	2,394.21
Material	237.00	41.25	15.40	3.95	20.00	56.00	376.60
District No. 3—Labor	229.50	156.75			18.75	21.12	417.22
Material	7.90	1.50				28.10	37.50
District No. 4—Labor	166.12	141.37	322.49	272.61	176.69	165.00	1,244.19
Material	24.22	12.63	37.05	12.18	19.00	7.69	112.68
District No. 5—Labor	10.00	216.68	690.46	140.24	168.49	108.74	1,334.61
Material	93.96	91.19	13.62	65.34	3.38		267.49
District No. 6—Labor	285.00		124.50				409.50
Material	214.95	34.50	16.85	15.75	81.55	40.50	404.10
District No. 7—Labor	175.41	9.25		4.95			189.61
Material	444.40						444.40
On Derby-Butte Falls road							
District No. 8—Labor	90.75	276.25	628.25	310.55	76.55	191.25	1,433.60
Material	5.50	23.16	5.65		4.25		38.56
District No. 9—Labor	369.64	97.12	82.50	28.50	44.25	79.50	622.51
Material	117.42	5.50	4.60				127.52
District No. 10—Labor	110.65	172.08	77.95				360.68
Material	65.25	82.50		156.76	47.25	207.91	559.77
District No. 11—Labor	15.60			6.00	4.00		25.60
Material	48.37	78.37	66.37	83.82	75.25	142.50	494.45
District No. 12—Labor	7.00	17.25		5.00	18.74		51.99
Material			1,321.88				1,321.88
On contract							
District No. 13—Labor	52.50	263.25	185.25	152.62	154.50		808.12
Material	26.04	18.00	10.27	13.03	47.75		115.09
District No. 14—Labor	90.10	17.99	13.12	276.76	6.37	7.86	412.20
Material	10.25	10.19		71.92			92.36
Labor	5.00						5.00
Material	1,960.00						1,960.00
Repairing Rogue river bridge	78.12						78.12
Payment on Evans Creek bridge contract	2,500.00						2,500.00
General Road	56.60	158.00	269.10	135.00	106.25	125.00	849.95
Material	17.45	3.00		116.57	491.02	260.28	988.32
Balance due on Derby-Butte Falls contract and surfacing same	450.00						450.00
Attending Comm. convention in Portland				42.00			42.00
Repairing county road machinery					2,095.79		2,095.79
Trip to Salem on highway matter					77.50		77.50
Purchase of toll road on Sklakyous					1,000.00		1,000.00
Totals	\$ 8,331.74	\$ 2,263.86	\$ 4,694.82	\$ 2,283.00	\$ 2,176.18	\$ 2,724.37	\$25,472.71
Total expenditures (road fund) for the six months ending March 31, 1915, per foregoing itemized report							\$25,472.71
Total warrants issued (road fund) for the six months ending March 31, 1915							\$25,472.71

Pacific Highway Road Fund							
	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	Total.
October	\$ 56,056.04						\$ 56,056.04
November		47,294.31					47,294.31
December		42,976.12					42,976.12
January			10,894.10				10,894.10
February			6,669.45				6,669.45
March			2,858.76				2,858.76
Total			\$166,649.28				\$166,649.28
Total expenditures (Pacific highway road fund, for the six months ending March 31, 1915, as per above report							\$166,649.28
Total warrants issued (Pacific highway road fund) for the six months ending March 31, 1915							\$166,649.28

STATEMENT OF THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON, FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDING MARCH 31, 1915							
Amount of total indebtedness above cash on hand on September 30, 1914, as shown by last semi-annual report	\$ 658,401.58						
Warrants issued (general fund)	56,489.72						
Estimated interest accrued during last six months on all outstanding warrants issued to date	14,695.69						