

Monday May 10th, 1926.

1.0.p.m. News.

Food. In London and the Home Counties the position remains satisfactory. The situation in the South Midland area has still further eased since yesterday and the Chief Commissioner no longer feels any anxiety about the food stocks.

The position remains generally satisfactory throughout and there is little tendency for a crisis to arise.

Food cargoes are being unloaded freely from ships at Grimsby by volunteer labour and despatched without difficulty from the Docks.

The Commissioner for the North Western Division states with reference to the proposed strike of the Birkenhead Flour Mills that the situation is easier and there is a chance that the men will stay in.

In the South Western division it is expected that the shortage of flour at Plymouth will be relieved to-day by a special train which is being sent from Bristol with 1,000 sacks.

720 tons of sugar were unloaded in Bristol Docks yesterday without interference.

Transport. In a number of divisions no Sunday trains were run, but throughout the country it is anticipated that the services to-day will be still more adequate than on Saturday.

Road transport appears to be satisfactory in all divisions.

The East Kent buses are running as usual with their regular staff.

Some intimidation in the Leicester neighbourhood resulted in the withdrawal of a number of buses, but there were no disturbances.

The transport difficulties reported yesterday at Preston have now been smoothed out.

There is a normal tram service now in Liverpool.

It is reported from the South Midlands area that road transport workers have remained at work to a considerable extent throughout the division.

Docks. The volunteer labour available at the Hull Docks has increased and it is expected that unloading will be expedited to-day.

16 vessels docked and undocked yesterday, while three are being discharged and one is loading. The "MIGANTIC" has sailed with passengers and mails.

Coal. No shortages are reported.

V.S.C. In the London area the number enrolled has now reached 125,500. The figures for the North Eastern Division are 21,500, the Northern Division 17,517 and the North Western Division about 20,000, special constables not included.

Civil disturbances. From the London area there are some reports of hooliganism in Cricklewood, resulting in 7 arrests; at Camden Town, 2 arrests. There has also been an attack on special constables at Nine Elms.

At Ipswich the Chief Constable has now secured full control of the situation and there has been no interference with transport in this Town during the last 48 hours.

With regard to the situation in Hull the Commissioner reports that the Town has remained calmer since Friday.

The Northern Division reported this morning that the rumour stating that a special constable was severely injured is quite untrue.

All is quiet at Newcastle.

Labour demonstrations are reported from Norwich and Calthorpe Park in the Midlands Division. Both were attended by a large crowd but there was no disorder. Mr. Kingsfield who was expected to speak at the Calthorpe meeting was unable to attend, having been arrested for making a statement that all special constables were traitors.

In the S.W. Division transport workers reported for work in other parts of the area where they are not likely to be known.

Fish. It is reported that large supplies of fish, ample to meet requirements and at a moderate price, were available in Billingsgate this morning.

Dock attack. An attack on a supply Dock in the East end of London last night was frustrated by the special constable on duty, re-enforced by a few police. 4 arrests were made.

Home Counties area. The strike seems so far to have had little effect in upsetting the normal life of the people in the Home Counties area and no shortage of labour was reported either of a special character or generally.

Trains. Conditions on the Southern Railway are rapidly improving. Practically the whole of the electric system is working to-day. Many more men are reporting to duty from hour to hour.

The position of all the London termini as regards perishable traffic is very favourable. Volunteers have been of great assistance in unloading.

G.W. Over 600 trains were run yesterday on the G.W. Railway, and the services will be extended considerably to-day.

E.N.E. A corresponding report of progress comes from the L.N.R.R.

Miners Federation. A meeting of the Executive of the Miners Federation was held this morning in London. It is understood that they considered a report of the conferences held during the weekend at Ostend of the Miners International and the National Transport Workers Federation, at which it is reported sympathetic strike action on the Continent was <sup>restricted</sup> and a ballot on embargo of coal to England was decided on. The Treasurer of the Miners Federation, who attended the Ostend conferences was back in London this morning and presented a report at the meeting. Mr. A.J. Cook and Mr. Herbert Smith were also in attendance.

Warning to Investors. The Financial News gives prominence to the following statement:- "It will be realised that however steady the tone of the Stock Exchange may remain it is unwise to attempt to sell securities until the present crisis is over.

The 7th day in London. There were increases train and bus services in all districts this morning. The weather remained fine for those walking and driving and it was noticed that walkers reached their destination more approximately to time than was the case last week. Private car owners again came nobly to the aid of footsore and weary pedestrians, and their services were greatly appreciated.

Poplar. All public houses in Poplar will be closed to-day. A great many licenced houses had to close their doors by midday on Saturday owing to supplies running out. There was then a rush for those places where it was rumoured that bottled goods were still obtainable, until they too were exhausted. A similar state of affairs prevailed in many parts of Stepney.

In Poplar everything remains remarkably quiet this morning and there was an entire absence of vehicular traffic such as was experienced in the early part of last week.

The London "Bobby" There was a statement yesterday in one of the leading newspapers of Paris, with which all of us, especially Londoners, will be in full agreement. This observer writes:- "London owes its tranquility largely to its admirable Police. To all who know these English "Bobbies", all confident, smiling and strong, it is not surprising he is equal to his hard task".

Railway Horses. The Great Western has stated that the horses belonging to the Company have not missed a single meal since the strike began. This statement is issued to correct a report that owing to the action of the strikers these horses had not been fed or watered for 24 hours.

Staffs. In Staffs. besides the railways and the Iron Works a number of small potteries have closed down, but the more important pottery factories are carrying on, having fairly good supplies of fuel.

Huddersfield. At Huddersfield a proportion of the tramwaymen have returned and the trams will be running to-day

Leeds. All was quiet at Leeds and Bradford yesterday. At Leeds some

regular tram workers have returned and trams will be running to-day. 17,000 volunteers have been enrolled at Bradford.

Birmingham. Birmingham Corporation tram and Bus Inspectors have agreed to return to duty to-day.

Weymouth. At Weymouth a man has been arrested for spreading reports about the troops.

Bath. Over 100 tramwaymen reported for duty again this morning in Bath. This is practically half the total staff and services will begin on all lines at 10.0. o'clock. The men have signed on as non-unionists.

Lowestoft. All the electricians at Lowestoft Electricity Works returned to duty this morning.

Manchester. A new strike development in Manchester to-day was the decision of all the men in the flour mills of Manchester and Salford to cease work.

Disturbance at London Docks. A large number of men made an organised attack on a Supply Deck in the East End of London late last night. The special constable on duty telephoned for police re-inforcements and 25 men promptly arrived in a tender. They were received with showers of stones, but promptly dispersed the mob. Four arrests were made.

Hospital notice. The Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, King William Street, W.C.2. is being carried on as usual. Out-patients will be attended from noon and casualty and accident cases at all times.

British Gazette. In its issue this morning the British Gazette states that on Saturday 836,000 copies were printed, this being an improvement of nearly 100,000 on Friday's issue.

Food supplies. A Dutch steamer docked at Kings Lynn this morning with 375 tons of margarine from Rotterdam. The cargo is being unloaded by the Dutch crew and volunteer workers on to lorries bound for London and Manchester.

Supplies of fish ample to meet requirements is available at moderate prices at Billingsgate.

Mails. Mail services as a whole are working satisfactorily. There is no actual stoppage on main routes and when necessary mails are forwarded by road. The proportion sent by rail continues to increase. Letters from London are being delivered in the North and in the Midlands and the South of England on the day following postage and to Edinburgh and Glasgow on the second day. From to-day the services will be further expedited.

Motor Car accident at Ilford. Ten persons were injured in a car smash at Ilford to-day when a car containing four people ran head-on into another car in which were four five people and a little girl.

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The Earl of Wharnccliffe died at his residence, near Sheffield, last night after a short illness. He was in his 70th year.

Owing to increased transport facilities the London School of Economics will resume to-day.

Next news at 4.0.p.m.