

THE CASE AGAINST PICKETING

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The Case Against Picketing by W. J. Shaxby

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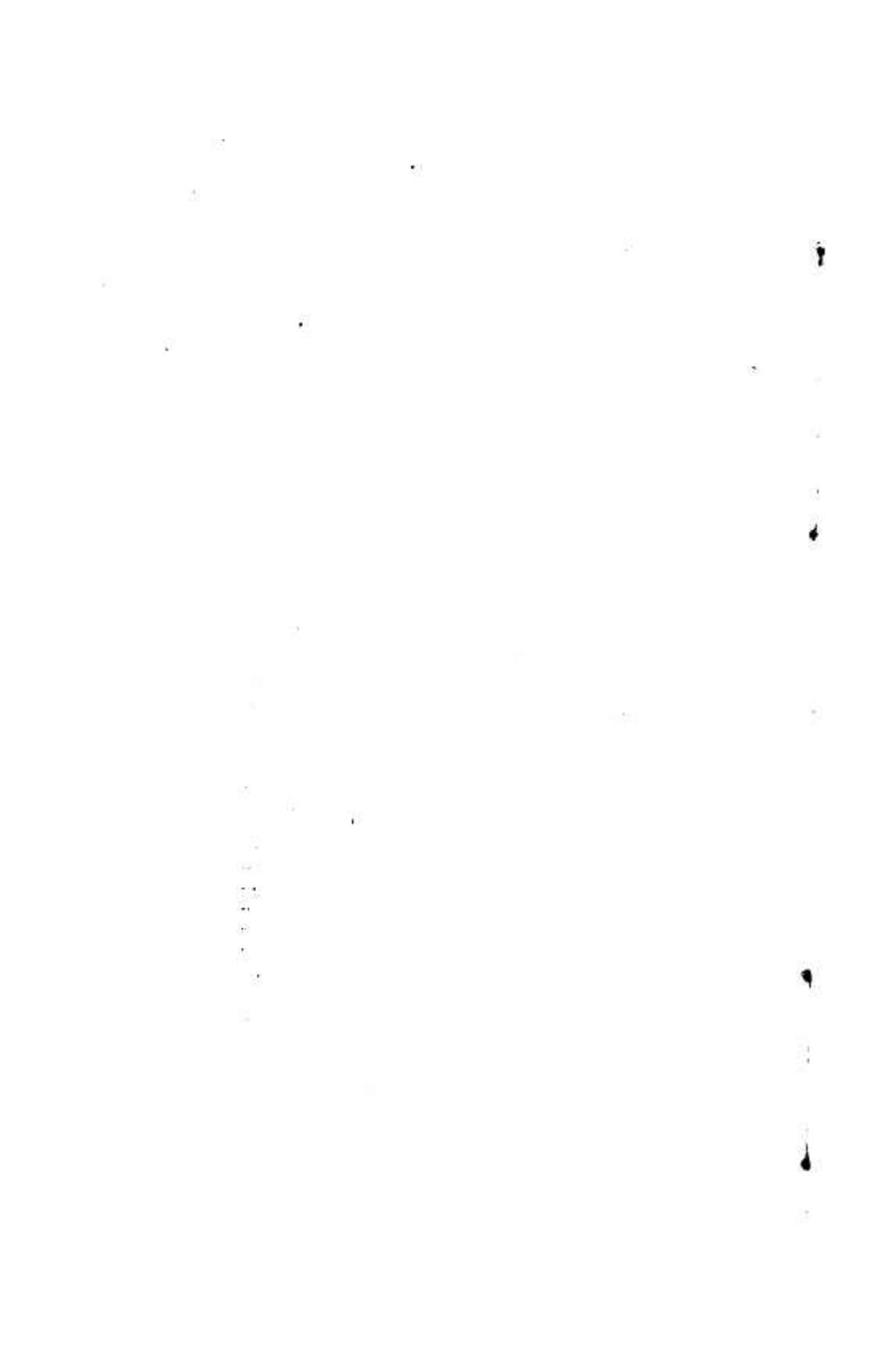
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CONTENTS.

I. WHY PICKETING SHOULD BE MADE ILLEGAL ...	1
II. HOW TO DEPRIVE PICKETING OF ITS "POWER AND STING"	10
III. THE COLLECTED WISDOM OF ROYAL COMMISSIONS:	
(a) The Trade Union Commission	14
(b) The Labour Commission	22
IV. CONFLICTING INTERPRETATIONS OF "INTIMIDATION"	27
V. THE LAW AND PRACTICE IN THE COLONIES AND ABROAD:	
United States	44
Newfoundland and Canada	47
Australia	49
Italy	50
Germany	50
France	51
Russia	54
Switzerland	55
Sweden	55
Denmark	56
Hungary	56
VI. THE PRESENT LEGAL POSITION IN ENGLAND:	
(a) A Summary of English Legislation during the Century	58
(b) Legal Procedure	60
(c) Unlawful Assembly and Riot	64
VII. FREE LABOUR <i>v.</i> TRADE UNION TYRANNY ...	66
VIII. A SUMMARY MEMORANDUM	81



PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

THE first edition of this book was published on September 1st, and was exhausted within three days. On September 4th the following announcement of the formation of the Free Labour Protection Association appeared in several London papers :—

A Private Meeting of influential employers and representatives of the principal Employers' Associations in the United Kingdom was held at 7, Victoria Street, Westminster, on Friday, July 16th, to discuss a proposal to form a National Organization for the Defence of Free Labour.

The chair was taken by the Right Hon. the Earl of Wemyss.

On the motion of Colonel H. C. Dyer (President, the Employers' Federation of Engineering Associations), seconded by Mr. G. A. Laws (General Manager, The Shipping Federation, Limited), the following resolution was unanimously adopted :—

"That, in the opinion of this representative meeting of employers, it is desirable to form a Free Labour Protection Association, having for its objects—

"I. To test systematically the efficiency, or otherwise, of the existing laws for the protection of Non-Unionists, and, if necessary, to obtain an amendment of such laws.

"II. To watch all strikes, and ensure the observance of the law in all disputes between employer and employed.

"III. To oppose all legislation injuriously affecting the trades and industries of the United Kingdom.

"IV. To seek the attainment of these objects through the corporate action of the Association ; by the federation of (a) employers, whether individuals, firms, or corporate bodies ; (b) existing or future Employers' Associations for the protection of separate interests ; and in such ways as shall at any time appear necessary or desirable."

A Committee consisting of the following gentlemen, with power to add to their number, was appointed to give effect to the foregoing resolution, and to draft the constitution and rules of the Association :—

The Right Hon. the Earl of Wemyss.

Sir William T. Lewis, Bart.

Mr. H. D. Greene, Q.C., M.P.

Colonel H. C. Dyer (President, Employers' Federation of Engineering Associations).

The Hon. W. W. Vivian (Dinorwic Quarries).
Mr. Alexander Siemens (President, London Association of Engineering Employers).
Mr. George Livesey (Chairman, South Metropolitan Gas Company).
Mr. G. T. Harper (Chairman, Southampton Free Labour Association).
Mr. T. F. Rider (President, National Association of Master Builders).
Mr. G. A. Laws (General Manager, The Shipping Federation).
Mr. W. Shepherd (President, Central Association of Master Builders).

It appears that it was not the intention of the Committee to make any public announcement of the formation of the Association until such time as the organization had been completed, and the whole body of employers and employers' associations in the United Kingdom had become federated with it. But, owing to the action of some unknown person connected with one of the firms to whom particulars of the Association had been sent in strict confidence, a certain "Labour" paper obtained possession of private and confidential circulars, and, as might be expected, took the first opportunity to publish the same.

A statement of the "Objects and Rules" of the Free Labour Protection Association is appended. The Association has a great and important work before it, and it is earnestly to be hoped, in the interests of that personal right of every man to labour for whom, for what wages, and for as many hours as he likes, that it will succeed in giving effect to the objects it has been established to promote.

I may add, in conclusion, that this little work has not been published at the instigation of the Free Labour Protection Association. The greater portion of it was written three months before the Association was formed, although it has been brought up to date by the insertion of matter relating to within four days of the first issue. One member only of the Association was aware of the existence of the work before it was actually published. The writer and the publishers alone are responsible for the book and its publication.

W. J. S.

September 7th, 1897.

APPENDIX :—OBJECTS AND RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

THE FREE LABOUR PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.

Central Offices :—7, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.

Secretary :—FREDERICK MILLAR.

OBJECTS.

1. To test systematically the efficiency, or otherwise, of the existing laws for the protection of Non-Unionists, and, if necessary, to obtain an amendment of such laws.
2. To watch all strikes, and ensure the observance of the law in all disputes between employer and employed.
3. To oppose all legislation injuriously affecting the trades and industries of the United Kingdom.
4. To seek the attainment of these objects through the corporate action of the Association by the federation of (a) employers, whether individuals, firms, or corporate bodies; (b) existing or future Employers' Associations for the protection of separate interests; and in such ways as shall at any time appear necessary or desirable.

RULES.

1. The Association shall consist of individual members paying annually not less than £1, and of corporate bodies and Associations paying annually not less than £10. Subscriptions shall be due on the 1st of January in each year.
2. There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the members of the Association held in the month of February, and such additional meetings as may be deemed necessary by the Council.
3. The affairs of the Association shall be conducted under the control and supervision of a Council, consisting of not less than fifteen ordinary members elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association, of whom one-third shall in each year vacate office (in the first and second years according to alphabetical order, and afterwards in their order of election), but who shall be eligible for re-election; and also of the Chairman of each corporate body or association, who shall be *ex-officio* a member of the Council.
4. The Council shall have power to appoint an Executive Committee and Sub-Committees, and shall do all such acts and deeds as may appear to them necessary to be done for the purpose of carrying into effect the objects of the Association.
5. The Council shall have the sole management of the income and funds of the Association, but shall have no power to bind members beyond the amount of their contributions. The Council shall render an account yearly to the General Meeting, such account having been