

# RESULTS OF THE GENERAL STRIKE

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER.

**I**N many respects the British general strike was a victory for the working class. The Baldwin government was forced to retreat from its autocratic position and to resume negotiations with the unions. The mine owners were compelled to withdraw their lockout notices. The subsidy to the industry will be continued. The program of wage reductions has been practically knocked on the head. The ruling class of Great Britain has been taught a new lesson of the power of the workers. The material victory of the workers would have been far greater had it not been that the McDonalds, Thomases, and others of the right wing leaders were able to slough off half of the victory over the conference table with Baldwin.

But the real victory of the workers was in the fact that the general strike actually took place. At the head of the trade unions and labor party, occupying the key positions in the British labor movement, are a powerful group of right wing leaders, such as McDonald, Clyne, Henderson, Thomas, et al. These men, in season and out, are desperate and unscrupulous enemies of the whole conception of the general strike. The fact that this great strike could be developed in spite of them indicates better than anything else the rapidly growing solidarity and revolutionary spirit of the British working class. These right wing leaders betrayed the workers in 1921, by blocking the proposed strike of the Triple Alliance in support of the miners. They would have done the same thing this time had they had the power. But the masses, driven onward by the hard economic conditions and capably led by the British Minority Movement, could not be stayed. The great strike took place

in spite of the right wing leaders. The most the latter could do was to check its militant spirit and to throw away the best part of the victory at the settlement conference.

The strike will have profound after effects. Undoubtedly it will lead to a great left wing development all over the world. Even the conservative American trade union movement will not escape its re-vivifying effects. Especially deep will be its consequences in England. Class antagonisms will be sharpened, and the class consciousness of the workers will increase. Soon the situation will boil up to a still greater social outburst. Inside of the labor movement the fight of the left wing against the right wing for leadership of the masses will be intensified. Even as graphically as the Black Friday betrayal in 1921, this great strike has shown that a militant struggle by the workers of Great Britain is impossible so long as such men as MacDonald and Thomas occupy key positions in the labor movement. After this historic struggle the British trade unions will move still more to the left. With their Russian brothers, the British workers will more and more take the leadership of the revolutionary movement of the world.

## NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE REPORTS NEW

(Special to The D

NEW YORK, May 13.—While domestic generally favorable in the stock market countries were in a turmoil, with the strike, the Polish capital reported in the in Italy and Belgium.