

MID AND
EAST
LOTHIAN
MINERS'
ASSOCIATION
1894-1918

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Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association



A miner, name and date unknown, at Arniston, Midlothian.
(*Courtesy of National Museums of Scotland, Scottish Life Archive.*)

Mid and East Lothian
Miners' Association
Minutes

1894-1918

edited by
Ian MacDougall



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PREFACE

Thanks are due to the National Union of Mineworkers (Scottish Area) for permission to publish these minutes. The Scottish Working People's History Trust has been privileged to co-operate with the Scottish History Society in achieving their publication, and the Trust hopes that as a contribution toward making more available and accessible the history of working men and women in Scotland further similar volumes will result from such co-operation also in future.

The Trust is glad to acknowledge the generous financial support it has received from the National Union of Mineworkers (Scotland Area), East Lothian Council, Midlothian Council, Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation, Musselburgh Miners' Charitable Society, Mayfield and Easthouses Retired Miners, Danderhall and Newton Village Community Association and Social Club, Thompsons (Solicitors), and UNISON, Midlothian Branch.

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I. MacD.

Edinburgh
September 2003

ABBREVIATIONS



AP	Annual Proceedings.
Arnot MS	R. Page Arnot, MS of his <i>A History of The Scottish Miners</i> (London, 1955), in NLS MSS Acc.10812/1.
EC	Executive Committee.
MELMA	Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association.
MFGB	Miners' Federation of Great Britain.
NAS	National Archives of Scotland.
NLS	National Library of Scotland.
NUSMW	National Union of Scottish Mine Workers.
SMF	Scottish Miners' Federation.
STUC	Scottish Trades Union Congress.
TUC	Trades Union Congress.

INTRODUCTION

The minutes presented in this volume are believed to be the first of any trade union in Scotland to be published in full. They are among the earliest known surviving minutes of any Scots miners' union and are the earliest surviving of any such county union.

Deposited in the National Library of Scotland more than thirty years ago by the National Union of Mineworkers (Scottish Area), when the Union was closing its district offices in the Lothians, Fife, Lanarkshire and Ayrshire, the minutes of the Board of the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association survive for half a century from 1894, except for one gap. Those in the pages below run from May 1894 to August 1901 and then from May 1910 to November 1918. The minutes for the intervening period between September 1901 and April 1910 had been missing, presumed lost or destroyed, long before deposit of the others in the National Library in 1967. Also missing by then were the minutes for the five years between 1889, when the Association was founded, and May 1894.¹ The first minutes below are therefore of meetings held on the eve of the first great national strike by Scots miners from June to October 1894; the last are of an adjourned meeting held the day after the Great War of 1914-18 ended. The minutes covering the years between these two historic events contain references to many other contemporary aspects of economic, social, industrial, political and labour history.

The manuscript minutes presented in edited form below are contained in

¹ The other minutes of the Board of the Association in the National Library of Scotland (henceforth NLS), Acc. 4312.9-.24, run without further gaps from Dec. 1918 to Dec. 1943, after which the Mid and East Lothian Association, along with the then other five Scots miners' county unions, was merged into a single union for Scotland—the National Union of Scottish Mine Workers (NUSMW). The latter in turn merged in 1945 into the National Union of Mineworkers and became its Scottish Area. NLS also has the minutes of West Lothian miners' union, 1899-1914 and 1920-46 (Acc. 4312.2-.5), Fife and Kinross Miners' Association, 1901-13 (Dep. 304.1-.3), Lanarkshire Miners' County Union, 1902-45 (Dep. 227.25-.80), Ayrshire miners' union, 1926-45 (Dep. 258.1-.4), as well as those of the Scottish Miners' Federation from 27 Dec. 1894 to 8 Aug. 1907 (Acc. 4312.9-.21), and, 1915-44, of its successor as a federation, the National Union of Scottish Mine Workers (Dep. 227.84-.97). In addition, NLS has the minutes and other records of the United Engine Keepers' Mutual Protection Association of Scotland (retitled from 1912 the Scottish Colliery Enginemen and Boilermen's Association and from 1934 the Scottish Colliery Enginemen, Boilermen and Tradesmen's Association) and of several of its branches, from June 1877 to Mar. 1955 (Acc. 4570.1-.46). The oldest known surviving minutes of any Scots coal-hewers' union are those from Apr. 1890 to Dec. 1894 of Larkhall Miners' Association, preserved in NLS, MSS. 8023-5, but from which the minutes between 22 June 1891 and 24 Oct. 1893 are missing.

three bound volumes. The first of these runs from 17 May 1894 to 19 August 1901, the second from 14 May 1910 to 27 December 1913, and the third from 8 January 1914 to 12 November 1918. The minutes were legibly written by Robert Brown, secretary of the Association, and, after Brown's death in office at the end of 1917, by Joseph Young, his successor as secretary. The minutes of 20 November 1916 are printed and are pinned into the minute book, Brown presumably having had no time to write them in. It had been agreed on the suggestion of Wallyford branch in April 1911 that a printed abstract of the proceedings at Board meetings should be issued to branches, and the minutes of 20 November 1916 are No. 69 in that series. A few other such printed abstracts survive in the Association's archive in the National Library of Scotland for three of the years covered by these minutes below.²

Reports or briefings given to the press by Robert Brown (and probably in 1918 by his successor Joseph Young) after many of the Association's meetings in the period of these minutes were often published in two local weekly newspapers, the *Dalkeith Advertiser* and the *Haddingtonshire Courier*. These press reports sometimes provide information additional to that in the minutes themselves—such as the number of hours meetings lasted, and lists of those branches of the Association represented by their delegates at its Board meetings. A shortcoming of the minutes is the often summary character of their content. Thus they often exemplify the conflict of interest between the brevity aimed at by the minute secretary and the more detailed discussion and explanation sought by the historian and the general reader.

No other records of the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association are known to survive, except for two editions of its rules—one dated 1889, the other 1931—and minutes, 1940–5, of one of its branches.³

It is not the rules dated 1889 that confirm the foundation of the Association in that year (for the rules say nothing about its foundation), but reports in the local press. What was intended, according to the *Dalkeith Advertiser*, to be a mass meeting of Mid and East Lothian miners on Thursday afternoon, 18 July 1889, at the Foresters' Hall, Dalkeith, in fact began with only 200 present. Most East Lothian miners had taken the day off work 'but the men employed in some of the large collieries in Midlothian did not follow this example'. After Richard Scott, president of the East Lothian Miners' Association, had explained from the

² See below, p. 163. Printed abstracts survive for Board meetings of 16 Feb., 9 Mar., 22 July, and 4 and 20 Nov. 1916, 10 Mar., 14 Apr., 16 June and 8 Dec. 1917, 5 Jan., 16 Mar., 15 June and 2 Nov. 1918 (NLS Acc.4312.8). All but two of these abstracts include useful information about the number of members in each branch and branch incomes and funeral claims, as well as detailed accounts of the Association's expenditures.

³ Newcraighall branch MS minutes, 1940–5, are in Edinburgh Public Library, Edinburgh Room, YHD 6668M. The 1889 rules of the Association are printed below as Appendix A. The original is in the British Library of Political & Economic Science, London School of Economics and Political Science, Webb Trade Union Coll., Sect. C, Vol. LXXI, item 4; the 1931 edition is in the Trades Union Congress Library (HD.6661.MS.19), now at the University of North London.

chair 'that the object of the meeting was to see whether an amalgamation could be effected between the two counties', Archibald Howie, Tranent, moved 'That this meeting of the miners of Mid and East Lothian agree to re-amalgamate the two counties, believing as we do that it is only by mutual combination that our present position can be improved'. The motion was seconded by Alexander Stewart, Rosewell, Midlothian, and after several speeches in its support, including one by R. Chisholm Robertson of the Stirlingshire miners,⁴ it was put to the meeting 'and carried with unanimous enthusiasm'.⁵

Miners' unions or combinations had existed in the two counties for a century or more before 1889. But the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association founded that year lasted more than half a century until its absorption in 1944-5 first into the National Union of Scottish Mine Workers and then through it into the National Union of Mineworkers (Scottish Area)—a contrast with the ephemeral nature of those earlier combinations or unions.

Even before Scots miners were freed from serfdom by the emancipation act of 1799, concerted action by them 'though rare before 1760, was not entirely unknown'.⁶ In Midlothian in 1762 the colliers of the marquis of Lothian had not only brought a court action challenging his claim to the right to send them to other collieries but also had published a memorial which asserted that their serfdom had no basis in statute law.⁷ A meeting of Scots coalmasters in the winter of 1797-8 in Edinburgh, called on the initiative of those in the Lothians, sought to prevent combinations by colliers demanding higher wages.⁸

In virtually every decade of the nineteenth century before the formation of their Association in 1889 there were combinations or unions, however transient, among the miners of Mid and East Lothian. At the end of 1816 and again in October 1818 colliers near Edinburgh struck work, on the first occasion to resist wage reductions, on the second to secure wage increases, and there was a prolonged strike by them in 1823. Of the strike in October 1818 at two pits near Tranent, Hugh Cadell, one of the coalmasters involved, declared: 'There is a deep rooted combination amongst the whole of the colliers in Mid and East Lothian—frequent meetings are held at Musselburgh and Tranent when the demands they intend to make on their employers are fixed and sums levied to support those colliers who strike work—all the members of these combinations are sworn to secrecy'.⁹ Depositions and other papers concerning the miners'

⁴ For a biographical note on Robertson see below, p. 42, n. 18.

⁵ *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 25 July 1889.

⁶ B.F. Duckham, *A History of the Scottish Coal Industry*, vol. i: 1700-1815 (Newton Abbot, 1970), 305.

⁷ Duckham, *Scottish Coal Industry*, 243, 249, 354, 355. The memorial is in NLS, Ry.1.4.43.

⁸ The circular of 17 Dec. 1797 calling the meeting is in NAS, GD26/5/369.

⁹ A.B. Campbell, *The Lanarkshire Miners: a Social History of their Trade Unions, 1775-1874* (Edinburgh, 1979), 56; W.H. Fraser, *Conflict and Class: Scottish Workers, 1700-1838* (Edinburgh, 1988), 121; J.A. Hassan, 'The Development of the Coal Industry in Mid and West Lothian 1815-1873' (University of Strathclyde Ph.D. thesis, 1976), 251-2.

strike at the duke of Hamilton's collieries in Stirlingshire early in 1825 indicate the existence then of a union among miners in Midlothian.¹⁰ In 1837, according to the manager of the duke of Buccleuch's colliery at Dalkeith, the colliers in the Lothians were contributing 1s.6d. a week to a friendly society whose accumulated funds 'were afterwards applied to the purposes of the Dalkeith Union, of which almost all the colliers in the Lothians were members ... [and these funds] enabled the colliers at Newbattle and other places, to the number of several hundreds at each colliery, to remain off work for a period of three or four months. This was the strike of 1837.'¹¹

The Miners' Association of Great Britain and Ireland, formed in 1841, enrolled among its 6,000 members in Scotland some Midlothian, and probably also some East Lothian, miners.¹² In the following decade the Mid and East Lothian miners were among the early adherents of the Coal and Iron Miners' Association founded in November 1855, with Alexander McDonald, the outstanding Scots and British miners' leader of the next quarter century, as its general secretary.¹³ A meeting in Dalkeith on 17 November that year resolved that 'We, the miners of Midlothian, have no other alternative left us but to join a Union', and it was agreed to form a branch of the emerging Coal and Iron Miners' Association and that 'a Committee be appointed in each Colliery for the purpose of co-operating with the County Committee for the management of the affairs of the District'. A week later, East Lothian miners also declared their willingness to join the new Association. Both counties appear to have been part of the Association more or less until its decline and collapse in 1862-3.¹⁴ In the 1860s Mid and East Lothian miners joined the Free Colliers movement, 'a revival of an old secret society', which had anti-Catholic and anti-Irish aspects. Midlothian was said to have 1,022 members of the Free Colliers by the end of 1864, while in East Lothian membership had increased by 50 in one week that autumn.¹⁵

The petering out by 1870 of the Free Colliers was accompanied by a revival, in which Alexander McDonald again played a leading part, of miners' unionism

¹⁰ In NAS, RH2/4, vols. 144-7 and 154-6; Fraser, *Conflict and Class*, 123.

¹¹ *Children's Employment Commission (Mines), Reports from Commissioners, Second Vol., Appx to First Report, Part I* (PP, 1842), 405, paras 107, 109.

¹² R. Challinor & B. Ripley, *The Miners' Association: a Trade Union in the Age of the Chartists* (London, 1968), 73.

¹³ Alexander McDonald (1821-1881), son of a miner and grandson of a Jacobite who as a boy had been at the battle of Culloden in 1746; worked in the pits in Lanarkshire from age 9 to 25, attended for eight years evening classes in Latin and Greek, a student, 1846-9, at Glasgow University, a school-teacher, 1849-55; acquired a private income through investment in mining companies; a miners' leader from 1855, first in Lanarkshire then in Scotland and Britain; chairman, 1872-3, Parliamentary Committee, Trades Union Congress; MP, Stafford, 1874-81, one of the two first 'Labour' or working men's representatives to be elected to parliament.

¹⁴ Arnot MS, Chap. III, 6, 28, 59.

¹⁵ Arnot MS, Chap. III, 68-86; Campbell, *Lanarkshire Miners*, 277-86.

in Scotland and which was based on demands that included an increase in wages of 1s. a day, the establishment of an 8-hour day, and amendments to the Mines Regulation Bill then passing through parliament and enacted in 1872.¹⁶ On 10 June 1870, at a meeting of delegates from most of the collieries in Mid and East Lothian, it was resolved 'that a fund be immediately raised for organising a combined trades union of the two districts, the men to pay at the rate of sixpence per week'.¹⁷ This Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association appears not to have emerged fully, however, until the end of the following year when, at a meeting in Dalkeith on 24 November, at which Alexander McDonald spoke, it was unanimously agreed that the Lothian miners form a union, with entry money of 1s. and a weekly subscription of 3d. per member. A Board of four delegates from Midlothian and four from East Lothian was elected.¹⁸ By early 1873 the Association had over 2,000 members and a fund of £840 which by the end of that year had increased to £1,800.¹⁹ But the economic recession that set in from 1874 and the consequent difficulties created for trade unionism led within a few years to the dissolution of the Association. By early 1879 membership had declined to 246, and in April that year a resolution to dissolve the union and divide its funds, amounting to about £2,500, among the members, was carried by 189 votes to 19, despite 'strenuous efforts ... by the office-bearers to keep the society in existence'.²⁰ Alexander McDonald, as trustee of the Association's funds, declined to approve of their division;²¹ but a subsequent revision of the rules empowered a majority of the members to dissolve the society and, despite an appeal from McDonald, dissolution was carried on 18 June 1881 by 392 votes to 52, with 62 members not voting.²²

Nonetheless general joint meetings of Mid and East Lothian miners concerning wages (against a reduction in which there was an unsuccessful five weeks' strike in the spring of 1883) and other issues continued to be held during the 1880s. It appears that after the dissolution of the joint union in 1881 some form of organisation remained at least at the collieries and their delegates attended the joint or general meetings. In the early 1880s the East Lothian miners appear to have formed their own county union, and on 12 August 1886 the Midlothian miners did likewise, with William Bullock, Loanhead, as president and with a membership within two months of 1,360.²³

¹⁶ Arnot, *Scottish Miners*, 51.

¹⁷ *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 15 June 1870.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 29 Nov. 1871.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 27 Feb. and 4 Dec. 1873.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 24 Apr. 1879.

²¹ *Ibid.*, 8 May 1879.

²² 'The ulterior proceedings of the meeting were of a turbulent character, almost amounting to violence, and a party from Carberry, having lodged a protest against the legality of the dissolution, on leaving the meeting threatened to send in the police.' *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 2 and 23 June 1881.

²³ *Ibid.*, 1 June and 19 Oct. 1882, 15 and 22 Mar., 5, 12 and 26 Apr. 1883, 15 July and 19 Aug. 1886.

But the movement toward amalgamation of the two unions gathered strength by the beginning of 1889, when at a meeting in Dalkeith on 23 January of miners of the two counties Richard Scott, president of the East Lothian Association, said from the chair that 'he was sorry that the two counties were not in closer touch ... because they knew that East Lothian, being the smallest, could do little without the assistance of Midlothian, while Midlothian could do little either without the assistance of East Lothian'.²⁴

If the miners' unions in Mid and East Lothian began more than a century before their earliest surviving minutes of 1894, the working of coal in the two counties had begun more than half a millennium earlier still. Coal appears to have been first dug in Scotland in the thirteenth century by the monks of Newbattle Abbey. There, a mile from Dalkeith in Midlothian, outcrops of coal were worked on the banks of the South Esk river on which the Abbey stood. Perhaps even earlier in that century than at Newbattle itself its monks were working coal near Prestongrange in East Lothian on land granted the Abbey by Seyer de Quinci, earl of Winchester.²⁵

From those very small beginnings in the middle ages the production of coal in Midlothian is estimated to have increased to around 200,000 tons a year by 1800.²⁶ In 1894, when the minutes below begin, production was 720,681 tons in Midlothian and 248,334 tons in East Lothian. By 1913, the last peacetime year before the Great War brought a progressive annual decline in output, production in Midlothian reached 3,203,680 tons and in East Lothian 1,117,020 tons—total tonnages not exceeded in either county until 1923.

The number employed in coalmining, below and above ground, between 1894 and 1913 almost doubled in Midlothian (from 6,235 to 11,713) and more than trebled in East Lothian (from 1,088 to 3,629). The number of pits at work in the two counties increased from 29 in 1895 to 40 in 1913.²⁷ These increases exemplified the substantial growth during those two decades of the coal industry in Scotland and in Britain. That growth, and that of the miners' unions, but also the eventfulness of the second decade of the twentieth century, are reflected in the fact that the minutes below are more than three times longer for the years 1910-18 than for 1894-1901.

In Mid and East Lothian the collieries were owned and managed during the period covered by these minutes by a dozen separate companies of varying size,

²⁴ Ibid., 24 Jan. 1889.

²⁵ C. Innes, *Sketches of Early Scotch History* (Edinburgh, 1861), 131-2.

²⁶ Duckham, *Scottish Coal Industry*, 28-9.

²⁷ *Reports of H.M. Inspectors of Mines for the Year 1894* (London, 1895), Cmd 7666, 5, 8; *Reports of J.B. Atkinson, H.M. Inspector of Mines for the East Scotland District (No. 1) for the Year 1895* (London, 1896), Cmd 8074-V, 4; *Reports of W. Walker, H.M. Inspector of Mines for the Scotland Division (No. 1) for the Year 1913* (London, 1914), Cmd 7439, 6, 7; A.S. Cunningham, *Mining in Mid and East Lothian* (Edinburgh, n.d. [1925]), 62.

two or three of which, such as the Shotts Iron Co. Ltd., Niddrie and Benhar Coal Co. Ltd., and the Summerlee Iron Co. Ltd., also owned pits outside the two counties. The largest companies, in terms of output and numbers employed, were the Lothian Coal Co. Ltd., Arniston Coal Co. Ltd., Shotts Iron Co. Ltd., Niddrie and Benhar Coal Co. Ltd., and Edinburgh Collieries Co. Ltd.²⁸ For several centuries the coalowners of Mid and East Lothian had had their own association to protect their interests, though from time to time, as the minutes below indicate, one or two of the coal companies were not members.²⁹ It was evidently reconstituted after the establishment in 1899 of the Scottish Coal Conciliation Board³⁰ and again in 1907 when it became the Lothians Coalowners' Association.³¹

The Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association founded in 1889 was a county union whose members, as the minutes of its Board indicate, were organised in branches based upon the collieries where they worked. In some cases a branch was based on a single colliery or pit, as at Rosewell in Midlothian or Prestongrange in East Lothian. In others, a branch was based on a group or district of collieries or pits, as at Newbattle (with Bryans, Lingerwood, Easthouses and Lady Victoria pits), Niddrie (Niddrie, Newcraighall and Woolmet pits—and even for a time Gilmerton pit, two miles south-west of those three),³² or Loanhead (Burghlee, Ramsay and, for a time, Roslin pits). The number of branches varied from time to time as a colliery closed or another opened or re-opened. Between 1894 and 1901 there appear to have been at least 15 branches and at most 18; between 1910 and 1918 at least 17 and at most 24.

The number of members in each branch varied as much as the number of miners employed at each colliery. A few branches had very small memberships: in March 1916, excluding members who had enlisted in the Forces, House o' Muir branch had only 43 members, Bankpark 78, and Vogrie 80. On the other hand, Niddrie branch then had 1,246 members and Newbattle 1,051.³³ The

²⁸ The Lothian Coal Co. Ltd. had several pits, including those (Bryans, Lingerwood, Easthouses and, from 1894, Lady Victoria) in the Newbattle-Newtongrange area, as well as Polton (near Bonnyrigg), and Whitehill (Rosewell). Arniston Coal Co. Ltd. had the Emily and Gore pits at Arniston-Gorebridge. Shotts Iron Co. Ltd., which had Mauricewood colliery at Penicuik until it was finally closed in 1909, twenty years after the disaster there (see below, p. 50, n. 30), also owned the two Loanhead pits Burghlee and Ramsay, and Roslin (the Moat) colliery. The Niddrie and Benhar Coal Co. Ltd. owned the Niddrie pits and Newcraighall and Woolmet. Edinburgh Collieries Co. Ltd., formed in 1900, thereafter owned the collieries formerly belonging to three smaller companies at Carberry and Wallyford in Midlothian, and Bankton, Bellyford, Elphinstone and Prestonlinks in East Lothian. Cunningham, *Mining in Mid and East Lothian*, 113–14.

²⁹ See below, p. 278, where Udston (evidently a reference to Penston colliery, which was owned by Udston Coal Co.), Smeaton and Bankpark collieries are said to be outside the coalowners' association.

³⁰ See below, p. 99, n. 99.

³¹ Cunningham, *Mining in Mid and East Lothian*, 87–9; *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 7 Mar. 1878, 9 Dec. 1880.

³² See below, p. 255.

³³ Printed abstract of Board minutes, 9 Mar. 1916, 2.

two latter branches were indeed so large that they were permitted to have two delegates each on the Board of the Association.³⁴ Two East Lothian branches, Oxenford (where in 1903 there were only 26 miners employed in the colliery) and House o' Muir, were so small that they were obliged to share their representation on the Board.³⁵ Every branch elected its own committee and had a delegate on the Board of the Association. The minutes show that between the branches and the Board there was a flow in each direction of information, enquiries, reports, motions and (from the Board) decisions or recommendations in which the delegates played a key part. Branches and their collectors also played a vital role in gathering members' subscriptions to the Association.

A shortcoming of the minutes is the absence from them of sederunts of the delegates and the names of their branches at meetings of the Board and, with occasional exceptions, its Wages Committee (retitled Executive Committee after the outbreak of the 1914-18 War).³⁶ At only one Board meeting (on 5 June 1915) are the names of all the delegates present given, though even then not the branches they represented. At about half of the Wages or Executive Committee meetings between 18 July 1911 and 27 March 1916 the names of delegates present are given but not their branches, and on 8 February 1916 all members of the Executive are said to be present. Attendance by the delegates at Board meetings throughout the years covered by these minutes seems to have been very high and often complete.³⁷

As well as Board and branch meetings, the minutes from time to time refer to other meetings by Association members. Members of branches or groups of branches in a particular area, centred for example on Musselburgh in Midlothian or on Tranent in East Lothian, met occasionally in district meetings,³⁸ which were usually addressed on particular issues by the full-time agent or other office-bearers of the Association.³⁹ General meetings of its whole membership were held, usually at Dalkeith, county town of Midlothian, on more than a dozen occasions between 1894 and 1901 but, presumably because of the substantial increase in the membership of the Association by then, more rarely between

³⁴ See below, p. 39, nn. 12, 50, 102.

³⁵ See below, p. 83; *List of Mines in the United Kingdom. Prepared by H.M. Inspectors of Mines* (London, 1903), 7-28.

³⁶ See below, p. 291.

³⁷ Reports in the *Dalkeith Advertiser* of Board meetings often contain the number, and on some occasions the names, of branches represented, or refer to a full attendance. The lowest number of branches reported was on 28 June 1900, when there were said to be 15 or 16 collieries in the Association, and the highest reported were '24 districts' on 20 Sept. 1917. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, June 1894 to Nov. 1918 *passim*.

³⁸ See below, e.g. p. 371, where 'a Combined Meeting' of East Lothian branches had resolved to ask for an idle day on 19 Sept. 1917.

³⁹ E.g. the *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 23 May 1895, reports a meeting of Niddrie miners addressed by the agent, Robert Brown.

1910 and 1918.⁴⁰ Though a proposal in 1911 by Arniston branch that an annual meeting of the Association be held was 'approved by a large majority of the branches', it seems later to have run into the sand.⁴¹ The same fate appears to have befallen a motion from another branch in November 1913 that a quarterly district meeting be held at Tranent.⁴² Although the Association never published a journal or newsletter for members, printed abstracts of the Board's minutes were issued to branches, as already mentioned, from May 1911 onward.

Besides seeking the views of branches on many questions the Board also sought directly by means of ballots the views of all the Association's members on particularly important issues, such as wages, hours, strike action, and election of office-bearers. Many instances of these ballots are recorded in the minutes. Sometimes ballots by individual branches were also sanctioned by the Board.⁴³ Some of the ballots resulted from decisions or recommendations made by the Scottish Miners' Federation or the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, to both of which the Association was affiliated from 1894 (to the SMF directly, to the MFGB through the SMF).

Meetings of the Board (which between 1894 and 1901 are variously described in the minutes as Executive, Executive and Financial, Executive Board, Financial, Delegate, Financial and Board, etc.) took place more or less monthly. In addition, between 1910 and 1918 the executive or Wages Committee (retitled formally from September 1914 the Executive Committee) of the Board met usually half a dozen times a year (only twice in 1915, but ten times in 1917). The surviving minutes show that until 1901 (though almost certainly until 1903-4), the Board met more or less alternately in Dalkeith (usually in the Scientific Hall but occasionally in the Corn Exchange or the Foresters' Hall) and Tranent (almost always in either Glasgow's Hall or Duncan's Hall). About 60 per cent of the Association's meetings were held in Dalkeith, 40 per cent in Tranent, perhaps reflecting the fact that the large majority of its membership was employed in Midlothian, the minority in East Lothian. By 1903-4 however, the Association had acquired what became known as Union Villa, a house in Bonnyrigg Road, Eskbank, on the southern edge of Dalkeith, in which it established its offices and Board room.⁴⁴ There all Board and Wages or Executive Committee meetings were held until 1917, except for half a dozen joint meetings with coalowners or doctors from 1916 at various places in Edinburgh.⁴⁵ The Association's secretary, Robert Brown, and his family lived in Union Villa at Eskbank. Occasionally from 21 April 1917 and then regularly from 22 December that year, however,

⁴⁰ See below, pp. 244, 246, 269, 270, 271, 400, 411.

⁴¹ See below, pp. 175, 179, 222, 224, 226, 227, 231, 248, 251.

⁴² See below, p. 262.

⁴³ E.g. below, pp. 129, 130.

⁴⁴ *Valuation Return for the County of Midlothian, 1903-04*, 269.

⁴⁵ See below, e.g. pp. 332, 350, 371.

Board and Executive Committee meetings were held in Edinburgh, at the Free Gardeners' Institute in Picardy Place. The reason for holding these meetings in Edinburgh may have been because the Board room at Eskbank was no longer large enough to hold the increased number of delegates, given the growth of the coal industry in Mid and East Lothian and the increase in the membership and number of branches of the Association.

The minutes became longer from 1910 onward as meetings of the Board lengthened. Whereas between 1894 and 1901 its meetings usually lasted two or three hours (once, on 28 July 1894, as long as four hours), between 1910 and 1918 they almost always lasted five or six hours—on 16 September 1911 nearly seven hours and on 28 January that year 'fully 8 hours'.⁴⁶

The delegates and Association office-bearers who attended those meetings were (apart from the full-time agent or secretary, and the assistant secretary first elected in March 1911)⁴⁷ themselves working miners. Discussion of their expenses and other payments for attending meetings is often mentioned in the minutes. In October 1910 the Board decided that in future all delegates and office-bearers be 'put on an equal footing' by attending conferences in rotation.⁴⁸ This decision must have provided delegates with valuable experience in meeting mining union activists from other coalfields at conferences of the Scottish Miners' Federation and the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, as well as non-mining activists at the conferences of the Scottish and British Trades Union Congress and other national or local organisations such as the Labour Party or Edinburgh Trades Council. Attendance at such a range of conferences and other meetings broadened the horizons of Association delegates and brought them into contact with the wider trade union and labour movement. Thus the period covered by these minutes was one when the earlier isolation of many miners, their unions and their communities was diminishing.

Among the delegates to the Board of the Association some were, or later became, leading figures in their local communities as councillors, Co-operators, or members of political parties. Robert Burnside (1882-1962), for instance, was Arniston delegate to the Board from 1914 and already becoming a prominent local activist before then. After the period covered by the minutes below, he became a full-time official of the Association, president, 1921-5, of Gorebridge Co-operative Society, and a Midlothian county councillor, 1933-61, for the last fourteen years of which he was the first Labour convener of the council.⁴⁹

As a union covering two counties in which far more miners were employed in one than in the other and where in the 1880s there had been two separate unions, the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association had evidently agreed at its

⁴⁶ *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 1894-1918 passim, but especially 2 Aug. 1894, 2. Feb. and 21 Sept. 1911.

⁴⁷ See below, p. 161.

⁴⁸ See below, p. 144.

⁴⁹ See below, pp. 208, 296. His obituary is in *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 22 Feb. 1962.

formation in 1889 that, to ensure some balance, at least one of its three or four office-bearers must be drawn from East Lothian.⁵⁰ There is little evidence in the minutes of any recorded concern on this question. During the years covered by the minutes below there were four successive presidents, three vice-presidents, only one treasurer (William Falconer of Arniston, Midlothian), and two secretaries (Robert Brown and Joseph Young, both Midlothian—Young was previously, from 1911 to 1917, the Association's first assistant secretary). Of the four presidents, two (William Shaw, from 1889 to 1899, and James Ormiston, from May 1918) were East Lothian and two (George Young, 1900–1912, and Andrew Clarke, 1912–May 1918) Midlothian.⁵¹ Of the three vice-presidents, George Young (?–1899) and Robert Burnside (from May 1918) were Midlothian, James Ormiston (1899–1918) East Lothian. When Andrew Clarke became a full-time agent of the Association in May 1918, Joseph Young continued as its secretary. Thus the three full-time agents between 1894 and 1918 were all Midlothian men.⁵²

The office-bearers of the Association were well known figures in the two counties during the years covered by the minutes below. Joseph Young, for example, born in Lesmahagow, had begun work as a boy in the pits at Niddrie where he later became a checkweigher,⁵³ and he was also politically active and was a Labour member of Inveresk School Board and Parish Council and Musselburgh Town Council.⁵⁴ Another politically active office-bearer was William Shaw, president of the Association till 1899, when, already a Tranent councillor, he became East Lothian agent for the Conservative and Unionist Party.⁵⁵

But undoubtedly the two best known leaders of the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association in the period covered by these minutes were Robert Brown, who as its secretary or agent wrote all the minutes below until his death in December 1917, and Andrew Clarke. Born in 1848, son of a miner at the duke of Buccleuch's collieries at Dalkeith, Brown went down the pits at age 11 and, apart from two years from age 21 when he worked in the United States, he remained a miner in Midlothian until in 1891 he became the Association's full-time secretary (a title evidently altered by April 1914 to general secretary). In the year of its formation in 1894 Brown became secretary also of the Scottish Miners' Federation and in 1914 of its successor, the National Union of Scottish Mine Workers. He was elected in 1897, 1900, 1905, 1910 and 1915 to the

⁵⁰ See below, p. 99.

⁵¹ The first president, Richard Scott, was East Lothian but he was elected full-time secretary of the Association in late 1889, a few months after its formation.

⁵² See below, pp. 396, 397, 399.

⁵³ See below, p. 54, n. 35.

⁵⁴ See below, p. 261; *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 20 June 1918.

⁵⁵ See below, p. 98, n. 98.



Robert Brown (1848-1917), secretary, 1891-1917,
Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association.

(Courtesy of Scottish Mining Museum, Newtongrange.)

Executive Committee of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain.⁵⁶ A Dalkeith town councillor from 1896, Brown was provost of the town from 1911 until his death. He was chairman for many years of the Dalkeith Co-operative Society. He gave evidence to the Royal Commission on Housing in Scotland in 1913.⁵⁷ For many years previously a Liberal, Brown was adopted as Labour candidate in the Midlothian parliamentary by-election in September 1912, when he came bottom of the poll in a three-cornered contest. After his re-adoption in 1913 Brown remained Labour candidate for the constituency until his death.⁵⁸ Strongly pro-war in 1914-18, when several of his sons served in the Forces, Brown actively supported the recruiting drive and conscription.⁵⁹

The minutes show that, hardly surprisingly for a man so active in so many fields, Brown was not without his critics. Apart from the unsuccessful court action for slander brought against him in 1912-13 by the Wallyford branch delegate Andrew Quigley, who had been nominated shortly before for the presidency of the Association,⁶⁰ there were other occasions, as the minutes show, when Brown's views or actions aroused criticism or opposition by Association members or others.⁶¹ During the great Scots national miners' strike in 1894 Brown found himself opposed to the virtually unanimous decision of a mass meeting of some 2,000 Association members concerning the objectives of the strike and submitted his resignation, but it was not accepted by the president.⁶² When early in 1914 a testimonial to Brown for his public services was proposed and the Scottish Miners' Federation grant recommended for it was £50, the

⁵⁶ R. Page Arnot, *The Miners: a History of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain 1889-1910* (London, 1949), 391; R. Page Arnot, *The Miners: Years of Struggle. A History of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain (from 1910 onwards)* (London, 1953), 547.

⁵⁷ See below, p. 240, n. 43.

⁵⁸ See below, pp. 219, 241.

⁵⁹ *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 17 Sept. 1914, 28 Oct. 1915, 27 Dec. 1917; *Northumberland Miners' Association Monthly Circular*, Feb. 1918, 1-7; *Miners' Federation of Great Britain Annual Proceedings, 1916: Report of Special Conference, 8 and 9 Feb.*, 37-8.

⁶⁰ See below, pp. 188, 214-15, 216, 228, 232, 234, 266.

⁶¹ E.g. below, p. 122, n. 4; p. 189.

⁶² See below, p. 40, n. 14. Robert Selkirk (1887-1974), a militant miner born and brought up in Midlothian though in 1914 he moved to Fife, recalls in his autobiography that about 1907-8, when he was working at Ormiston pit, East Lothian, 'a telegram had come into the hands of the militants; it was a message from our Union agent, Robbie Brown, a Lib-Lab type, to the manager of Prestonlinks Pit telling him not to start Arthur Quinn (who had been victimised in Lanarkshire) "as he was an agitator". This was so much at variance with the purpose of the Union—protecting agitators—that a campaign was launched by the militants against Brown, throughout Mid and East Lothian. Brown did not admit his mistake, he enlisted the support of Bob Smillie and other Trade Union leaders. They addressed crowded meetings in all the big centres, such as Tranent, Wallyford, Dalkeith, Newcraighall, and they made "realistic, whitewashing" speeches. Brown toured all the Branches and won their support for the "sane line of not wanting trouble". I will never forget the rowdy branch meeting in Ormiston and Brown being restrained forcibly by the Chairman from carrying out his threat "to guzzle that young b...". R. Selkirk, *The Life of a Worker* (Dundee, 1967), 8.

Wages Committee of the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association agreed—'by a Majority'—to recommend that its own Board make a grant of £20. A motion at the next Board meeting to disapprove the grant of £20 was defeated by 12 votes to 6. When the Board's decision was remitted to the branches it was approved but with a substantial minority opposed—5,821 votes to 4,320.⁶³ After Brown's death in 1917 a memorial to him proposed by the Board was remitted to the branches. The latter agreed to consider it—but only by 10 votes to 9 against—and the proposal was deferred.⁶⁴

The other Mid and East Lothian Association leader who became well known outside the two counties was Andrew Clarke (1868–1940). Born the son of a butcher in Edinburgh, Clarke spent some of his early years in America and on his return to Scotland became a miner at Newcraighall pit, where he was later elected a checkweigher. By 1910 the minutes below show that Clarke was a delegate from Niddrie branch to the Board.⁶⁵ He was an unsuccessful candidate in the election of the assistant secretary in 1910–11,⁶⁶ but he became president of the Association in April 1912, an office he retained until May 1918, when he was elected a full-time agent, becoming secretary in 1919 after the death of Joseph Young. Clarke remained secretary of the Association until his death in 1940. He was also president, 1932–40, of the National Union of Scottish Mine Workers. A member of the Independent Labour Party and a friend of James Keir Hardie, Clarke was Labour MP, 1923–4 and 1929, for North Midlothian.⁶⁷

Membership of the Mid and East Lothian Association remained small in the last decade of the 19th century, and for some years then even suffered a distinct decline. Three months after the end of the Scots miners' strike of 1894 the Association's membership was 3,640.⁶⁸ In June 1896 its membership, as reflected in its affiliation to the Scottish Miners' Federation, was reduced from 3,000 to 2,500.⁶⁹ By the end of the century membership had risen slightly to 2,750, and in the following five years there was evidently a continuous though very small annual increase to 3,400 in 1904.⁷⁰ The later period covered by the minutes, from 1910 to 1918, was one of very strong growth in trade union membership generally in Britain, when the national total rose from 2,565,000 to 6,461,000.

⁶³ See below, pp. 275, 277, 281.

⁶⁴ See below, pp. 399, 402, 405.

⁶⁵ See below, p. 120. An earlier mention of an Andrew Clark in the minutes of 17 Aug. 1901 (below, p. 119), at a general meeting of the Association, may be of Clarke; but he could not then have been one of Niddrie's two delegates to the Board, who at that time were William Holmes and Joseph Young.

⁶⁶ See below, pp. 150, 161.

⁶⁷ W. Knox, *Scottish Labour Leaders, 1918–1939* (Edinburgh, 1984), 77–8; I. MacDougall, *Militant Miners* (Edinburgh, 1981), 178.

⁶⁸ See below, p. 53.

⁶⁹ See below, p. 71.

⁷⁰ See below, p. 416.

The membership of the Association also increased substantially, at least up to the eve of the Great War. By April 1914 the Association had 9,388 full members and 800 others—three times as many as ten years earlier.⁷¹

This increase in the Association's membership resulted partly from the increase in the numbers employed in and about the pits in Mid and East Lothian: from 13,785 in 1910 to 15,333 in 1914.⁷² But it was also a result of a campaign by the Association to reduce the number of non-unionists. Enrolment of surface workers, including a growing but still distinctly small number of women workers, was a third factor in the increase. The minutes are full of references to the struggle to reduce the number of non-unionists, particularly from 1910 onwards, by persuasion, by badge days (i.e. the wearing by members of their Association badges so that non-unionists were easily identified), but also by strikes and threats of strikes against non-unionism. In the frequent struggle between miners and management over wages and working conditions, non-unionism was seen by members of the Association as an Achilles heel actual or potential.⁷³ A Wallyford branch proposal in October 1910 for a national strike against non-unionists was, however, heavily defeated in a vote at the Board.⁷⁴

While the number of underground workers in the pits in Mid and East Lothian increased so markedly during the years covered by these minutes, so also did the number of surface workers. In 1894 there were 6,031 underground workers in the two counties, in 1913 12,338. The number of surface workers increased in the same period from 1,292 to 3,004,⁷⁵ though the percentage of the workforce they represented rose only slightly from 17.6 in 1894 to 19.5 in 1913. The salient feature, however, was that by the latter year there was such a substantial number of them. In the later years of the minutes below, and certainly from 1913, there are consequently far more references to surface workers than in the earlier years; and there is an interesting list in the minutes of 29 November 1913 of the number of surface workers, branch by branch, in membership of or promised to join the Association, and of their daily wages.⁷⁶ The total of members is 238, and even allowing for as many as, say, another 100 in four branches that made no return, it is clear that the Association's recruitment campaign at that stage had a long way to go before it could achieve a level of membership among surface workers comparable to that among underground workers. Some

⁷¹ See below, p. 280. For statistics of union growth in Britain, see H.A. Clegg et al., *A History of British Trade Unions since 1889*, vol. i: 1889-1910 (Oxford, 1964), 489, and H.A. Clegg, *A History of British Trade Unions since 1889*, vol. ii: 1911-1933 (Oxford, 1985), 568.

⁷² *Reports of H.M. Inspectors of Mines for the Scotland District (No. 1) for the Year 1910* (London, 1911), 6; *Reports of H.M. Inspectors of Mines for the Scotland Division (No. 1) for the Year 1914* (London, 1915), 6.

⁷³ See below, e.g. pp. 106, 121, 130, 310.

⁷⁴ See below, p. 144.

⁷⁵ *Reports of H.M. Inspectors of Mines Report for the Year 1894*, 5; *ibid.*, for 1913, 6.

⁷⁶ See below, p. 263.

surface workers were, of course, members of another mining union, the Scottish Colliery Enginemen and Boilermen's Association.

Among surface workers, at least from 1898, women began to be employed, first in Midlothian then six years later in East Lothian. In 1898 (the year after the Association had donated £20 in gratuities to those surviving old women who had worked underground in the pits of the two counties before the Act of 1842 prohibited their labour)⁷⁷ only two women—or rather a girl aged between 13 and 16 and a girl or woman aged over 16—were employed on the pithead in Midlothian. In the following year three were employed there: two aged between 13 and 16, and one over 16. From 1900 to 1914 the statistics of women's employment at the pits show an increase from 1 to 85, thus:

Female employment at pits in Mid and East Lothian, 1900-1914⁷⁸

	Midlothian	Aged 14-16	Over 16	East Lothian	Aged 14-16	Over 16	Total
1900	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
1901	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
1902	27	6	21	Nil	Nil	Nil	27
1903	43	4	39	Nil	Nil	Nil	43
1904	42	9	33	1	Nil	1	43
1905	34	5	29	Nil	Nil	Nil	34
1906	38	6	32	Nil	Nil	Nil	38
1907	33	1	32	8	Nil	8	41
1908	49	3	46	8	Nil	8	57
1909	49	10	39	14	2	12	63
1910	63	9	54	20	5	15	83
1911	62	7	55	21	6	15	83
1912	80	20	60	14	Nil	14	94
1913	84	24	60	13	Nil	13	97
1914	85	25	60	Nil	Nil	Nil	85

Until 1915 women surface workers are not mentioned in the minutes below, apart from one possible reference in 1911.⁷⁹ Between 1915 and 1918 there are a

⁷⁷ See below, p. 82.

⁷⁸ The figures are taken from the annual reports, 1898-1914, of H.M. Inspectors of Mines. The reports do not give statistics for women employed during the four years ending in 1918, nor is there an explanation for the disappearance in 1914 of pithead women in East Lothian.

⁷⁹ See below, p. 170, where a claim under the Workmen's Compensation Act by Mary Goldrick, Prestongrange, was not taken up by the Miners' Association as she was not a member. H.M. Inspector's report for 1904 for the East of Scotland (London, 1905), Cmd 2506, 7, commenting on a gradual increase within the past few years in the district (which included Fife, Kinross, and Clackmannan, West Lothian, and part of Stirlingshire and of Lanarkshire) added that 'a very large number of girls and young women are now employed on the picking tables of coal cleaning plant, and appear to be superseding the labour of boys. Probably the principal reason for this is ... that the girls are better value for the wages, and pay more attention to their work than do boys.'

dozen references to them, including one that they can join the Association for 1s. entry fee and a weekly contribution of 2d., and another in 1916 that 'a special effort' is to be made to enrol women workers into the Association.⁸⁰

Membership of the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association was open to miners in the two counties on payment of an entry fee and a weekly contribution. The early years of these minutes show the variations in the amount of the entry fee between 1s., 5s., and from September 1900 10s.⁸¹ In the years between 1894 and 1901, when miners' average wages in the two counties varied (before certain deductions were made) between about £1.1.3. and £2 per week, an entry fee of 10s. represented between about quarter to half of the weekly wage—a very considerable sum.⁸² The fortnightly contribution payable by members was 6d. Members on the sick list and boys (half members) paid half that amount (though in 1894 the minutes say members do not pay contributions 'when badly or out of work'⁸³), and during the 1914–18 War members in the Forces were excused paying contributions while continuing to enjoy full benefits of membership.⁸⁴ The minutes chart the long struggle by the Board (supported by a resolution of the Scottish Miners' Federation that no county union affiliated to it should have a weekly contribution of less than 6d.⁸⁵) between August 1911 and December 1914 to increase the Association members' weekly contribution from 3d. to 6d.⁸⁶

The actual amounts received in contributions are given in the minutes of virtually every meeting between 1894 and 1901, but not between 1910 and 1918.⁸⁷ Very rarely are glimpses given in the minutes of the funds held by the Association.⁸⁸ Twice the minutes show the Board seeking a loan of £2,000 from the bank during the miners' national strike in 1912, and of £1,000 in July 1913

⁸⁰ See below, pp. 321, 338. A single-sided loose proforma document surviving in the third minute book, with the Association's letterhead, dated 2 Nov. 1918 and completed in the handwriting of Joseph Young, the secretary, lists branch by branch in five separate columns the number of full, half-, widow, female, and superannuated members. There are ten blank spaces in the various columns, indicating incomplete returns—for example, at Bankton branch there are said to be 301 full members, but the other four columns are blank. But the lists indicate that there then were 6,775 full, 806 half-, 109 widow, 276 female, and 127 superannuated members—a total of 8,093 members. If these figures are reasonably reliable then there was more, and perhaps much more, than a threefold increase in the number of women pithead workers during the war years.

⁸¹ See below, pp. 53, 54, 64, 78, 107, 111, 118, 164.

⁸² See below, p. 417.

⁸³ See below, pp. 40, 257.

⁸⁴ See below, p. 290.

⁸⁵ See below, p. 155.

⁸⁶ See below, e.g. pp. 177, 257, 266, 277, 300.

⁸⁷ Surviving printed abstracts of the minutes of eleven meetings between Mar. 1916 and Nov. 1918, however, indicate that in those three wartime years the monthly income of the Association varied between £686 and £1,136.

⁸⁸ See below, e.g. pp. 84, 99, 200, 316, 352.

during the Leith dockers' strike.⁸⁹ On the other hand, the Board in 1910-11 granted loans to Dalkeith, Tranent and Bonnyrigg Town Councils, and to Dalkeith Burgh School Board.⁹⁰ Like many other organisations the Association suffered occasional leakages of funds through their misappropriation by branch collectors or treasurers, but the minutes show that these sums were relatively small and some were recovered.⁹¹

Given the demands made upon its funds by the great strikes of 1894 and 1912, its continuous expenditure on funeral and other benefits for members, its affiliation and legal and other fees, and its administration costs, the Association appears from the fragmentary evidence available never to have been well funded. Its accumulated funds divided by the number of its members in any given year is an indication of that fact.⁹² On the other hand, the Association was authorised by its rules to levy its members, and it could also when in particular need seek financial support from the Scottish Miners' Federation and the Miners' Federation of Great Britain.⁹³

The benefits which membership of the Association offered to workers below and above ground at the collieries in Mid and East Lothian are, of course, constantly recurring subjects in its minutes. The necessity for organisation and collective action by the miners to defend and improve their wages and working conditions had been shown for generations before the formation of the Association in 1889. The objects of the Association, according to its rules drawn up that year (see Appendix A below), were

to obtain legislative enactments for the more efficient management of mines, whereby the lives and health of miners may be preserved; to reduce working day [sic] to a maximum of eight hours; to secure the prices and wages the members may at all times contract for; to secure the true weight of the miners' material at the pit bank, thus giving to employers and employed their legitimate due; to prevent illegal stoppages of wages of members at the pay office; and to assist all similar Associations that have the same object in view.

But the minutes show how, as it developed through the years to 1918, the Association came to offer its members benefits additional to those indicated in its original rules. Thus an early benefit provided by the Association was victimisation payment or removing expenses, including support by a large majority of

⁸⁹ See below, pp. 197, 250.

⁹⁰ See below, pp. 131, 136, 137, 159.

⁹¹ See below, e.g. pp. 183, 185, 255, 264, 286, 295, 330, 381.

⁹² Though no copies of the Association's annual statement of accounts are known to survive for the years covered by these minutes, sporadic reports in the *Dalkeith Advertiser* of some statements indicate that, beginning from a deficit of £259 at the end of 1894, the funds in hand at the end of each year shown were: 1895 £1,081, 1897 £2,472, 1898 £3,275, 1899 £4,166, 1900 £5,384, 1909 £17,395, 1915 £9,580, 'besides property valued at £1,200', 1916 £13,000. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 28 Feb. 1895, 30 Jan. 1896, 26 Jan. 1899, 11 Jan. 1900, 24 Jan. 1901, 24 Feb. 1910, 24 Feb. 1916, 15 Feb. 1917.

⁹³ For examples of such support sought or given, see below, pp. 38, 39, 60, 249, 250. The rules of 1889, paragraph 10, gave the Board 'power to appoint a levy to be made in the different collieries', if the weekly contributions proved insufficient to meet its expenditures or if there were a dispute that needed support, each colliery (branch) contributing according to its membership.

the branches for deciding the amount granted on the merits of the cases rather than by a fixed sum.⁹⁴ The Association's death or funeral benefit was instituted from November 1895, and there are numerous references thereafter throughout the minutes to it.⁹⁵ Within a few weeks of its institution this benefit was credited with securing 'a large increase' in membership for the Association.⁹⁶

The beginnings before 1914 of state welfare provision included in Part I of the Insurance Act of 1911 a free medical service ('9d. for 4d.') for employees, including miners, though not for their families. An Approved Society was formed by the Scottish Miners' Federation, which members of the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association could join, as the minutes below indicate.⁹⁷ This led to the provision of a scheme of medical attendance for the wives and families of the miners, and the scheme—especially the amount of fees charged by the doctors—became the subject of recurring mention in the minutes between 1912 and 1918.⁹⁸ Part II of the Act provided for unemployment insurance for workers in a few selected industries of which coal-mining was not one. The minutes record many instances when members of the Association who found themselves unemployed or working only short-time sought and were, or were not, granted financial assistance by its Board.⁹⁹ The chronic likelihood of underemployment or short-time working caused by geological faults, breakdown of machinery or shaft, shortages of pit props or hutches, and other factors, led to a proposal by Wallyford branch in March 1911 that the Association institute its own unemployment benefit—but the attempt was defeated by a vote of 13 branches to 5.¹⁰⁰ Unemployment suffered by miners in the two counties as a result of the seamen's strike in the summer of 1911, however, led the Board to consider a scheme 'to meet contingencies'. It immediately became clear that any out of work benefit would have to depend on an increase in members' weekly or fortnightly contributions to the Association. The proposal to increase contributions was defeated in two ballots of the members but was resolved in 1914-15 by an increase from 3d. to 6d. per week.¹⁰¹ The issue of an unemployment benefit recurs in the minutes for the following years to 1918.

Frequent disputes between workers and management over wages, hours and working conditions were a characteristic of the coal-mining industry, and were implicit in the Association's statement of aims and objects at its formation in

⁹⁴ See below, pp. 39, 44, 55, 56, 59.

⁹⁵ See below, e.g. pp. 62, 63, 83.

⁹⁶ *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 30 Jan. 1896. In its first six weeks or so the benefit was said to be 'the means of affording relief to the relatives of about a dozen families, and it is expected it will prove to be a great boon in the future'.

⁹⁷ See below, pp. 205, 207.

⁹⁸ See below, e.g. pp. 232, 237, 284.

⁹⁹ See below, e.g. pp. 48, 135, 141.

¹⁰⁰ See below, pp. 160, 165.

¹⁰¹ See below, e.g. pp. 175, 177, 240, 241, 252, 259, 260, 297, 300, 342, 392.

1889. Reports of disputes at collieries are staples of the minutes below. Even with the support of the Association its members sometimes found it difficult to win their case; without that support, in the face of managements that were often autocratic and ruthless, the miners' position would have been much more difficult.¹⁰² That support was therefore a principal benefit of membership.

So also was the Association's support of its members' claims for compensation for accidents suffered in the pits. Accidents and death at work were notoriously all too often the fate suffered by miners and many cases of both are mentioned in these minutes. Several delegates to the Board, and on one occasion the president himself, were themselves injured or killed at their work.¹⁰³ To members' claims for compensation, the legal basis for which was strengthened by the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1897, the Association, as its minutes constantly show, devoted a great deal of time and effort. 'From fifty to seventy cases were continually on hand to be dealt with', the Wages Committee declared in October 1910; and during 1913 281 cases were dealt with, 48 of them being still on hand at the end of that year.¹⁰⁴

After the Mauricewood disaster at Penicuik, Midlothian, in 1889, Mid and East Lothian were fortunate to escape any similar mining catastrophe in the following thirty years. But the minutes refer to several of the disasters that befell miners elsewhere in Britain in those years: Whitehaven and Hulton in 1910, Cadeby Main in 1912, Senghenydd in 1913, and Stanrigg in Lanarkshire in 1918.¹⁰⁵ The annual reports for 1894-1914 by HM Inspectors of Mines for Mid and East Lothian list and describe the fatal accidents to miners at their daily work. Some of these fatalities are alluded to in the Association's minutes. These harrowing annual statistics show that the loss of life was as follows:

	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904
Midlothian:	7	6	9	8	8	13	11	12	9	12	14
East Lothian:	Nil	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	5	2	1
	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	
Midlothian:	12	15	14	18	14	13	13	10	18	19	
East Lothian:	3	4	4	2	2	9	2	2	4	3	

From 1896 to 1914 (apart from 1897) the number of miners in the two counties

¹⁰² For examples of autocratic management by, for example, the Lothian Coal Co. Ltd., see I. MacDougall, *Mungo Mackay and the Green Table* (East Linton, 1995), passim.

¹⁰³ See below, pp. 110, 120, 296.

¹⁰⁴ See below, pp. 142, 267. Robert Brown, secretary of the Mid and East Lothian miners, speaking at the MFGB annual conference in Jan. 1899, described the Workmen's Compensation Act as 'the best Bill that had ever been passed on behalf of the workers', and said it was unlikely the payments made as a result of it would have been made under 'the old Employers' Liability Bill ... In the East of Scotland they had over 30 cases, and they had never had to pay one penny to a lawyer and had had no difficulty whatever in obtaining compensation.' *MFGBAP, 1899: Report of Annual Conference, 10-13 January*, 35-6.

¹⁰⁵ See below, pp. 120, 149, 209, 260, 407.

who were killed or who died as a result of their injuries were each year in double figures, varying from 10 in 1896 and 1898 to 22 in 1910, 1913 and 1914. In Midlothian the lowest number of fatalities was 6 in 1895, the highest 19 in 1914; in East Lothian there were no fatalities at all in 1894, but the number increased to a pre-war maximum of 9 in 1910. Altogether 308 men and boys lost their lives in the pits in the two counties between 1894 and 1914, an average of almost 15 every year.

Fatal accidents occurred underground but also among surface workers. The most common causes of death were falls of sides or roofs of workings, explosions, machinery, falls down the shaft, crushing by hutches or, on the surface, railway waggons, and the breaking of ropes or chains. But suffocation, drowning by intruding water, electrocution, and other causes also claimed victims. Miners of all ages lost their lives in these years down the pit or on the pithead—one at Arniston aged 73, another at Newbattle aged 78, nine boys aged 14 and one, at Elphinstone, aged 13. Four 'Poles' (Lithuanians) and an Italian were among those killed then at the pits in Midlothian—three of the Lithuanians at Newbattle, the fourth at Woolmet, and the Italian at Polton.¹⁰⁶

Safety at work was therefore a constant concern of the Association and there are many references to that subject in these minutes. When the Coal Mines Act of 1911 was passed, 100 copies were ordered for distribution to delegates to the Board. The Act provided for the appointment of workmen's inspectors. The Association gave support for first aid and rescue classes and competitions (though, for reasons unexplained, not for a miners' convalescent home at Saltcoats).¹⁰⁷

The length of the working day and week is another recurrent subject. Although the Fife miners, by means of a stay-down strike in June 1870, are said to have been the first in Europe to secure an 8-hour day, Robert Brown, secretary of the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association, declared at a miners' demonstration in Edinburgh in 1899 that miners in the two counties had established an 8-hour day in the mid-1860s.¹⁰⁸ The long struggle by the miners to secure an 8-hour day by act of parliament (as distinct from by agreement between miners and their employers) that was achieved at last in 1908 is reflected in the minutes. In their earlier years the minutes record the Association's attempts to establish or maintain a 5-day working week, which appears to have been worked in the two counties from 1892.¹⁰⁹ When the minutes resume in 1910 they indicate the prevalence in Mid and East Lothian of the 11-day fortnight (alternate 5- and

¹⁰⁶ *H.M. Inspectors of Mines Reports*, for the years 1894–1918 *passim*.

¹⁰⁷ See below, pp. 193, 228, 239, 293, 320.

¹⁰⁸ *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 8 June 1899. Arnot MS, Chap. III, 93, quotes the *Penny Beehive*, 21 May 1870, as reporting that in the previous few days five named collieries in Mid and East Lothian had begun working an 8-hour day and that all the other collieries in the two counties were already, or soon would be, doing likewise.

¹⁰⁹ *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 28 Feb. 1895, quoting 6th annual report of Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association.

6-days working each week), but the 5-day week remained an objective of the Association, although from time to time an even shorter working week was proposed as a means of strengthening demands for wage increases or resistance to wage reductions. A threatened reduction of wages in the summer of 1914 precipitated a crisis when Scots miners, including those of Mid and East Lothian, responded by proposing to work a 4-day week and the coalowners consequently threatened a general lock-out—a crisis averted only by the outbreak of the Great War and the decision by the coalowners to withdraw their demands 'in the meantime'.¹¹⁰

Wages are a constant subject in the minutes. Of the six objectives of the Association stated in its original rules in 1889 three were directly concerned with wages; until 1914 the executive committee of the Board was titled the Wages Committee. The minutes record (or, when they do not, at least convey the sound of gunfire from) the innumerable struggles in which the miners of Mid and East Lothian, like those in other coalfields in those years, were engaged at pit, county and national levels, to defend their wages and to improve them. Throughout the period of these minutes coal hewers' or getters' wages were based upon average rates established in 1888.¹¹¹ The increases and reductions in miners' wages in the two counties and elsewhere in Scotland since 1888, when their average wages were estimated to be about 4s. a day, were recounted in a debate on wages at the annual conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain in January 1897 by Robert Brown, secretary of the Mid and East Lothian Association. After almost a dozen successive reductions or increases in 1888–93, the Scots miners, despite their prolonged national strike, suffered in 1894 a 20 per cent reduction (equal to about 1s.) per day on the 1888 basis. There were further reductions of 10 per cent per day in February 1895 and March 1896. Brown said that as he spoke (in January 1897) a 5 per cent increase had been granted and another 5 per cent increase was to take place in March.¹¹² Between then and the end of the first minute book in August 1901, a further five successive increases, followed by three successive reductions, in wages had taken place.¹¹³

As an historian of miners and the mining industry has written: 'No miner ever knew what his next pay day would bring.'¹¹⁴ In addition to fluctuations in the selling price of coal, other factors that raised or lowered the miner's pay from one day or week to the next are indicated in the minutes and included difficult geological conditions, short-time working, accidents at work, strikes (including some by workers in other occupations, such as seamen and dockers), shortage of hutches, victimisation, offtakes for the miner's domestic firecoal, rent, sharpening of

¹¹⁰ See below, pp. 49, 50, 57, 65, 66, 111, 113, 122, 290.

¹¹¹ See below, p. 96.

¹¹² *MFGBA, 1897: Report of Annual Conference, 5–8 January*, 81–2.

¹¹³ See below, e.g. pp. 88, 91, 113.

¹¹⁴ J. Benson, *British Coalminers in the Nineteenth Century: a Social History* (Dublin, 1980), 94.

tools, and 'dirt scale' reductions (i.e. for having too large a proportion of stones or dross, too little of coal, in his hutches).

These and other issues, including the miners' struggle to establish weekly instead of fortnightly pays, led to frequent disputes, concerning which there are scores of entries in the minutes. Nor did the establishment in 1899 of a Conciliation Board for the industry in Scotland (which a general meeting of Mid and East Lothian miners had unanimously hoped would 'provide a basis for the better regulation of wages and thereby prevent strikes')¹¹⁵ resolve the conflict of interest between coalowners intent on maximising their profits and minimising their losses and miners determined to resist wage reductions, especially reductions below a certain minimum, and, during periods of rising coal prices, to seek wage increases.¹¹⁶

'To secure the true weight of the miners' material at the pit bank, thus giving to employers and employed their legitimate due' was one of the Association's objectives stated in its rules at its formation in 1889. A vital role in ensuring that the coal produced by each miner, shovelled or filled into his hutches, and marked with his tally or pin for weighing at the pithead, was correctly weighed and paid for was played by the checkweigher. First established under the Coal Mines Regulation Act of 1860, and with his position as the miners' elected paid representative legally strengthened by the Coal Mines Acts of 1872 and 1887,¹¹⁷ the checkweigher (sometimes referred to as the justiceman) was very often also a leading figure in the union at his colliery—as had been Andrew Clarke, president, and Joseph Young, assistant secretary, of the Mid and East Lothian Association. Despite the earlier legislation, however, checkweighers as tribunes of the miners remained open to harassment by colliery managements. Moreover, payment of checkweighers' dues by the miners who elected them was an area open to varying interpretations by the courts. The minutes below record several such cases.¹¹⁸

¹¹⁵ See below, p. 93.

¹¹⁶ Two successive major crises, during years when there is a gap in the minutes below, concerning reductions in the wages of Scots miners, including those in Mid and East Lothian, threatened to lead to national strikes or lock-outs in 1904 and 1909. See Arnot, *Scottish Miners*, 98–111. A Conciliation Board had been formed in 1892 for Mid and East Lothian but seems to have been short-lived. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 14 May 1896.

¹¹⁷ R. Church, *The History of the British Coal Industry*, vol. iii: 1830–1913 (Oxford, 1986), 684–5, 702–5.

¹¹⁸ See below, e.g. p. 53. Robert Smillie, president, Scottish Miners' Federation, speaking to a motion at the 1897 annual conference of the MFGB that every underground worker paid by weight of coal produced ought to pay checkweighers' dues or wages, said that some sheriffs in Scotland had recently been interpreting the Acts to mean that only coal-hewers paid by the ton, but not drawers likewise paid, were eligible to pay checkweighers' dues; and a sheriff had recently decided that it was only hewers employed directly by the colliery and not those employed by contractors who were obliged to pay checkweighers' dues. 'Many employers and unscrupulous managers are anxious to rid themselves of checkweighers', declared Smillie; 'we know in Scotland that it is due to having recognised checkweighers on the pit bank that we have any organisation at some collieries, that it falls to the lot of checkweighers in some places to keep the men organised, and many managers, knowing that is the case, are anxious to get rid of the checkweighers.' *MFGBAR, 1897: Report of Annual Conference, 5–8 January*, 71–7.

Two great national miners' strikes—in Scotland in 1894 against a big wages reduction, and throughout the British coalfields in 1912 to establish the principle of a minimum wage for workers employed underground—are touched on in the minutes.¹¹⁹ So are preludes to the 1912 strike—the issue of abnormal places (or deficient places, as they were termed in Scotland) and the Cambrian Combine strike in Wales.¹²⁰ Numerous other strikes or threats of strikes by, or lock-outs or threats of lock-outs of, miners are also mentioned, most of them in Mid and East Lothian but others in Lanarkshire, Dumfriesshire, Ayrshire, Northumberland and Durham, and even Austria.¹²¹ Strikes by or lock-outs of workers other than miners are also mentioned in the minutes, including engineering workers, Penrhyn quarrymen and Edinburgh shoemakers in 1897, Leith boiler-makers in 1910, seamen in 1911, Leith dockers and Dublin workers in 1913, Edinburgh dressmakers in 1917, and Irish drapers' assistants in 1918. The issue of a general strike (in support of the Dublin workers) is also mentioned, presaging events in Britain in 1926.

Concern with such struggles outside Mid and East Lothian illustrates the fact that between 1894 and 1918 the Miners' Association was becoming increasingly involved in Scottish, British and international organisations, movements and events. The Association was a founding member, with the other Scots miners' county and district unions, of the Scottish Miners' Federation, formed in March 1894 with a membership of almost 27,000.¹²² The Association's secretary, Robert Brown, became secretary of the Scottish Miners' Federation by the end of that year and remained so until his death in 1917. Affiliation to the Scottish Federation (which was reformed in 1914 and retitled the National Union of Scottish Mine Workers) brought the Mid and East Lothian Association into closer contact with other Scots miners' county unions. To the Scottish Federation (SMF) and from 1914 the National Union of Scottish Mine Workers (NUSMW), with its executive elected from among the representatives of the county unions, its annual and also frequent ad hoc conferences, its policy decisions or recommendations, and the payment by the NUSMW of the salaries and expenses of the agents (full-time officials) of its constituent county unions, there are many references in the minutes. So also are there to the Miners' Federation of Great Britain (MFGB), formed in 1889, the same year as the Mid and East Lothian Association, and to which the Association was affiliated, through the SMF, from 1894 and of whose Executive Committee Robert Brown was a member for several years between 1897 and 1917. To conferences of both Federations the Mid and East Lothian Association regularly sent delegates throughout

¹¹⁹ See below, pp. 35–48, 194–201. The Mid and East Lothian Association was not uncritical of some aspects of the handling by the MFGB of the 1912 strike, and, along with the Fife miners' union, favoured continuing the strike.

¹²⁰ See below, p. 153.

¹²¹ See below, p. 101.

¹²² Arnot, *Scottish Miners*, 72.

the period covered by the minutes below. For three or four years between 1900 and 1913 the Association was also represented by its secretary or assistant secretary at the Miners' International Federation.¹²³ From 1896 the Association was affiliated, and throughout the period of these minutes sent delegates almost every year, to the British Trades Union Congress (BTUC). On the other hand, the Association did not affiliate directly until 1911 to the Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC), formed in 1897, although its secretary Robert Brown attended Congresses as a delegate from the Scottish Miners' Federation.¹²⁴ More locally, the Association became affiliated from 1913 to Edinburgh Trades Council, the central organisation of trade unionists in the city and surrounding area, and its delegates appear to have played quite an active role within that Council.¹²⁵ A number of other organisations, not all of them labour, with which the Association had some association or correspondence during the period are indicated in the minutes. They included bodies as diverse as the Triple Industrial Alliance, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, and the Socialist Labour Party.¹²⁶

To the Labour Party itself the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association, as its minutes show, was not affiliated until 1910-11. It was first directly represented at the Party annual conference in 1911, and appears to have sent delegates to its national conferences regularly thereafter, as well as to at least some meetings of the Party's Scottish Advisory Committee from 1917.¹²⁷ Apart from Lancashire and Cheshire, the unions in the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, partly because of their long tradition of Lib-Labism, held aloof from the Labour Party until, after a ballot of its members the previous year, the MFGB affiliated to it early in 1909. By then the miners had almost a score of their own MPs, though none in Scotland, supported by MFGB funds.¹²⁸ Its involvement in the Labour Party brought the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association, however, no success in the Midlothian by-election of September 1912, when Robert Brown, its secretary, was defeated. Though Brown was subsequently re-adopted as Labour candidate for the constituency he was dead by the time the next election took place in 1918, when James Gold, his successor as Labour candidate (in the new constituency of South Midlothian), was also defeated.¹²⁹

¹²³ See below, e.g. p. 102.

¹²⁴ See below, pp. 87, 162. The reasons for non-affiliation are not clear but may have been political or personal (the Association seems to have been critical of the STUC secretary George Carson—see below, p. 402), or perhaps the Association considered that the STUC duplicated the work of the British TUC.

¹²⁵ Minutes of Edinburgh Trades Council, 1913-18, *passim*, in NLS (MSS. Acc. 11177/.15-.18).

¹²⁶ See below, e.g. pp. 209, 364, 403, 406.

¹²⁷ See below, pp. 153, 366.

¹²⁸ Arnot, *The Miners*, 352-69. William Adamson, a Fife miners' leader, was elected Labour MP for West Fife in Dec. 1910.

¹²⁹ See below, pp. 219, 241, 378. In the Dec. 1918 election Gold had 4,829 votes, Sir Donald M'Lean (Liberal) 7,429, in a two-cornered contest. *Glasgow Herald*, 30 Dec. 1918.

One third of the total length of these minutes is devoted to the years of the Great War of 1914–18. The minutes reflect, not always in the amount of detail that could be wished, the effects of the war on the policies and membership of the Association. One immediate and continuing effect, in addition to the mobilisation at the outbreak of war of reservists and Territorials, was the voluntary enlistment and later, from 1916, conscription of many miners in Mid and East Lothian. By September 1915, no fewer than 850 (or more than 30 per cent of) employees in Midlothian of the Lothian Coal Company alone had enlisted. Robert Brown, secretary of the Association, told a conference in May 1917 of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain that Mid and East Lothian 'has the highest percentage of men [from the mines] enlisted in Scotland'.¹³⁰

Some, by no means all, of those Association members who were killed in the war are named in the minutes from November 1914 onwards.¹³¹ One of the first decisions by the Association after the outbreak of the war was that its members serving in the Forces should pay no contributions to it for the duration of the war but they would continue to be entitled to all benefits of membership. Later the Board agreed that any outstanding arrears owed by members in the Forces killed in the war would not be deducted from the Association's funeral benefit granted their next of kin, though that decision appears to have been modified a few months later.¹³²

The enlistment or calling up of so many miners during the war created obvious problems in meeting the constant demand by the government for greater coal production, and these problems are touched on in the minutes. The Association was represented at government conferences in London on crises in coal output and related issues in 1915 and 1916.¹³³ By 19 votes to 2 the Board agreed in June 1916 to recommend a scheme drawn up jointly by the National Union of Scottish Mine Workers and coalowners' representatives for co-operation between miners and management in reducing absenteeism; and at the end of that year, after meetings between representatives of the Board and the coalowners, ad hoc absentee committees were set up by every branch of the Association. Fines imposed on erring miners and managers were part of the agreed scheme. The other side of the coin, so far as reduced output was concerned, is also mentioned in the minutes: short time working—underemployment of miners—at some pits in the two counties as a result of various factors, including at Prestongrange a roof fall which cost a week's work for men working in one section and which became the subject of a complaint by the Association to the Coal Controller appointed by the government when it had brought coal production under its

¹³⁰ *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 16 Sep. 1915; below, p. 360, n. 27.

¹³¹ See below, p. 297.

¹³² See below, pp. 290, 324, 337.

¹³³ See below, pp. 315, 316, 344.

direct control earlier in 1917.¹³⁴

Apart from some co-operation in the matter of absenteeism, the minutes contain few references to greater co-operation in wartime between the Mid and East Lothian miners and the coalowners or colliery managers. An attempt to work through joint committees with the coalowners to reduce legal costs in disputed claims for compensation was soon abandoned by the Board of the Association.¹³⁵ On the other hand, the minutes record strikes that took place in the two counties during the war at least twice over wages, and were threatened on several other occasions over non-unionism, wages, profiteering, the increased cost of living, and inadequate food supplies to miners and their families.¹³⁶

There was pressure on the Association from government and employers to modify pre-war agreements or practices in order to achieve greater output of coal. Lengthening of the working day and week, reduction in the number or even suspension altogether of holidays, and reversion from weekly to fortnightly pays are issues mentioned in the minutes.¹³⁷ The Association successfully resisted any lengthening of the existing 8-hour day or any return from weekly to fortnightly pays. But from 1915 it agreed to reductions in annual and New Year holidays.¹³⁸ Pressures to lengthen the working week or 11-day fortnight were also resisted by the Association, except that in order to make up the 11-day fortnight members from September 1915 agreed to work on the normally non-working or idle Saturday of each alternate week if their pit was idle on any day between Monday and Friday inclusive. By a majority of 11 votes to 9 the Board opposed a recommendation in the summer of 1916 by the Executive Committee of the National Union of Scottish Mine Workers that the pits be kept open for work six days a week. A subsequent ballot of Association members showed a narrow majority of 195 against that proposal; and the Board, in afterward instructing branches and members to observe the 11-day fortnight, emphasised that it was for members, not colliery managers, to decide whether they should work on the idle or pay Saturday if their pit had had an idle weekday. In the summer of 1918 most branches of the Association expressed opposition to holding a ballot on whether a 12-day working fortnight should be introduced. Ormiston branch, on the other hand, demanded a reduction of two hours in the existing working week.¹³⁹ This demand anticipated the resolution passed the following month by the annual conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain that within four weeks of the end of the war a maximum 6-hour day be established 'for all persons employed in and about the mines' by means of an

¹³⁴ See below, pp. 337, 338, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 354, 361, 365, 375, 376.

¹³⁵ See below, pp. 302, 307.

¹³⁶ See below, pp. 307, 332, 355, 371, 408, 409, 412.

¹³⁷ See below, e.g. pp. 302, 325, 332, 333.

¹³⁸ See below, pp. 314, 325, 338, 339, 340, 349.

¹³⁹ See below, pp. 319, 321, 340, 341, 343, 399, 400.

amendment to the Coal Mines (Eight Hours) Act, 1908.¹⁴⁰

The outbreak of the war had almost certainly averted a major conflict in the coal industry.¹⁴¹ Given the government's appeals for increased output during the war there were no further demands publicly expressed by the coalowners in those years for reductions in miners' wages. But, as the minutes show, there were recurring demands by the miners for increases—even a demand in spring 1918 by two branches of the Mid and East Lothian Association for a doubling of pre-war rates.¹⁴²

If miners' wages in the two counties, as in other coalfields, rose appreciably during the war so also did the cost of living.¹⁴³ From 1916 at least, the Mid and East Lothian miners were becoming increasingly concerned by this, and by the issues of food supplies and profiteering. Delegates were sent by the Association to national conferences on these questions, and it is clear from the minutes that among some at least of its branches feelings ran strongly. A district meeting of members at Tranent in September 1918 resolved to take escalating idle days (strike action) unless 'the quantity and quality of the food supplied to the miners and their families in this district' were improved.¹⁴⁴ The agitation among the rank and file membership of the Association on these issues was responsible for an interview by three of its leading officials with the government food commissioner for the East of Scotland a few days before the war ended.¹⁴⁵

Other issues referred to in the minutes during the war years include compensation for war casualties, improved allowances for dependants of those in the Forces, criticism of the amount of pension awarded to war widows, the need for equality of treatment for disabled workers and soldiers, and the imprisonment of the Clydeside revolutionary John Maclean.¹⁴⁶ The minutes also reflect criticism by the Association of aspects of the Prince of Wales Relief Fund which had been launched at the outbreak of the war to relieve wartime distress among members of the Forces but also among civilian workers. The Board's recommendation that, provided at least four days a week were worked, 1d. per day per worker be contributed to the Fund (half that sum for surface workers and boys), appears to have been observed in the deductions made by managements from miners' wages. But by the end of 1914 the Board was supporting a demand for a full enquiry into subscriptions to the Fund and their disbursement; and in February 1915 the Board recommended, with the acceptance of all but three branches, that Association members pay only 2d. a week to the Fund (surface workers and

¹⁴⁰ *MFGBAP, 1918: Report of Annual Conference, 9-12 July*, 120.

¹⁴¹ See above, p. 22.

¹⁴² See below, pp. 306, 310, 314, 315, 322, 331, 395, 400.

¹⁴³ See below, pp. 347, 371.

¹⁴⁴ See below, pp. 408, 409. See also below, pp. 352, 362, 367, 370, 376, 387, 391, 392.

¹⁴⁵ See below, p. 411.

¹⁴⁶ See below, pp. 293, 394, 401, 411.

boys 1d.)—though one colliery management continued for some time to deduct 6d. a week for the Fund from its miners' wages. The Board also questioned whether workers in general should continue contributing to the Fund when others had made only a single donation to it. After some further recommended adjustments in payments to the Fund, the Board arranged for the formation of special committees by Association branches that would receive and disburse the subscriptions deducted at colliery offices.¹⁴⁷

Concerning the war itself and attempts to end it, some divisions within the Association are indicated in the minutes. The Board resolved by 14 votes to 7 to oppose the Conscription (Military Service No. 2) Bill in January 1916, but at the Miners' Federation of Great Britain conference on that subject the following month Robert Brown, secretary, and Joseph Young, assistant secretary, of the Mid and East Lothian Association expressed opposing views. Brown spoke as a member of the Executive Committee of the MFGB, Young as a delegate from the Scottish Miners' Federation. Brown, enthusiastically pro-war, became a member of the colliery recruiting courts created as a result of the introduction of conscription, and spoke strongly in favour of the later Military Service Bill in May that year which extended conscription to married men. When in August 1917 the government sought 50,000 miners for military service the Board of the Association agreed that committees be formed at each branch to carry out the arrangements, but in January 1918 the Board recommended its branches not to support the government scheme; and in an MFGB ballot on the question held in March that year Association members voted by 3,311 to 2,529 against the proposal for conscripting 50,000 miners and also, on a smaller vote and by a majority of only 200, against the MFGB itself helping to find the 50,000. But as some of its branches wanted to form committees concerned in the recruitment of the 50,000 (in order, it seems, 'to safeguard the interests of their members'), the Board allowed them to do so if they wished.¹⁴⁸

On the issue of its members subscribing toward the cost of providing Red Cross motor ambulances for war wounded, the Board began by opposing a recommendation from the National Union of Scottish Mine Workers' executive that Scots miners subscribe 6d. each for 20 weeks. The Board's opposition was supported by the Association's branches. In taking this view the Association appears to have differed from all the other Scots miners' county unions and, after a meeting with representatives of the coalowners (who had agreed to match whatever amount the miners subscribed), the Board changed its mind and recommended Mid and East Lothian miners to conform with the decision of the other county unions. The branches, however, were divided over the issue.¹⁴⁹

Divisions are also recorded in the minutes concerning the refusal by members

¹⁴⁷ See below, pp. 290, 293, 296, 304, 307, 325.

¹⁴⁸ See below, pp. 327, 328, 330, 335, 367, 368, 384, 385, 389, 392, 393.

¹⁴⁹ See below, pp. 335, 338, 347, 349, 354.

of the seamen's union at Aberdeen in June 1917 to allow Ramsay MacDonald and Fred Jowett, as Independent Labour Party delegates, to set sail from there to Russia in order to discuss with the Petrograd Soviet how the war might be ended by a 'People's Peace'. At least three of the Association's branches—one of them (Newbattle) with a particularly large membership—dissented from the Board's disapproval (by 12 votes to 8, itself evidence of sharp division) of the seamen's action. Such internal divisions probably explained the decision by the Board a few weeks later not to send delegates to the Labour Party conference called to consider representation at the projected international socialist conference at Stockholm that was intended to draw up peace terms which workers would then force their governments to accept. After the Labour Party conference resolved to demand that the Stockholm conference should be consultative and its decisions not mandatory, the Board agreed to send delegates to the adjourned Party conference on the question.¹⁵⁰ The war created divisions within many trade unions, as well as within some political parties and other organisations, and those in the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association were not exceptional.

Nor was the Association exceptional in becoming, as its minutes indicate, on the whole more critical of some aspects of the war and more radical in the demands expressed by at least some of its members or branches in the war's later stages. During the war, as before and after it, the Association was in practice not an entirely free or independent body, given its affiliation to both the Scottish Miners' Federation and, through the SMF, the mighty Miners' Federation of Great Britain, which by 1918 had 754,000 members.¹⁵¹

Two wartime questions on which the minutes do not record any divergence of view was the concern expressed in 1917–18 by some branches of the Association about the rights and welfare of conscientious objectors, and secondly the short shrift given early in 1918 to a government invitation to send miners' delegates to visit the war front—a visit described as 'a needless waste of public money'.¹⁵² On the other hand the minutes make no direct mention of that major consequence of the Great War, the Russian Revolution of 1917. Nor do they contain any specific reference to the appearance in Mid and East Lothian of a miners' reform committee or movement (such as was emerging in Fife by the end of the war) under the influence of the South Wales miners' Unofficial Reform Committee pamphlet *The Miners' Next Step*, published in 1912 as an outcome of pre-war struggles there.¹⁵³

¹⁵⁰ See below, pp. 363, 366, 367, 369.

¹⁵¹ Arnot, *Years of Struggle*, 545.

¹⁵² See below, pp. 381, 382, 387, 391, 404.

¹⁵³ N. Edwards, *History of the South Wales Miners' Federation*, vol. i (London, 1938), 66–76; H. Francis & D. Smith, *The Fed: a History of the South Wales Miners in the Twentieth Century* (London, 1980), 13–28; MacDougall, *Militant Miners*, 18–20.

The Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association from its formation in 1889 onward was never the largest or most important miners' county union in Scotland. Lanarkshire, Fife and, from around 1900, Ayrshire were all larger coalfields than Mid and East Lothian, with more or (in the case of Lanarkshire) far more miners employed in the period covered by these minutes, and with commensurately larger county unions.¹⁵⁴ Among the seven or eight Scots miners' county unions the Mid and East Lothian Association was usually fourth in size of membership between 1894 and 1918—smaller than Lanarkshire, Fife and Kinross, or Ayrshire, but larger than Stirlingshire, and much larger than West Lothian, Clackmannan or Kirkintilloch (the two latter in 1914 had only 1,100 and 750 members respectively). The manuscript minutes of the Association have evidently not so far been widely consulted by scholars, and a history of the Mid and East Lothian Association has yet to be written—as it has for each of the other Scots miners' county unions in our period. Alan B. Campbell has provided in his *The Lanarkshire Miners: a Social History of their Trade Unions, 1775-1974* (Edinburgh, 1979), a scholarly model whose standard it must be hoped other historians will emulate in writing the history of other Scots miners' county unions, including Mid and East Lothian. It is therefore hoped that the edited minutes below contribute, at least for the years 1894-1918, to existing studies of Scots mining union history which include, besides the work of Dr Campbell, Robin Page Arnot's *A History of the Scottish Miners*, published as long ago as 1955, and Gordon M. Wilson's biography (1982) of *Alexander McDonald, Leader of the Miners*, as well as the unpublished Ph.D. thesis (University of Strathclyde, 1976) by J.A. Hassan, 'The Development of the Coal Industry in Mid and West Lothian, 1815-1874'. The publication of the present minutes also makes a contribution, it is hoped, to the history of labour generally in Scotland, a subject on which a great deal of research and publication remains to be undertaken.

In editing the manuscript certain deletions and other changes have been made. Spelling, which was generally accurate throughout the minutes, has been left as it was in the manuscript, except for a very few words where a misspelling was either clearly a slip or was likely to confuse or mislead the reader. Capitals (or their absence) and ampersands have been retained as in the manuscript. Punctuation has been modernised throughout, except that because Robert Brown, secretary of the Association from 1894 to December 1917, tended to write lengthy sentences the shortening of these by insertion of full stops would have

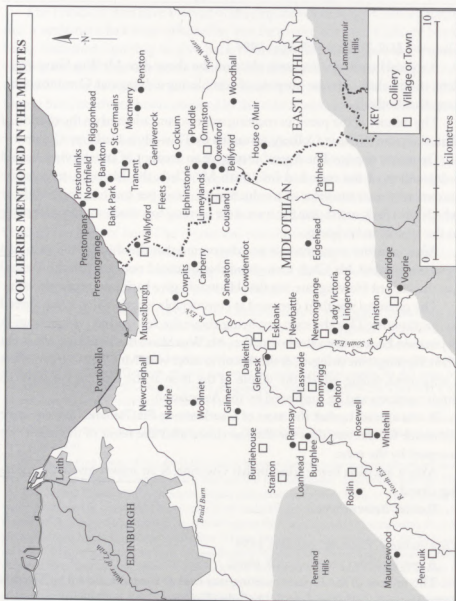
¹⁵⁴ Union organisation in Lanarkshire declined seriously after the 1894 strike to about 3,000 out of some 31,000 miners employed there; but the new county union formed in the later 1890s rapidly increased its membership. By 1900 the Lanarkshire union had 25,000 members, the Fife and Kinross county union had 9,000, Ayrshire 6,000, and the Mid and East Lothian Association 3,000. By 1914 the respective memberships were 40,000, 20,000, 12,500 and 9,500. *MFGBA, 1897: Report of Annual Conference, 5-8 January*, 69-70; Scottish Miners' Federation minutes, 15 Aug. 1900-24 May 1905, in NLS MSS. Acc.4312.20, pencilled at back of volume; Arnot MS, vol. 3, Chap. 11, p. 12.

considerably altered the style of the originals. So commas, semi-colons, dashes and occasionally brackets have been inserted to provide at least some respite. Once Robert Brown was succeeded at the end of 1917 as secretary by Joseph Young, punctuation in the manuscript greatly improved. Paragraphing has been amended as necessary. Sums of money have been standardised in form, e.g. 6d., 1s., 17s.6d., £234.15.4. Abbreviations or contractions of first names (Wm, Thos, Geo., etc.) have been retained as in the manuscript, but with the deletion of any full stops at the end of contractions. The signature of the secretary, Robert Brown (and, from the end of 1917, that of his successor Joseph Young) has been deleted as repetitious after his first minute, as has the vote of thanks to the president or chairman at the end of meetings. The recorded presence in the chair of each successive president has been deleted after the first mention of his name; but where someone other than the president chaired a meeting that person's name has been given as in the manuscript, and so has the name of the president whenever he next presided. In Executive or Wages Committee meetings, the phrase 'All other members present' means, of course, in addition to the president.

Between 1894 and August 1901 meetings of the Association were held at Dalkeith in Midlothian or at Tranent in East Lothian, and the various places of meeting have been given as in the manuscript. From 14 May 1910, when the minutes resume after the gap following August 1901, all meetings unless otherwise indicated were held in the Association's offices or Board room at Union Villa, Bonnyrigg Road, Eskbank, Dalkeith. After that date, therefore, the place of meeting given in the manuscript has been deleted as repetitious, unless the meeting was held elsewhere, and except when it resumed at Eskbank after one of those exceptional occasions. The same applies from 22 December 1917 until the end of the minutes in November 1918, when all meetings (except one on 5 April 1918) were held in the Free Gardeners' Institute, Picardy Place, Edinburgh.

In the first two or three minutes in 1894 and from the beginning of 1897 to the middle of 1911, Robert Brown wrote sub-headings in the margins. They added nothing to the content of the minute so all those sub-headings have been deleted. From July 1911 he began sporadically to write cross-headings in the minutes and in those cases the meaning of the minutes depended on the retention of the cross-headings: so they have been retained but converted into the opening word or phrase of the paragraph concerned. Editorial insertions in the minutes have been placed in square brackets. Notes, tables of statistics, etc., at the end of each of the three volumes of minutes have been gathered together as a separate final chapter, and two related items have been added as appendices.

The map showing collieries, as well as towns, villages and some other features mentioned in the minutes, is based upon colliery maps consulted at the Scottish Mining Museum, Newtongrange. Collieries shown were branches, or constituents of branches, of the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association.



Chapter 1

MINUTES, 1894-1901

Glasgow's Hall, Tranent, 17th May 1894

A special board meeting took place on the above date, Mr Wm Shaw, President, in the chair,¹ for the purpose of considering a dispute at Ormiston Colliery, East Lothian.

The minute of the previous meeting was read and adopted on the motion of Wm Gwynne, Niddrie Colliery, seconded by Thos Muir, Carberry Colliery.

Ormiston dispute: The Agent² then gave an account of an interview he and a deputation of the men had held with Mr Clark, the Manager, to hear the reasons why an intimation of a reduction of 3¹/₂d. per ton had been made, at which Mr Clark stated that the men were earning too much money according to the returns in his books.

After inquiries were made it was discovered that the shifts of the men had been understated. Mr Clark then stated that he could not carry on this Pit and pay the present Hewing rate but that He would give back one penny per ton.

The question was then discussed at considerable length, when it was agreed to unanimously That the men not being above the recognized average wage A deputation be sent from the board, Viz., Mr Wm Shaw, the President, Mr Robt Plain, Elphinstone delegate, & the Agent, to meet with Mr Clark to try to effect a settlement, failing which the whole of the men at the Colliery be asked to finish contracts and be supported by the Association.

It was agreed to that the men of Caerlaverock Pit, Tranent, be paid strike allowance for the two days the Pit was closed after the result of the ballot was accepted by the men.

After a question being asked by Mr Gwynne, & an answer given, the meeting closed.

Robert Brown, Secy.

Corn exchange, Dalkeith, 2nd June 1894

A special board meeting took place.

The minute of the former meeting was read & adopted, moved by Thomas Scott, Tranent Colliery, seconded by John Thomson, Vogrie Colliery.

¹ For William Shaw, see above, p. 11.

² The agent was a (or the) full-time paid official of the miners' union, in this case Robert Brown, the secretary.

Mr Shaw intimated that the Rev. Patrick Mackay, Free Church Minister, Prestonpans, had accepted the Testimonial from the Miners of Mid & East Lothian in the form of a Silver Watch & a Purse of Sovereigns.³ The Secretary then read a letter from that Gentleman thanking the miners very warmly for their generous gift, which was much appreciated by the delegates present.

The President then gave a report of the dispute at Ormiston Colliery, stating that a settlement had been effected by the Employer after the Colliery books being examined, agreeing to give back twopence half penny per ton, thereby making the reduction one penny per ton, Mr Shaw & deputation being warmly thanked by the delegates for the tact displayed in the case. Mr Shaw & Mr Plain having been nearly six hours engaged in this case it was agreed that they receive four shillings each.

The Secretary then gave a report of the Glasgow & Carlisle conferences held in connection with the recent reduction in wages throughout Scotland. The decision being that the Miners of Scotland were to lodge notices to take action to resist the reduction, & that it had been agreed to ballot the Scotch miners on this question, & should the result be in favour of Strike All contracts to be finished by the 25th of June. This report was unanimously approved of and a resolution drawn up to be submitted to the General meeting which was to follow approving of the policy & pledging ourselves to do our best along with the other miners of Scotland to carry it into effect.⁴

³ Rev. Dr Patrick Mackay (1853-?), Free Church minister of Prestonpans, 1879-1898, was presented on 25 May with the watch and purse of sovereigns 'in recognition of his successful intervention in a strike at Prestongrange Colliery about a year ago. At that time intimation was made to the miners that it would be impossible to carry on the colliery unless they agreed to a reduction of 6 per cent. The men refused, and went on strike for three weeks. At this stage Mr Mackay intervened with the offer to become responsible to the Company for the 6 per cent if the miners were allowed to continue at the old rate of wages. The responsibility did not last long, as wages soon afterwards rose.' *Haddingtonshire Courier*, 1 June 1894; W. Ewing, *Annals of the Free Church of Scotland, 1843-1900*, 2 vols. (Edinburgh, 1914), ii, 28; P. McNeill, *Prestonpans and Vicinity* (Leicester, 1984 edn.), 72-6.

⁴ A reduction from 6 June of 1s. a day in the miners' wages of some 6s. a day was announced in a letter dated 23 May to Robert Brown, secretary, Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association, from the Mid and East Lothian Coalmasters' Association. Similar reductions had already been, or were soon afterwards, announced by coalowners in the other Scots coalfields; and as early as 9 May 30,000 miners in the west of Scotland were reported to be on strike against the reductions, which amounted to 20 or 25 per cent of their wages. The Miners' Federation of Great Britain (MFGB), representing 200,000 miners and to which, through the recently formed Scottish Miners' Federation (SMF), the various Scots county miners' unions were affiliated, called a special conference on 29 and 30 May at Carlisle to consider the Scots wages dispute. The conference unanimously resolved, on the motion of Yorkshire and Lancashire delegates, as reported here by Robert Brown; but it also indicated that a levy to support the Scots miners would be sought from miners in England and North Wales (the South Wales miners did not affiliate to the MFGB until 1899, nor were Durham and Northumberland miners' unions affiliated to it between 1893 and 1907-8), although they were themselves still suffering from the consequences of their 17-week lock-out in 1893 against wage reductions. The Glasgow conference referred to had been held by the Scottish Miners' Federation on 7 May to consider the wage reductions. The result of the ballot of Scots miners taken during the first week in June showed that out of a total of 47,000 underground workers 40,000 had voted—25,617 for strike action and 14,490 against: a

A request having been made from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, for us to take part or assist in a Demonstration in Edinburgh on Saturday 23rd June for the purpose of raising funds for this Institution, It was agreed to recommend to the General meeting that any of our Colliery Bands attending this Demonstration be paid the Sum of two pounds & that as many miners as possible take part in the movement.

A resolution thanking the Government for their support of the Mines Eight Hours Bill & urging them to grant facilities this Session for its passage through Committee, was agreed to be submitted to the General meeting.⁵

A General meeting took place immediately afterwards.⁶ Mr Shaw briefly stated the cause for the meeting & read the letter received from the Coalmasters' Secretary stating that a reduction equal to the last two advances would take effect on the 6th of June. The Secretary then gave a report of the Glasgow & Carlisle conference & urged upon those present to do their utmost to carry the recommendation into effect; after which the resolutions agreed upon at the board meeting were passed unanimously, Viz., The recommendation from the Carlisle conference, The Eight Hours Bill, & The Lifeboat Saturday Demonstration.

The President was thanked for his conduct in the chair & the meeting closed.

Glasgow's Hall, Tranent, 16th June 1894

An Executive & financial meeting took place.

The Minute of the former meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Thomas Taylor, Rosewell, Seconded by William Dodds, Newbattle.

The contributions on being taken amounted to £246.13., including the levy of £13.17.9. for the Mackay testimonial.

Arrangements were then made for all the notices being lodged previous to the 25th of June, to take part in the movement to resist the recent reduction of 1s. per day.

A grievance from No. 10 Pit, Tranent, regarding the Checkweigher's wages

majority of 11,127. In Mid and East Lothian the vote was 3,528 for strike action and 230 against. The SMF delegate conference decided by 43 votes to 6 in favour of strike action. The decision not to begin the general Scots strike until 26 June was because the Fife miners had to give longer notice than the others and it was considered essential for all to act simultaneously. *Miners' Federation of Great Britain Annual Proceedings, 1894: Minutes of Executive Committee, 9 May, 15-16 June, Minutes of Executive Sub-Committee, 14 May, Report of Special Conference, Carlisle, 29 and 30 May; Glasgow Herald, 4 and 9 June 1894; Dalkeith Advertiser, 14 June 1894; Arnot, Scottish Miners, 72-6; Arnot, The Miners, 287-8, 369.*

⁵ The Liberal government, 1892-5, was led until Mar. 1894 by Gladstone (who remained MP for Midlothian until his retirement the following year) and afterwards by Lord Rosebery. The second reading of the 1894 Bill (to secure an 8-hour day, bank to bank, i.e., including the journey from pithead to working place underground and back again at the end of the shift), which was brought in by MFGB MPs and their sympathisers, was carried in the Commons by 281 votes to 193 and the Bill was sent to committee, but it was destroyed on 14 Aug. by a wrecking amendment passed in a thinly attended House. Arnot, *The Miners*, 266-9.

⁶ About 500 miners attended the general meeting. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 7 June 1894.

was then considered, when it was decided that owing to the statements as to how the ballot was taken at the appointment That it would be better to reballot the position in accordance with the Mines Act.⁷

Mr Shaw & Mr John Young were appointed to attend the conference along with the Agent, to be held at Glasgow on Friday, 22 inst. House of Muir Colliery not being reduced it was agreed that owing to their position & the nature of their trade that we are in favour of them being allowed to work & support this at the conference on Friday.

It was agreed to engage the Gorebridge & Newtongrange Brass Bands to represent this association at the Life-Boat Demonstration to take place in Edinburgh on Saturday 23rd June, & that they receive £2 each Band.

It was unanimously agreed to that the Agent convey to Mrs John Durie the sincere sorrow & sympathy felt by the delegates & their constituents in her great bereavement at the death of her husband, as shewing the respect & esteem held by them towards him as an employer & for his honest straightforward dealings with the workmen's representatives.⁸

The ballot papers issued with regard to the National movement was discussed, when it was agreed to pay 20s. per Thousand.⁹

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, June 30th 1894

An Executive & financial meeting took place.

The minute of the former meeting was read & adopted, moved by Robert Plain, Elphinstone, seconded by Thomas Muir, Carberry. The contributions amounted to £179.5.7¹/₂.

The subject of Strike allowance was then considered, when a committee was appointed for the distributing of such, consisting of Mr Shaw, President, Mr John Young, Macmerrie, Mr Thomas Scott, Tranent, Mr William Dodds, Newbattle, Mr William Gwynne, Niddrie, Mr William Falconer, Treasurer, with the Agent as convener. Married members to receive one fourth more than single members. Non unionists to be treated the same as unionists, but that 2s. each payment be deducted to go towards their entry money to enrol them as members of the Association. It was agreed that any of our members who are at work should pay a levy of 2s. each for those earning over 4s.6d. per day & 1s.6d. each for those earning less.

The Agent reported that according to the last conference The whole of the

⁷ No details of this case have been found in other sources. For checkweighers, see above, p. 23.

⁸ John Durie, coalmaster at Elphinstone colliery, vice-convener of East Lothian County Council, and an 'indefatigable and energetic' member of the Conservative Party, had died on 7 June. 'The relationships between Mr Durie and his workmen were of a most kindly character, and the latter, in any dispute that might occur, knew they were dealing with a man of a broad and generous nature who would never seek a mean advantage over his employees.' *Haddingtonshire Courier*, 15 June 1894.

⁹ I.e., the ballot on strike action against wage reductions. It was the Association's practice to pay branches an agreed sum for distribution of the papers.

Scotch miners had responded to the call to come on Strike. He also stated that the Executive Committee of the Scotch Federation had discussed the question of whether the whole of the support to be obtained should not be put into a common fund to be shared equally among all the men on strike, both unionists & nonunionists. It was considered that this matter would have to be decided by the men.¹⁰

Newtongrange band having failed to attend the Life-boat demonstration after being engaged & the Niddrie band having voluntarily attended, it was agreed to pay to the Niddrie band £2, Mr Thomas Muir dissenting.

It was left to Newbattle Colliery to report next meeting on a case of victimization there.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 14th July 1894

An Executive meeting took place. The minute of the former meeting was read & adopted, Moved by William McNeil, Wallyford, Seconded by John Wyse, Ormiston.

The President stated how it had been agreed to divide the money received from the Miners' Federation of Great Britain equally among all the miners in Scotland who were on Strike. The agent then gave a report of the Scottish Executive meetings & of the Newcastle conference, which was approved of.

The Treasurer intimated he had received the sum of £806.13.4. from the Strike fund. It was agreed to unanimously that money be taken from our own fund to enable each married member to receive 8s., & single members 6s.¹¹

It was agreed to pay the delegates as usual, the expenses incurred by many of them being considerable.

The question was discussed with regard to those partially working, when it

¹⁰ The strike by Scots miners—unionists and non-unionists alike—had begun on 26 June. 'The men throughout Scotland have ceased work with a unanimity that was not looked for ... even by their leaders.... No such general stoppage of mining work has been seen in Scotland before, and that it is to be feared does not make for an early peace.' Some 72,000 men were on strike and of the 1,000 or so who were not, many were pumpers and safety men allowed by the unions to remain at work so that the pits would be in a workable condition when the dispute ended. *Glasgow Herald*, 27 and 29 June 1894. In Mid and East Lothian only about 4,000 of the 9,000 miners were in the union but virtually all non-unionists had also come out on strike, and it was to encourage them to remain on strike that the Association decided to share strike pay or relief equally with them, while deducting from it a sum that secured their enrolment in the union. Only at House o' Muir colliery near Ormiston, East Lothian, did the miners, with the permission of the Association, continue working, since their wages had not been reduced. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 28 June and 5 July 1894; *Haddingtonshire Courier*, 29 June and 6 July 1894.

¹¹ The MFGB had held a special conference at Newcastle on 12 and 13 July at which the Scots strike was considered and a resolution was carried unanimously that miners in England and Wales give 'all financial help possible'. The MFGB Executive Committee had resolved a month earlier that a levy of 6d. per member be raised by 23 June to support the Scots miners; and it was Mid and East Lothian's share of this fund that amounted to £806.13.4. *MFGBAP 1894: Minutes of EC, 15 and 16 June, Report of Special Conference, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 12 and 13 July, 3-7.*

was agreed that any one having earned 8s. or over it do not get any assistance at this distribution & any one having earned less get as much as make 8s. Two delegates from East Lothian, including the President & the Agent & Treasurer, were appointed to arrange for the next strike allowance being paid.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 28th July 1894

The Executive met. The Minute of last meeting was adopted. Moved by T. Muir, Carberry, Seconded by W. Gwynne, Niddrie. The levies & other monies were then taken, when the Treasurer reported that he had a Cheque from the Federation for £923.6.8., after which it was agreed to add as much to this amount as would enable each married member to receive 6s. each and single members 4s.6d. each.

After a long discussion it was agreed that the former arrangement with regard to Militiamen should hold good, which was that where they had been engaged two out of the first three weeks they would only take part in the second distribution.

It was stated that one man & his sons of Elphinstone Colliery were engaged at work which they would have had although there had been no strike, & that the Strike was not the cause of them being out of the Mines. It was decided that they were not entitled to strike support.

A request from Rosewell Colliery was left in the hands of that Colliery to deal with.

Printed collecting sheets were to be issued to each Colliery for the purpose of relieving local cases of distress.

Where a single member had to keep & maintain the House for his Mother or his Father (being unable to work), or where he may have younger sisters or brothers to keep, he may rank as a married member.

The victimisation at Newbattle Colliery was reported from the Colliery, Viz., Married: George Young, Vice President, John Brown & four sons, James Allan & one son, James Brown; Single: James & Robert Brown. It was moved that the married men receive £2 each & single men 10s. each, they having been idle seven days at the lowest & other cases fourteen days previous to the strike. An Amendment was moved by John Pryde, Newbattle, Seconded William Dodds, Newbattle, That they only get their removing expenses. The Motion was carried, the amendment being supported by the two votes of mover & seconder.¹²

A case from Penston Colliery was considered, the local secretary having taken contributions from Robert Reid when he was off work, this being contrary to

¹² Where victimisation meant dismissal from employment it normally also meant, where the victimised miner was tenant of a colliery company house (as a high proportion of miners in some districts of Mid and East Lothian were), termination of his tenancy. Hence the provision by the Association of removal benefit or expenses in such cases. That there were two delegates to the Board from Newbattle reflected the relatively large number of miners employed there. The Niddrie miners for similar reasons were allowed a second delegate later in 1894 (see below, pp. 50, 102).

our rules as no member pays contributions when badly or out of work; & if badly when a Strike takes place he must produce a Doctor's line certifying that he is fit for work before he can be admitted upon the strike roll. The local Secretary to refund the money.

Mr John Young & George Young were appointed (Along with the Agent) to attend a conference at Glasgow on Monday 30th July.¹³

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 11th August 1894

The Executive met.

The Minute of the previous meeting was read & adopted, moved by Mr David Pryde, Newbattle, Seconded by Mr John Philip, Polton. After the contributions were taken it was agreed to pay 6s. for married & 4s. for single men. The money received for levy being £683.5.4.

The Agent reported from conference held at Glasgow, attended by him & the President, when it was agreed to hold a mass meeting at Dalkeith & Tranent on the Wednesday following, for the purpose of hearing the opinion of the men on the Conference recommendation, Viz., whether the original demand should be maintained or should the claim be half the reduction restored with a guarantee that wages would not be reduced for Eighteen Months.¹⁴

¹³ This conference of the Scottish Miners' Federation was called to discuss the position of several coalowners, not members of the coalowners' association, who were willing to settle the dispute with the miners by a compromise similar to the terms of settlement in the English miners' dispute the previous year. The conference unanimously resolved not to consider these coalowners' proposals until the number of miners who would be affected by them was known, but 'meantime the Executive Committee be left to discuss the matter with these employers, but that no settlement can be effected until the matter is fully considered by the miners'. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 2 Aug. 1894.

¹⁴ A month after the strike began, divisions appeared among the miners and their leaders. A reduction of 10 per cent in the wages of miners in England from 1 Aug. had been agreed in later July by the newly formed Conciliation Board for the coal industry there: wages were to remain at the new level for 18 months until 1 Jan. 1896. Consequently, to conform with MFGB EC advice, the Scottish Miners' Federation Executive on 10 Aug. after a long and heated argument had passed a resolution recommending acceptance by the Scots miners of a minimum wage for eighteen months—the wage to be 6d. a day less than that prevailing before the employers' reductions that had caused the strike. Robert Brown, Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association agent, a delegate at the SMFEC meeting, had supported the resolution because he believed 'It would be better both for the employer and employed that there should be a minimum wage fixed—... 6d. more than their pay after the recent "break"—for eighteen months than if the whole shilling was secured again, as they would not in that way have any guarantee of peace for the future.' At the mass meeting ('one of the largest ever held' in the town) at Dalkeith Corn Exchange on the afternoon of 15 Aug., when 2,000 miners attended, some of them accompanied by brass bands, Robert Brown, hissed by some, applauded by others, had a rough passage. To the proposed compromise settlement recommended by the MFGB EC and which he advocated, an amendment was carried 'almost unanimously' that 'We the miners of Mid and East Lothian reaffirm our decision to remain on strike until the coalowners concede the one shilling and conciliation.' Brown told the meeting that this decision amounted to a vote of censure on him and submitted his resignation as agent of the Association—but the chairman, William Shaw, refused to accept it. The mass meeting at Tranent that evening of East Lothian miners by contrast carried 'almost unanimously' the motion so overwhelmingly rejected at Dalkeith, and an amendment similar to that

The case of John Donaldson of Elphingstone was reconsidered, Mr Donaldson being present, & having stated his case, it was agreed that one fortnight's strike pay be detained from himself & that his sons get theirs in full.

A claim asking support from Three men from Gilmerton who had been working in the Clippens Shale work previous to the Strike—decided that they had no claim.¹⁵

A request from Vogrie & Loanhead for allowance to produce Coal for Engines & the Making of an Air course, where Coal had to be produced. It was agreed to hold to the first arrangement that no Coal be produced.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, Monday 27th August 1894

The Executive met. The Minute of the former meeting was read and adopted, moved by William Dodds, Newbattle, Seconded by Thomas Muir, Carberry. The Agent gave a report of a conference held in Waterloo Rooms, Glasgow, on the Saturday, where a statement was made by Mr Whitefield & Mr Glover from the Federation of Great Britain with regard to the settlement made in England & wanted an answer by Friday, the 31st August from the Scotch Miners, whether they were in favour of accepting the same terms. After which it was agreed to ballot the Scotch Miners on the question, the result to be declared on Thursday 30th August in Waterloo Rooms, Glasgow.¹⁶

carried almost unanimously at Dalkeith was supported by only two miners. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 16 Aug. 1894; *Haddingtonshire Courier*, 17 Aug. 1894; Arnot, *Scottish Miners*, 79-80.

¹⁵ Shale mining had begun about 1880 at Burdiehouse and Straiton, between Edinburgh and Loanhead, and by 1893 the work was owned and managed by the Clippens Oil Company. R. Sutherland, *Loanhead: the Development of a Scottish Burgh* (Loanhead, 1974), 76.

¹⁶ Thomas Glover (1852-1913), Lancashire and Cheshire Miners, and William Whitefield (1850-1926), Bristol Miners, had been sent by the MFGB EC to attend the Scottish Miners' Federation conference in Glasgow on 24 Aug., which the MFGB EC itself had asked the SMF to call after it had received a letter dated 16 Aug. from R. Chisholm Robertson, secretary of the SMF, informing them of a decision that day by an SMF delegate conference. A motion recommending acceptance of the advice from the MFGB EC that the Scots miners accept a minimum wage for 18 months that would restore half (6d.) of the employers' reduction of 1s., had been defeated (first on a show of hands by 60 votes to 26, then by numbers represented by 54,776 to 14,826) by an amendment reaffirming the Scots miners' decision to continue on strike till their original demand for the restoration of the full 1s. be conceded by the employers. The Scots conference had also decided not to reconsider their position until the employers abandoned their refusal to meet miners' representatives to discuss terms of a settlement. The MFGB EC on 22 Aug. had also resolved to ask Chisholm Robertson to withdraw 'offensive, misleading and untruthful statements' he had made against the EC at Scots miners' meetings, as reported in the press, which showed he was advocating 'a policy contrary to the advice of the [British] Federation'. At the Glasgow conference on 24 Aug. the intervention of Glover and Whitefield led to the decision to hold the ballot mentioned. But the conference refused to agree to a request by the two MFGB EC representatives that the ballot paper should include a question whether the Scots miners approved of 'the scurrilous and unjustified statements' made about the EC by Chisholm Robertson, who it was said had told a miners' meeting at Coatbridge on 23 Aug. that the action of the MFGB EC had been 'a brazen faced piece of impertinence'. Glover and Whitefield reported to the MFGB EC afterward that all the other agents in Scotland were willing to advise the miners to carry out the MFGB's advice. The result of the ballot, announced on 30 Aug., was that of 46,359 Scots miners who voted, 20,942

The Agent reported that the English Levy amounted to £554.0.0., which amounted to 2s.6d. per man.¹⁷ It was agreed that, from the Money drawn for levies & other sources, the amount be increased to 3s.6d. for married men and 2s.6d. for single.

A Committee was appointed for having the ballot papers properly distributed to the different Collieries.

A long discussion took place about any one getting a casual day's work. It was ultimately agreed to that any one getting not more than two casual days' work per week be allowed his Strike pay, subject to a deduction of what it amounts to per day being detained for the day or days he may have been employed.

The President was instructed to attend the Conference along with the Agent, for ascertaining the result of the Ballot.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 10th September 1894

The Executive board met. The Minute of the previous meeting was read & adopted, moved by Mr John McWilliams, Loanhead, Seconded by Mr William Gwynne, Niddrie.

The Agent reported that £537.14.2. had been received as our share of Strike levies amounting to 2s.5d. per member & that by adding £96.5.10. to this sum would allow a payment of 3s.6d. for married & 2s.6d. for single members. This was agreed to.

The Agent gave a report of two conferences held at Glasgow attended by him & the President, with the result of the ballot taken on Federation terms. He also read the minute of conference held in Waterloo rooms, Glasgow on 24th May, & at Carlisle on the 29th May, as proving the statements made by him at the Colliery meeting regarding the action of Mr R.C. Robertson, when it was agreed that each delegate be furnished with an excerpt from the Minute to satisfy Collieries where such is required.¹⁸

were in favour of maintaining the original demand for the restoration of the 1s. reduction in wages and 25,417 favoured the terms recommended by the MFGB EC—a majority for the latter of 4,475. *MFGBAP, 1894: Minutes of EC, 22 August, 6 September, Glasgow Herald, 31 Aug. 1894.* For R. Chisholm Robertson, see note 18 below.

¹⁷ I.e., the sum allocated to the Mid and East Lothian miners as their share of the amount levied by the MFGB from miners south of the Border in support of the Scots miners.

¹⁸ See above, p. 35, n. 4. The MFGB EC had instructed its officials not to communicate with Chisholm Robertson, secretary, Scottish Miners' Federation, because of his refusal to withdraw 'untrue statements' about the EC, and to communicate only with the president (Robert Smillie) of the SME. Robert Chisholm Robertson (1861-1930), born at Limerigg, near Slamannan, son of an Ayrshire mining contractor and manager 'always noted for his open-handed, fair dealing with the men', began work in the pits at age 8 but was obliged by the 1872 Mines Regulation Act to leave work as he was under the minimum legal age, and to attend school. When he re-entered the pits at age 13, the death of his father then left Robertson and an elder brother to maintain the family. The two brothers 'by arduous evening studies' gained mine manager's certificates, and Robertson's brother later became superintendent of mines of the Rajah of Sarawak, Borneo. A leading miners' trade unionist and labour agitator in the 1880s and 1890s, Chisholm Robertson was secretary for 10 years of the Forth and

The Agent reported the settlement arrived at by the Prestongrange Colliery on the Federation terms, which was approved off.

A request that oncost men be allowed to produce Coal at Vogrie for Engine purposes, was considered and agreed not to be permitted.¹⁹

A Statement from Loanhead was made that Oncost-men while performing their ordinary work had necessarily to produce coal, & What was their position? The President pointed out that under no pretext was Coal to be produced, according to the original Motion passed at the Glasgow Conference.

Reports from the Collieries showed that with the exception of Prestongrange none of the others had granted the terms asked by the men.

It was agreed to pay 2s. per hundred for distributing the ballot papers & for the coming for & bringing them back to the Agent's House.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 24 September 1894

The Executive board met. The minute of the previous meeting was read & adopted on the Motion of Thomas Scott, Tranent Colliery, Seconded by Thomas Taylor, Rosewell Colliery.

The Agent stated that the amount received as share of the English levy was £423, making 2s. per man, but that [from] the income from levies & what was in hand, 3s.6d. for married men & 2s.6d. for single men could be paid, which was agreed to.

The Agent reported from the two Conferences held in Glasgow. He took occasion to state that the report appearing in the *Scotsman* was incorrect. The report was approved of & instructions given to the Agent that, should the Press be admitted to next conference, That he object to the Reporter for the *Scotsman* being present.

Reports from Loanhead regarding the oncost workers was more satisfactory than at last meeting. Mr Gwynne, Niddrie, asked how they were to deal with the levy from a boy started there. It was agreed to leave it in the hands of Niddrie Colliery Committee.

Clyde Valley (or Central) Miners' Association from its establishment in 1886, president of the Scottish Miners' National Association, 1886-7 (of which Keir Hardie was secretary), and secretary of the Scottish Miners' Federation on its formation in 1894. Active on Glasgow Trades Council, a member of the Executive Committee, MFGB, on its formation in 1889, Robertson (described as Robespierre, a stormy petrel, and as probably the most active organiser of new unions), was also secretary of the Scottish United Trades Councils Independent Labour Party formed in 1892, stood as a labour candidate in Stirlingshire in the parliamentary elections that year, and was a leading figure in the Independent Labour Party on its formation in 1893. Later he lived for some time in Australia, but in his latter years he was a businessman in Glasgow, publishing fundamentalist and anti-socialist tracts. *MFGBAP, 1894: Minutes of EC, 6 September*; Arnot, *Scottish Miners*, 68, 70-1, 77, 80-1, 83-6, 90; Arnot MS, Vol. II, Chap. IV, 13-14; W.H. Marwick, *A Short History of Labour in Scotland* (Edinburgh, 1967), 58, 71, 74; W.H. Fraser, 'Trades councils in the labour movement in nineteenth century Scotland', in I. MacDougall (ed.), *Essays in Scottish Labour History* (Edinburgh, 1978), 6, 8, 20, 21.

¹⁹ Oncost men were underground workers other than coal hewers and paid by day wages, not, as hewers were, tonnage rates.

Alexander Mathieson having been victimised from Penston Colliery it was agreed to give him £1 towards his removing expenses.²⁰

A motion from Elphingstone Colliery that the Agent be paid £1 per week during the Strike was not seconded.²¹

The President, Vice President, John Young, Penston, John McWilliams, Loanhead, were appointed with the Agent to attend the Scottish Conference in Edinburgh on 26th. President, John Young & Agent to attend the Federation Conference on the 27 & 28 September.

Two men not having been started at Prestongrange for the first fortnight it was agreed they should be paid their allowance.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 6th October 1894

The Executive met. The Minute of the previous meeting was read and adopted, Moved by William Dodds, Newbattle, Seconded by Thomas Muir, Carberry. Reports were given by Mr John Young & the President of the conferences held in Edinburgh by the Scottish Federation & the Federation of Great Britain.²²

Mr John McWilliams, Loanhead, asked the Polton delegate a question regarding the levy paid at that Colliery by some of the workers living at Loanhead. The delegate stated how they had acted & it was then left for further inquiries being made at the parties interested, it being understood that some of the men had been paying at Loanhead.

The Agent intimated that £846 had been received as our share of levy from Federation &, with the amount from our own Collieries added, would enable us

²⁰ See above, p. 39, n. 12.

²¹ No information appears to survive about what the salary of the agent actually was, though a guesstimate might put it at this period at £1.10.0. to £2 a week. The sum of £20 per annum (below, p. 385) decided by the Board on 16 Jan. 1918 was apparently only for his secretarial duties, not his salary as agent, which as with those of other agents of Scots county unions affiliated to it had been paid since its formation in 1914 by the National Union of Scottish Mine Workers, whose archives, however, also contain little information about salaries. See below, p. 299, and p. 302, n. 21.

²² At the SMF conference in Edinburgh on 26 Sept. it was reported that 2,500 Scots miners were working on Federation terms, a further 500 were working with the consent of the Federation as their wages had never been reduced in the general reduction in June, and 10,000 had given up the strike and returned to work, leaving a total of 55,000 still on strike. At the MFGB special conference in Edinburgh on 27 and 28 Sept., at which of the 71 delegates present 40 were from Scots miners' unions, there were some acrimonious exchanges about several aspects of the strike and much criticism and counter-criticism concerning Chisholm Robertson. A resolution was passed by 48 votes to 3 'deeply regretting the wild and reckless speeches of Mr R.C. Robertson reflecting on the MFGB and its leaders'. Another resolution, moved by Robert Smillie, SMF president, and adopted by 54 votes to 4, permitted the SMF as a means of resolving the industrial dispute 'to enter into provisional agreements with any owner who may be willing to grant the terms of the Federation, the restoration of half of the last reduction [i.e., 6d. of the 1s. reduction], with a two years' guarantee in the event of the majority of owners granting the above terms'. An amendment, moved by Chisholm Robertson, opposing any conditional guarantee, was defeated 54-4. *MFGB AP, 1894: Report of Special Conference, 27 and 28 September.*

to pay 6s. for married & 4s.6d. for single members. It was agreed to pay this to each member according to former arrangements.

Corn Exchange, Dalkeith, 9th October 1894

The Executive met. The President called upon the Agent to report what had taken place at the conference in Glasgow on the previous day. The report was to the effect that the effort to bring the men who had gone to work back to the ranks of the Strikers had failed & that there was every prospect that by the end of the week the whole of Lanarkshire would be at work. A motion was made that they be recommended to go back at once & an Amendment that a ballot of those idle be taken whether or not they should return to work. The agent stated that he supported the taking of the ballot as the only course left him to pursue under the circumstances & that he had summoned a general meeting of the men so as to lay the whole facts of the position before them. It was then agreed to leave the matter in the hands of the men with regard to the ballot.²³

A discussion took place about the payment of strike pay to men who may have worked at casual employment, when it was agreed to adjourn the discussion until the next meeting before paying the money.

Corn Exchange, Dalkeith, 9th October 1894

A general meeting took place today, Mr Shaw presiding. Previous to opening the meeting the Chairman put it to the Meeting whether the press should be admitted. Mr Joseph Young, Niddrie, Moved, Mr Notman, Loanhead, Seconded, That the meeting be private. Mr Scott, Newbattle, Moved, Mr Dodds Seconded, That the press be admitted. The Motion was carried nearly unanimously. The reporters were then asked to retire, as well as those present who were not miners.²⁴

The Chairman then alluded to the lengthened time the strike had lasted & congratulated those present for the determination they had shown by entering upon the sixteenth week so strong as they were today. The Agent then gave a report as given at the delegate meeting & urged upon the men to accept the ballot to maintain our connection with the Federation of Great Britain after a

²³ At the SMF conference in Glasgow on 8 Oct. it was reported that 25,000 miners, almost all in the west of the Scotland, were at work, but those in Mid and East Lothian and Fife were still solidly on strike, apart from about 1,500 men who were working either on Federation terms agreed with the coalmasters or whose wages had not been reduced in the general reduction in June. The conference voted 23-5 in favour of a ballot asking whether the miners should return to work, against an amendment recommending a return to work on the coalmasters' terms. *Glasgow Herald*, 9 Oct. 1894.

²⁴ About 3,000 miners attended the general meeting and several contingents of them marched there accompanied by brass bands, one large group by a pipe band. 'From the outset there were signs of hostility to the press.' Joseph Young, in moving his resolution, said the press ought to be excluded not only from that meeting but from all future meetings of the Association. 'It was dividend hunters and a capitalistic press who were trying to ruin our struggle all through. I don't see why we should allow their representatives to sit at our meetings.' *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 11 Oct. 1894.

full explanation had been given. Mr Young of Niddrie Moved that the men ballot, Mr Cairns of Arniston Seconded: Agreed to. It was also agreed that the Agent write the Coalmasters' Secretary offering to meet to discuss terms of settlement & that another meeting be held on Saturday to hear the result both as to ballot & employers' meeting.

Corn Exchange, Dalkeith, 17 October 1894

The Executive met previous to & after the General meeting which took place on the same date. The Minute of the previous meeting was read & adopted, Moved & Seconded by Thomas Taylor & William Gwynne.

The principle business was the payment of men who may have worked at casual employment during the strike & how they were to be supported. It was unanimously agreed to that any one having worked more than two days in one week be not entitled to support for that week but if totally idle the following week that he be paid one week. This to be retrospective to the last payment.

It was agreed to meet next day to pay out the strike allowance.

Corn Exchange, Dalkeith, 17th October 1894

A general meeting was held today, Mr Shaw presiding. Mr Joseph Young, Niddrie, Moved That the press be not admitted. Mr Taylor, Rosewell, moved that the press be admitted. The Amendment to admit the press was carried by a majority.

The President then reviewed the whole position during the strike, & while congratulating those present for having fought so well, giving it as his opinion that he never thought the struggle would be so prolonged as to last 17 weeks and that while he knew that the men of Mid and East Lothian were still able to fight, yet owing to the attitude taken up by other districts of Scotland he believed it would be unwise to prolong the struggle in our own district any longer. Seventy thousand miners having failed to obtain any concession, fifty five thousand having returned to work, the fifteen thousand still left could have less chance of success. He read the Minute of the meeting with the employers which went to show that the employers were in favour of conciliation & gave an assurance that no victimisation would take place as the result of the present dispute.

The Agent then gave a report of the result of the ballot & how the different districts stood, & urged upon the meeting deciding upon returning to work in a body as no good could be obtained by fighting longer. Mr Richard Scott Moved that we agree to return to our work, Seconded by T. Taylor. Mr Joseph Young, Niddrie, moved that we still remain on Strike, Seconded by Alex. Rodger. Mr William Gwynne moved that a ballot be taken on the question, seconded by M. Cumming, Niddrie. The Strike & Ballot Motion finding little support it was carried to return to work & each Colliery approach the employer, to inform

him of the decision so as to have preparations made for Monday.²⁵

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 18th October 1894

A delegate meeting took place today, Mr Shaw presiding. The minute of the former meeting was read & adopted, Moved by Robert Plain, Elphingstone, Seconded by Thomas Scott, Tranent.

It was agreed to appeal against the Sentence passed on the Seven men from Loanhead & Penicuik for Picketing (Sentence being seven days).²⁶

William Ross, one of our trustees, having left the Country, Mr John Young of Macmerrie was elected in his stead.

It was agreed to renew the contributions as from the 9th November, one week to be due on that date. Reports were submitted from a number of the Collieries to the effect that all the men were to be reinstated as far as possible. It was agreed that no further levy be paid by those who had been at work after this week. It was also agreed to [pay] 2s. per hundred for issuing & collecting ballot papers.

The Treasurer intimated that the levy amounted to 5s.6d. per man, he having received a Cheque for £1163.5.0. & one for £21. It was agreed to pay 6s. for married & 5s. for single men & that the next board meeting take place in Tranent on Saturday 3rd November.

A National Strike of Scotch miners took place on the 25th June 1894. Most of the other districts having returned to work between the 12th & 16th week [and]

²⁵ Estimated attendance at this general meeting, postponed from Saturday, 13 Oct., in order to receive information about the MFGB levy, was between 1,000 and 1,600. A similar mass meeting of East Lothian miners took place at Tranent on the evening of 17 Oct. The MFGB EC had resolved that it could give no more financial support to those Scots districts where most of the miners had resumed work but it would continue to support those where the bulk of the men remained on strike. Some districts, including Fife and Ayrshire, had refused to ballot on whether to return to work—the Fife men remained on strike, but those in Ayrshire had returned to work. In Mid and East Lothian the ballot had resulted in 3,156 voting for continuing the strike, and 200 against. At the meeting of Association representatives with the Lothian coalmasters on 10 Oct. the latter had refused to make any concessions on the original 1s. reduction in wages or to guarantee that there would be no further reductions during the following months. The employers had also decided to begin evicting miners from company houses unless there was a resumption of work. The Mid and East Lothian miners returned to work on the employers' terms on Monday, 22 Oct. The Fife miners also resumed that day or the next. Page Arnot is therefore not quite correct in saying 'The strike ... had lasted on in Fife for a fortnight after the rest of Scotland'. Arnot, *Scottish Miners*, 86; MFGBAP, 1894: EC Minutes, 12 and 13 October, *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 11, 18 and 25 Oct. 1894; *Haddingtonshire Courier*, 12, 19 and 26 Oct. 1894; *Glasgow Herald*, 18, 19, 20, 22 and 23 Oct. 1894.

²⁶ The seven miners—five from Loanhead and two from Penicuik—had been convicted at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on 17 Oct. of intimidation. The charge was that they had assembled with others in a large crowd at Loanhead on 27 Sept. during the strike, to compel six miners to stop working for the Shortts Iron Co. Ltd. at Burghlee and Ramsay pits, and the crowd had paraded the streets 'shouting and kicking at their doors and flourishing sticks, and using threats of personal violence'. The Justiciary Appeal Court on 22 Oct. rejected the men's appeal against conviction. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 18 and 25 Oct. 1894; *Glasgow Herald*, 18 Oct. 1894.

after having full knowledge that no other districts intended fighting longer, the miners of Mid & East Lothian agreed to resume work on Monday the 22nd of October—exactly 17 weeks.

Robert Brown, Secy.

Glasgow's Hall, Tranent, 3rd November 1894

The Executive board met today, Councillor Shaw presiding. The minute of the former meeting was read and adopted, moved by Robert Fleming, Billyford, Seconded by David Pryde, Newbattle.

The Agent gave a report of an Executive held in Glasgow on the Thursday & what suggestions had been made regarding the allocation of the money still in Mr Weir's hands as Treasurer for the Scottish Federation. He stated that the allocation would be made on Tuesday next & asked their opinions on the suggestions made. When it was agreed that he act on these lines on Tuesday.²⁷

The money returned from the Collieries amounted to £102.2.3.

The reports showed that there were 250 men unemployed, 145 for the whole fortnight & 105 for the week previous. It was pointed out that the rules did not provide for unemployment [benefit] unless called out on Strike by the board, but that under the circumstances we were bound to assist those still idle. Mr Gwynne, Niddrie, moved that married men get 6s. per week & single men 5s. Mr Taylor moved that we pay 5s. per week to married & single alike. Mr Gwynne's Motion carried by a large majority but it was distinctly understood that this only applies to the fortnight finishing 3rd November 1894. Any other Cases to be considered at next meeting.

Samuel Smith & Joseph Tippet, Loanhead, were allowed £1 each as victimisation money for removing expenses, and two brothers Thomson from Newtongrange £1 each for the same. A number of men from Tranent & other Collieries who could not find employment owing to accumulations of water & other causes, upon giving satisfactory proof of such & having got employment elsewhere received assistance to allow them to go away but no case at the present to receive more than £1 for removal until further consideration.

The men from Loanhead & Penicuik who were imprisoned—seven in

²⁷ By early Oct. 1894 the total sum raised by the MFGB in levies and paid to the Scots miners on strike since June was £74,551.13.7. John Weir (1851–1908) was secretary, 1880–1908, Fife and Kinross Miners' Association, treasurer, 1894–1908, Scottish Miners' Federation, and a member for most years between 1894 and 1906 of the MFGB EC. Born at Parkneuk near Dunfermline, son of parents who were both pit workers, Weir worked in the pits from the age of 11 until he was 27. From 1872 he was a delegate to the Fife miners' union Board, and in 1875 became interim president then in 1876 president of the union. From 1878 to 1880 he worked in a paper mill in Lancashire. In 1884 he was elected to Dunfermline Town Council and School Board. A strong Liberal who was invited to stand as parliamentary candidate for West Fife in 1892, Weir's views, respectability, and skills as a negotiator kept him high in the esteem of the older English leaders of the MFGB—'a man after their own heart'. Arnot MS, Vol. II, Chap. 6, 15–16; W. Hallam (ed.), *Miners' Leaders: Thirty Portraits and Biographical Sketches* (London, n.d. [1894]), 89–90; MFGB AP, 1894: EC Minutes 12 and 13 October.

number, five married & two single—were each granted £1 for married & 15s. to single men, with the same allowance as other members for the week they were off work.

George Duncan & Robert Chalmers having claimed removing expenses it was found that they were not compelled to remove for want of work. Therefore they were only entitled to the week's allowance, the same as other members.

Alexander Ross, Wallyford, lodged a claim for a workman who had left Wallyford Colliery on the 9th of June. Although he had left he had only worked two days in the west, his contributions were paid up in our association to the 23rd June, & he had come back to this district after the Strike took place & had been on the strike roll. It was pointed out that any one who left Mid & East Lothian or even the Coal Mines there ceased to be a member of this Association. No contributions should have been taken after the 9th June from him & that even after coming back the Secretary of Wallyford Colliery should have communicated with the Secretary of the Association so as he could have received the money for this man from the district in which he worked last without admitting him upon the Strike roll here, as in all likelihood the district he had worked in last would claim for him out of the Central fund.

The Expenses incurred for ejectment notice served upon Robert Selkirk was agreed to be paid to stop proceedings.²⁸

Mr Macintosh from Ormiston was present & stated his case, when it was considered that he was not victimised but under the circumstances he be allowed the unemployed assistance. A discussion took place over 3s. he had received when it was discovered that it had been given through a misunderstanding.

Carberry was reported working & that they had agreed to work 11 days per fortnight. The agent was instructed to visit them [and] Wallyford Colliery to see the reason for this Action.²⁹

Wallyford Colliery having disbursed £3.10.0. which should have come back to the board instructions were given for this to be refunded.

The Agent was instructed to support a motion for 5 days per week, to be placed on the programme of business of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain to be held in January as coming from Scotland.

²⁸ This was almost certainly Robert Selkirk, who lived at No. 11 Wood Row, Hunterfield, Gorebridge, with his wife, two daughters and son Robert, junior, in a company house belonging to Arniston Coal Co. Ltd. Robert junior was or became 'Auld Bob' Selkirk (1887-1974) (see above, p. 13, n. 62), one of whose earliest memories was 'roaming over the countryside looking for something to eat, turnips or potatoes from the fields', during the 1894 miners' strike. *Valuation Roll for the County of Midlothian, 1893-4, 235, 1894-5, 233, 1895-6, 235; Selkirk, Life of a Worker, 3.*

²⁹ The Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association Board had long advocated a working week of five days 'wherever practicable', rather than the alternating five-day and six-day week that constituted the eleven-day fortnight, where a full shift was worked every second Saturday. *Haddingtonshire Courier*, 16 Nov. 1894.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 17 November 1894

An Executive Meeting took place today. The minute of the former meeting was read & adopted, Moved by John Philip, Polton, Seconded by David Wilton, Edgehead.

The money drawn from all sources since last meeting amounted to £185.6.8. The number of men reported idle being sixty five it was agreed to allow the same as last fortnight—6s. for married & 5s. for single members per week.

The Agent reported the case for Ormiston, how that they were allowed three days' strike pay, the board agreeing that they were entitled to it under the circumstances, Being advised by the Agent to resist the terms submitted by the employer, Viz., to work 11 days per fortnight & give a 1/2 Cwt. per box or nothing less than 1/2 Cwts to be accredited to the men, This Action being successful.

Mr King of Polton having been forced to remove from the one Colliery to the other & had been thrown out of work for a considerable time through this, it was agreed to grant him the same assistance as those out of work through the strike for that time.

Andrew Cunningham, Niddrie, was considered victimised and allowed £1 as removing expenses.

It was also agreed that owing to the extent of Niddrie Colliery they be allowed two Delegates to the board.

Mr McKinlay from Prestongrange Colliery was present & stated his own case, showing that he had been victimised. After some discussion in the direction of some other method being adopted to stop this victimisation, it was agreed that upon removal taking place, the Colliery committee be empowered to assist Mr McKinlay to the extent of £2 until further information was got as to the amount of expense incurred.

The Agent reported from Conference held in Glasgow the previous day. It had been decided to apply for an advance in wages of sixpence per day. A motion was to be placed on the billet of business at the Federation of Great Britain Conference to be held in January, That the whole of the Miners in said Federation only work five days per week. Nominations [are to] be sent for the offices of President, Secretary & Treasurer in the Scottish Miners' Federation. The Treasurer had received £1500 from the Federation of Great Britain since the last division of which according to our membership we would receive £150 & that he had received sum of £164.9.6. as share of the last division. The report being approved of the Agent was instructed to apply for an advance in wages of 10s. in accordance with resolution.

Seeing that the Motion in favour of five days emanated from Mid & East Lothian it was urgently requested that all the Collieries in both Counties should strictly observe this policy (This does not include the arrangement at Mauricewood).³⁰

³⁰ A disastrous underground fire at Mauricewood colliery, Penicuik, on 5 Sept. 1889, had cost the lives of 63 miners. Of those killed 23 were aged under 20, and 11 of the 23 were under 16 years old:

Consideration was to be given to the question of whether the Districts in Scotland should apply to be accepted into the Federation of Great Britain as Counties or Districts.

Glasgow's Hall, Tranent, 22 December 1894

The Executive Meeting took place. The Minute of the former meeting was read & adopted, Moved by Mr Thomas Scott, Tranent Colliery, Sec. Mr Thomas Taylor, Rosewell Colliery.

The contributions upon being taken amounted to £190.8.5^{d.}, including £150 from the Federation of Great Britain.

The Agent then gave a report of Conference held at Glasgow in connection with the nominations of officials for the Scottish Federation, Mr Smillie being nominated as President, Mr Weir as Treasurer, Mr Brown Secy.³¹ He also reported upon work which had been engaging the attention of the Executive, regarding the distribution of strike money during the late Strike.

The Programme for the Federation conference was then considered and agreed, as to what proposals contained in it we would support, especially the five days per week, That Levies be compulsory, that a fixed sum be stated in the rules for Strike allowance, the eight hours bill, Mines regulation bill and Checkweighers clause.³²

It was agreed that the men in the Section of the Parrot Seam, Emily Pit, Arniston Colliery, who are refused the 4d. per ton on the Parrot which was granted to the same seam by Conciliation, be supported to enforce their claim, & that should no settlement be arrived at The men in said Section do not return

the youngest was aged 12, 7 were aged 14, and 3 15. Five fathers, four of them along with a son and one with two sons; a step-father and son, six pairs of brothers and one group of three brothers, as well as an uncle and nephew, were all killed in the disaster, which left as orphans 102 children under 14 years of age. The colliery, owned by the Shotts Iron Co. Ltd., was reconstructed and in production again by Apr. 1891, with about 200 men employed; but the outbreak of another underground fire led to the closure of the pit in May 1897. It was re-opened in 1900 but finally closed in May 1909. A.B. Donaldson, *Mauricewood Disaster* (Roslin, n.d. [1989]), 23-6, 30-1, 39-52; H. & B. Duckham, *Great Pit Disasters* (Newton Abbot, 1973), 205.

³¹ Robert Brown, secretary, Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association, and John Weir, secretary, Fife and Kinross Miners' Association. Robert Smillie (1857-1940), a leader of the Lanarkshire, Scottish and British miners; president, 1894-1918, Scottish Miners' Federation and, 1922-8, of its successor the National Union of Scottish Mine Workers; vice-president, 1908-11, and president, 1912-21, Miners' Federation of Great Britain; a member, 1897-9 and 1903-7, Parliamentary Committee, and president, 1904-5, Scottish Trades Union Congress; a member, 1918-27, Parliamentary Committee or General Council, Trades Union Congress; chairman, 1900, and vice-president, 1901-4, Scottish Workers' Representation Committee; Labour MP for Morpeth, 1923-9.

³² The Scottish Miners' Federation conference in Glasgow on 27 Dec. agreed that its delegates to the MFGB annual conference at Birmingham on 8-11 Jan. 1895 would support a five days' working week but 'separate the hours question from it if possible'; and also support a motion concerning 'checkweighers having powers to act on behalf of the men without being a removable offence under the Mines Act'. SMF MS Minutes, 27 Dec. 1894 (in NLS MSS Acc. 4312.19).



Miners at Tranent, n.d. (Courtesy of National Museums of Scotland, Scottish Life Archive.)

to work after the New Year holidays & that they be considered entitled to strike pay as from Monday, eighth January 1895.³³

Six men having been forced to remove from Wallyford & Carberry Collieries during the Strike, Two of them being delegates, it was considered that they were victimised & that they be allowed 10s. each for removal expenses, & Alexander Ross, one of them, having lost one week's work, be allowed 10s. extra. Three claims from Tranent Colliery were allowed the same for removing as those from that Colliery had received, Viz., £1, as there was no prospect of work in the Pit after the strike for a considerable time & they had removed to Fife & the west of Scotland.

A claim by Thomas Frame & Alexander Young, Penicuik Colliery, for £1 each as expenses incurred by them through being prosecuted for picketting was to be inquired into by the Agent.

George Aitken, Arniston, and Joseph Young, Niddrie, were appointed Auditors, at 5s. each. Mr George McKinlay, Prestongrange, not having had to remove, it was agreed that he pay back 18s. of the £2 allowed him for that purpose.

Joseph Young, Checkweigher, having been summoned before the Sherriff by the Niddrie Company for the purpose of removing him from his situation, it was agreed to leave it in the hands of Mr Handyside, our Law Agent, to do all he can to defend the action.

The Agent was empowered to represent the Association at the Federation Conference at Birmingham on the 8 January if not appointed to represent the Scottish Federation.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 26 January 1895

The Executive board met. The minute of the former Meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr Thomas Taylor, Rosewell, Seconded by Mr Robt Plain, Elphinstone.

The contribution amounted to £132.13.7^d., And the number of members 3,640.

Mr Thomas Muir raised the question anent Mr Alexander Ross receiving £1 as removing expenses. The reasons were given. Mr Muir was satisfied.

The Agent reported from the Birmingham Conference. Some discussion and explanations were given. This was accepted.

A long discussion took place regarding what the entry money should be. Mr Thomas Muir Moved 10s. after the 9th February and any one joining between this & then pay all arrears. Mr Robt Plain Seconded. Mr Robert Fleming Moved that it be 5s. after the 9th, Mr Rodger Seconding. Mr David Wilson Moved that it be 5s. but during the interval, anyone be admitted for the regular contribution

³³ Parrot gas coal, 'sometimes applied to gas coal when of inferior quality', J. Barrowman, *A Glossary of Scotch Mining Terms* (Hamilton, 1886), 49; 'A highly volatile bituminous coal which ignites easily and burns with a clear bright flame and a crackling sound.' M. Robinson (ed.), *The Concise Scots Dictionary* (Aberdeen, 1987), 475.

payable at the Colliery he may be working at. After considerable discussion in which it was pointed out that a large number who had been good members formerly had only received from four to six days' work since the New Year and that their position ought to be considered, Mr Wilson's Motion was carried by 10 to 8.³⁴

A claim from Loanhead from four men who had been refused the last week's Strike Allowance owing to them having started before the day recommended by the General Meeting. It was agreed they get their 6s. each.

A letter was read from A. Archibald, Carberry Colliery, stating that he had paid 10s. as entry Money on the 23rd of June and urging reasons why he should have been admitted for 5s. It was pointed out that he had received full benefit during the Strike, therefore he had benefited to the full amount of the entry money paid. It was agreed that no abatement could be made.

A claim by Mr Wm Chalmers, Wallyford, for a fortnight's allowance for his Son who was idle that time after the Strike: it was considered that this had arisen owing to the absence of his father, who was in a different part of the County at the time.

Mr McKernan's Case from Rosewell was considered and an allowance of 12s. granted for removal expenses.

A claim by John Donaldson, Fife, formerly of Tranent Colliery, for removing expenses: he was held to have removed of his own accord, his work being open the same as others after the Strike.

The Agent reported that Joseph Young had to appear in the Sherrieff Court, Edinburgh, on 4th of February, the Niddrie & Benhar Coal Company having appealed against Sherrieff Rutherford's decision.³⁵ Also that a claim for Accident

³⁴ *The Rules of the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association, 1889* provided at rule 8 that 'Each person joining this Association shall pay such entry money as the Board may from time to time direct.'

³⁵ Joseph Young, checkweigher at Niddrie No. 12 pit, secretary of the union branch there and its delegate to the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association Board, was defender in a complaint by Niddrie and Benhar Coal Co. Ltd. on 7 Jan. at Edinburgh Sheriff Court that he had contravened the Mines Regulation Act, 1887, by putting up notices at the pit calling meetings of the miners on four days in Nov. in order to prevent them working then, and that consequently many had absented themselves from work and thus impeded or interrupted the working of the mine. The company, which sought to have Young removed as checkweigher, also complained that he had persuaded a miner to stop working for several days in Oct., during the general miners' strike—but that complaint was successfully objected to by counsel for Young, on the grounds that the alleged offence had not taken place at the pit but a mile away from it and at a time when Young was not engaged on his checkweighing duties. Young admitted putting up on the company's notice board, where all notices were placed, ten notices calling meetings, two of which concerned a soup kitchen and one breaches of union rules by miners working on Saturday. Young said he had been employed sixteen years at Niddrie pit and since June past had been secretary of the union branch there. It had for years been the practice to place notices on the checkweigher's box calling meetings of the miners and it was only recently that the manager had objected and said the notices should be put on the company's boards. Sheriff Rutherford dismissed the action on the grounds that all the meetings except one were on Saturdays, Saturdays being generally the idle days; the one exception had been on a Thursday at 6 p.m., and thus could not have interfered with the working shifts. The Sheriff allowed the company to appeal to the Court of

had been lodged on behalf of James Jack against the same Company. A reply had been received that enquiries were being made after which they would communicate their intention.

A Motion from Prestongrange Colliery to fix a definite sum for removing expenses, was remitted to the Collieries for consideration, to be taken up next Meeting.

Glasgow's Hall, Tranent, 23rd February 1895

An Executive Meeting was held. The minute of the former meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr Thomas Muir, Carberry, Seconded by Mr John Philip, Polton.

The contributions amounted to £152.9.9.

Mr David Smith from Carberry was admitted to state his claim for £1 as removing expenses. He left this district in August during the Strike and found employment in England. The employer at Carberry upon knowing this gave intimation to empty the house he occupied at Wallyford, upon which Mr Smith came from England and removed his furniture into a neighbour's house at Dolphingston and returned to England again and resumed work there until two weeks after the termination of the Strike when he returned and resumed his employment in the same Colliery and got a house. It was agreed that under these circumstances he was not entitled to removing expenses.

It was agreed that in future all claims shall only be considered by the board when submitted by the delegate representing the Colliery. No one to attend personally unless requested to do so for the purpose of having full information on the case.

The claim of Mr James Hood Moffat was again brought up by the Newbattle delegate for reconsideration, When 16 against 2 voted that no victimisation had taken place, on the grounds that He was not justified in refusing to do what was required of him by the Manager while being employed by the Company upon time wages, and in throwing up his employment before consulting the Committee and the workmen at the Colliery.

The Agent was instructed to take steps to compel the two Members to refund the 10s. each they had received by mistake from the Local Treasurer of Wallyford Colliery.

Should arrangements be made for delegates from England coming to address meetings in Scotland, The Agent arrange for two meetings in Mid & East Lothian.

Remit to the Collieries whether they are in favour of a sum being fixed in the event of any of our Members being victimised Or whether each case should be dealt with as it arises.

The Sum to be 10s. for the first Mile, with an additional 1s. per Mile up to

Thirty Miles, for Married Members, unmarried Members to be allowed the half.

The Agent was to attend to the claim made by a section of the Men at Arniston Colliery of 4d. per ton, which it is considered they are entitled to.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 16 March 1895

An Executive Meeting was held. The minute of the former meeting was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr William Dodds, Newbattle, Seconded by Mr Thomas Scott, Tranent.

The Agent gave a report of the interview with Lord Salisbury and Mr Balfour by the representatives of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain on the Eight hours Mines bill.³⁶

The Agent then gave the particulars of the Newbattle dispute, After which the reports from the Collieries were taken, a large majority being in favour of supporting the men to resist the reduction. After full consideration it was agreed that the decision as to what action should be taken be left with the men affected and that an effort should be made to settle on conciliatory lines, failing which, should the men agree to cease work, They be allowed support at the rate of 8s. per Man per week and one for each child under 13 years of age.³⁷

A long discussion took place on the working policy, large numbers of the men working more than five days per week, An intimation having been given to the Men at Newbattle Colliery that the Company would not accept five days per week. It was agreed to remit the question to the Collieries and report to the board meeting to be held the following Saturday when the question would be further considered.

The reports from the Collieries upon Victimisation allowance showed a large majority in favour of deciding each case on its merits as it arose. This was agreed to.

The Agent reported that we had been succesful in the Checkweighing case at Niddrie Colliery and had obtained £7.7s. of expenses against the Company.

³⁶ A 25-strong deputation from the MFGB, led by its president, Ben Pickard (1842-1904), a Lib-Lab MP, and including Robert Smillie and Robert Brown, representing Scots miners, met Lord Salisbury, 3rd marquess (1830-1903), Conservative Party leader, and Arthur J. Balfour (1848-1930), leader of the Conservative Opposition in the Commons, on 14 Mar., three months before Salisbury formed his third ministry. Balfour told the deputation, which was seeking a commitment from all candidates in forthcoming parliamentary elections of support for a Mines Eight Hours Bill, that 'there are certain difficulties ... which have always prevented me ... from supporting the Eight Hours movement in the House of Commons'. Referring to the meeting with Salisbury and Balfour in his opening address to the MFGB annual conference on 14 Jan. 1896, Pickard said: 'The consolation derived from that meeting can, I think, be safely considered small.' *MFGB AP, 1895: Report of Deputation, 14 March 1895*, 2, 3, 9; *SMF EC Minutes*, 13 Mar. 1895.

³⁷ The Lothian Coal Co. Ltd. had announced a reduction of 8s. per fathom in miners' wages at the colliery, had refused to refer the issue to arbitration, and also insisted the men work an 11-day fortnight, contrary to the established policy in Mid and East Lothian of five days' work a week. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 14 and 28 Mar. 1895.

The Agent reported on the claim made by John Jack against the Niddrie & Benhar Coal Company for damages for injuries sustained by him; and also from George Moffat, Patrick McDonald and Richard O'Connor for four days' wages due to them by Thomas Jenkins, Contractor, Polton Colliery. After Consideration these cases were left in the hands of the Agent.

A claim made by Andrew Greenlees, Loanhead Colliery, for removing expenses was not allowed, no victimisation having taken place.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 23rd March 1895

An Executive Meeting was held. The minute of the former Meeting was read and adopted, moved by Mr Thomas Muir, Carberry, Seconded by Mr Thomas Taylor, Rosewell.

The contributions for the past four weeks were taken, amounting to £140.11.3.

The question of days to be worked per week owing to the intimation given to the Newbattle men, Viz., that the Pits must be open 11 days per fortnight, was then considered. It was found that a large Majority were still in favour of holding to the five days per week. It was agreed to recommend the men of Newbattle Colliery only to work five days per week even though the Pits were open 11 days per fortnight, by taking an idle day individually.

The claim made for Compensation by James Jack against Niddrie Coy, was considered and upon the evidence submitted the Agent was instructed to proceed further with the claim.

Glasgow's Hall, Tranent, 6 April 1895

An Executive Meeting took place. The Minute of the former Meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr James Cunningham (Arniston), Seconded Mr Robert Watson (Wallyford).

The Agent reported that a partial reduction had been imposed in a section of the splint seam at Arniston Colliery of 2d. per ton, from a hewing rate of 1s.3d. per ton. And upon the Manager refusing to withdraw the same and having refused both Conciliation and Arbitration, The whole of the Colliery had been idle since Wednesday. After taking the reports from the Colliery it was found that they were unanimously of the opinion, That the Arniston Men had done what was right and that they be supported in their effort to stop partial reductions from being introduced, and that Saturday Count as the first day they are entitled to Strike Pay, at the rate of 8s. per Man per week and 1s. each child under 13 years.³⁸

The Agent reported further on James Jack's case and [was] instructed to go on with the claim.

³⁸ Splint: hard grey coal with a slaty structure and uneven cross fracture which burns without caking. Barrowman, *Mining Terms*, 63.

As it was expected that a Conference would be held during the next week in Connection with the reduction of wages intimated, the President was instructed to attend along with the Agent.³⁹

It was agreed to obtain the opinion of the Members whether, in the event of any of our Members' wages not being paid on the recognised pay day through any cause for which they were not responsible, That upon full information being got and the opinion of our Law Agent being that the money could be obtained without any loss, the Trustees be empowered, if instructed by the board to sign any bill, to pay the wages so as to relieve the members affected, the Treasurer getting the Pay lines and every security which can be obtained to uplift the money when payable.

Glasgow's Hall, Tranent, 20th April 1895

An Executive and financial meeting was held today.

The Minute of the former meeting was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Thomas Taylor, Rosewell, Seconded by Mr John Philip, Polton.

The Contributions for the past four weeks on being taken amounted to £133.13.0.

The Agent reported that the dispute at Arniston Colliery had been settled favourably. It was agreed that the men be allowed two days' strike allowance.

The reports from the Collieries on the Reduction of 10% in wages question were not in favour of striking at present, but still in favour of the Federation policy and believing in the principle of a general movement by the whole of the Federation of Great Britain. The Agent was instructed to support this opinion at the conference to be held on Wednesday.⁴⁰

With reference to the last minute as to Members' wages being detained the reports from the Collieries were in favour of the suggested terms.

Alexander Rodger, Delegate of Niddrie Colliery, having been considered victimised and having been off work for two weeks before finding employment, It was agreed to allow him two weeks' strike allowance at the usual rate and pay his removing expenses to Polton Colliery.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 1st June 1895

The financial and executive meeting was held today.

³⁹ A reduction, earlier notified by the Mid and East Lothian coalmasters, of 6d. (10 per cent) a day in miners' wages, took place from 22 Apr., along with a customary corresponding alteration in the charge for coal burned by the miners in their houses. An SMF conference in Glasgow on 10 Apr. that considered the general reduction of miners' wages in Scotland agreed to ask the MFGB to call a conference on the issue, rejected a proposal to work a four-day week, and urged strict observance of the five-day week. SMF Minutes, 10 Apr. 1895; *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 25 Apr. 1895.

⁴⁰ An SMF conference in Glasgow on Wednesday, 24 Apr., passed by 15 votes to 9 a motion reaffirming its support for MFGB policy, 'viz., a Conciliation Board on the basis of a minimum wage', and demanding restoration of the newly imposed wage reduction of 6d., against an amendment proposing a four-day week to relieve 'the congested state of the coal market'. SMF Minutes, 24 Apr. 1895.

The Minute of the former Meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr Robert Fleming, Billyford, Seconded by Mr William Russel, Vogrie.

The contributions for the last six weeks amounted to £189.5.0.

The Agent reported from the various conferences he had attended in connection with the Mines bill and other questions.

Michael McCrann & two Sons having been requested to start in a new pit opened up at Ormiston at a reduced rate, Acting upon the Agent's advice refused to do so. They had been idle for over two weeks with the result that a better price had been obtained. It was agreed to allow him strike allowance for the time he was idle.

Francis Potter and other three of the same Company having been dismissed from Prestongrange Colliery through a dispute over taking down the roof clay, it was agreed to allow them three weeks' allowance each, they having been idle that time.

Mr Byers from Rosewell Colliery was dismissed from there and, upon him finding employment at Polton, after a few days he was removed from there, unless he could get a line from the Manager at Rosewell allowing him to be retained—which was refused. The whole arising over Byres claiming to be paid for Holes boring, which had been the rule in the Colliery but had been refused in his Case, It was agreed to allow him £1 as removing expenses.

The Agent reported that in each case where the reduction had been excessive a settlement had been effected upon nearly the same conditions as prevailed formerly.

Glasgow's Hall, Tranent, 6th July 1895

An Executive Meeting took place. The Minute of last Meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Thomas Moffat, Carberry, Seconded by Archibald Chambers, Ormiston.

The contributions for the five weeks amounted to £134.16.0.

The Agent then reported that the men at Ormiston Colliery had been on Strike for about a week over the weighing dispute and that the case had been settled in their favour. The pit had been paid four days' strike allowance and the other three days.

A dispute having been going on for a week at Prestongrange the Agent reported that the Manager there had intimated to the men that they were to fill Triping and receive 1s.8d. per ton in the Jewel Seam, whereas formerly when filling hand picked coal they were paid 3s. per ton and 11d. per ton for Dross the produce being two tons of coal to one of Dross, averaging 2s.3¹/₂d. per ton and thus making a reduction of 7¹/₂d. per ton, and that every effort at a settlement had been refused. It was therefore agreed to unanimously that we support them against this attempt to reduce the wage and recommend those men working in the Great Seam at the same Colliery to cease supplying the Company with Coal

after Tuesday should no settlement be arrived at.⁴¹

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 3rd August 1895

An Executive Meeting was held. Minute of last meeting [approved], Moved Dodds & Wyse. The income for the last four weeks, including £79 from Scotch Federation towards Prestongrange strike, was £249.9.3.

Invitations circulars were on the table for a conference of the British Federation to be held in London on the 8th August. It was agreed to leave the appointment of delegates to the Scottish conference to be held on the 6th.

Eviction notices having been served on the men at Prestongrange Colliery, every effort was to be made to prevent them being granted and also to make provision for the accommodation of those who may be evicted. It was agreed to pay the expense incurred in getting McDonald's wages, he having been a good Member. The question of removing expenses from Prestongrange was left off for the present.⁴²

A statement was made anent the position of Niddrie Colliery with regard to Federation and the delegate and Agent were to arrange to try and improve matters. The Agent stated that the claim of James Jack v. Niddrie Coal Coy had been withdrawn, and the reason for such. He also stated what had taken place in the Claim against the Shotts Coy by the Widow of John Lane.

The Agent reported that the Scottish Federation had agreed to support the Prestongrange men according to rule. Some discussion took place as to whether the allowance to the married men should be increased but it was thought to be unwise to do so, and it was likewise agreed not to impose any levy in the meantime.

One week's strike pay was granted to George Deans & his two Sons at

⁴¹ Tripping: 'Now usually coal as it comes from the miner; formerly, as in some cases still, coal from which the large lumps have been separated.' Barrowman, *Mining Terms*, 68. Jewel: a high-grade coal with a jewel-like surface. Robinson (ed.), *Scots Dictionary*, 330. The Prestongrange men were on strike against a new system by which coal and dross were to be sent up together to the pithead from the working places, instead of, as formerly, the miners keeping them separate and being paid for them separately. The men wanted higher payment than the management was prepared to give. *Haddingtonshire Courier*, 5 July 1895.

⁴² Warrants evicting 79 Prestongrange miners and their families from company houses were granted at Haddington Sheriff Court on 8 Aug. to Summerlee and Mossend Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., which had recently bought the colliery. In the event, 45 of the 79 miners were evicted: 'The village early on Tuesday morning presented a somewhat unwonted scene of bustle and excitement, carts standing at short distances apart along the row of houses, being loaded with furniture. By noon all the carts had left the village.... As soon as the tenants had left the houses, the doors were locked and the windows barricaded, so as to prevent the glass from being broken. At the removals some affecting scenes were witnessed. Some of the men and their wives had lived in the village for a good many years, and on leaving they seemed to be in a somewhat depressed condition. All the removals were conducted in the most quiet and orderly fashion.' Fifty-seven blackleg miners brought by the company from their pits in the west of Scotland were housed in the colliery grounds until the houses were vacated by the evicted miners. *Haddingtonshire Courier*, 9 and 16 Aug. 1895.

Arniston Colliery, having been thrown idle through refusing to start at a reduced rate in a section of the Parrot.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 10th August 1895

An Executive meeting took place, Mr William Dodds in the Chair. The minute of the former meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr Hugh Adams, Seconded by Mr Joseph Young.

The Agent reported how matters stood at Prestongrange Colliery. The Company had shewn their books to a deputation of the men to prove that those working had produced over three tons per man. At the same time it was discovered that blasting of the coal had been taking place instead of cutting it and alterations made on the drawing roads whereby one could do instead of two formerly. The deputation asked if they would be allowed the same privilege as those working by blasting and were told, yes, they would. The men then agreed, acting upon the advice of the Agent, to start work and give it a trial under these conditions. But upon the men offering their services a large number were refused employment as a large number of blacklegs had been employed and along with those already working could fill up most of the places, especially in the Jewel seam.

Mr Joseph Young then Moved & Robert Gordon Seconded that no terms be accepted unless every man be reemployed who had been in the employment previous to the strike. Mr Thomas Taylor Moved, Mr John Philip Seconded, That we advise the men to start work on the conditions named and that we assist those who may be refused employment to remove to where work can be got, and should any evictions take place every effort be made to find shelter for those evicted. After considerable discussion the amendment was carried.

Mr Joseph Young reported a case from Niddrie Colliery regarding George Jack who was considered as being victimised, but the case not having been before the Colliery it was left in the hands of Mr Young and the Agent to have the opinion of the Colliery.

Mr William Philip having had to leave Rosewell Colliery through a dispute about his work he found work at Prestongrange. The first day he was to start the strike took place. He therefore removed from there, too. It was considered that he was entitled to some assistance for removing. £1 was granted to him.

Glasgow's Hall, Tranent, 31st August 1895

An Executive & financial meeting was held today, Councillor Shaw in the chair. The minute of the last meeting was read & adopted, Moved by Archd Philip, Seconded by James Robertson.

The contribution from all sources amounted to £213.3.0.

The Agent reported that an offer of £35 had been made by the Assurance Company to settle the claim raised by Mrs Lane, Penicuik, against the Shotts

Company. It was agreed to advise the acceptance of this offer.

A number of claims were disposed of in connection with removals from Prestongrange owing to the dispute. It was agreed that strike allowance cease after the 27th August, one full fortnight after the termination of the dispute. Mr Casy appeared on his own behalf seeking assistance for being thrown idle at Prestongrange after the settlement of the dispute. It was decided that he was not entitled to any assistance as by his own statement he had gone to the pit head and interfered with the Management of the Colliery at a time and in such a condition when he had no right to be there.

The President made a statement explaining why the delegates from East Lothian, along with himself had (through a misunderstanding owing to the note from the Secretary) been absent from the last Executive Meeting.

The Agent reported that at the Conference held in Glasgow by the Scottish Federation it had been agreed to allow 5s. per Man to those who had to be paid for the first week after the Strike for which he had received £30.

The claim of George Jack, Niddrie Colliery, was considered and upon it being stated that he was still working there, Victimisation or removal expenses did not fall to be considered.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 5th October 1895

An Executive and financial meeting was held today. The Minute of last Meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr Robert Watson, Wallyford, Seconded by Mr William Sneddon, Niddrie.

The Money drawn for the five weeks amounted to £118.7.6., including £5.5.0. secured from Mr Rattray, Haddington, as part of the expenses got against the Prestongrange Company, re. the eviction cases.

The Agent intimated that Widow Lane had accepted the sum of £35 as offered by the Assurance Company.

The Agent read a letter from William McKinlay who had left Prestongrange during the late strike there, asking removing expenses. It being stated in the letter that he left after being upon strike for three weeks, the strike having lasted other three weeks after he had got employment in Fife, it was agreed that he could not be classed as a victimised Member.

A letter was read from Richard Neilson, late secretary at Prestongrange Colliery, on behalf of John Broadfoot. It was decided that the claim should come through the Colliery at which John Broadfoot is at present working.

The delegate from Niddrie Colliery made a statement with regard to the position of said Colliery. It was understood that all assistance possible would be given to the local Committee to better the position, the delegate and Agent to arrange for such.

Reports from the Collieries were unanimous in favour of adopting a death fund in connection with the Association. It was agreed that Monday the 11th

November be the date when claims would be liable for. The Agent received instructions to issue leaflets to all the Collieries to this effect. A number of rules were considered in connection with the change, And William Dodds, Newbattle, and James Cunningham were appointed to assist the Agent in preparing a proof Copy of rules for consideration at next meeting.

Glasgow's Hall, Tranent, 2nd November, 1895

An Executive Meeting was held. The Minute of last meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr Robert Watson, Seconded by Mr William McIntosh.

The contributions for the four weeks amounted to £111.12.9.

It was agreed that John Broadfoot be allowed 7s.6d. as removing expenses from Prestongrange. Also that William Dodds & James Cunningham be paid 2s.6d. each for assisting in the drafting of the new rules.

The Agent was instructed to move at the Scottish Conference a Motion for the Conference of the Federation of Great Britain: That no section of this Federation make any arrangement which would prevent united action being taken in accordance with the 20th rule.⁴³

The Secretary submitted certificates for the working of the death fund which were approved of. It was agreed to insert the following Special Minute:

That those Members who are unmarried and are the sole support of their Widowed Mother and younger sisters and brothers, or should their Father be alive but unable to work At the 11th November 1895, Shall be entitled to the same benefit for their Mother or sisters and brothers as a married Member; but where the Father may be alive *he be not included*. But upon such Member, he being the representative of the Family, either Marrying or being deceased, the privilege does not extend to any other member of the family, but the Mother & family will come under rule 29, Where Members' Widows are allowed to retain their connections with the Association by paying half contributions. This Minute only applies to such Members as were in existence as at 11th November 1895.

⁴³ The SMF conference in Glasgow on 11 Nov. duly approved the motion for submission to the MFGB annual conference on 14-17 Jan. 1896. The 20th rule of the MFGB said: 'That whenever any County, Federation or District is attacked on the Wage question, or any action taken by a general Conference, all members connected with the Society shall tender a notice to terminate their contracts—if approved of by a Conference called to consider the advisability of such joint action being taken.' The motion arose from recent experience of Scots miners (who on the whole had lower wages and were less well unionised at this period than those south of the Border) in suffering wage reductions, particularly despite their great strike in 1894 when MFGB miners in England and Wales had given them moral and financial support but had not come out on strike in their support. After a full debate at the MFGB conference (which revealed some divisions among Scots delegates themselves on the motion), on the suggestion of Ben Pickard, the president (who in 1893 had described Rule 20, 'if rightly applied', as 'the temporal salvation of the Federation and of its members'), that 'matters be left as they stood', Robert Brown agreed to withdraw the motion. SMF Minutes, 11 Nov. 1895; MFGB AP, 1896: *Report of Annual Conference, 14-17 January*, 69-72; Arnot, *The Miners*, 108, 221.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 30th November 1895

An Executive Meeting took place. The Minute of last Meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr Archibald Philip, Seconded by Mr John Wyse.

The income for the four weeks amounted to £138.11.0.

It was agreed that £8 of the fund be deposited in the Savings bank at Dalkeith and the remaining portion of the funds be still kept in the Commercial bank.

Mr Peter Livingstone from Penstone Colliery having made a claim by letter for victimisation allowance for removal, the case was remitted to the Colliery for further information. If approved by the Colliery Allowance for removal would be allowed.

It was agreed to delay the election of the Office bearers Meantime, Owing to a Motion being made in favour of having an annual holiday during the summer months, at which the elections could be made. The elections to be Annual.

It was further agreed to allow the entry Money to remain at 5s. until further consideration.

The following gentlemen were selected from the board to act on the Standing Committee as provided for in rule 5: Mr Joseph Young, Niddrie, Mr Thomas Scott, Tranent, Mr Wm McIntosh, Elphinstone, Mr James Cunningham, Arniston, Mr Wm Dodds, Newbattle, Along with President & Secretary.

The Secretary intimated that two claims had been paid since the inauguration of the death fund, but that other two were known to be pending.

Glasgow's Hall, Tranent, 28 December 1895

An Executive [meeting] took place. The Minute of the former Meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr William Dodds, Seconded by Mr Joseph Young.

The Income for the four weeks amounted to £115.11.2.

The Agent reported that the two men from Penston Colliery had been paid £1 each. A number of the delegates expressed their opinions that these men should have been paid according to rules but after a general discussion it was agreed that under the circumstances they had been generously treated.

The Agent reported a case from Loanhead where two of the workmen's Pins had been taken off their boxes by the Manager, on the assumption that the Oncostmen had filled the *Dross*. The men on this becoming known to them requested an enquiry into the whole case for the purpose of clearing their characters. This had been going on for nearly three weeks, and upon the workmen pressing for satisfaction the employer stated that the case was now in the hands of the Authorities and that they would have to attend the Court. Believing the Men to be the victims of some party it was agreed to defend them, and in the event of the Authorities not taking up the case an endeavour be made to get the money for the material from which the Pins were taken.⁴⁴

⁴⁴ A pin or tally with the miner's initials, number, or other distinguishing mark, was put by him on each hutch of coal he filled before it was taken to the surface, weighed, and the amount made payable to him. Nothing more has been found about this case.

The Prestongrange delegate stated that the Manager there would not allow the proper tare to be fixed as taken. He was instructed to request the Manager to do so again and in the event of a refusal to communicate with the Agent when he would write the Inspector of Mines on the subject.⁴⁵

Mr George Aitken and Mr John Pryde were appointed as Auditors, for the past year.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 15th February 1896

The financial [meeting] was held. The Minute of last meeting was read and approved, Moved by Mr Archd Philip, Seconded by Mr John Wyse.

The Contributions amounted to £208.

The Agent reported from the Scottish and British Conferences on the Mines & eight hours bill.

A long discussion took place over Mr John Wilson's Motion re. Checkweighers, after which it was carried to submit the Motion to the Collieries.⁴⁶

A circular from the Edinburgh Trades Council asking delegates to attend a conference for the purpose of cooperating together towards entertaining the delegates attending the Trades Union Congress to be held in Edinburgh this year, was remitted to the Collieries to be reported on next Meeting.⁴⁷

The delegate from Prestongrange reported that a settlement had not been made yet about the Tare to be taken for the Hutches, but that the Manager had submitted certain scales to the men for their Consideration.

Mr Thomas Notman, Loanhead, was held to have been victimised for one week and granted his week's allowance at 8s. per week and 1s. each child.

A long discussion took place initiated by Mr Joseph Young, Niddrie Colliery, on the five days policy, it being reported that Arniston Colliery had

⁴⁵ A tare was the average weight of an empty hutch, established by periodically weighing an appropriate number of them. The tare was very important to miners paid by weight or tonnage of coal they produced and filled into the hutches.

⁴⁶ John Wilson (1864-1912) was born in Broxburn, where as a boy and until he was 23 he worked as a shale miner. His ambition was to become a clergyman, but in 1887 he became leader of a successful six month strike by the shale miners to increase wages and shorten hours. Wilson then became full-time agent of the shale miners and later of the West Lothian coal miners as well. He was elected to Uphall School Board, was active in Edinburgh Trades Council, and stood unsuccessfully as Labour parliamentary candidate in 1892 for Edinburgh Central division. A motion by Wilson had been approved by an SMF conference on 31 Jan. that a clause should be inserted into the Mines Bill, thus: 'That where the majority of the miners at one or more collieries belonging to one or several employers determine by ballot to pay a fixed payment into a common Checkweigher Fund the minority shall be compelled to pay the same as if it were for one checkweigher at one particular colliery.' (See also above, p. 23). SMF Minutes, 31 Jan. 1896; Marwick, *Labour in Scotland*, 58-9, 71.

⁴⁷ Edinburgh Trades Council, founded about 1853, was composed of delegates from local trade unions, and its chairman, John Mallinson, a cordwainer, was president of the Trades Union Congress when it held its annual congress in the city from 7 to 12 Sept. Edinburgh Trades Council MS Minutes, 14 Jan., 10 Mar. and 30 June 1896 (in NLS MSS Acc. 11177/11).

departed from the policy.⁴⁸ Explanations were given for this and statements made which showed that in many instances the Collieries in the district had worked 11 days per fortnight when it could be obtained, the reasons given for such being that no other district in the Country had carried out this policy. Therefore no practical good could be derived from so small a district as this carrying it out and in three large Collieries trouble was threatened if this policy was pursued.

Glasgow's Hall, Tranent, 14th March 1896

An Executive and financial Meeting was held today.

The Minute of last meeting after being read was adopted, Moved by Mr Robert Notman, Seconded by Mr Peter Givan.

The contributions amounted to £120.3.0.

After full consideration it was considered that Mrs Nisbet had a good claim for compensation against the Arniston Coal Company for the death of her husband, who was killed at said Colliery on the 30th of December last, The secretary being instructed to place the case in the hands of our law agent, under the usual conditions, Viz., Should damages be obtained pursuer gets the amount less the expense incurred, while in the event of nothing being obtained the Association to pay the expenses incurred.

The Agent read a letter from the Manager at Loanhead Colliery stating that all the efficient workmen in the section complained of could make over the Standard wage. The agent had also got the output for two fortnights from the Checkweigher's book which showed a wide Margin existing in some of the places by others. It was left over so as those affected might consider whether any further steps could be taken by visiting the Manager to discuss the subject.

Mr Abram Reid claimed victimisation allowance for dismissal from Rosewell Colliery which was disallowed, as he had been dismissed for filling other Material than agreed upon to be filled.

With regard to the general reduction of Wages intimated it was agreed to have a Mass Meeting of the two Counties on Wednesday the 25th March, the day upon which the reduction takes effect, for the purpose of discussing what line of policy ought to be pursued. The delegates to meet at 11 o'clock.⁴⁹

Owing to Saturday being a working day at the Collieries where the Vice President and Treasurer work⁵⁰ it was agreed to pay them 4s.6d. each or a day's

⁴⁸ The Arniston management had been caused 'much annoyance' by the refusal of the miners during the previous five or six years to work on Saturdays, and had posted up notices toward the end of Jan. that their pits would in future be open on Saturdays for the drawing of coal. The miners had accepted the decision. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 6 Feb. 1896.

⁴⁹ The Mid and East Lothian coalmasters had posted notices on 10 Mar. of a general reduction from 25 Mar. of 10 per cent (about 5d. a day) of the 1888 basis from wages averaging (according to Robert Brown, Miners' Association secretary) 17s. a week, bringing them down 'even lower than they were in 1888'. In the other Scots coalfields the 10 per cent reduction took effect earlier, in mid-Mar. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 12 and 26 Mar. 1896.

⁵⁰ At Arniston.

wage, they being servants of the Association, delegates as a rule being assisted by their Collieries under similar circumstances.

Corn Exchange, Dalkeith, 25th March 1896

A delegate Meeting was held today. The Minute of the last meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr Archd Philip, Seconded by Mr James Cunningham.

Reports were taken in, when it was found that most of the Collieries were idle. Rosewell and Polton being working, the delegates reported that these Collieries had been idle three days out of the last four and would be idle the following day, but had agreed to be idle until a report got spread that some of the men were to attend their work. Upon a meeting being called on the Sunday evening the whole Colliery agreed to go to work rather than be divided. The board agreed that under the circumstances the men had acted wisely.

Arrangements were then made for the business of the general meeting which was to follow, both in consideration of the wages question and the election of the Officebearers for the year.

Elphinston Colliery & House of Muir had not been reduced.

Corn Exchange, Dalkeith, 25th March 1896

A general Meeting was held today. In opening the Meeting the President expressed strong disapproval of the action of the employers in reducing wages to so low a point as they were doing at this time. He also gave a report of the Death fund since its formation in November 1895 and of the Association as a whole. After which he intimated to the meeting that they were now to proceed with the election of officebearers for the year. Election of President: Mr David Pryde moved the re-election of Councillor Shaw, Seconded by James Scott. Mr John Grimes Moved Mr Joseph Young, Seconded by Thomas Dalziel. Upon a vote being taken Councillor Shaw was re-elected by a large majority.

Vice President: Mr James Keir Moved the re-election of George Young, Seconded by Mr Alexander Kerr. No other nominations being made he was declared to be re-elected.

Treasurer: Mr Thomas Dalziel Moved the re-election of Mr William Falconer. Mr George Young seconded. No other being nominated he was declared to be re-elected.

The Chairman then called upon the Agent to report what had been done in connection with the wages question. After which Mr Joseph Young addressed the meeting and moved that no ballot be taken on the question of a four days policy at this time. Mr David Pryde seconded, The Meeting agreeing to it unanimously.⁵¹

⁵¹ An SMF conference on 11 Mar., after considering the general reduction of 10 per cent in wages, the fact that many miners were being employed only three or four days a week, that coal stocks were heavy, and that union organisation was very weak in the west of Scotland (particularly in Lanarkshire, where only 3,000 out of the 30,000 miners were unionised), had resolved to ballot all miners on

A circular asking us to cooperate with the Edinburgh Trades Council towards entertaining the delegates attending the Trades Congress in Edinburgh this year was read. Mr Thomas Dalziel Moved that we send a delegate to the Meeting for consideration of that object.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the Meeting to a close. The delegates afterwards met & arranged all other business, and agreed to grant 10s. to Carbery bandmen, They having come to the Meeting.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 18th April 1896

A board meeting was held today. The Minute of the former meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr William Dodds, Seconded by Mr Robert Watson. The contributions for the Month amounted to £126.16.0.

The question of the Scottish Federation granting some assistance to the Lanarkshire Federation for to assist in the organising of that County was discussed, after which Mr Dodds Moved, Seconded by Mr Cunningham, that we agree to grant assistance. This was agreed to after considerable discussion as to the way assistance should be given. Mr Archibald Philip Moved that we do not exceed the sum of twenty pounds. Mr Joseph Young Moved that we pay the salary of Mr Smillie and the expenses incurred for the Month. Mr John McLauchlan seconded. The Motion in favour of granting twenty pounds was carried.⁵²

The reduction at Arniston Colliery having been more than ten per cent the board was of opinion that Arniston men should be supported in their efforts to get the reduction reduced, but advised that no action be taken until the Directors of the Company met, it being understood they were to meet on the following Tuesday when the case would be considered by them, and further to allow the case to be fully considered by the other collieries before resorting to a strike.

The reports from the Collieries on the circular from the British Federation were unanimously in favour of the proposal as submitted by the men's representatives, Viz., If there is to be a conciliation board there must be a minimum wage fixed below which the board cannot go. The Agent was instructed to attend the Nottingham Conference on this question to represent Mid & East Lothian, failing his being appointed by the Scottish Federation.⁵³

whether to restrict the working week to four days or to concentrate on strengthening the unions meantime and to take joint action on wages in Aug. with the English miners, whose existing wages agreement was due to end then. In fact, no ballot was taken except in Clackmannan and Lanarkshire, so the SMF resolved to pursue the alternative policy to a four-day week. SMF Minutes, 11 Mar. and 1 Apr. 1896; *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 26 Mar. and 9 Apr. 1896; *Glasgow Herald*, 26 Mar. 1896.

⁵² At an SMF conference on 8 Apr. the SMF chairman, Robert Smillie, had reported his appointment as miners' agent for Lanarkshire and the steps being taken to form a county union that would embrace the existing small local miners' unions there. The question of granting financial assistance was held over until delegates from other counties could consult their unions. SMF Minutes, 8 Apr. 1896.

⁵³ A Conciliation Board, to determine from time to time the rate of miners' wages and covering most of the English coalfields, had been established after the great miners' strike there in Nov. 1893. The MFGB circular of 30 Mar. 1896 informed members that the Federation was proposing that the

The question of paying delegates who had to attend the board upon a day when their Colliery was working, thus causing them to lose a day's work, was considered, The pay for any delegate being four shillings from the board at present. It was pointed out that most of the Collieries had been giving something extra to their delegate when he had to attend upon a working day. After full consideration it was agreed That to place all the Collieries on the same footing, Any delegate attending and it a working day in his Colliery and that he had lost a day's work to attend, He or they would be paid the sum of three shillings in addition to the usual fee of four shillings, Making seven shillings in all. This sum to cover all expense.

It was agreed that the delegate from Prestongrange be allowed five shillings over the ordinary percentage owing to the difficulties of the situation at that Colliery, three shillings of this sum being in lieu of his wage for that day.

It was also explained that Niddrie Colliery was similarly placed, The percentage not being able to meet the expense. Full explanations were made, after which it was understood that an effort would be made to remedy this state of matters, extra assistance being granted meantime.

Glasgow's Hall, Tranent, 30th May 1896

An Executive Meeting was held. The Minute of the former meeting was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Thomas Pentland, Seconded by Mr Robert Notman. The contributions for the six weeks amounted to £165.15.0.

The Agent reported from the Glasgow & Nottingham Conferences, stating that it had been decided to oppose the Truck bill as introduced by the Government,⁵⁴ and that at the Glasgow Conference the question of granting any assistance towards the organising of Lanarkshire had been decided against any thing

existing wages agreement, due to end in Aug., should be continued for a further two years, whereas the coalowners were in effect proposing a sliding scale of wages to which the MFGB EC was fundamentally opposed, 'seeing that none of our points of settling wage questions, namely, that of prices, minimum or maximum, wages and profits and losses of colliery owners is within its scope'. The MFGB EC considered that 'if the Board of Conciliation is to be continued there must be a minimum and maximum wage for a definite period'. The MFGB special conference at Nottingham on 28 and 29 Apr. unanimously resolved that the MFGB EC should urge the coalowners to accept continuation of the Conciliation Board on the basis that wages would not fall below a level 30 per cent above the rate prevailing in 1888 nor rise more than 45 per cent above it. But the two sides could not agree, the Conciliation Board was ended in summer 1896, and no joint meeting of coalowners' and MFGB representatives took place for two years afterward. *MFGB AP, 1896: Circular, 30 March; Report of Special Conference, Nottingham, 28 and 29 April; Arnot, The Miners, 254-5, 263, 308.*

⁵⁴ An MFGB deputation to the Home Secretary on 3 June told him that the Truck Bill 'would seriously interfere with the mining industry', and that 'this Bill gives the employers of labour the sole power to say what and how many deductions should be made'. The Mid and East Lothian miners' meeting, after 'a long and animated discussion', decided 'unanimously to oppose the Bill in its entirety'. Disciplinary fines and deductions from wages imposed upon workers were the most controversial feature of the Bill, which was enacted in Aug. that year. *MFGB AP, 1896: Report of Deputation to Home Secretary, 3 June, Haddingtonshire Courier, 5 June 1896; Hansard, Fourth Series, xl, 28 Apr.-19 May 1896, c.518-24, xlii, 17 July-6 Aug. 1896, c.766-1, 094, xlv, 14 Aug. 1896, c.824.*

being given.

A claim from Carberry Colliery on the death fund was next considered but owing to the party not having paid any contributions for about five Months previous to the starting of the death fund nor since, Covering a period of 10 to 11 Months, the board had no other alternative, according to rule, than to refuse the claim.

The Penston delegate raised the question with regard to the payment of delegates to attend the board when thrown idle, but he received no support and the question dropt.

Mr Thomas Pentland Moved and Mr Peter Rae seconded That the board meetings be held in Portobello in future. The previous [question] was moved and carried by a large majority.

A sum of four shillings extra percentage was granted to Prestongrange Colliery under the present conditions for collecting the contributions, but arrangements were made for the Agent to attend along with the delegate to try to make a better arrangement for the future.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 27th June 1896

A financial and board Meeting was held. The contributions for the four weeks amounted to £103.5.0.

The Agent gave in a report from the Glasgow conference, to the effect that, in view of the conference to be held by the Federation of Great Britain on the 7th July to hear reports from the districts on the proposals submitted from the conciliation board—1st That by the employers in England claiming a reduction of 10% as a condition of the wages being fixed for a period; 2nd And that of the Miners' representatives willing to renew the agreement at the same rate of wages ruling now. On these two points the opinion of the board was that unless any agreement which may be made embraced the whole of the Federated districts, it should not be acceptable; and further, should any stoppage of work take place over the wages question in England in which the Scotch Miners were asked to take part, There must be an understanding come to to the effect that an advance in wages ought to be demanded by the Scotch Miners to bring them up to the same level as the English portion of the Federation. A discussion took place over what should be demanded under this head, When Mr Joseph Young Moved, Seconded by William Dodds, that we take no action unless on the understanding that we be raised to the same level as the English Miners. Mr James Scott Moved, seconded by Archd Philip, That 20% be the demand made on behalf of the Scotch Miners. The amendment was carried that 20% be the definition.⁵⁵

The claim from Carberry, which was considered and refused last Meeting,

⁵⁵ The determination shown by the MFGB to defend what it termed 'the living wage' of the miners appears to have dissuaded the coalowners from attempting to enforce their proposed 10 per cent reduction in wages. Negotiations broke down, the English Conciliation Board came to an end, but wage rates remained steady for the two following years. Arnot, *The Miners*, 308.

was at the request of Carberry placed on the billet. The Chairman gave a full explanation of the case After which James Cunningham Moved, seconded by Robert Notman, That this board believing Mr King, owing to his Circumstances when the death fund started, was unaware that while a member was badly he must pay half contribution, and this being the reason he was in arrears That we pay the claim. Mr Falconer Moved that it be not paid, seconded by Mr Pentland. The Motion to pay it was carried, on the distinct understanding expressed by the delegates that this was not to be taken as a precedent upon which to have any future claim but that it should be thoroughly understood that by this time every member ought to be thoroughly conversant with the rules.

It was agreed to act on the recommendation from the Glasgow Conference, Viz., to take the average wage in each colliery as far as possible with the view to publish what is being earned by the Miners at the present time.

It was also agreed to reduce the numbers we are paying for into the Scottish Federation by 500, Viz., from 3,000 to 2,500.⁵⁶

It was stated that Billyford Colliery had been closed on the 28th of May.

Duncan's Hall, Tranent, 8th August 1896

A board and financial Meeting was held. The minute of the former meeting was read and adopted, Moved by William Dodds, Seconded by Robert Notman.

The contributions amounted to £150.10.0. It was agreed that we pay ten shillings of the expense incurred in getting Robert Crookston & his brother's wages from the Clippens Company, they both having always been Members of this Association and still paying full dues while working to said Company.

It was also agreed to pay James Watt, Tranent Colliery, the sum of five shillings as a recompense for time lost through resisting what was considered a partial reduction.

According to the power granted from a general Meeting the sum of two pounds ten shillings was voted towards entertaining the delegates attending the Trades Congress in Edinburgh under the auspices of the Edinburgh Trades Council. It was also agreed that the President and Secretary represent the association at the Trades Congress.

A death claim from Arniston Colliery was refused, the party who died being eleven fortnights in arrears and nothing to show that the circumstances were such as to warrant the board dealing with the case [other] than in accordance with rules.

A claim from Newbattle was next considered, a member's wife having died while the Colliery ledger shewed him to be in arrears. It was represented that Money paid by the claimant had been entered in his son's name. The Colliery

⁵⁶ A similar reduction of 500 members from their affiliation to the SMF was also reported at the SMF conference on 6 July by the Fife and Kinross Miners' Association. In Aug. the Ayrshire Miners' Federal Union reduced their affiliated membership to the SMF by 1,000, and Clackmannanshire Miners' Association by 100. SMF Minutes, 6 Jul. and 18 Aug. 1896.

Committee had met and interviewed the parties after which they recommended the payment of the claim. After careful consideration of the report Mr James Scott Moved that we pay the claim, Mr James Cunningham seconding. Mr William Ross moved that we do not pay, Mr Joseph Rowberry seconding. After further explanations no division took place but it was agreed to pay the claim.

The Edinburgh Trades Council having issued a circular asking that the miners take [part] in a Trades demonstration on the last day of the Trades Congress, Viz., the 12th Sept., It was agreed to remit the matter to the Collieries for their consideration.

Mr James Scott brought up the question of the delegates having to pay so heavy for a conveyance to bring them to & from the board meetings. After some discussion it was thought best to remit this matter to the Collieries to ascertain whether they would approve of the board paying for the conveyance or part of the expence at least, but in no case to exceed ten shillings.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 5th September 1896

An Executive Meeting was held. The contributions for the four weeks being £110.3.1. The report from the Collieries were all in favour of pressing for an advance of wages, a good number deprecating any strike.⁵⁷

With regard to the board paying part of the expence of the Conveyance hired for delegates attending Board Meetings a number of Collieries were in favour and others against, whilst the opinion of some had not been obtained. This being the case the question was left over to a future meeting.

The same state of matters prevailed with regard to a holiday being taken to attend the Demonstration of Trades to be held in Edinburgh on the 12th. Therefore it was thought best not to advise that a holiday be taken, as in all probability as the agitation for an advance of wages developed a holiday might be required on that account.

A claim having been paid at Elphinston Colliery not in accordance with rule, instructions were given for the local secretary to get the money refunded and in the event of the parties refusing to comply, the general secretary to write stating that proceedings would be taken for its recovery.

A claim from Arniston Colliery on the Death fund was stated by the Treasurer, the claimant being twelve weeks in arrears. After full explanation and consideration Mr Joseph Rowberry Moved, seconded by Richard Scott, that we do not pay the claim, which was agreed to, the delegates being deeply impressed

⁵⁷ An SMF conference on 18 Aug. had resolved 'That this meeting expresses its conviction that the Scottish miners are entitled to an advance of wages considering that trade had so vastly improved and also taking into account that the earnings of the Scottish miners are considerably less than the wages paid to other miners in the United Kingdom, and would strongly urge upon them to strengthen their organisation in order to press for an advance in the near future.' On 3 Sept. an SMF conference had agreed to advise all districts to ask for an advance of 6d. per day in wages 'and that each and all do everything in their power to obtain it'. SMF Minutes, 18 Aug. and 3 Sept. 1896.

with the idea that, so many claims being made by those in arrears, The rules would have to be applied in the interests of the Association.

Duncan's Hall, Tranent, 17th October 1896

An Executive Meeting was held. The Minute of the former Meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr J. Rowberry, Seconded by Mr W. Dodds. The contributions amounted to £155.4.6.

The President & Agent reported from the Trades Union Congress, The reports being approved of. It was agreed that the President be paid £2.5.0. for attending the Congress six days, being £1.7.0. at 4s.6d. per day and 18s. for train fare and expenses, The Agent being allowed 2s. per day for train fare and expenses. The Agent reported a claim for Compensation under the employers' liability bill made by Adam Nelson & his Son who were burned by an explosion of Fire-Damp in the Lady Victoria Pit, Newbattle. After full explanation had been made the Agent was empowered to lodge a claim on their behalf and take steps to get all the evidence bearing on the case, and submit the same at next meeting.

The delegate from Ormiston Colliery reported that the men in No. 3 pit there had approached the Manager for an increase in the Hewing rate as they were unable under the present rates to earn anything like a wage. The Agent supplemented the statement stating that he had visited the Manager personally and also written him urging that some redress would be made of the grievance, The final result being that 4d. per ton had been granted. The men having asked for 6d. they wanted the advice of the board with regard to future action, and with regard to single men who were not to participate in the advance. After full consideration the board advised That they accept the 4d. meantime, and as it was understood that no single men were employed at present consideration of this point should be left over until any difficulty in Connection with it arose.

The reports from the Collieries on the wages question were all unfavourable towards any advance being granted.

Nominations for Scottish Federation: The Agent was instructed meantime to nominate the present officials. Also the Agent was empowered to take steps to get the Checkweighing clause amended relating to who are liable to pay his wages in view of the decisions which have been given by different Sheriffs on the same.⁵⁸ The claim from Arniston dealt with at the former Meeting was again brought up at the request of Arniston Colliery but after full discussion was again refused.

The following Motion was agreed to be submitted to the men for consideration as it was understood to be coming up for discussion at the Annual Conference of the Federation in January: That To secure the best conditions of industrial and Social life it is absolutely necessary that the land, minerals, Railways &

⁵⁸ See above, p. 23.

instruments of wealth production should be owned & controlled by the State for the people.⁵⁹

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 21st November 1896

An Executive Meeting was held. The Minute of the former Meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr John Gray, Ormiston, Seconded by Mr Robert Notman, Loanhead. The contributions for the five weeks amounted to £135.

An application to join the Association from the Limestone workers was considered after which Mr Joseph Rowberry moved, seconded by Mr Peter Rae, that they be admitted. Mr James Scott, Seconded by Mr Richard Scott, moved that the question be delayed meantime owing to the circumstances. On the vote being taken it was carried to admit them under the usual conditions and in accordance with the rules.⁶⁰

The reports on the wages question were all against any advance being granted, but unanimously in favour of a General Meeting being held during the incoming week to further consider what action should be taken to enforce the advance. After a general discussion it was agreed that Thursday be observed as a holiday to attend a Mass Meeting in Dalkeith in the Corn exchange at one o'clock, delegates to meet at 12; but in the event of the advance being granted at any Colliery the men are expected to work there and send a delegate. The feeling of the board was that where any of the local Branch attended for the purpose of making the meeting a greater success 10s. be allowed to each Band.⁶¹

⁵⁹ This motion, by John Wilson of the West Lothian miners, had been approved by the SMF EC on 5 Oct., for submission to affiliated county unions before it was submitted to the MFGB annual conference at Leicester in Jan. There, moved by Wilson and seconded by Robert Smillie on behalf of the SMF, it was defeated by 137,000 votes to 18,000, and a Yorkshire resolution, 'That the representatives to Federation Conferences and all Congresses act on Trade Union lines as in the past, and not on Socialistic lines', was carried by 134,000 votes to 21,000. Paradoxically, the annual conference then proceeded to pass by majorities respectively of 97,000 to 6,000 and 98,000 to 3,000 resolutions from the Lancashire and Cheshire Miners and the Cleveland Miners that were similar to the defeated Scots one. SMF EC Minutes, 5 Oct. 1896; MFGB *AR*, 1897: *Report of Annual Conference*, 36-66.

⁶⁰ Among its seventy or so quarries and mines in this period employing several hundred workers who produced lime for use in agriculture and building, the Lothians, 'one of the oldest and most prolific lime-producing districts in Scotland', had at least three works in Midlothian—at Cousland near Dalkeith and at Burdiehouse and Straiton near Loanhead—some of whose miners were or became or (in the case of those at Straiton) may have been members of the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association. B.C. Skinner, *The Lime Industry in the Lothians* (University of Edinburgh, 1969), 9, 44, 48, 76; Sutherland, *Loanhead*, 76; *Census of Scotland, 1891* (Edinburgh, 1893), ii, II, 173; *Census of Scotland, 1901* (Glasgow, 1903), iii, 235.

⁶¹ Except for those in Mid and East Lothian, Fife, and Clackmannanshire, all Scots miners by mid-Nov. had had their wages increased by 6d. a day. The SMF EC on 16 Nov. agreed to 'respectfully ask' the mineowners of Mid and East Lothian, Fife, and Clackmannan to concede the 6d. increase at once, and promised the miners 'every possible support' in pressing the claim. The Executive had also resolved that the state of trade justified a further increase of at least another 6d. per day and asked the employers to grant it at once. The miners were at the same time exhorted to strengthen their organisation and, keeping in mind their defeat in 1894, to 'avoid faction'. On behalf of the Mid and

The Agent reported that compensation had been obtained for the case mentioned at last board meeting.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 26th November 1896

A Special board meeting was held today to hear reports from Collieries on the wages question. The Minute of the former meeting was read and approved of, Moved by Mr William Ross, Seconded by Mr Joseph Rowberry.

The reports showed that all the Collieries were idle but in no case had the advance been granted.

After a lengthened Consultation it was agreed to submit the following resolution to the general Meeting about to follow: That a ballot be taken to ascertain whether three days per week should be adopted or to strike, and a general meeting be held next Thursday to hear the result and arrange accordingly.

The Agent being instructed to strongly recommend the three days policy in his address, [the meeting] adjourned until after the general meeting.

General Meeting

In his opening remarks the Chairman strongly advised those present against acting rashly and to allow full and free discussion, And called upon the Agent to submit a resolution as agreed upon by the delegates.

The Agent submitted the resolution to the Meeting after which Mr Joseph Young addressed those present and moved its adoption, Mr Thomas Muir seconding, after which it was carried unanimously, and strong injunction given that where Saturday in ordinary circumstances was a holiday that it still be observed as such.

A Vote of Thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings.⁶²

The adjourned Meeting of delegates was then resumed. A notice having been posted at Arniston Colliery that the men must be down by 5-45 in the Morning and that the Carriages were not being put on until 2-30, This was considered to be a breach of the eight hours day and liberty granted to those men affected to refuse to work unless the notice was withdrawn, the Agent to attend for the

East Lothian miners, Robert Brown, secretary, had written the secretary of the coalmasters' association of the two counties on 14 Nov., asking them to grant within fourteen days the 6d. increase already granted by the west of Scotland coalowners, but they refused to make any grant at all. SMF Minutes, 16 Nov. 1896; *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 19 and 26 Nov. 1896.

⁶² Some 2,000 miners attended this meeting. The chairman told them that the public were paying a shilling a ton more for their coal and he could not see how the coalmasters could refuse to give a share of that to the miners. Robert Brown, secretary, declared that Arniston Coal Co. Ltd. during the past five years had paid 120 per cent in dividends, Niddrie and Benhar Coal Co. Ltd.'s 25s. shares could be sold at 39s. 6d., and Lothian Coal Co. Ltd. was selling jewel coal at Newbattle for between 10s. 6d. and 13s. 6d. a ton, while the miner who produced the coal was paid only 1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a ton. He added that these three companies between them employed over 2,000 miners—two-thirds of all miners (i.e., hewers) in Mid and East Lothian.

purpose of getting an amicable settlement.⁶³

Two Cases of Victimisation were reported, Viz., William Murray, Arniston Colliery, and John Philip, Polton Colliery. The Agent was instructed to make enquiries into both cases and report next meeting.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 3rd December 1896

A special board meeting was held today. The Minute of the former meeting was read and adopted on the motion of Mr Robert Notman, seconded by Mr James Scott.

The ballot papers upon being counted showed that 2290 had voted—1620 in favour of three days per week and 672 for strike.⁶⁴

After full consideration of the position and feeling at the Collieries it was agreed to submit a resolution to the general meeting to the effect that Wednesday be the first day taken towards putting this policy into execution, and that the Agent intimate the result of the ballot to the Coalmasters' Secretary with a view to give them an opportunity to show how they could not grant the advance, either by meeting with the Men's representatives or otherwise.

The Agent reported that a settlement had been effected at Arniston Colliery with regard to the hours question. He also reported that after enquiries it appeared that William Murray of Arniston and John Philip of Polton had been treated unfairly by their respective employers but that in William Murray's case there was a prospect of him being reemployed. It was agreed that he would get allowance up to that time and the Agent and local officials were to see as to the time John Philip had been off work and as to his looking for work.

It was agreed that the band attending at the general meeting get 15s., only one being present.

A general Meeting followed. Councillor Shaw briefly addressed those present and called upon the Secretary to submit the resolution which had been agreed upon by the board. After which Mr Richard Scott, Newbattle, moved its adoption, Seconded by Mr Thomas Ferguson, Carberry.

Mr Joseph Young, Niddrie, Seconded by Mr Hugh Adam, Tranent, Moved an Amendment That we put the three days policy in force at once and Saturday be the first idle day and that in no Case allow our representatives to meet with the employers.

Tellers were appointed and a vote taken, when the Motion from the board was carried by a large majority.⁶⁵

⁶³ See above, p. 21.

⁶⁴ There is a discrepancy of two in these figures. The *Haddingtonshire Courier* and *Glasgow Herald*, both 4 Dec. 1896, and *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 10 Dec. 1896, all give 1,620 and 672 for the respective options, but 2,282, no figure, and 2,202 respectively as the total vote.

⁶⁵ Attendance at this general meeting was variously reported to be between 800 and 1,200. Wednesday, the first idle day projected, was 9 Dec. *Haddingtonshire Courier*, 4 Dec. 1896; *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 10

It was then intimated that a Meeting be held on Wednesday at the same time and place.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 9th December 1896

A Special board meeting was held today. The Minute of the former Meeting was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Archibald Philip, Seconded by Mr William Holmes.

The reports showed that all the Collieries were idle except Loanhead and a portion of Polton and that no advance had been got since last Meeting,⁶⁶ but that the secretary had a reply from the Coalmasters' secretary intimating that while there was no change in the circumstances since he wrote last the Coalmasters were willing to meet with the men's representatives on the question. After full consideration had been given to the situation all round and in view of the whole question being raised by the British Federation, it was agreed to advise the general Meeting about to be held to appoint their representatives to meet with the employers before putting the three days per week into operation, and to request that the general Meeting be held in private so as full explanation could be Made to Justify this advice being given.

9th December 1896

A general Meeting was held in the Corn exchange, Councillor Shaw presiding. After a few preliminary remarks he requested in the name of the board that the meeting be held in private. This was agreed to, after which he called upon the Secretary to state how matters stood throughout the Collieries which while doing so he urged that in accordance with the letter received from the Coalmasters' Secretary the best Course to pursue was to meet with the employers before putting the three days policy into execution.

The following also supported the same policy: Mr Joseph Rowberry, Mr George Young, Mr Archibald Philip, Mr James Scott, Mr David Lowe, and Mr Thomas Dalziel. Mr Richard Scott moved that this advice be acted upon. Mr Joseph Young moved as an amendment that we put the three days policy in operation at once and in no case meet with the employers. On the Motion and amendment being put to the meeting the amendment only received some five or six votes, The Motion being carried practically unanimously. The representatives to have power to call the next general meeting if thought desirable.

Duncan's Hall, Tranent, 26th December 1896

A financial and board Meeting was held today. The Minute, owing to the secretary having brought the wrong book by Mistake, was held as read.

Dec. 1896; *Glasgow Herald*, 4 Dec. 1896.

⁶⁶ In fact, House o' Muir colliery, East Lothian, had granted the 6d. increase in wages to its miners. *Haddingtonshire Courier*, 4 Dec. 1896; *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 10 Dec. 1896.

The contributions on being taken amounted to £138.19.11., including interest.

The president gave a lengthy report of the joint meeting with the employers and the men's representatives which was approved of. After full consideration the Agent was again instructed to write the Coalmasters' Secretary for the advance in wages of sixpence per day.⁶⁷

A long discussion took place over the question of lowering the entrance fee to the Association for a short time with the view to giving those outside the ranks an opportunity of joining. Ultimately it was agreed to remit the matter to the Collieries as to whether they approved of the lowering of the entry money or not and if so what it should be, after which the board would be able to arrive at what should be the entry money if any change was to take place. Mr Joseph Young & Mr John Pryde were appointed auditors for this year's work of the Association.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 30th January 1897

A financial and board Meeting was held. The Minute of the former meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr William Ross, Elphinstown, Seconded by Mr Richard Scott, Tranent. The Contributions amounted to £132.10.0.

The report from the Collieries with regard to reducing the entry money to the Association was nearly unanimous in favour of lowering it to one shilling. It was arranged that this recommendation be put in force for four weeks ending on the first of March, The Secretary to get leaflets printed bearing on the question for distribution among those outside the Association.

A death claim was made on behalf of John Byrne, Niddrie Colliery, but in accordance with rule it could not be admitted, he not being a member for six months, the board being of the opinion that unless the full time has elapsed—however short a time it may want—They have not power to depart from the rule.

Intimation of 5% advance from 1st January was made.⁶⁸

⁶⁷ The meeting with the employers on 16 Dec. failed to persuade them to concede any increase in wages, though the miners' representatives pointed out that the selling price of coal had increased in the Lothians, and that Shotts Iron Co. Ltd. and Niddrie and Benhar Coal Co. Ltd., both of which also owned collieries in the west of Scotland, had increased wages there. The coalmasters argued that selling prices in Nov., when the demand had been made for increased wages, were lower than they had been in Mar., when the last reduction in wages had been made, and that wage increases granted in the west had been justified by corresponding increases in prices there, whereas no such increase in prices had taken place in the Lothians. As the MFGB was to consider the wages question early in Jan., and given also the season of the year, the miners' representatives decided to urge that normal working continue meantime, while reiterating their demand to the employers for increased wages. Fife and Clackmannan miners were conceded an increase of 3d. a day, to be paid from mid-Jan. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 24 and 31 Dec. 1896; *Glasgow Herald*, 17 and 21 Dec. 1896.

⁶⁸ The increase of 5 per cent (described by Robert Brown, the miners' secretary, as 'petty') in miners' wages at all collieries in Mid and East Lothian was to take effect from 5 Jan. Wages of oncost workers were also increased. But miners had, as usual, to pay more for coal for their domestic fires.

A claim was made on behalf of James Lockhart who had been dismissed from Newbattle Colliery through the trouble at that Colliery in connection with the hours of work. After a lengthened discussion and a deal of explanation, Mr John Watson, Penicuik, Moved that he be classed as a Victimised Member. Mr Rowberry Moved as an amendment that he be not classed as such. Mr Peter Givan seconded Mr Watson's Motion. The amendment was not seconded. The Motion was agreed to.

The Secretary read a letter from the Secretary of the Shoemakers, who are upon strike in Edinburgh, asking assistance. It was agreed to grant them the Sum of ten pounds, it being remembered that they had been active assistants during the Scottish Miners' Strike in 1894.⁶⁹

The following delegates were elected as the Wages Committee: Mr William Ross, Elphinstone, Mr Richard Scott, Tranent, Mr James Scott, Polton, Mr Peter Rae, Carberry, Mr William Dodds, Newbattle, Mr James Cunningham, Arniston. President & Secretary added.

The Secretary was instructed to intimate to Collectors and Secretaries at the Collieries that persons who were unfit for work and had not been or were [not] at present Members of this Association, Could not be admitted as Members, solely with a view to get the benefit of the Death fund, but only those who were members previous to becoming unfit for work from whatever cause could be retained as Members and pay half contributions according to rule.

Duncan's Hall, Tranent, 20th March 1897

The financial Meeting took place, George Young, Vice President, presiding. The minute of the last meeting was read and adopted on the motion of Mr John Watson, Penicuik, Seconded by Mr Richard Scott, Tranent.

The Contributions on being taken amounted to £211.8.3.

The Secretary read the letter from the Coalmasters' secretary intimating the advance of 5% to take effect on the last day of March. It was agreed that each Colliery should as far as possible see that this brought them up to the same level as previous to the reductions which took place in March 1896.

A Case was reported from Penston about two men having been sent home

Brown, who estimated the wage increase at about 1d. or 1½d. per ton, contrasted it with the reductions of 20 per cent and twice of 10 per cent suffered by Scots miners in the two preceding years. He forecast action to raise the wages of miners in Mid and East Lothian and in Fife and Clackmannan to the level prevailing in the west of Scotland. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 7 and 14 Jan. 1897.

⁶⁹ The dispute had begun early in the previous Nov. at Messrs Allan, boot and shoemakers, Princes Street, over prices charged for work done by machines, where the 75 or so workers affected claimed the firm's proposals would prevent them earning reasonable wages. In support of Messrs Allan other firms had locked out their shoemakers, and about 125 men were on strike or locked out. During the dispute the men opened their own shop in Rose Street in order to reduce the number on the strike roll. The men involved in the dispute received strong financial and moral support from trade unions affiliated to the Trades Council. Edinburgh Trades Council minutes, 17 Nov. 1896-9 Mar. 1897; *Scotsman*, 11 and 12 Nov. 1896.

two days from their work for not conforming to the order issued with regard to the filling of Chews, a certain quantity of which being ordered to be filled each day. It was considered that they could not be held to be victimised.⁷⁰

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 24th April 1897

An Executive and financial meeting was held today, Councillor Shaw in the chair. The minute of the former Meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr William Holmes, Seconded by Mr Peter Rae. The contributions on being taken amounted to £173.8.6.

James Hood and his two sons were granted one week's allowance as victimisation money through refusing to start in a section of Tranent Colliery where the rate paid was below the ordinary rate for the same seam, the men in the colliery having agreed previously that no one should start at the price offered.

The Agent reported on the Oncostmen at Mauricewood, they having got no advance at this time. After considering the wage paid there as compared with other Collieries the case was remitted to the Agent to endeavour to arrange matters with the General Manager.

The Agent reported a Conference held between Mr Haldane, M.P., and the Scottish executive in Edinburgh with a view to getting the mines bill amended with regard to the payment of Checkweighers' wages.⁷¹

A claim was stated from Polton Colliery on behalf of Thomas Liddle, when after full explanations had been made it was decided that he had no claim.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 8th May 1897

An Executive meeting was held. The minute of the former Meeting was read and adopted, on the motion of Mr Archibald Philip, seconded by Mr Joseph Rowberry.

The Agent stated the reason for the meeting being called, viz., owing to the introduction of the employers' liability bill and that a conference representative of all mining districts was to be held on Thursday the 13th for the purpose of considering the bill. After going carefully over the bill there were certain points

⁷⁰ Chews or chows were middling sized pieces of coal filled or shovelled into hutches at the coal face with a harp or sparrow shovel used for the purpose in the east of Scotland. Barrowman, *Mining Terms*, 17.

⁷¹ Richard Burdon Haldane (1856-1928), created viscount of Cloan, 1911, QC, Liberal MP for Haddingtonshire, 1885-1911, Secretary of State for War, 1905-12, Lord Chancellor, 1912-15, and in the Labour government of 1924. The SMF EC on 24 Feb. had agreed to seek Haldane's advice in drafting amendments to the checkweighing clauses of the Mines Bill. On 31 Mar. the EC learned that the MFGB EC 'did not seem disposed to press the question of a small bill amending the checkweighing clauses at the present time', although the SMF EC regarded it as 'a clamant grievance'. The latter resolved that if the MFGB EC did not act then the Scottish EC 'would urge its right on behalf of the Scottish miners to be permitted to use their influence by approaching the Government to secure the objects aimed at'. The SMF EC met Haldane at the Liberal Club in Edinburgh on 17 Apr., and he drafted a short Act to amend the checkweighing clauses of the Mines Regulation Act, 1887. SMF EC Minutes, 24 Feb., 31 Mar., 17 Apr., 3 May 1897. (For this draft Act, see below, p. 429).

raised and instructions given to the Agent to ascertain more definitely how they would operate—chiefly with regard to what was the weekly wage and with regard to Contractors, and the liability of the principle employers.⁷²

It was reported that the men of Polton Colliery had been idle two days over the deduction question and the cleaning of the coal, It being stated that the employer wanted to introduce a system of both keeping the Hutch in which foreign material may be found and an additional hundredweight from each Hutch filled by the man that day. The board agreed to advise the men to visit Mr Hood and agree to a reasonable deduction for dirt found in any Hutch but on no account to admit of any deduction being taken from Hutches not examined. And where loss to the miner may accrue through the changed method of filling the coal, if proper remuneration was not granted then it could be raised as a wages question But in the first case it must be given a trial and that the Agent write Mr Hood on the matter.⁷³

It was reported that at Cockum pit, Ormiston Colliery, the men complained of being unable to earn a wage owing to the coal being more difficult to get and that the man from the face had to assist the drawer. The Agent had written Mr Clark, the Manager, and after visiting the pit he had arranged to place a man to assist the drawer so as to prevent the man from leaving the face; and if this would not do he would try something else. The board agreed that this should have a trial.⁷⁴

The Agent read a letter from the general Manager of the Shotts Company stating that upon inquiry he found that his Company was paying as high wages as any other and in that case he did not consider the Oncost workers had a good claim to any advance. In view of the information got from the Collieries through the Agent the board decided that no drastic measure would be justified upon this question in the meantime.

Duncan's Hall, Tranent, 29th May 1897

A financial Meeting was held. The minute of the former meeting was read

⁷² The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897 (60 & 61 Vict., c.37), for the introduction and passing of which Joseph Chamberlain (1836-1914), Secretary of State for the Colonies in the Conservative government formed in July 1895, was responsible, was enacted on 6 Aug. J.L. Garvin, *The Life of Joseph Chamberlain* (London, 1934), iii, 155-9. See also above, p. 20.

⁷³ James A. Hood (1859-1941), a son of Archibald Hood, founder in 1890 of the Lothian Coal Co. Ltd. James A. Hood was general manager of the company, 1890-1902, then succeeded his father as managing director, and was chairman, 1911-41. Hood played a leading part in the building of company housing for miners of the Lothian Coal Co. Ltd. at Newtongrange, Easthouses and Rosewell. In 1924 he founded the Hood Chair of Mining at Edinburgh University, in conjunction with Heriot Watt College. At his death Hood's total estate amounted to £436,000 and included investments in 103 different companies, but most of his wealth was invested in the Lothian Coal Co. Ltd. His obituary by Dr Michael Cotterill is in A. Slaven & S. Checkland (eds.), *Dictionary of Scottish Business Biography*, 2 vols. (Aberdeen, 1986-90), i, 42-5.

⁷⁴ A drawer was a man or boy who pushed or drew the coal in a hutch from the coal face to the bottom of the shaft or the end of the haulage road. Barrowman, *Mining Terms*, 25.

and approved of, Moved by Mr John Gray, Seconded by Mr Joseph Rowberry. The contributions on being taken amounted to £144.11.9.

The Agent reported on the workmen's compensation bill and what had been done on behalf of the miners through their representatives in the House of Commons.

It was agreed to grant strike pay for two days to George Livingstone and two sons, Alexander Fairgrieve, Peter Fairgrieve and Peter Ormiston of Penston Colliery through having [been] sent out from the pit over the method of filling and being paid for the Coal. A claim for removal expenses on behalf of Wm Stevenson of Tranent Colliery was not granted.

It was agreed to remit to the Collieries to ascertain whether the members would approve of twenty pounds being taken from the funds to give a small gratuity to each of those old women who may be alive and had been working in the mines previous to 1842 when they were by law prohibited from being permitted to work underground, as being one of the chief events in Mining history which has taken place during the present reign. If approved off the names to be sent to the Secretary to permit of a letter being drafted for each, to be sent along with what proportion of the money allocated may fall to their share.⁷⁵

The Agent having to attend on the British Executive at London during the framing of the Compensation [Bill] it was agreed that the President would be Communicated with should any thing serious arise during his absence.

The President reported what had been done by him towards settling a dispute at Cockum pit, Ormiston, where twopence per ton had been got conditionally. The report was approved of and agreed that he be paid four shillings for his trouble.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 10th July 1897

A financial and executive meeting was held. The Minute of the former meeting was read and adopted, moved by Mr Wm Holmes, Seconded by Mr Wm Ross. The Contributions on being taken amounted to £168.12.6.

The Agent reported on the further stages of the Workmen's Compensation bill, which was approved of.

It was agreed that the Agent represent the Association at the Trades Congress to be held at Birmingham in September next.

It was agreed that no more claims be entertained for the gratuities to the old Women, the 22nd June being the recognised day.

The President reported an interview he had with the underground Manager

⁷⁵ This proposal arose from the celebration of the diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897. The Association believed that 'there were a considerable number' of women formerly underground coal-bearers still alive in the villages of Mid and East Lothian. One named Betty Davidson, aged 84 and living in Tranent, was reported as recalling that women in the mines before 1842 'had nae hours ava, they got hame when their work was done'. *Haddingtonshire Courier*, 4 June 1897; *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 3 June 1897.

of Oxenford Colliery about the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. which had been taken off the Hutch. The reason for such being that the seam was considerably thicker in this section, which could not be disputed, so that the halfpenny had to be allowed to come off.

A claim from Oxenford to have a representative was next considered when it was decided that only one could be permitted from House of Muir and it combined, and that the Agent furnish each with a report and write suggesting some arrangement being come to between the two Pits.

A claim on the Death fund from Newbattle Colliery was not entertained: a member's Mother having died, but he had not been 6 months a member and was not eligible otherwise owing to the rule applying to young men having privilege for their Mothers only applying to those being members at the starting of the death fund. A claim from Arniston was held to be good and was permitted to be paid.

It was agreed to accept the contribution of John Cassidy while out of the district, no Association being where he was working.

*Duncan's Hall, Tranent, 28th August 1897*⁷⁶

An Executive and financial meeting was held. The Minute of last meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr Robt Notman, Seconded by Mr Joseph Rowberry. The Contributions on being taken amounted to £196.17.6.

The wages question was considered and the Secretary instructed to write the Coalmasters' secretary requesting an advance of sixpence per day, and each Colliery to send a deputation to the employer also and send the replies to the Secretary.

The Secretary reported that he expected a favourable settlement of the claim by Robert Gordon against Deans & Moore for the Death of his son, the sum being £120.⁷⁷

A claim by a member in Polton Colliery for a day's wage from a Contractor in lieu of a day's notice was remitted to the Secretary to try to effect a settlement.

It was arranged that Oxenford Colliery and House of Muir divide the representation to the board equally between them by each Colliery sending a delegate to two meetings alternately, the Secretary to notify them to that effect. Another levy having been called up by the British Federation for the Penryhn Quarrymen it was left with the Secretary to arrange with the other members of the Scottish Executive as to whether it should be levied from each district or paid from the general fund.⁷⁸

⁷⁶ Glasgow's Hall is given in the manuscript minutes, but above Glasgow's (which remained undeleted) Duncan's had been inserted as an intended correction.

⁷⁷ Deans & Moore (Joseph and Ralph Moore) were the coalmasters at Dalkeith (Smeaton) colliery, in the parish of Inveresk. *Valuation Roll for the County of Midlothian, 1896-7*, 306.

⁷⁸ Lord Penrhyn (1836-1907) sought to break the quarrymen's union and end the system by which through the 'bargain'—an agreement between groups of quarrymen and management—the men regarded themselves as contractors rather than employees. Between Lord Penrhyn and the quarrymen

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 16th October 1897

An Executive and financial Meeting was held. The Minute of the previous meeting was read and approved off, Moved by Mr William Holmes, Seconded by Mr John Gray. The Contributions on being taken amounted to £176.2.6., after which it was agreed that the Treasurer add as much to the sum in the Savings bank as make it up to 1000 pounds at the time the books of the banks are balanced and interest added.

The Wages question was considered but owing to the continuation and extension of the engineers' strike or lockout it was thought the present was not an opportune time to precipitate a conflict, but that we were prepared to act along with other districts when it was considered a favourable opportunity arose.⁷⁹

The Secretary reported that the case from Polton Colliery mentioned last month had been settled, the workmen having no claims against the Contractor. It was further reported that Mr Gordon's claim versus Deans & Moore was finally settled, Mr Gordon having through the Secretary received £120, the total expense incurred being 14s.

The President stated a case in connection with which he had visited Ormiston twice during the Secretary's absence attending The Trades Congress, in relation to the dismissal of Archibald Rutherford & his son. After hearing the same it was considered that he had been victimised and one week's allowance was granted.

An Appeal on behalf of Eddlewood Miners was taken up and it was agreed to grant £20 from the funds to assist them.⁸⁰

'a chasm yawned ... They were almost monolingually Welsh, regular chapel-goers and increasingly radical; he was arrogantly English, ardently Anglican and unyieldingly Tory.' Lord Penrhyn's action led to a strike by the quarrymen that lasted a year from early autumn 1896. The MFGB annual conference on 7 Jan. 1897 had unanimously condemned Lord Penrhyn's action and resolved to donate £50 a week to help the quarrymen win their struggle. Ben Pickard, MFGB president, declared that Lord Penrhyn 'would have done better if he lived 500 years ago, when every man was supposed to be a vassal bought and sold ... and treated as an animal rather than as a human being'. J. Davies, *A History of Wales* (London, 1993), 485-6; MFGB AP, 1897: *Report of Annual Conference, 7 January*, 105-8.

⁷⁹ The thirty weeks' engineering lock-out from mid-July 1897 to the end of Jan. 1898 was one of the greatest industrial struggles of the 19th century. It arose from a range of issues between the employers, recently organised in an aggressive Federation, and the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and some other engineering unions influenced to one extent or another by a new spirit of militancy. The issues included the workers' demand for an 8-hour day or 48-hour week and the employers' insistence on 'the freedom to manage' which they claimed was threatened by the unions' attitude toward the introduction of new machines and overtime. The lock-out, affecting at its height about 45,000 men, half of whom were members of the ASE, ended with the defeat of the unions, though collective bargaining for union members was preserved. J.B. Jefferys, *The Story of the Engineers, 1800-1945* (London, 1945), 136-50.

⁸⁰ A dispute at Eddlewood colliery, Hamilton, owned by John Watson Ltd., had begun early in Aug. over a proposed reduction in the wages of about 14 miners. All the miners employed by the company at Eddlewood, but also at Earnock, Neilsland and Motherwell, had struck work against the reduction. After a few days it had been agreed the Motherwell and Earnock men should resume work, while those (between 500 and 600) at Eddlewood and Neilsland pits, which were close together, remained on strike. All, or almost all, the strikers at the two pits occupied

A number of names were given to the secretary from Tranent Colliery as being due various sums to the Checkweigher, with instructions that he would write them for payment, failing which proceedings would be taken for the recovery of the same.

Duncan's Hall, Tranent, 27th November 1897

A financial meeting was held. The Minute of the former meeting was read and adopted, moved by Mr John Philip, Seconded by Mr Robt Notman. The Contributions on being taken amounted to £178.4.0., including Interest from Savings Bank.

Mr McCleod of Tranent was by request permitted to enter the room and made a statement to the effect that he had been summoned and a decree granted against him for a sum of over three pounds as debt due in connection with a checkweighing case which had taken place twenty years ago. He thought that this association ought to assist him by paying the claim. After making his statement he retired, when it was decided that this association could not be responsible for any transaction which took place twenty years ago.

Two men having been dismissed from Polton Colliery through the recent dispute there it was agreed after hearing all the circumstances to grant them removing expenses according to rule.

Some change in the hewing rate having been made at Prestongrange Colliery, Viz., 7d. per ton off 1s.10d. owing to the Company taking the drawing into their own hands, some of the men affected had lifted their tools and it was reported that a larger number would be affected next week. It was considered that under the Circumstances a trial should be made—and further consideration given to the case when the results were known.

The Programme for the annual conference was on the table, the principle item discussed being that relating to the wages question. After the Secretary and Mr Rowberry had given their opinions on the question it was considered advisable to await further developments before coming to any definite decision.

Mr Black, the delegate from Rosewell, having been sent home on the Monday following our last board Meeting through being idle on the Saturday [in] attending it, the meeting agreed to pay him his day's wage.

company houses at Eddlewood Rows. Although it was evidently not proposing to install blackleg miners in these houses, the company secured eviction orders at Hamilton Sheriff Court against several of the strikers, including Harry Burgoyne, treasurer of the strike committee, his wife and seven children, aged from three to twenty. Arising from their resistance to eviction, Burgoyne and his wife were convicted at the Sheriff Court on 19 Oct. of assaulting a sheriff officer and his assistants by throwing pepper, water and milk in their faces and striking one with a piece of wood. Burgoyne was fined £1 or 14 days, his wife £1.10.0 or 21 days; and another miner was sentenced to 21 days' imprisonment for throwing a stone at a sheriff officer. At a meeting at Hamilton Town Council chambers on 5 Nov. between company and miners' representatives it was agreed to refer the dispute to arbitration and the men resumed work on 8 Nov. on the old terms, pending the decision of the arbiter. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 21 Oct. 1897; *Haddingtonshire Courier*, 22 Oct. 1897; *Glasgow Herald*, 8, 14 and 20 Oct. and 6 Nov. 1897.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 25th December 1897

A financial meeting was held. The minute of the former meeting was read and adopted on the motion of Mr Wm Dodds, Seconded by Mr Wm Holmes. The Contributions on being taken amounted to £122.8.1., including interest, Viz., £15.3.1. from Commercial Bank.

The President gave a report of the conference held in Glasgow by the Scottish Federation which was accepted.⁸¹

A Death claim by Wm Brown from Arniston was considered but owing to him being so far in arrears it could not be paid.

The Secretary stated a case from Mr Watson, Polton Colliery, claiming removing expenses, but he had not put the claim before the Colliery. It was therefore dismissed.

A lengthened discussion took place on the payment of delegates in the event of any one being absent from the board meeting. It was agreed that when any delegate representing any Colliery was at work on the board meeting day and did not attend the meeting, although he may send on the Colliery Contributions or come with them to the Secretary or Treasurer, he would not be paid the delegate's fee. And the Secretary was further instructed that in any other case where a delegate might be called upon, preventing him attending the meeting and he bringing the contributions to the Secretary, such case or cases will be considered by the board as to whether under the circumstance he should get the fee.

The Wages question on being discussed it was arranged that the President and Secretary watch the Course of events and summon a general meeting if they thought the circumstances warranted it.

Mr James Young, Arniston, & Mr John Pryde, Newbattle, were appointed Auditors.

Duncan's Hall, Tranent, 19th February 1898

A financial and board meeting was held. The minute of last meeting was read and adopted on the motion of Mr Robert Notman, Seconded by Mr Thomas Muir. Money drawn being £199.2.6.

It was agreed to allow James Davidson 10s. of his expenses & wages through the prosecution by the Lothian Coal Company of him for the obstruction of the work: The board being of opinion that while he had no right to act as he did, the Manager was at fault likewise in not intimating to him that the place was filled where he was employed. It was agreed to pay Patrick McKenna two week's victimisation allowance through him being dismissed at Prestongrange through no fault of his own, the grievance having been with his son.

⁸¹ The conference, on 23 Dec., was concerned mainly with the agenda for the MFGB annual conference at Bristol the following month, and with annual elections of SMF office-bearers. SMF Minutes, 23 Dec. 1897.

It was agreed that we do not join the Scottish Trades Congress nor entertain the scheme of Federation emanating from the same.⁸²

The secretary was instructed to get 500 copies of the Workmen's Compensation Act at a cost of 20s., to be distributed throughout the Collieries.

The wages question was considered after which it was agreed not to press too keenly until the lull at present being experienced had passed away.

A report on the eight hours bill was given by the Secretary when it was agreed that should he not be sent as a representative from the Scottish Federation for lobbying purposes when the bill comes on in April that he represent our own district on that occasion.

A large number of Men at Prestongrange having enrolled their names to become members of the Association if admitted at 1s. each it was agreed to admit them but to be six months before any benefits could be derived from the death fund—which practically made the entry money 6s. each.

It was remitted to the Collieries to consider & report as to whether they are in favour of celebrating the advent of the Association by holding an annual gala day.⁸³

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 2nd April 1898

A financial and board meeting was held. The minute of the previous meeting was read and approved off, Moved by Mr John Philip, Seconded by Mr William Ross. The contributions on being taken amounted to £162.12.6.

A long discussion took place as to whether Messrs William Watson & John Wood were entitled to removal expenses as victimised members, their statement being that their fathomage rate had been reduced from 15s. to 5s. which would prevent them earning a wage in that particular place, after which they got employment in another Colliery and removed accordingly. Mr Wm Dodds

⁸² The Scottish Trades Union Congress, to which trade unions and trades councils affiliated, had been founded in Mar. 1897. A few Scots miners' county unions were affiliated to it from the outset, including Lanarkshire and West Lothian, and the Scottish Miners' Federation and several other county unions became affiliated within a few years. But although as delegates from the SMF two or three leading members (including Robert Brown, secretary) of the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association attended STUC annual congresses from 1904 onwards, the Association itself appears to have become directly affiliated for the first time in 1911 and continuously only from 1919. Whether the reason for non-affiliation to the STUC by the Association before then was political or financial, or perhaps arose from a belief that the STUC was duplicating the work of the TUC, is not clear. The STUC Parliamentary Committee's scheme of federation arose from the national engineering lock-out of 1897 and related issues, and proposed a mutual fund to subsidise strike pay. But at the 1898 Congress the scheme failed to find a seconder. An alternative scheme of trades federation was endorsed by Congress but came to little; and though the General Federation of Trade Unions was founded in 1899 it never succeeded in becoming an effective centre of mutual support for trade unions. *Annual Report of the Scottish Trades Union Congress, 1897-1919* (in NLS PDL 30-44); K. Aitken, *The Bairns o' Adam: the Story of the STUC* (Edinburgh, 1997), 23-5.

⁸³ The Fife miners had held an annual gala day since June 1870, when by a stay-down strike they were said to have become the first miners in Europe to win an 8-hour day. Arnot, *Scottish Miners*, 51.

Moved that they do not get removal expenses, seconded by Mr Archd Chambers. Mr Thos Muir Moved that they do get removal expenses, seconded by Mr George Young, Vice President. On a vote being taken 7 voted that no removal expenses be granted and 5 voted for. The principle point in the case being that no action was taken towards a settlement of the dispute through the men at the Colliery being acquainted of the facts previous to Messrs Watson and Wood removing, they having acted on their own initiative and failed to bring their case before the Colliery, which it is understood must always be done with a view to an amicable settlement if at all possible.

The Secretary reported what had been done in the Prestongrange deduction case which was approved, with further instructions to do everything possible to bring the case to a successful issue.

The men in the Puddle Pit, Ormiston, having sought 3d. per ton owing to a long drawing road the Manager after negotiation granted 2d. and intimated that the Pit could not go on if he was to give the other penny, there being only 11 men in it. The board advised the men to accept the 2d. meantime without resorting to extreme measures.

The Collieries in favour of holding a Gala-day were Niddrie, Loanhead, House of Muir, Polton, Ormiston, Wallyford & Oxenford. Rosewell & Carberry to agree with whatever the majority favoured. Newbattle, Arniston, Elphinstone, Tranent, Penston & Prestongrange not yet having decided.

Duncan's Hall, Tranent, 14th May 1898

A financial and board meeting was held. The Minute of the former meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr Thos Muir, Seconded by Mr Robt Notman.

A discussion took place as to whether any delegate who may have to lose his day's work to attend the board meeting should have the remuneration increased at this time from three to four shillings. Mr Richard Scott Moved and Mr Thomas Muir Seconded that there be no change. Mr William Holmes Moved and Mr William Falconer seconded that four shillings be paid. The Motion in favour of four shillings was carried by a large majority.

The Secretary intimated that the Coalmasters' Secretary had written stating that the advance of 20% would be paid as from the 25th April.

Arniston delegate reported that this Colliery was in favour of a gala day but would prefer a week day. He also intimated that the average wage had been taken in some of the sections of the Colliery and in some instances the average was very low but owing to no communication having been made to the Colliery since it was taken, nor any steps taken by approaching the Manager, it was left over for further development.

A death claim from Newbattle on behalf of Louis Morison for his child's death was disallowed. Another from the same Colliery by Richard Cornwall on

the death of his Wife was postponed until the Secretary and delegate examined the books with regard to his payments. Two cases claiming victimisation from Prestongrange Colliery were both dismissed one of which, David Gordon, it was said was dismissed for filling dirty stuff. His case was not supported by the Colliery. The other, Robt Clelland, had never removed, upon which the board considered there was no claim, the opinion being that he could have obtained work during the time he was idle, while he had again resumed work at the same Colliery.

The contributions amounted to £161.15.0., the Welsh Levy £129.14.11.⁸⁴

A case where full 20% had not been paid at Elphingstone was remitted to the men affected and the secretary for further consideration.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 25th June 1898

A financial and board meeting was held. The minute of the former meeting was read and adopted on the motion of Mr Wm Holmes, seconded by Mr Wm Ross. The contributions amounted to £166.10.0.

The President reported on the settlement by conciliation of the dispute at Ormiston Colliery. Mr J. Gemmel, Mining Engineer, on behalf of the Ormiston Coal Coy and himself on behalf of the men. The dispute arising over the Manager reducing the hewing rate by 5d. per ton owing to the drawing road being shortened, the men offered 2d. per ton which had been got; the result being that the 2d. offered by the men was accepted. The report was approved off, after which it was agreed to pay Richard Smith 10s. as wages and expenses for attending as a witness on the case.

It was agreed not to be represented at either the Trades Congress nor the International Conference at Vienna.⁸⁵ It was thought that a gala day could not now be arranged for this year.

⁸⁴ The South Wales miners, except those of Monmouth, were not affiliated to the MFGB and since 1875 had had their wages regulated by a sliding scale, varying upwards or downwards according to the selling price of coal. The miners, whose trade union organisation was weak, decided by ballot vote to give six months' notice from 30 Sept. 1897 to end the sliding scale agreement, and at the same time demanded an immediate wage increase of 10 per cent. The coalowners responded by locking them out from the beginning of Apr. 1898. The miners appealed for help to the MFGB, which immediately granted £1,000 and arranged a weekly grant of £500, increasing to £600. But after five months the men were forced back to work on the owners' terms, including continuation of the sliding scale. An outcome of the struggle was that the South Wales miners from early 1899 affiliated to the MFGB. Mid and East Lothian miners successively contributed 6d. per man to the MFGB levies for the Welsh miners. The 20 per cent wage increase granted by the Mid and East Lothian coalowners from 25 Apr. was to be so long as the South Wales dispute lasted. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 21 and 28 Apr. 1898; *Glasgow Herald*, 15 July 1898; Arnot, *The Miners*, 280-8.

⁸⁵ The Trades Union Congress was held at Bristol from 29 Aug. to 3 Sept. 1898, and the International Miners' Federation, founded in 1890 and which held an annual conference, met at Vienna, 1-5 Aug.

Duncan's Hall, Tranent, 6th August 1898

A Board and financial meeting was held. The minute of the former meeting was read and approved of, Moved by Mr Robt Notman, Seconded by Mr John Gray. The contributions amounted to £164.14.6.

The Secretary reported what had been done on the Wages question at a conference held in Glasgow the previous day, after which in accordance with the same it was agreed to instruct him to write the Coalmasters' Secretary asking an advance in wages of 6d per day; the wages committee to further watch over the future proceedings.

Upon reconsidering Robt Clelland's case at Prestongrange it was agreed to grant him one pound between him and his two sons as part compensation for the time they were idle through being dismissed.

It was decided not to pay any of the expense incurred by the appeal from Bellshill against the decision on the Checkweighing case lately tried.⁸⁶

The Secretary was empowered to prosecute Michael Scott, Rosewell, for his Checkweigher's dues should he refuse to pay them up.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 17th September 1898

The Board met today. The minute of the former meeting on being read was approved on the motion of Mr William McNeil, seconded by Mr Andrew Archibald. The Contributions on being taken amounted to £158.12.6.

The secretary read a letter from the Lanarkshire Miners County Association requesting an agreement between them and this Association whereby members leaving the one Association and joining the other would still retain their privileges under the death fund. It was agreed to accede to the request but to point out that owing to a slight difference in the benefits granted by each Association that any one coming to this district would only be entitled to the benefits as is provided for in the rules.

The Secretary was instructed to get 2000 copies of rules printed and to have the rules referring to the election of the officebearers amended so as to define the time and manner by which these Annual elections shall take place.

The Secretary was instructed to get some Copies of the Workmen's Compensation Act for Loanhead Colliery.

A Complaint from Penston Colliery as to deductions was left in the hands of the secretary to write Mr Moore on the question.

A case was stated about some alterations in the Splint Seam at Arniston but full particulars not being given it was held over for further development.

A number of cases having been reported on of parties refusing to pay their Checkweigher's dues it was decided that wherever a good case presented itself for prosecution and the party still refusing to pay that proceedings be taken to

⁸⁶ No information about this case has been found in surviving archives of Hamilton or Airdrie Sheriff Courts, or in the national or local press.

recover what is due.

The advance of 10% was reported as having been granted from the 24th August.

Beales Hall, Tranent, 5th November 1898

A financial and board meeting was held. The Minute of the former Meeting was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Thomas Muir, Seconded by Mr John Gray. The Contributions amounted to £208.15.6.

It was agreed that according to rule, Nominations for President, Vice-President and Treasurer be sent in to next board Meeting. Nominations were taken for the officials in the Scottish Federation, the following being the result: President R. Smillie, Vice-President P. Muir,⁸⁷ Treasurer J. Weir, Secretary R. Brown.

It was agreed that we get 1000 Copies of the Workmen's Compensation Act for distribution amongst the Members. Rosewell delegate having Come with the Colliery's money to the Secretary it was agreed to grant him the allowance of 4s., he being employed on oncost work and could not get away from his work on the Saturday.

The Secretary reported on a number of accidents that had been Settled and stated the number pending settlement.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 24th December 1898

A board and financial meeting was held. In absence of the president owing to illness, Mr George Young, vice president, took the chair. The contributions on being taken came to £202.2.6.

The Agent reported on the annual conference of the Scottish Federation held the previous day.

It was agreed to grant removal expenses to the following members who had left Prestongrange owing to a partial reduction, Viz., Thos Wilson & two sons, Alexr Ratcliffe and Son, and Robert Curran, removals being to Lochgelly, Newmains, and Fauldhouse.

The settlement of the firecoal question at Loanhead was approved of, one ton to be delivered at 7s., instead of 16 Cwts at that price.

The nominations for President, Vice-President and Treasurer were taken, all the Collieries except Niddrie & Wallyford being in favour of the present officials being reelected, Niddrie and Wallyford Nominating Mr Joseph Young, Niddrie, as President.

Mr John McIntosh having resigned from being a trustee, the board of management unanimously agreed to elect Mr Thomas Muir, Deantown, in his place and also elected Mr George Young, Springfield, Gorebridge, in room of John Young, Tranent, retired. The four Trustees now being William Shaw, Tranent,

⁸⁷ Peter Muir (1850-1911) was secretary, 1884-1908, Ayrshire Miners' Federal Union. Marwick, *Labour in Scotland*, 57.

George Young, Gorebridge, Thomas Muir, Deantown, Robert Brown, Muirpark.

A number of accidents were reported on as being settled and others intimated for compensation.

It was agreed that the President attend the Annual conference of the British Federation to be held in Edinburgh beginning on the 18th January 1899, and in the event of the President being unable to attend the Vice-President to be his substitute.

One thousand copies of the workmen's Compensation Act were distributed amongst the Collieries.

Duncan's Hall, Tranent, 18th February 1899

A board meeting was held today, Councillor Shaw presiding. The Minute of the former Meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr Thomas Muir, Seconded by Mr William Ross. The drawings for the 8 weeks amounted to £236.10.0.

It was after explanations being made agreed to be understood that the officials' Salaries be paid yearly and for official work, They to be on the same footing as delegates when attending delegate Meetings.

Thomas Orr & Company having had their wages detained at Northfield Colliery the Agent was instructed to take steps for the recovery of the same on being satisfied that evidence could be got justifying the men's claim.

The claim on behalf of the Men in Limeylands Pit, Ormiston, for an advance on the hewing rate was considered, after which it was agreed to advise them not to press their claim further in the meantime. A claim on behalf of the men in the New Splint, Arniston Colliery for an advance on the ground that they were under the average wage was considered, when it was agreed that unless some concession was made by the Company power be granted to bring those men in that section out.

The President and Secretary reported on the British Federation Conference which had been held in Edinburgh in the beginning of the year, the report being accepted.

The general wage question was next discussed. The Secretary reported from the conference held in Glasgow the previous day, after which it was unanimously agreed to in accordance with the Conference instructions That a general meeting be held on Thursday first in the Forresters' Hall, Dalkeith, at 11 o'clock, delegates to meet at 10 o'clock.⁸⁸

⁸⁸ The SMF EC had resolved on 23 Jan. that 'in view of the increased prosperity of the coal trade', a 6d. per day increase in wages be sought by Scots miners. An SMF conference on 3 Feb. agreed to carry on 'a vigorous agitation' for a 6d. increase generally and for 10d. per day in Fife and Clackmannan. An amendment by Robert Brown, Mid and East Lothian, that an effort be made to level up those districts that were under the general percentage, and that steps be taken toward securing a minimum wage, was not seconded. The SMF special conference on 17 Feb. received reports from delegates that the coalowners in all districts had refused to grant the wage increase. The conference unanimously resolved to instruct the Fife and Clackmannan miners (who had to give longer notice than others) to

Regret was expressed that in some instances some of our Collieries were acting Contrary to our rules in remaining idle over any dispute before such dispute had been fully considered or even been before the board.

Forresters' Hall, Dalkeith, 23rd February 1899

An Executive meeting was held today. The Minute of the former Meeting was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Wm Holmes, Seconded by Mr Wm Dodds.

The reports from the Collieries shewed that except Rosewell all the Collieries were practically idle for the general meeting.

The Secretary reported that the case regarding detention of wages at Northfield had been settled, the men getting paid in full.

He also reported that the Manager at Arniston had written saying that the New Splint question would have his attention. It was left in the hands of the Secretary to see what settlement was effected.

Arrangements were then made for the general meeting which was to follow, a resolution being drafted which Mr Joseph Rowberry was appointed to move and Mr Muir to second.

Instructions were given to the Secretary to recover 10s. due to Walter Philip from Arniston Colliery.

Forresters' Hall, Dalkeith, 23rd February 1899

A general meeting on the wages question was held today, Councillor Shaw presiding.⁸⁹ The chairman in opening the meeting referred to the prosperous condition of the coal trade which justified the action taken for an advance in wages. Mr Joseph Rowberry Moved and Mr Thomas Muir seconded the following resolution: That in view of the increased prosperity of the Coal trade since the 24th August last when the last advance was given This meeting of Mid & East Lothian Miners is of opinion that an advance in wages is due and pledges itself to take united action with the other districts in Scotland to obtain it. Further this meeting expresses regret that such action is necessary being of opinion that what has been done in England could be accomplished in Scotland, Viz., the formation of a board representing employers and workmen to provide a basis for the better regulation of wages and thereby prevent Strikes, and we pledge Ourselves to heartily support the formation of any such board. The Secretary supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr Joseph Young, Checkweigher, Niddrie, raised the question on the

lodge their notices at once 'so as to be prepared for action if necessary'; and also agreed that miners in all districts take a holiday on Thursday, 23 Feb. SMF Minutes, 23 Jan., 3, 10 and 17 Feb. 1899.

⁸⁹ About 1,000 miners attended this general meeting, to which many of them marched, headed in some cases by bands, and where Robert Brown, secretary, declared that 14 out of the 15 collieries in Mid and East Lothian were 'idle that day, wanting an advance of wages'. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 2 Mar. 1899; *Haddingtonshire Courier*, 24 Feb. 1899; *Glasgow Herald*, 24 Feb. 1899.

appointment of officials and addressed the Meeting at length on the subject. The Secretary pointed out that the rules provide for nominations being sent in from the Collieries in November or December and elections to be made in February, a ballot to be taken if the board sees fit. He stated that he had intimated to each Colliery to have nominations made, and that in December 13 Collieries out of 15 were in favour of no change. Consequently the board decided that a ballot was not necessary.

The meeting then broke up.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 18th March 1899

An Executive Meeting was held today. The Minute of the former meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr John Philip, Seconded by Mr William Ross. The contributions for the four weeks were £131.0.0.

The reports from the Collieries on the terms offered by the employers at the Joint conference held in Glasgow on the 13th Were to the effect that at all the Collieries at which meetings had been held the vote was unanimous in favour of acceptance. Two Collieries had had no meeting but it was reported that as far as could be ascertained the men were in favour of the terms offered. The terms being an advance of 3d. per day to begin on the 1st of April, the wage to remain at that point until the 1st of August when if the Miners thought they were entitled to a further advance they could call the conference together to consider their claim, and on the other [hand] if the employers thought a reduction of wages necessary they would give fourteen days' notice to call the conference together to consider the same. And in the interval steps be taken for the formation of a Conciliation board.

A Motion was submitted from Niddrie Colliery to alter rule 35 but did not find a seconder.⁹⁰ Northfield Colliery was admitted as a Colliery into this Association.

Duncan's Hall, Tranent, 29th April 1899

An executive and financial meeting was held. The minute of the former meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr William McNeil, Seconded by Mr John Gray. The contributions amounted to £186.1.5.

A grievance from Northfield was discussed but owing to it having been in existence prior to the Colliery joining the Association and the men themselves having failed to do anything towards removing it after arrangements had been made between them and the Secretary for doing so, the question was postponed in the meantime.

The whole of the Collieries having voted in favour of taking a holiday on the 5th of June for the celebration of the eight hours day in Edinburgh in conjunction with the Fife & Clackmannan Miners, Arrangements were made in

⁹⁰ For rule 35, see below, p. 99.

preparation for the same. It was agreed that each Colliery Band attending on that occasion would receive from the Association Three Shillings per man.⁹¹

It was agreed to pay two shillings per hundred to the Collieries for the distribution of the ballot papers on the age question.⁹²

George Adams having been summoned by the officials of Niddrie Colliery for a breach of the special rules, it was agreed to pay our lawyer for defending him on the ground that he was charged in the summons contrary to what he had done, The charge stating that he left the Incline without putting down the Guard. Whereas he had only lifted the said Guard preparatory to the Carriage coming up with his Hutch, he being there when the Fireman came on the scene.⁹³

A claim for the death of a child by Wm Currie, Polton Colliery, was disallowed, he being in arrears over three Months at the time of death.

It was agreed to pay the Oxenford delegate and Elphingstone delegate their fee for the two previous Meetings, the one for 23rd February and the other 18th March, They having been idle on the days named but owing to other Circumstances could not be at the meeting but made arrangements for their Colliery reports being made and dues paid.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 24th June 1899

A board and financial meeting was held. The Minute of the former meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr Thomas Muir, Seconded by Mr John Philip. The Income being £216.15.0.

⁹¹ See above, p. 87 and n. 83.

⁹² The MFGB annual conference at Edinburgh on 10-13 Jan. 1899 had unanimously passed a motion from the Scottish Miners' Federation that an MFGB proposal to raise to 13 the minimum age for boys employed in mines should be amended to 14. It was also agreed unanimously to ballot all districts on the issue. Following a circular on the subject from the secretary of the MFGB, the SMF EC had agreed on 13 Mar. to issue 30,000 printed ballot forms to its affiliated unions. The result of the ballot in Mid and East Lothian is shown below, p. 415. The result of the MFGB national ballot was that one district (Lancashire and Cheshire) favoured the age remaining at 12, one (Cumberland) favoured 14, and eight others, including Scotland, 13; and thus age 13 was confirmed as MFGB policy. The Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, had raised the minimum age of employment underground to 12, an Act of 1900 raised it to 13, and the Coal Mines Act, 1911, to 14. *MFGB AP, 1899: Report of Annual Conference, 10-13 January*, 48-52, and *EC Minutes, 19 and 20 October*; *SMF EC Minutes*, 13 Mar. 1899.

⁹³ No further information about this case has been found. A code of special rules had been drawn up collectively by the coalmasters in Scotland and introduced under the terms of the Mines Inspection Act, 1855. The 43 special rules then, once approved by the Secretary of State, had the force of law, 'but evoked considerable hostility from the miners'. The special rules 'were ostensibly intended to increase mines' safety, but contained a number of clauses which also served to discipline the workforce. Rule 3 demanded that after satisfying themselves as to the safety of their working places, all colliers would "work at their appointed coal faces continuously, industriously and without unnecessary interruption while the shift continues", while rule 41 prohibited all underground meetings of workmen. Violation of any one of these special rules by the workmen was a criminal offence which rendered them liable to a fine of £2 or three months' imprisonment, but their breach by a colliery owner was regarded only as a civil offence.' Campbell, *Lanarkshire Miners*, 107; Arnot, *Scottish Miners*, 41-2. Special and general rules were extended in the Mines Acts of 1872 and 1887.

George Adams' Case from Niddrie was further considered and after considerable discussion it was eventually agreed to grant 26s. in all towards the expenses of the Case.

It was agreed to unanimously on the Motion of the Vice-President that we be represented at the Trades Union Congress in Plymouth on the 4th September next. The Secretary to attend.

The Secretary reported on the conferences held with the employers' representatives and the Miners' representatives on the wages question and read the offer made by the employers at the last Meeting, Viz., 1. That the present rate of Miners' wages shall continue in force for a further period of six months from 1st August next or for a shorter period if desired. 2. That Miners' wages shall not be reduced below a point 25% over the 1888 basis nor be advanced above a point 75% over the 1888 basis for one year from 1st August next.⁹⁴ 3. The Coalowners will forthwith appoint twelve of their number to meet an equal number of representatives of the Miners as a conciliation board on the lines already indicated to fix wages from time to time in terms of article 1 & 2 hereof. 4. In making a time limit the Lanarkshire Coalowners stipulate that as soon as trade enables their collieries to be kept working the Miners on their part will keep them working not less than eleven days per fortnight.

After full consideration the general opinion was that Clause four must be deleted and every effort made by the Miners' representatives to get Clause 2 fixed at a higher percentage but, in view of the principle of a Minimum being contained in the offer and the steadying influence it will have on the trade, rather than break off the negotiations the first three Clauses could be accepted.

Duncan's Hall, Tranent, 12th July 1899

A financial and board meeting was held. The Minute of the former Meeting was read and approved off. Moved by Mr R. Notman, Seconded by Mr Jas Cunningham. The contributions amounted to £229.10.0.

Hugh Fraser having been summoned by the Niddrie Coal Company for breach of a Special rule, He having leapt into an empty Hutch of a pony trip, His reason for doing so being that while he was in the act of getting past the Hutches in the Pit Bottom to proceed to his work the Pony proceeded to leave with the Hutches and the space where he was being so narrow he had either to run the risk of being crushed or get into the Hutch. It was decided under these circumstances to defend the case.

The Secretary reported on the last conference and wages agreement with

⁹⁴ The wage rates of 1888 (when wages were low, and were even lower in Scotland than in many other British coalfields) were the basis on which miners' wages were calculated for many years afterward. The coal-getter's or hewer's wage in Scotland in 1888 was reckoned at about 4s. a day. Arnot, *Scottish Miners*, 72-3.

the employers, which was accepted.⁹⁵

A grievance from Penston about the refusal of a party to pay Checkweighing dues for his Drawer was left in the hands of the Secretary.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 30th September 1899

A financial and board meeting was held. The minute of the former meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr Wm Dodds, Seconded by Mr John Young. The contributions for the 7 weeks were £208.10.0.

The Secretary reported on the Trades Congress meeting at Plymouth, Stating that he believed too much work was being imposed on the Parliamentary Committee, which did not tend to the furtherance of legislation as by them (having to please each trade) Attempting too much, less would be accomplished.

The report from Penston was to the effect that the grievance there was in a fair way to a settlement.

A Company⁹⁶ at Whitehill Colliery, Rosewell, having had over 6 tons of Coal deducted, without the Checkweigher having been apprised of the case at the time, The secretary wrote the Company pointing out the Illegality of the action and advised the workmen to again apply for their Money, Which was paid in full on the Friday.

The delegate from Polton reported that the dispute there was practically over, some of those in the affected Section having got other places while the majority of those remaining were earning fair wages.

Two cases of accident at Arniston had been refused compensation on the assumption that those injured had committed a breach of Special rule. A full report on both cases was made from the Colliery after which the Board instructed the Secretary to press both claims.

The Secretary read the correspondence and the suggested terms of Settlement on the deduction question at Niddrie Colliery, when it was agreed to await further developments after a trial under the new system.

Glenesk Colliery was admitted to membership of the Association.

The Secretary read a communication from West Lothian Miners Association requesting an arrangement under the Death fund similar to that existing with other Associations. It was agreed to make arrangements accordingly, subject to inquiries being made that the benefits were likely to be mutual. The Secretary to make further inquiry and get a copy of rules, etc., for that purpose.

Duncan's Hall, Tranent, 18th November 1899

A financial and board meeting was held. The minute of the former meeting

⁹⁵ The coalowners, at a meeting with the SMF EC on 6 July, had agreed to increase the minimum wage to 31.25 per cent above the 1888 basis (i.e., to about 5s.3d. per day), and to abandon their earlier insistence on an eleven days' fortnight in Lanarkshire. SMF EC Minutes, 6 July 1899.

⁹⁶ It may well be that this should read 'Some workmen'.

was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Thomas Muir, Seconded by Mr R. Notman. The contributions amounted to £244.9.0.

A complaint about being unable to earn the average wage at the East Mains Pit, Ormiston, owing to deficient coal and Brushing, was left in the hands of the Secretary.⁹⁷

William Millar of Newbattle Colliery was granted two weeks' allowance for time lost over a wages dispute.

The following were nominated as officials of the Scottish Miners' Federation: Mr Robert Smillie, President, Mr John Weir, Treasurer, Robert Brown, Secretary. Vice-President left an open question for conference.

A claim on behalf of Robert Grant, Penston, for removing expenses, was left over for further enquiries, he having removed without any previous intimation of his grievance being made, The grievance being that the Manager wished to force extra men into the working place and would not permit of him cleaning off the ready coal.

The President intimated that he had got a situation which would preclude him further continuing as Chairman after the end of the year. He expressed his deep appreciation of the confidence and trust reposed in him by the Miners of Mid & East Lothian and their officials during his tenure of office since 1890. General regret was expressed by the Delegates at losing Councillor Shaw's services, each and all adding their testimony to the able and impartial manner in which he discharged the duties of chairman.⁹⁸

Arrangements were made for nominations to be forward next meeting in December for President, Vice-President and Treasurer.

The Secretary was furnished with the names of a few men of Ormiston Colliery who were in arrears with their Checkweigher's dues, so as to write asking payment to avoid legal proceedings being taken.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 23rd December 1899

A financial and Board meeting was held. The minute of the former meeting was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Jamieson Bennet, seconded by Mr John Gray. The contributions amounted to £144.12.6.

Robert Grant claimed to have been victimised at Penston Colliery by the manager having taken him out of his place without legal notice, and owing to Grant resenting this refused him further employment. The Board after hearing and discussing the case agreed to grant 15s.

The Secretary gave a report of the Scottish Federation Conference. One of the principle items being that it had been agreed to claim an advance in wages

⁹⁷ Brushing: removing part of the roof or pavement of a coal working in order to heighten the roadway. Robinson (ed.), *Scots Dictionary*, 68.

⁹⁸ Shaw had been appointed Unionist agent for East Lothian. *Haddingtonshire Courier*, 28 Dec. 1899.

up to the Maximum point from the 1st of February.⁹⁹

Nominations for the officials were next taken: President—Mr Joseph Young, Niddrie Colliery Nominated by Niddrie and seconded by the Delegate from Prestongrange Colliery, He explaining that it was only by one vote at the Colliery Meeting the nomination of Joseph Young was carried over that of George Young's. Mr George Young, Arniston Colliery, was Nominated by Arniston, Newbattle, Loanhead, Rosewell, Penston, Tranent, Elphingstone, Carberry, Wallyford, Oxenford. Ormiston had no nomination, but reported that the Colliery would abide by the majority. Polton no nomination. The President then read rule 35 on the Election of Officebearers, which is as follows: The President, Vice-President and Treasurer shall be elected or reelected in February of each year at such salary as has been fixed or may be afterwards approved of by the Members. Nominations to come to the Board from the Collieries in the months of November & December. The board if it sees fit may cause a ballot vote to be taken.

Mr William Holmes, Niddrie, moved that a ballot be taken. Mr Peter Givan, Prestongrange, seconding. Mr Thomas Muir, Carberry, moved that in view of the nominations no ballot be taken, seconded by Mr Richard Scott, Tranent. Nine delegates voted against ballot and five for ballot, When it was agreed not to ballot. Mr Thomas Muir, Mr Jamieson Bennet, Elphingstone, and Mr James Ormiston, Tranent, were nominated for Vice-President. But owing to an agreement come to at the formation of the Association That, as the Membership from East Lothian must necessarily be fewer in number than from Mid Lothian, East Lothian would retain the right to elect at least one of the three Officials from out of the East Lothian Collieries, Mr Thomas Muir, being in a Mid Lothian Colliery, withdrew, when after a vote between Mr Bennet & Ormiston, Mr Ormiston had a majority and stands as Vice President.

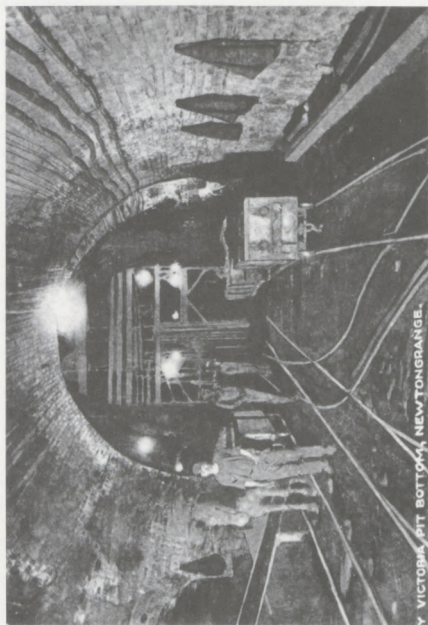
Treasurer: Mr William Falconer was the only nominee as Treasurer and was reelected for the eleventh time.

Auditors: Mr James Young, Arniston, and Mr John Pryde, Newbattle, were appointed as auditors. Trustees: Councillor Shaw, George Young, Thomas Muir & Robert Brown were reelected as trustees.

It was agreed to increase the Deposit in the Savings Bank to £2500 in the meantime, and while the interest kept high to deposit other moneys in the Commercial Bank.

A case from Loanhead was considered, when after the communications between the Manager and the Secretary were read, It was considered that no victimisation had taken place.

⁹⁹ The SMF annual conference on 12 Dec. had agreed to seek an increase of 9d. per day as the maximum possible under the rules of the newly formed Conciliation Board. SMF Minutes of Annual Conference, 12 Dec. 1899.



Underground at Lady Victoria colliery, Newtongrange, c.1900. (Courtesy of National Museums of Scotland, Scottish Life Archive.)

Duncan's Hall, Tranent, 10th February 1900

An Executive & financial meeting was held. Mr George Young, Vice President, in the chair. The Minute of the former Meeting was read and approved on the motion of Mr R. Notman, seconded by Mr John Philip. The contributions amounted to £223.0.0.

Upon considering the election of President Mr Young, Vice President, urged that in view of the fact that a large number of the Collieries had kindly nominated himself and others had nominated Mr Joseph Young, to give satisfaction to all concerned it would be preferable to ballot the members on the question. Mr William Holmes had a similar request from Niddrie Colliery. It was therefore agreed to ballot and Mr William Holmes and James Cunningham were appointed enumerators. The papers to be in the office of the Association on or before Saturday the 24 inst.

It was agreed to insure all the Checkweighers employed by the miners in the two Counties under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

It was agreed that we are in favour of a grant being given to the Austrian Miners now on Strike, from the Scottish Federation funds.¹⁰⁰

It was decided that Wm Quin, Niddrie, was entitled to the death claim for his Mother.

A motion from Niddrie to change rule 35 did not find a seconder. It was stated by the Wallyford delegate that the same motion had been sent him from an unknown source but his Colliery disapproved of the change.

It was agreed to increase the fee for delegates who lost a day's work to attend the meeting from 4s. to 5s. per day and to remit to the Collieries to consider whether the usual fee of 4s. should not be increased.

A letter was read from the Manager at Ormiston on Limeylands Pit and the case left with the Secretary in the Meantime. The Secretary reported on a number of cases where adjustment had been made on the advance of 18¾ per cent taking place on the 1st February;¹⁰¹ Also on Compensation Cases one in which for a fatal accident £259.7.0. had been got.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 7th April 1900

An Executive and financial meeting was held, Mr George Young, President, in the chair. The minute of the former meeting was read and adopted on the

¹⁰⁰ The Austrian miners had appealed for support to the MFGB, whose EC resolved to grant them £200 at once and to circularise all affiliated districts asking them to give all help possible. The SMF EC agreed to grant £100 and to recommend a levy of 1d. per member from affiliated county unions. *MFGB AP, 1900: EC Minutes, 15 January, and Annual Balance Sheet, September, SMF EC Minutes, 23 Feb. 1900.*

¹⁰¹ The coalowners, at a meeting of the Conciliation Board on 18 Jan., had accepted the demand by the Scottish Miners' Federation that wages be increased by 9d. a day (18.75 per cent on existing rates), bringing them up to 75 per cent above the 1888 basis, for the three months until the end of Apr. Wages of oncost and surface workers were increased *pro rata*. *SMF EC Minutes, 18 Jan. 1900; Dalkeith Advertiser, 25 Jan. 1900.*

motion of Mr T. Muir, seconded by Mr Wm Robertson.

The President in opening the proceedings referred to the honour done him in being elected to such an honourable position and expressed his high appreciation of the same, stating that it would be his greatest desire to uphold the position both to his own and the workmen's credit. Several of the Delegates hoped he would visit them.

The contributions amounted to £269.15.6. A claim for removal from Newbattle was rejected, the parties having left before acquainting the Colliery of their grievance.

It was agreed not to enter Court to recover Compensation for Charles Smith of Niddrie, The success being considered very doubtful.

It was finally agreed to insure the Checkweighers and the Secretary, the premiums being 9/6 per cent.

A circular on Housing and Land reform was allowed to lie on the table.

A serious accident having occurred at Polton whereby one man was killed and two injured, though none of them were members It was agreed that the secretary attend the Public enquiry in the interest of the workers still at the mine.

A Statement was made anent a grievance arising out of Contracting at Arniston Colliery and the Secretary undertook to write the Manager about it.

It was agreed to submit the question of a gala day to the Collieries to consider first if in favour, second when [and] where, and the reports to be sent to the Secretary.

Duncan's Hall, Tranent, 12th May 1900

A financial and board meeting was held. The Minute of the former meeting was read and approved, on the motion of Mr Jamieson Bennet, seconded by Mr James Stewart. The contributions amounted to £149.17.0.

It was agreed that the Secretary represent the Association at the International Miners Congress to be held at Paris on the 25th June.

The Secretary gave a report of the joint meeting with the employers held on the 4th May upon the future agreement under the Conciliation Board, Said meeting having been adjourned until the middle of June.

An application for a second delegate from Niddrie Colliery was granted owing to the position & localities of the employees being so extensive.¹⁰²

A motion from Niddrie Colliery to amend rule 35 was remitted to the Collieries.

A question from the Secretary of Niddrie Colliery re. the Death fund was read, and allowed to lie upon the table in the meantime.

All the Collieries but Niddrie favoured the holding a demonstration. Various days were suggested and several places. It was intimated that no Carriages

¹⁰² See above, p. 39, n. 12, and p. 50.

could be supplied by the Railway Company during June, July & August. The whole thing was then carefully considered and Friday the 22nd June selected as being the most suitable day for all the Collieries, and Peebles to be the place to be visited. It was further agreed to pay each member of the Colliery Bands attending the Demonstration the sum of 3s. each and a free Ticket. It was agreed to invite Messrs Smillie, Weir, Innes & Gilmour, Scottish Federation representatives, to address the gathering.¹⁰³ The Secretary to see about further arrangements and to acquaint the Collieries of the same.

The same question re Contracting at Arniston was raised, and the loss sustained by the men who were displaced. The Secretary read a letter from the Manager on the case, After which it was remitted back to the Colliery for further investigation and information.

Niddrie new Delegate: George Brown, 49 Whitehill Road.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 15th June 1900

An Executive meeting was held. The Minute of the former Meeting was read and adopted on the motion of Mr R. Notman, Seconded by Mr John Philip. The contributions amounting to £178.10.0. were then taken.

John Ramsay of Carberry Colliery having been idle along with his neighbour for four days against a partial reduction, through the working places in the five-foot seam being set off at a width of 9 feet instead of 14 feet (Said action having been the means of modifying the conditions and also getting an allowance of 5s. for each place), It was agreed to grant each of them 15s. for the time lost, It being understood that the Colliery would add as much as give them full average wages for the time lost.

James Howie & his two sons removed from Prestongrange 18 months ago under the same circumstances as Messrs Ratcliffe, Wilson & Curran. He did not at that time put in his claim and having returned to Prestongrange again He had raised the question owing to these parties having got removing expenses and he had not. After considering the question it was agreed to grant him one pound.

David Moffat of Prestongrange put in a claim for removing expenses through the Colliery. He alleged that his wage was reduced by one shilling per day and upon refusing to continue at the reduced rate he was refused employment under the Coy and had to remove. It was moved by J. Philip, Seconded by A. Philip, to grant removing expenses according to rule. Mr J. Bennet, Seconded by Mr T. Muir, Moved that no removal expenses be granted. The Motion to grant was

¹⁰³ James Innes, president, 1880-1902, Fife and Kinross Miners' Association. David Gilmour (d. 1926), a miner at Bent and Eddlewood collieries, Hamilton, was checkweigher at the latter. Gilmour was secretary for over twenty years from its formation in 1896 of the Lanarkshire Miners' County Union. He was elected in 1902 to the MFGB EC. His pro-war views and activities in 1914-18 won him the OBE but led to his resignation as secretary and agent of the County Union. *National Union of Scottish Mine Workers, Executive Committee Minutes, 4 Mar., 15 Apr. 1918* (In NLS, PDL 45/7); *Glasgow Herald*, 13 Sept. 1926.

carried and the sum of 7s. given.

The reports from the Collieries on the proposed amendment to rule 35 as sent by Niddrie Colliery were taken. All the Collieries but two at which no meeting had been held were in favour of the rule remaining as at present.

It was agreed to pay the wages of the two men appointed to take the test of the Hutches at Polton Colliery to ascertain how much depreciation took place after the water was drained out of them, A dispute having arisen over the weight which caused the Colliery to be idle three days. Owing to this arrangement a settlement had been effected. The difference of 17 lbs having been found after reweighing the Hutches at an interval of 12 hours. In connection with this dispute special notice was given that in no case should a Colliery be idle before the grievance had been brought before the Association for consideration, so as to try to effect a settlement on the point of dispute. Mr John Philip, delegate to this Colliery, reported that he had been victimised in connection with the dispute and it was left with the Secretary to make further enquiries into the matter.

William King was killed at Glenesk Colliery and Compensation refused on the grounds that he had not been two full weeks in the service of the Company. He had worked 6 days the first week, and on the fourth shift the second week was killed. Various decisions having been got on the point, the secretary was instructed to watch the case with a view to having it tested either against the principle of the two weeks and also on the assumption that ten days in the Mines were considered to be two weeks' work.

A complaint as to deductions from Newcraighall pit, Niddrie, was reported upon and was left in the hands of the delegates from Niddrie and the Secretary to arrange about remedying it.

Arrangements were then completed for the Excursion on the 22nd inst., the Secy being instructed to secure a hall at Peebles in case the weather was unfavourable and to arrange for Tea to the speakers and delegates taking part in conducting the demonstration.¹⁰⁴

Resolutions to be drafted on the eight hours Mines Bill and the Workmen's Compensation Bill.

Duncan's Hall, Tranent, 28th July 1900

An executive meeting was held. The Minute of the former Meeting was read and approved on the Motion by Mr Jamieson Bennet, Seconded by Mr Wm

¹⁰⁴ All the pits in Mid and East Lothian were closed on Friday, 22 June, for the miners' first gala day, to celebrate the 8-hour day. About 2,500 miners, accompanied by their wives and children, and half a dozen bands, journeyed in five special trains to Peebles, where a mass meeting was held in Victoria Park. There three resolutions were carried by acclamation. First, that the miners of the two counties continue to press for an 8-hour day from bank to bank by Act of parliament; second, that the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, having already given 'great benefits' to those workmen coming under its scope, should be extended to all workmen and that payment should be made from and for the first week; and, third, 'That we firmly adhere to the principle of a maximum wage, and to conciliation being the best means in obtaining the same.' *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 28 June 1900.

Robertson. The Contributions amounted to £217.12.6.

The reports from Collieries were then taken on the acceptance of the terms submitted from the Conciliation Board on the wages question. All except Ormiston were in favour of accepting the terms offered.¹⁰⁵

The four Motions submitted from Lanarkshire: 1st, To prevent unskilled labour being employed in the Mines. 2nd, To terminate all wages agreements throughout the Federation simultaneously. 3rd, To fix a date for the inauguration of an eight hour day in all Districts. 4th, To create a fund for Parliamentary representatives from the Mining Districts to watch over the interest of Miners and labour generally, 1s. per Member per year being suggested. All the Collieries were in favour of the first three. Eight Collieries were in favour of all four, Viz., Newbattle, Niddrie, Loanhead, Penston, Prestongrange, Wallyford, Polton, Glenesk, Oxenford. Arniston had not definitely decided on No. 4. Tranent, Elphinstone & Ormiston against No. 4. Carberry had no report.¹⁰⁶

It was agreed that the President and Vice President accompany the Secretary to the conference to be held at Glasgow on the 31st inst. on the wages and other questions.

The Secretary gave a report of the International Miners' Conference held in

¹⁰⁵ The terms agreed by the end of July between the coalowners and the SMF were the continuation of the Conciliation Board for a further year from 1 Aug., the fixing of a minimum and a maximum rate of wages, an immediate increase of 25 per cent on the 1888 basis (an increase of 1s. a day), and wages to remain at that level until 1 Feb. 1901. SMF EC Minutes, 3, 10 and 31 July 1900; *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 2 Aug. 1900; Arnot, *Scottish Miners*, 100.

¹⁰⁶ The first motion arose from the arrival in Lanarkshire and some other coalfields, including Midlothian, of Lithuanian immigrant workers (usually described as 'Poles'), generally without any experience of mining and with little or no English. The second motion was an attempt to co-ordinate the full forces of the MFGB in securing improved wages and conditions, given the separate Conciliation Boards and agreements for Scotland and England and Wales. The third reflected the fact that although in Mid and East Lothian and in Fife and Kinross miners worked an 8-hour day that was not the case in other coalfields, and that combined action was needed to achieve it. The fourth motion seems to have arisen from circumstances that included the formation in Jan. 1900, at a conference in Edinburgh presided over by Robert Smillie as a leader of the Lanarkshire and Scots miners but also of the Independent Labour Party in Scotland, of the Scottish Workers' Parliamentary Elections Committee (retitled in 1902 the Scottish Workers' Representation Committee)—a forerunner and later tributary of the Labour Party; and the formation a month later, as a result of a resolution by the Trades Union Congress in Sept. 1899, of the Labour Representation Committee (retitled from 1906 the Labour Party). At its meeting on 31 July the Scottish Miners' Federation agreed to submit the first three motions for consideration by the MFGB at its annual conference on 2-5 Oct. At the latter the first two motions were carried unanimously. The third was withdrawn (though one by Nottingham Miners was unanimously approved, instructing the MFGB EC to negotiate a reduction in hours with the coalowners, failing which a ballot of the districts was to be taken to enforce a reduction on a given date, and that a date be fixed for the establishment of an 8-hour day at all collieries). The MFGB conference also carried a fourth motion: 'That with a view to running Labour Candidates to the House of Commons from this Federation the Conference recommends its members to pay one shilling per year, per man, of four 3d. levies per year, and further agrees that a ballot be taken of the men on the question.' The MFGB did not affiliate to the Labour Party until 1909. SMF Minutes, 31 July 1900; MFGB AP, 1900: *Report of Annual Conference, 2-5 October*, 12, 13, 16-20, 43, 52-3; Arnot, *The Miners*, 352-68; Aitken, *Bairns o' Adam*, 27-38.

Paris, which was accepted.

John Philip's case as mentioned in the last Minute was not considered, The report from the Colliery being that in the opinion of the men there had been no Victimisation. The Board could not under the circumstances make any allowance.

William Millar, Newbattle, claimed to have been victimised. His Drawer had left him, and he asked and got a start on Oncost Cleek Hunting.¹⁰⁷ Having worked a few shifts at the end of the pay he was paid 4s.9d. per shift, and in disputing with the Under Manager about the wage Along-side the General Manager It was considered that too strong language was used, When Millar was sent home after which he left the employment. The Board considered and decided that this was not a case of victimisation.

A Circular from the Stoneware throwers was read and allowed to lie on the table, the opinion being expressed that it was a question for the Federation.¹⁰⁸

A letter from the Enginemen's Secretary was read asking the Cooperation of the Miners toward assisting that body in getting their wages up to the Standard. It was agreed to leave it in the hands of the Collieries where the Enginemen were affected to cooperate along with the Enginemen but not to be committed to any stoppage of work before having the approval of the full Board.¹⁰⁹

The dispute in the Peacock Seam at Loanhead was left in the hands of the Secretary. At the same Colliery, the Members of the Association wanted to take action to compel a few men who were outside the Union to join. The Board deprecated any strike on this point, and left the Secretary along with the Members at the Colliery to try to attain their object without recourse to a stoppage. At the same time it was agreed that every effort should be put forth wherever

¹⁰⁷ A cleek or hook attached to the rope that in early mining had raised the baskets of coal to the surface came in the course of time to mean or symbolise 'the whole organisation for raising the coal from a colliery'. By the period covered by these minutes the hutches or tubs were cleeked on to the haulage. Thus cleek hunting meant the efficient movement of coal from the face, and a cleek hunter was a worker who hunted up hutches, to help ensure that efficiency. Barrowman, *Mining Terms*, 18; R.D. Kerr (ed.), *A Glossary of Mining Terms Used in Fife* (Fife Colleges, Kirkcaldy, 1980), 20; information from Mr Tommy Kerr, a veteran Mid and East Lothian miner, Gorebridge.

¹⁰⁸ The stoneware throwers were out on strike 'against unjust conditions of labour and low wages'. Their strike had begun early in May and lasted at least until the end of Aug. No reference to it has been found in SMF or MFGB records. Edinburgh Trades Council Minutes, 17 July, 7 and 21 Aug. 1900.

¹⁰⁹ The Associated Free Engine Keepers of Fife and Kinross Labour Protection, Sick and Funeral Society, 'the oldest Scottish trade union of the mining industry', existed from 1865, and in other Scots coalfields other colliery winding enginemen had begun to form their own unions from at least 1873. The United Enginekeepers' Mutual Protection Association of Scotland was formed in 1876 and became in 1912 the Scottish Colliery Engine and Boilermen's Association. The Enginekeepers had approached the Scottish Miners' Federation in early July to ask about admission into the SMF, and the two Executive Committees met on 31 July to discuss the matter. Five collieries in Mid and East Lothian, including Newbattle and Arniston, were paying enginekeepers less than the standard rate of 5s. 10d. a shift. SMF EC Minutes, 3 and 31 July 1900; *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 26 Apr. and 2 Aug. 1900; Arnot MS, Vol. II, Chap. 6, 16.

nonunionists were to induce them to come in.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 15 September 1900

An executive and financial meeting was held. The minute of the former meeting was read and approved on the motion of Mr R. Notman, Seconded by Mr James Stewart. The Contributions amounted to £311.11.0.

The Secretary read the correspondence in connection with a claim to compensation lodged by James McVie, Loanhead Colliery, 16 weeks after the alleged accident had taken place. The Company refused to admit liability. After full consideration it was agreed not to take any further action in the matter.

John Philip's case referred to in last Minute was reopened and upon fresh proof being led from the Colliery it was agreed to grant him 30s. in lieu of removing expenses.

It was agreed to raise the entrance fee to the Association from 1s. to 10s. after the 29th inst.

Carberry & Polton were urged to take up the levy for Cadzow as other Collieries had done.¹¹⁰

Town Hall, Tranent, 20th October 1900

A board meeting was held. The minute of the former meeting was read and approved on the motion of Mr Thos Muir, seconded by Mr Archd Philip.

John Fraser, John Edmond & James McFarlane having had to complain of the dangerous state of their drawing road in Prestongrange Colliery, the Manager on repairing the road filled up Edmond's & McFarlane's place with other men, causing them to leave. He also ordered Fraser to finish filling the Hutch he had in when he visited his place and to take out his (Fraser's) tools. After full consideration it was agreed to grant removing expenses in all three cases.

It was reported that Mick Little had got five pounds from the local treasurer at Prestongrange, to enable him to pay some of his men, His pay having been detained by the Company until he emptied the House. He gave the local treasurer his pay line as security for the cash advanced but had since emptied his house and uplifted the whole of the cash in the Colliery Office and left without repaying the five pounds advanced. The matter was left with the Secretary with full power to act as the circumstances warranted.

Three parties, Viz., David Selkirk, James Hall and Charles Burns, claimed

¹¹⁰ Between 600 and 700 miners at Cadzow colliery, Hamilton, had gone on strike on 23 July against the employment there of non-unionists. An attempt by the coal company to evict over 200 of the strikers from company houses on 28 July was frustrated by a mass gathering of miners and their wives, and the sheriff officer had to take refuge in the local policeman's house. A Scottish Miners' Federation conference on 15 Aug. had recommended a levy of 1s. per man in all affiliated districts to help the strikers at Cadzow and also those involved in a similar dispute at Drumsdudden, Ayrshire. The SMF EC agreed on 18 Sept. to call in a levy of 6d. per member. SMF Minutes, 15 and 28 Aug., 18 Sept. and 4 Oct. 1900; *Glasgow Herald*, 24, 27, 28 and 30 July 1900.

from the death fund, Selkirk and Burns being out of the district but less than eight weeks, and Hall was nine weeks in arrears but had a good excuse. All three cases were granted.

Northfield Colliery was admitted to membership, Mr Orr being present as delegate.¹¹¹

The Secretary reported on the trouble over the wages under a Contractor at Penicuik.

The Programme for the British Federation Conference to be held the following week was discussed and the Secretary instructed on the various motions to be discussed.

The contributions amounted to £260.15.0.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 24th November 1900

A board and financial meeting was held. The Minute of the former meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr R. Notman and Seconded by Mr Jamieson Bennet. The contributions amounted to £212.4.9.

The Secretary reported on Mick Little's case, and received further instructions from the Board on the matter.

A report was given in on the Penicuik case mentioned in last Minute, certain parties having taken action against the Company to recover the balance of wages after a settlement had been effected. The Board agreed that as an Association we uphold the arrangement come to.

A report was given by the Secretary on the British Federation Conference, explaining what had been done in connection with the Mines Eight hours and Checkweighers Bills. Also that a ballot would be taken next February on the question of Labour representation from the Mining ranks to the House of Commons.

It was agreed to nominate the present officials to the Scottish Federation for re-election.

The following Collieries nominated the present officials for reelection: Niddrie, Rosewell, Prestongrange, Ormiston, Oxenford, Penston.¹¹²

Duncan's Hall, Tranent, 29th December 1900

An Executive and financial meeting was held. The Minute of the former meeting was read and approved of, on the Motion of Mr Wm Holmes, Seconded by Mr Archd Philip.

The Secretary reported on Mick Little's case to the effect that Little was continually on the move from one Colliery to another.

The President and Vice President reported on the Scottish Federation Conference which they had attended along with the Secretary on the 27th, The

¹¹¹ See above, p. 94.

¹¹² These nominations appear to be for office in the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association itself.

principal questions discussed being the working policy of five days per week, Upon which a ballot is to be taken, and the question of unskilled foreign labour.¹¹³

The Secretary read a letter regarding the Compensation on the death of Thomas Porteous of Tranent Colliery, The sum of £20 having been offered. The Board on considering all the circumstances agreed to advise the acceptance of the sum offered.

The Secretary reported on a dispute at Ormiston Colliery over the Tare of the Hutches. In order to settle the matter one man from each of two pits were chosen to take the Tare which had to be taken a second time. It was agreed to pay two pounds towards meeting the expense incurred by the dispute.

An appeal for funds on behalf of John Hall, Checkweigher, who is being pursued by Mr R. C. Robertson for the sum of £1000, as damages for alleged Slander in connection with the distribution of the Strike money during the strike of 1894, Mr Hall having been one of those in the Redding District who was asked by the Scottish Federation Executive to furnish evidence at the enquiry into the Redding affairs. It was agreed to place the appeal before the men and to ask that a small sum be granted towards Mr Hall's defence.¹¹⁴

Mr John Pryde, Newbattle Colliery, and Mr James Young, Arniston Colliery, were chosen as Auditors.

All the nominations in were in favour of the present officials being re-elected. The Income for the five weeks was £260.6.0.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, Thursday, 7th February 1901

A financial and board meeting was held. The minute of the former meeting

¹¹³ Lanarkshire delegates at the conference had moved that SMF members be balloted on the five days per week policy (generally, Scots miners worked an eleven days' fortnight). An amendment by Robert Brown, Mid and East Lothian, seconded by James Innes, Fife and Kinross, that 'such action should be done by the British Miners' Federation or a general conference of all the mining districts in Great Britain', was defeated by 17 votes to 29 for the Lanarkshire motion. SMF Minutes of Sixth Annual meeting, 27 Dec. 1900.

¹¹⁴ The SMF EC had appointed a sub-committee early in 1895 to investigate allegations about the disbursement of strike money in Redding district of the Forth and Clyde Valley Miners' Association during the Scots miners' strike the previous year. Chisholm Robertson, secretary of the Forth and Clyde Valley Association, had withdrawn from an SMF EC meeting in protest at a recommendation by the sub-committee. John Hall, in his evidence as a Redding miner during the investigation, had alleged improper accounting for strike funds. The SMF EC had concluded that it was due a refund of £111 in strike payments by the Forth and Clyde Valley Association. But the matter seems to have gone unresolved during 1896, by which time the Association had ceased to be affiliated to the SMF. John Hall then played a leading part in organising a new Stirlingshire county miners' union based on Redding and Slamannan which was allowed in May 1899 to affiliate to the SMFA simultaneous application by Chisholm Robertson, secretary of the Scottish Central Miners' Association based partly in Stirlingshire, to affiliate his Association to the SMF was rejected by a large majority on the motion of Robert Brown, Mid and East Lothian, and John Weir, Fife, on the grounds that under rule 1 of the SMF 'no section or part of a county can be admitted except through the Association for the County'. SMF minutes, 1 Apr. 1895-27 Dec. 1900, *passim*.

was read and adopted, moved by Mr Archd Philip, Seconded by Mr Thomas Muir. The contributions amounted to £255.10.0.

The Chairman made a touching reference to the loss sustained to the Association at the death of Mr Robert Notman, who had represented Loanhead Colliery for a number of years and had gained the respect of all the delegates attending the meeting during that period. It was unanimously agreed to record in the Minute The heartfelt regret of this board for the loss of such a much respected colleague and of deep sympathy towards his Widow and family.¹¹⁵

The Secretary reported the result of the enquiry held this day upon the accident at Loanhead and Wallyford Colliery resulting in the deaths of William Laurie Hamilton and Patrick Horligan, at Wallyford and of Mr Robert Notman at Loanhead.¹¹⁶

The reports from the Collieries on the proposed reduction in Wages were taken, All being against any reduction being warranted, but at the same time in favour of leaving the matter in the hands of the large conference to be called for final settlement, and to exhaust the rules of the Conciliation Board to the calling in of a Chairman—With the exception of Ormiston, which was against any reduction and also against Conciliation or Arbitration simply to resist the reduction.

It was agreed that four delegates besides the Secretary, represent the Association at the conference on the wages question the following day.¹¹⁷ The following

¹¹⁵ Robert Notman, a delegate from Loanhead to the Board since at least Oct. 1894, was suffocated by black damp on 23 Jan. while at work in Burghlee pit. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 14 Feb. 1901.

¹¹⁶ The fatal accident enquiry at Edinburgh Sheriff Court into the three deaths resulted in the jury returning formal verdicts. At Wallyford old pit the two miners killed on 21 Jan., along with five others seriously injured, had been widening the shaft. 'They were on a scaffold in the shaft, 51 fathoms down, when sounds were heard which ... meant a dangerous breakaway of material... All the men got into the kettle [a cylindrical or barrel-shaped vessel of wood or iron used to raise and lower materials and men during the sinking of a pit], in order to be drawn up to the pit mouth, but a mass of rock almost immediately hurtled down upon the men, sweeping three of them out of the kettle. Hamilton and Horligan were dashed to the bottom of the shaft, a further depth of between six and seven fathoms, and the third man ... managed, by a desperate clutch, to cling to the kettle rim.... As swiftly as possible the kettle was drawn to the surface through a perfect avalanche of rock, which bruised and battered the men in the kettle, and buried to a considerable depth the two unfortunate men who had fallen to the bottom.' The jury added a rider that 'in a work of that kind, enlarging an old pit shaft, it was necessary in passing former workings to take special precautions with a view to seeing that they were properly secured'. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 24 Jan. and 14 Feb. 1901; Robinson (ed.), *Scots Dictionary*, 338.

¹¹⁷ The coalowners had sought at the Conciliation Board on 29 Jan. 'a very substantial reduction' in wages, to which the miners' representatives refused to agree. The SMF conference on 8 Feb., attended by 94 delegates, carried unanimously a motion opposing any reduction in wages. If a further meeting of the Conciliation Board failed to resolve the issue, its rules provided that a neutral chairman could be called in to determine it. On 18 Feb. the SMF EC agreed to ballot the miners on whether to accept the owners' demand for a 1s. reduction from 1 Mar. or to strike against the reduction and abolish the Conciliation Board. The EC's recommendation, moved by Robert Brown, its secretary, that the miners accept the reduction rather than strike against it, was endorsed by an SMF delegate conference on 21 Feb.; and the result of the ballot, announced on 1 Mar., showed 22,464 in favour of accepting the reduction, and 18,662 in favour of strike action. In Mid and East Lothian 1,208 voted for a strike, 562

were nominated: Mr James Ormiston, Vice President, Mr Richard Scott, Mr William Holmes, Mr Jamieson Bennet, Mr Thomas Muir and Mr Peter Rae—After a vote the first named four were appointed.

The Secretary was empowered to take action against Mr Webster, Burdiehouse Limeworks, for Compensation to Wm Doig should he persist in refusing to pay.

The majority of the Collieries were in favour of a small sum being paid to the Hall defence fund.

The result of the ballot on the restrictive policy, showed that 2409 voted in favour of five days per week and 816 against, a majority for of 1593, the total vote being 3225.

Duncan's Hall, Tranent, 9th March 1901

A financial and Board meeting was held. The minute of the former meeting was read and adopted, on the motion of Mr Jamieson Bennet, Seconded by Mr Thomas Muir. The contributions amount to [blank].

The Secretary reported that he had submitted all the evidence in Robert Notman's case to Mr R.B. Haldane, M.P., K.C., when he gave his opinion, which was not to enter Court. It was agreed to abide by this advice and to ask the Miners throughout the two Counties to raise a fund of behalf of the Widow and family in lieu of compensation.

The Secretary reported on the Eight Hours, The Mines, and the Checkweighers Bills which have been introduced by the British Miners' Federation this Session.

Reports were taken from the Collieries on the five day policy, A number of which had no reply from employers, while others were agreeable if it was to be all over Scotland, the only definite refusal being from Newbattle Colliery, the Managers having intimated that if the policy was persisted in the pits would be closed. The Secretary was then instructed to make a general intimation to Mr Andrew Turnbull, the employers' Secretary that the five days would be begun in the first week in April.

Mr Thomas Muir, Carberry, Moved and Mr William Holmes, Niddrie, seconded, That a general meeting be held in Dalkeith. This was agreed to. Mr Adam Notman moved that it be held upon a week day. Mr Sam Clark Moved that it be on Saturday the 16th. A large Majority voted in favour of Saturday.

A conference of the Scottish Federation being summoned for Friday the 15th It was agreed that we be represented, when after nominations and voting, The President Mr George Young, Mr George Brown, Mr Archibald Philip and Mr Thomas Muir were appointed.

The question of entry money was raised by Mr Alexr Lumsden, Ormiston, when it was decided that no person could be admitted to Membership and get

full privilege unless paying the full entrance fee of ten shillings, as agreed to at the 29th September 1900.

A case of victimisation was reported from Prestongrange, re. Mr Thomas Banks, but as he had not yet removed it was delayed until Saturday the 16th inst. A death claim by Mr Frank Clark, Loanhead, which had been overlooked by him at the time of the death of his daughter was remitted to the Colliery with power to pay upon being satisfied as to the liability at the time the death took place.

It was agreed to pay two shillings per hundred for the distributing of the Ballot papers on the Wages and five days question.

Forresters' Hall, Dalkeith, 16th March 1901

An Executive Meeting was held today previous to a general meeting taking place. The Minute of the previous meeting was adopted on the motion of Mr Alexr Lumsden, Seconded by Mr Jamieson Bennet.

It was agreed to pay £2.8.0. as victimisation Money towards the removal of Mr Thomas Banks from Prestongrange to Coatbridge, The Members at the Colliery sustaining his claim. But it was agreed that in future any similar claim must first have been before the board for consideration, or the representatives to the board have had an opportunity to investigate the Case before the member or members affected sever their connection or remove from the Colliery, Otherwise the claim will not be entertained.

It was agreed to test the general meeting as to whether any Colliery to be locked out over the five days policy should be reballoted as to whether the men employed at such Collieries were prepared to face the issue. Peter Rae, Alexr Lumsden and Sam Clarke were chosen to attend a Conference on the 29th at Glasgow.

Forresters' Hall, Dalkeith, 16th March 1901

A general meeting was held today, Mr George Young, President, in the chair. Mr James Ormiston, Vice chairman, moved that the meeting be private. This was carried. Mr Joseph Young moved that the meeting be adjourned till the following Thursday. This was not seconded.¹¹⁸ The Chairman addressed the meeting on the Wages and five day questions and introduced the Vice President, who read a Resolution drafted by the board: To ascertain if in the opinion of the meeting Collieries where intimation was made that a lockout would result upon carrying out the five day policy Should be balloted to find if the men were in favour of being brought out to fight the matter. Mr Joseph Young, Niddrie, moved that no such ballot be permitted, Seconded by Mr Wm Campbell. Mr David Pryde Moved, Seconded by Mr Jas McDermid that a ballot should be taken.

¹¹⁸ Young's motion was evidently intended to secure a larger attendance of miners then, given the importance of the issue. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 21 Mar. 1901.

Only five voted for Mr Joseph Young's motion and the remainder for Mr Pryde's motion.

The meeting approved of the Action of the Conciliation board on the wages question in advising acceptance of the 1s. per day reduction, rather than strike.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 6th April 1901

An Executive and financial meeting was held today. The Minute of the former Meeting was read and approved on the Motion of Mr Wm Holmes, Seconded by Mr Thos Muir. The contributions for the four weeks was £175.15.0.

The reports on the five day policy showed that fifteen Collieries were in favour of continuing on the old conditions and three, namely, Niddrie, Wallyford and House of Muir, favoured the new policy as put forward by the Scottish Federation, Niddrie being idle today in accordance with it.

The Secretary read Correspondence he had had with Several Managers on the price of fire-coal not having been brought to the same level as ruled in August of last year, previous to the advance in wages being made. It was arranged that he along with a deputation meet Mr Malcolm, Arniston, on the Monday morning at 10 o'clock and failing a Settlement the Colliery be empowered to stop work on the Tuesday. Also to meet the Managing Director, Mr Jas A. Hood of the Lothian Coal Coy at 12.30 the same day, and Mr Robert Martin of Niddrie Colliery on Tuesday.

Archibald Blyth's Case, Prestongrange, re. Compensation: This person having been injured by a fall of Fireclay at the face Compensation was refused on the ground that the Fireman reported that he had instructed *Blyth* to put up a prop and that he did not comply with the order given. This Blyth & his Son denied. The case was left in the hands of the Secretary to make further enquiries and to take action to recover Compensation if in his opinion the evidence was good.

The Secretary reported on the Conference held at Glasgow re. the five days and on the Enginekeepers' Strike in Lanarkshire, Stating that the Enginekeepers had been advised to accept the offer made by the employers of ten hours per day.¹¹⁹

Mr David Scott, Newbattle, was appointed to attend a conference at Glasgow on the 10th April.

The Secretary was instructed to renew the insurance of the Checkweighers and Secretary against accident.

It was agreed to remit to the Collieries for their opinions as to increasing the

¹¹⁹ The enginekeepers in Lanarkshire, the 'vast majority' of whom had to work 14 hours a day six days a week, had struck work on 1 Apr. to secure an 8-hour day, for which they had been asking for the previous two years. When a Scottish Miners' Federation conference on 5 Apr. learned that 'a large number of men were being obtained to man the engines' during the strike, it agreed to offer the advice stated, which the enginekeepers accepted. SMF Conference Minutes, 5 Apr. 1901; *Glasgow Herald*, 18 and 30 Mar., 1-6, 8 and 9 Apr. 1901.

salary of the Treasurer.

After full consideration it was agreed to celebrate the annual Gala day on Friday the 21st June. The place of meeting to be North Berwick—Stirling and Linlithgow being the other places proposed.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 4th May 1901

An Executive meeting was held. The Minute of the former meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr Peter Rae, Seconded by Mr Alexr Fairgrieve. Blyth's Case: The Secretary reported that the Insurance Company had offered three pounds, being half of the sum claimed, to compromise this Case, They still adhering to the Fireman's statement of having instructed Blyth to prop his roof and that it was not done. Blyth & his Son denies the Fireman's statement. In view of the facts disclosed Mr Peter Rae Moved, Seconded by Mr Sam Clarke, that proceedings be taken to recover the full amount. Mr Alexander Fairgrieve Moved, Seconded by Mr Alexander Laing, that this Board approve of Compromising the Case by accepting the three pounds offered. The amendment to Compromise was carried by 12 votes to 3.

The reports from Collieries as to whether they favoured a general stoppage as a protest against the Coal tax Showed that with two exceptions all were in favour of a protest being made if it was to be all over Great Britain.

Mr James Ormiston, Vice President, and Mr William Holmes were appointed to attend a Conference on Monday in Glasgow to consider the attitude of the Scottish Federation on this question.¹²⁰

The Secretary read a letter from Mr Constantine Boyle, Secretary to the Shale Miners, Broxburn, suggesting a mutual arrangement between the two associations for the payment of funeral benefit to the Members of each Society. The request was favourably entertained and the Secretary instructed to write Mr Boyle, making further arrangements.

The Secretary reported on a dispute that had arisen at Ormiston Colliery

¹²⁰ Mid and East Lothian, as a coal exporting area, was concerned by the Conservative government's proposed tax of 1s. per ton on exported coal. On 22 Apr. the Scottish Miners' Federation EC had agreed unanimously that the tax 'would be most injurious to the coal trade and have a tendency to reduce the wages of the miners'. A four-day special conference of the MFGB between 25 Apr. and 1 May, called to protest against the tax as 'economically unsound and highly dangerous to our position as wage-earners', had resulted in a recommendation by the MFGB EC on 29 Apr. that miners strike against the tax. But at the adjourned special conference on 6 and 7 May (when it became clear that in most coalfields, unlike Mid and East Lothian, the miners were against a stoppage) a motion for an immediate strike was defeated by 219-451 votes in favour of an amendment moved by Robert Smillie that as the government had said the tax would be paid by foreign consumers and should not affect miners' wages, the MFGB, though strongly condemning the tax, did not recommend a stoppage 'at this juncture' but would consider doing so if miners' wages were reduced as a result of the tax. The coal tax was approved by the House of Commons on 7 May. The miners, and the coalowners too, maintained their opposition to the coal tax until it was abolished by the new Liberal government in Nov. 1906. SMF EC Minutes, 22 Apr. 1901; MFGB AP, 1901; EC Minutes, 25 and 29 April and 7 May, Reports of Special Conferences, 25, 26 and 29 April and 1, 6 and 7 May; Arnot, *The Miners*, 336-42.

over the Tare of the Hutches, but which had been arranged and work resumed.

The Secretary reported what had been done at Niddrie over what was held to be a partial reduction in a Section. The delegate, Mr Holmes, raised the point as to whether some allowance should be made to a few men who had lost a day or two's work over the dispute, when it was held that nothing could be granted under such circumstances.

The Treasurer reported a claim on the death fund by a Member who had been in the association for five months and three weeks, when it was agreed to adhere to the rule, and pay no claim unless the parties were in the full period of six calendar months.

Duncan's Hall, Tranent, 16th May 1901

A financial and Board Meeting was held. The Minute of the former meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr Jamieson Bennet, Seconded by Mr Adam Notman. The contributions amounted to £252.17.0.

A funeral claim for Still Born child by Mr George Cairns, Polton, was admitted. Robert and John McCleod, Prestongrange, claimed to have been victimised, but owing to the evidence not being satisfactory as no party had seen the Manager, It was remitted back to the Colliery for a deputation to visit the Manager and report, The Manager having signified his willingness to meet such deputation.

The reports from the Collieries were in favour of raising the Treasurer's Salary from four pounds to Six pounds per year.

Arrangements were completed for the Gala-day. The following were proposed as Speakers: Mr J. Keir Hardie, M.P.,¹²¹ Mr John Weir, Mr Robert Smillie. After a vote Messrs Smillie and Weir were chosen.

It was agreed to pay the Bands attending 5s. per man and train fare, by 12 votes to 5 in favour of Mr Richard Scott's motion against Mr Sam Clark's amendment & Mr Flynn.

The recommendation from the Scottish Federation that a Neutral Chairman be appointed to arbitrate on the proposed reduction of wages of 1s. per day claimed by the employers was approved of by all the Collieries but Loanhead, Wallyford, and Niddrie. Niddrie favoured Strike, Wallyford Strike, Loanhead no Arbiters.¹²²

¹²¹ James Keir Hardie (1856-1915), a miner in Lanarkshire and Ayrshire from age 10 to 23; a journalist; secretary, 1879-81, Hamilton miners' union, 1886-91, Ayrshire Miners' Union, and, 1886-7, Scottish Miners' National Federation; a founder and leader, 1888, of the Scottish Labour Party, 1893, Independent Labour Party, and, 1900, Labour Party; Labour MP for West Ham, 1892-5, and Merthyr Tydfil, 1900-15.

¹²² The coalowners had asked the Conciliation Board the previous month to consider the reduction, to take effect on 1 May. An SMF conference had agreed on 6 May meantime to resist any reduction but to make no recommendation to the miners until they met in conference again on 10 May. At the latter the recommendation reported in the minute above was unanimously agreed, in the hope it would avoid a stoppage of work. Lord James of Hereford (1828-1911), as neutral chair-

A Conference fell to be held in Glasgow on the following day when after a vote Mr Sam Clark and the President were appointed to attend along with the Secretary.

Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, 6th July 1901

A financial and Board meeting was held. The minute of the former Meeting was moved by Alexr Lumsden, Seconded by Mr Sam Clark. The Contributions amounted to £293.13.6. Two claims on the funeral fund from Niddrie Colliery, Viz., Daniel Sharky for his Wife's Death, and Wm Menzies for a child, were both admitted and paid.

The Secretary was instructed to issue the ballot papers re. Parliamentary Labour representation, as agreed upon at the Annual Conference of the British Federation.¹²³

The Secretary reported on a dispute at Arniston where it was alleged by the men in the Splint Section, Emily Pit, That a partial reduction of 2d. per ton had been imposed. It was left with the Secretary and the Colliery to take action if necessary in this Case after further enquiry.

The Secretary read a Communication from the Manager at Niddrie re the method adopted by his Weighman in dealing with Hutches in which foreign Material was found, When the Board advised that the Secretary write the Manager again to point out that both Weighmen should agree to the deduction to be taken.

A reduction of 3d. per ton was reported to have been made at Cockum Pit, Ormiston, against which the men had decided to remain idle on Monday the 8th. The Secretary arranged to visit the Colliery on that date, and the Board in view of the nature of the Case appointed the Vice President and Mr Richard Scott to accompany him for the purpose of consulting what steps Should be taken should no Settlement be arrived at.

The Vice President was appointed to attend a Conference on Tuesday the 10th in Glasgow along with the Secretary.

It was agreed that the Secretary represent the Association at the Annual Trades Congress to be held at Swansea in September.

Arrangements were made for holding two open air Concerts at Arniston and Newbattle by the Welsh Male Choir, on behalf of the Penryhn Quarrymen on Strike, as requested by the Edinburgh Trades Council.¹²⁴

man, granted on 5 June an immediate reduction of 6d. a day (12.5 per cent on the 1888 basis), making Scots miners' average wages 6s.6d. a day. SMF EC Minutes, 22 Apr. and 5 June 1901, Conference Minutes, 6, 10, 17 and 23 May 1901; *Scotsman*, 6 June 1901.

¹²³ See above, p. 105, n. 106.

¹²⁴ See above, p. 83, n. 78. A strike, 'the longest-lasting dispute in the industrial history of Britain', by the Penrhyn quarrymen had begun in Nov. 1900 and ended only in Nov. 1903. The dispute was basically concerned with the right of the workers to have an effective trade union. No report has been found in the press of these concerts by the Bethesda Welsh Choir. Edinburgh Trades Council minutes, 29 May, 11 June, 3 Sept., 1 Oct., 10 and 17 Dec. 1901; Davies, *History of Wales*, 486-7.

It was agreed to remit the reducing of the entry money to the Collieries for consideration. It was agreed to pay for ballot at Niddrie Colliery which was taken on the five days per week question as to whether the men would resume work or not after being locked out upon adopting the five day policy.

Duncan's Hall, Tranent, 6th August 1901

An Executive and financial meeting was held, Mr James Ormiston, Vice President, presiding. The Minute of the former Meeting was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr J. Bennet, Seconded by Mr Alexr Fairgrieve.

The Secretary reported on the settlement of the dispute in the Splint Seam at Arniston, in which twopence per ton was being sought by the Manager on the ground that he had given an extra twopence on the hewing rate on a former occasion. A few of the men were reduced as they had started new places, the others to be reduced after their present places were finished. To avoid friction and help towards the Case being settled without a Strike the Secretary advised that those reduced would continue at work, pending negotiations, and ask that the Board would refund the amount lost in wages owing to the loss of the twopence per ton. It was discovered from the Colliery books that one penny too much had been given for the advance of $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent and the dispute was settled by the giving back of said penny. Mr Archd Philip moved that this action be approved of and that the twopences to those men be refunded, Seconded by Mr Alexander Lumsden. Mr Peter Rae moved, Seconded by Mr Richard Scott, that they do not be paid. It was carried by a large majority to pay the deficiency amounting to £1.8.6.

The Secretary reported on the dispute at Ormiston Colliery, Cockum Pit, to which he along with the Vice President and Mr Richard Scott were deputed to attend by the Board. It was found that Sixpence per ton had been given in two sums of threepence each as deficiency for Stone in the Coal and other drawbacks in Comparison with the ordinary state of the Seam. From this the Manager claimed threepence on the ground that the Seam had improved. It was admitted by the men that a few of the places were free of the Stone but that the average wage all over did not warrant any reduction in the hewing rate, The average for the last seven days as brought out by the Checkweigher being $6s.7\frac{3}{4}d.$ and claimed by the Manager to be $6s.9d.$ After getting the Money earned and adjusting the shifts the average worked out at $6s.8\frac{1}{2}d.$, varying from $5s.2\frac{1}{4}d.$ per man to $8s.$ per man. Upon getting these facts and in view of the great discrepancy in the earnings between the men which the Manager urged was due to the men's incapacity (who were so low) to earn more, and which was urged by the men to be due to the difference in the places, the Secretary told the men that in his opinion the grounds for holding to the general average was weak, whichever of the two contentions were right, and urged that the men should compromise the claim of threepence by offering a penny. This the men reluctantly agreed to,

which was accepted by the Manager. It then came out that a portion of the Coal was contracted to be filled at fivepence less per ton than the rate dealt with and that gradually the men had filled less and less at that price until only a few tons per fortnight had been produced at the low rate. This they urged at the meeting would be taken hold of by the Manager after this settlement and claim to have the full portion of this class of Coal filled at the low rate. The Secretary gave it as his opinion that while he did not approve of such action but that the Manager had accepted the material as filled and the wage had been based on it. If the Manager took up the position, as was feared, The question would have to be further investigated. The Secretary then intimated that a week after the settlement the delegate wrote him saying that instructions had been issued to the Men to fill the full quantity of this Coal and that upon him writing the Manager on the matter he had replied stating that from the day upon which the dispute was settled the Men had stopped filling any of the Coal at the low rate. The Vice President with Mr R. Scott again visited the Colliery to enquire into this question, owing to the delegate at the request of the men having written the Secretary to put the whole case again before the Board. At that meeting the men denied the allegation of the Manager that they had stopped the filling of this coal, while another of the men admitted that they had, and notwithstanding the new instructions some were only filling the same quantity as before the dispute.

Upon hearing the report the Board left the matter with the Secretary to try to adjust on the lines that something approaching the same quantity of head-coal should only be exacted as had been filled for a time previous to the dispute. He to be furnished by the Checkweigher with the amount filled for the last Six fortnights.

It was agreed that four delegates along with the Secretary attend the conference on the wages question at Glasgow on the Friday, when the following after a vote were appointed: The Vice President, Mr A. Notman, Mr G. Brown and Mr Alexr Lumsden.¹²⁵

The reports from the Collieries were in the majority in favour of the entry money being 1s., with the first fortnight's dues paid at entry; and while the entrance fee remains at such that Miners' sons at first starting to work only pay their first fortnight's dues. This to apply only to Miners' Sons who have not been formerly employed.

The Secretary reported that a levy of £15 per week had been paid for the past six weeks, and was now to be increased to £21 per week, to support the men on Strike in Ayrshire and Lanarkshire. The question as to whether our members should be levied was left over until it was seen if those levies were to

¹²⁵ The SMF conference met on Friday, 9 Aug., to consider the demand by the coalowners for a wage reduction of 12.5 per cent (6d. a day on the 1888 basis), the third successive reduction demanded since Feb. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 15 Aug. 1901.

continue and in the Meantime to pay them from the general fund.¹²⁶

Foresters' Hall, Dalkeith, 17th August 1901

An Executive Meeting was held, Mr James Ormiston presiding. The Minute of the former Meeting was read and adopted, on the Motion of Mr Wm Holmes, Seconded by Mr A. Notman.

Mr Alexander Lumsden produced a statement as to the extra amount of head-coal filled at Cockum Pit, Ormiston, which the men claimed to have reduced the average wage, upon which the case was left in the hands of the Secretary to make further enquiry and to deal with the case.

Arrangements were then made for the general meeting which was to take place in the large hall.

A conference was to be held in Glasgow on the following Thursday & Friday, and Mr Jamieson Bennet Moved, Seconded by Mr Jas Cunningham, that the same delegates attend as at the adjourned conference. Mr Peter Rae Moved, Seconded by Mr Richard Scott, that fresh delegates be appointed. Mr Bennet's Motion carried by 9 votes to 2.

Foresters' Hall, Dalkeith, 17th August 1901

A General Meeting was held today, Mr James Ormiston presiding. He regretted the absence of the President through illness, and in opening the Meeting dealt at length with the wages question, And read a resolution asking that the wages question be left in the hands of the Conference to be held on the following Thursday, The Secretary giving an explanation as to the scope of the resolution. After several questions had been put by Mr Joseph Young and a general discussion on the question Mr Wm Holmes Moved & Mr Andrew Clark Seconded the resolution as drafted, which was carried unanimously.¹²⁷

Duncan's Hall, Tranent, 19th August 1901

A similar Meeting to the above was held here on this date, Mr James Ormiston presiding, the same resolution being carried unanimously.

¹²⁶ An SMF conference on 14 June had agreed to levy affiliated unions 10s. per 100 members to support 200 miners locked out for the previous ten weeks at Kirkconnel colliery, Dumfriesshire, as well as 450 ironstone miners in that county and miners at several collieries in Lanarkshire. The lock-outs arose from disputes over 'a small minority' refusing to join the union. SMF Conference minutes, 14 and 26 June 1901.

¹²⁷ There was 'a large gathering' at this meeting at which Robert Brown, secretary, declared that 'in no other mining districts in any part of Great Britain had wages been reduced to the same extent' as in Scotland, and that the reduction was unwarranted 'in view of the profits earned by coalowners both in the East and West of Scotland for a considerable time past'. The meeting unanimously resolved that the proposed reduction was unjustifiable. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 22 Aug. 1901; *Haddingtonshire Courier*, 23 Aug. 1901.

Chapter 2

MINUTES, 1910-1911

*Miners' Office, 14th May 1910*¹

A Board and financial Meeting was held here today, Mr James Ormiston, Vice President, presiding, The President, who had been injured, putting in an appearance later.

The Minute of the Board Meeting held on the 9th April was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr James Thomson, Seconded by Mr William Blackie. The Minute of the Special Meeting held on 23rd April was read and adopted on the motion of Mr John Patterson, Seconded by Mr James Gray. A Meeting of the Wages Committee was held on the 11th May and upon the Minute being read It was adopted on the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke,² Seconded by Mr Thos McNeil. The findings and Conclusions of the Wages Committee at Said meeting were approved of and confirmed on the Motion of Mr John Patterson, Seconded by Mr Arthur Quinn.

The delegates upstanding passed a Vote of Condolence with those Suffering from the loss of life at Whitehaven Colliery, Cumberland, and instructed the Secretary to forward it to the representatives of the Miners.³

A question was asked at this Stage regarding delegates not being present to take part in the business of the Meeting, Smeaton delegate not having arrived. Mr Nicholas Young moved, Seconded by Mr John Main, That upon his calling with the contributions no fee be paid until an explanation as to the cause of absence was given at next Board Meeting. Mr Andrew Clarke moved that in this instance it be paid and an explanation asked, Seconded by Mr Alexr Gillies. It was carried by 10 votes to 8 to pay the fee on this occasion & to hear the explanation for absence.

It was intimated that Philip Sneddon had remitted 5s. towards the sum due the association, being 20s. paid in all of the £24.0.0. that he had repaid. The Secretary was instructed to acknowledge receipt of the 5s. and to intimate what

¹ These are the first minutes in the second surviving volume of minutes of the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association. For the Miners' Office, see above, p. 32.

² See above, p. 14.

³ On 11 May, 136 miners were killed at Wellington colliery, Whitehaven, by an underground fire and an explosion propagated by coal dust. The fire was begun by a flame safety lamp. *MFGBA, 1910: Interim report, 20 October ... on disaster at Wellington pit*; Montgomery, *Mining Chronicle*, 131; Duckham, *Pit Disasters*, 206.

was due & also that payments by instalments must be paid regularly every fortnight.

It was agreed on the Motion of Mr Arthur Quinn, Seconded by Mr Wm Somerville, That the Secretary get forms prepared to supply each Colliery Secretary with for notification of Accidents That the injured person wished to be recorded.

The general feeling of the Board on the proposal to amend the Eight Hours Bill was against any change in the Meantime.

Copies of the Rules as revised were in the hands of the delegates and on the Motion of Mr James Thomson, Seconded by Mr Alexander Gillies, It was agreed to unanimously to issue them to the branches and to recommend their adoption, And that a circular be issued Setting forth the Several amendments and the necessity for the change.

On the question of a gala day being held It was carried by 11 votes to 10 not to hold one this year, Mr Wm Blackie's Motion, Seconded by Mr John Main, being carried against Mr James Gray's, Seconded by Mr Thos McNeil.

Mr Andrew Clarke intimated that he had received 14s. from Mr Sam Graham of the 40s. he had agreed to refund.

It was agreed that upon the Secretary having to request the attendance of any of the Members at the Office re. Compensation that train fares be paid.

It was agreed to pay £3.12.0. to Carberry Colliery Committee to meet the expense incurred in fighting the non-union question and that 3s. each be paid to the two Members of Committee of Wallyford Colliery who had to visit the law agent in connection with Wm Rollo, Checkweigher's case.

The Delegate from Rosewell intimated that the Committee had joined 80 of the non-unionists during the past week but that there was still a number outside and it was agreed that a ballot of the union men be taken on whether they would stop work after the 24th inst. if those outside did not join.

It was reported that all those outside the Union at Elphinstone Colliery had now joined and with regard to a complaint about some men working on the days upon which the Management intimate that the Pits are to be closed, The Secretary read two letters, one from the Manager and the other from the Managing Director, promising to look into the matter and to apportion the work as fair as possible.

A request from Wallyford Colliery for a grant of £10 towards assisting in the erection of a hall for the village: It was agreed on the Motion of the President, Seconded by Mr Alexr Gillies, That the Board issue a recommendation to the Collieries to grant the request.

A claim by James Duncan, Prestongrange, to a Shift for putting in a pillar was remitted to the colliery committee to make further inquiry into and to report.

Mr John Patterson reported on a Case at No. 1 Penston regarding the average being taken of all the men in a Machine run being taken in dealing with the average wage; When after discussion it was left with the colliery committee & the Secretary to deal with on its own Merits.

Mr Wm Blackie asked an explanation about a letter that appeared in the *Forward* newspaper about negotiations that had taken place at Woodhall colliery. The delegate Mr Wm Anthony & the Secretary gave the particulars of the interview with the Management at which the men affected, the Checkweigher & Several members of the colliery committee were present. Such explanation was considered Satisfactory and Mr Blackie explained that he was Satisfied and that he desired to be in a position to refute such Statements as the letter Conveyed.⁴

Mr Arthur Quinn raised the question of the rule re. 11 days per fortnight, When it was explained that 11 days per fortnight was the maximum number of days that could be worked and that the Saturday following the pay was the usual holiday but that if through any cause a Pit was idle for some days during the week and a desire expressed that work should go on on the pay Saturday, Such could only be done if approved by a majority of the men at a meeting called for that purpose.

18th June 1910

A Board and financial meeting was held, Mr George Young presiding. The Minute of the previous meeting was read and Adopted on the motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr James Gray.

The Secretary reported that Wm Moodie of Loanhead Colliery had been examined by the Insurance Company's Doctor and been certified fit for his usual employment and that Dr Mitchell of Dalkeith, who had examined him on behalf of the Association, had also certified him as fit for his usual work at present. It was agreed to adhere to what our Law Agent advised under the circumstances.

A letter was read from Martin Geechern demanding That his case go before the Sheriff, when on the Motion of Mr John Patterson, Seconded by Mr James

⁴ The letter in *Forward* on 30 Apr. was from J. Napier, 19 Dundee Terrace, Edinburgh, and referred to 'a very glaring example of unexplained results' after a conference with management at Woodhall colliery in Mar. Napier said that the colliery manager had told face men on 22 Mar. to pay some of their drawers 5s. and others 5s.6d. a shift. Next day the 13 drawers affected refused to work; the manager offered to start 7 of them again but dismissed 6 that morning. The miners all went on strike and refused to resume unless all the drawers were reinstated. Robert Brown, miners' agent, was called by the miners to the colliery on 24 Mar. After a two hour meeting with the manager, Brown had announced that all the drawers except one named John M'Culloch were to be allowed to resume work on the old terms. Brown, said Napier, had told M'Culloch that management would give no reasons for his dismissal. Napier said the profits of the Woodhall Coal Co. Ltd. showed there was little justification for the reduction in wages. Brown was 'in the pillory' because he had failed either to ascertain or to inform the men of management's reasons for their action. Napier called on Brown to give 'a definite and precise statement' on the matter. *Forward* (1906-60), an independent weekly paper published in Glasgow, was founded and until 1931 edited by Thomas Johnston (1881-1965), Secretary of State for Scotland, 1941-5.

Thomson, It was agreed to adhere to the decision arrived at on his case as advised by the Law Agent.

A letter was read from Mrs Adam Notman re. the claim for compensation put forward on behalf of her deceased husband, but it was agreed that no action could be taken in view of the information regarding the alleged accident. At the request of Mr Nicholas Young, as instructed by Loanhead branch, The delegates agreed to see if a collection could be got on Mrs Notman's behalf.⁵

Mr Michael Kelly complained that he had not been paid for Six days during which he had held the appointment of checkweigher at Oxenford during which time the Manager refused to permit him to take up his duties; and on the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr James Ormiston, It was agreed to unanimously to instruct the Secretary to write the Secretary of Oxenford Pit That in the opinion of the Board the men were entitled to pay Mr Kelly the Six days' wages.

The Secretary reported on Lord Balfour of Burleigh's Award on the basic rate for the Minimum Wage.⁶

It was agreed on the Motion of Mr John Patterson, Seconded by Mr John Main, That the report on the rules be deferred until next meeting.

The Secretary intimated that Wm Fraser of Newbattle Colliery had met with an injury to one of his eyes on the 18th February 1910, and while he the Secretary had obtained Compensation at the rate of 12s. 10¹/₂d. per week, The same having been regularly paid, Fraser had put his case into the hands of a Law

⁵ It is not clear if Adam Notman was the delegate of that name to the Board in 1901. See above, e.g. pp. 111, 115.

⁶ Alexander Hugh Bruce, Lord Balfour of Burleigh (1849-1921), a Conservative politician, Secretary for Scotland, 1895-1903. He had been appointed arbiter by the Conciliation Board after a national coal crisis had loomed the previous summer, involving a threat to the maintenance of the Scots miners' minimum wage, a threatened lock-out by the Scots coalowners, and a threatened strike throughout the British coalfields by the MFGB in support of the Scots miners. Government intervention resulted in an eleventh-hour agreement. The coalowners had conceded the principle of the minimum wage being 50 per cent above the 1888 basis (i.e., a 6s. minimum wage). The price of coal to which this minimum would correspond and a new sliding scale to be based on it were to be decided by an arbiter—the new price to be not lower than the recent basis price of just over 7s. per ton. It was also agreed that the Conciliation Board should continue but with a neutral chairman to be appointed by the coalowners' and miners' representatives, and his decisions to be final and binding. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, as arbiter, announced several months later in May 1910 that the basis price of coal for the minimum wage would be 7s. 5.45d. per ton. There were also set out the steps by which each percentage change in wages would correspond to a given change in the value or price of coal. Thus a rise in price above 7s. 5.45d. up to 8s. 1.45d. per ton would increase wages by 6.25 per cent; up to 8s. 5.45d., a further 6.25 per cent, and so on—each rise by 4d. (after the initial increase of 8d.) per ton in the price of coal would lead to a 6.25 per cent increase in wages. On the other hand, wages would fall by 6.25 per cent for each 4d. per ton fall in coal prices, until the price reached 8s. 1.45d., when wages would remain at 56.25 per cent above basis, until the price reached the basis for the 50 per cent minimum wage, i.e., 7s. 5.45d. per ton. What this meant was that 'after ten years of conciliation the Scottish miners' wages were tied as a generation earlier, to a sliding scale'. Arnot, *Scottish Miners*, 98-111; *Glasgow Herald*, 30 May 1910; *Scotsman*, 30 May 1910.

Agent in Edinburgh who had recorded a Memorandum of Agreement and which had Caused the Company to have him (Fraser) examined. When it was agreed to unanimously on the Motion of Mr Wm Somerville, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, that the Secretary intimate to Mr Fraser that should any Complication arise in his case owing to the Action taken by him in engaging a lawyer he would require to deal with the case on his own responsibility.

A Majority of the Collieries being in favour of a grant of £10 being made towards the expense of the Hall at Wallyford Village erected for the use of the people, It was agreed to pay over the ten pounds to the Wallyford representative.

Messrs Andrew Graham's case and Wm Stewart, Niddrie, were to be taken up by the Secretary upon being further advised by Mr Andrew Clarke re. the particulars.

Mr Dd McGregor having been dismissed at Loanhead Colliery because he had Sued the Company for a day's wage for being detained a full day in the Pit bottom when he could not get on with his work, The Secretary reported that he had got him reinstated but that McGregor had lost three days' work. It was agreed on the Motion of Mr James Ormiston, Seconded by Mr Wm Somerville, That McGregor be paid three days' wages at 5s. per day.

It was agreed to pay the Committee of Rosewell Colliery the sum of £4.8.0., being 40s. for taking a ballot on the nonunion question & 48s. for picketting and visiting those out of union on Wednesday, the 1st June. Mick Kelly, Rosewell Colliery, made a claim to removal expenses through the delegate but as he had left the Colliery and removed his furniture over the alleged grievance before putting his case in the hands of the local committee or the Secretary, It was agreed on the Motion of Mr James Gray, Seconded by Mr Arthur Quinn, That the claim could not be entertained.

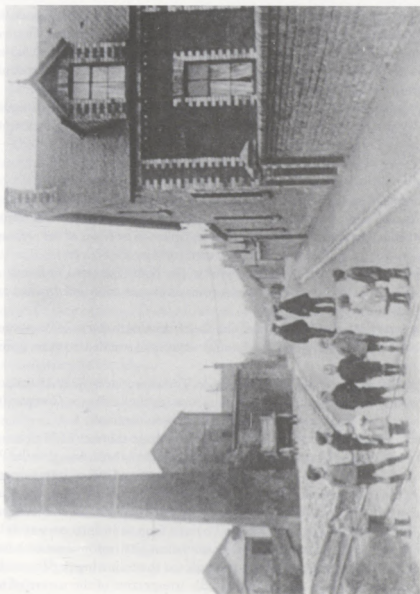
It was agreed that 3s.6d. as expenses be paid to James Cullen as train fare attending the Medical Referee at Haddington.

Mr W.H. Brown reported that a large number of Men were Still being permitted to work at the Fleets Pit, Elphinstone Colliery, on the days upon which the Pit was put idle by the employer.

Mr John Patterson intimated that trouble was pending at No. 2 Pit, Penston, regarding the price to be paid in a Section upon a Pony being put in to Shorten the draw. It was agreed that it be dealt with when it arose.

The Secretary produced a Statement of John Edmond's average wage for the past year from the Prestongrange Company in view of his complaint that he had not been paid a fair amount as compensation for an accident. It was agreed that unless Edmond could check the Statement or produce another on his own behalf nothing further could be done in the matter.

It was agreed that upon a proper Statement being sent on by Mr Corrie of Baxter's dues to the Checkweigher, The matter be put into the hands of our law



Emily Bank, Arncliffe pithead, n.d. (Courtesy of Scottish Mining Museum, Newtongrange.)

agent to recover it.

Charles Watt, who had been dismissed from Bankton Colliery and put his case in the hands of the Committee, was reported on by Mr Wm Blackie, when it was agreed to remit the matter to the Committee to enquire into and to report.

Mr Alexander Gillies [reported] That two men, one from Fifeshire & the other from Prestongrange Colliery, had handed clearance cards to the officials of the Prestonlinks Branch but had not started work in that colliery, They having gone to the Fishing. He was advised to return the clearance cards as Prestonlinks Branch had no obligation to accept them under such circumstances.

It was agreed that 20s. be paid for the audit ordered to be made at Bankpark Colliery and to pay 15s. for Picketing the non-unionists on Monday the 6th June.

2nd July 1910

A Meeting of the wages committee was held here today.

The Secretary reported that Dr James of Haddington, as Medical Referee appointed by the Sheriff, had certified James Cullen to be fit for all the ordinary work of a Miner, and that this had been confirmed by the Sheriff.

George Beveridge V. Niddrie Colliery: The Sheriff decided in favour of Beveridge receiving 10s. 1d. per week as partial compensation and awarded expenses against the Company.

George Pennycook V. Loanhead: The Sheriff decided in favour of Pennycook receiving 13s. 8d. per week as partial compensation and awarded expenses against the Company.

Mrs Tinman V. Newbattle Colliery: Mrs Tinman receives £289.18.0. upon the death of her husband, by negotiation between the Insurance Company & the Secretary, a Statement of the wages having been obtained.

Elphinstone Colliery: A complaint about a large number of Men being permitted to get down the Pit to produce coal upon those days that the Pit is notified by the company to be closed was considered, when it was agreed that the Secretary, accompanied by the Vice-President, Visit the Colliery on Monday the 4th inst., and unless a satisfactory guarantee was obtained from the Manager that the practice was to be put a Stop to Intimation was to be Made to the Men as Members of the association That, upon a notice being posted intimating that the Pit was to be closed the following day, It is to be understood that every man would be idle irrespective of the nature of his working place, So as to ensure that the Workmen through and by their Committee would have a Say regarding places that must of necessity be allowed to go on continuously.

A claim was submitted from Bankpark Colliery for financial aid owing to the Workmen having lost fully one week's work owing to trouble at the colliery,

attributed to the attitude taken up by the Manager regarding the method to be adopted between the Workmen's representatives & him upon the resumption of work after any dispute. Upon the particulars of the grievance being given by Mr James Ormiston and the Secretary, It was agreed to instruct the Secretary to request the local Secretary, Mr George Rutherford, to send to the office of the Association The number of financial Members who were in the position of having lost a week's work as Stated above; and that the matter be dealt with by the full Board at its first meeting as to whether Strike pay should be allowed and if so how much.

John Brown's Case, Wallyford: It was left with the Secretary to obtain a Certificate regarding Mr Brown's condition from Dr Alaric Robertson Should circumstances warrant it.

The Manager at Arniston requested that the price of Miners' firecoal be raised, and at an interview between the local committee and him and the Secretary He Made a Suggestion that he would supply a better quality at 7s. per ton than had been hitherto Supplied at 6s. 1d., but that if any of the men individually elected to take the better quality They would have to pay 8s. per ton, unless all agreed to the change. At a meeting of the Men They were opposed to any change but wanted firecoal at the original rate and this was intimated to the Manager. Complaint is now made that the coal Supplied at the old rate is not Such as can be used and that he is Supplying the other quality at the higher rate on the ground that the other quality is not always on hand. It was agreed that the Colliery Committee take the Matter up and that failing any other Mode of Settlement a ballot of the Householders be taken as to whether they were in favour of the one quality or the other.

The question of an assistant Secretary was considered and it was agreed that full enquiry be made regarding the duties & etc., and that the committee meet specially to deal with that Subject after the first Board Meeting So as to have a report for the Board Meeting following.

It was agreed that the remuneration for Office cleaning & Maintenance be considered by the full Board at its first meeting.

It was agreed that Steps be taken to obtain the money due by John Wood to Jas Blake & Wm Kelly, Rosewell, amounting to 36s.

Settlement of the compensation of James Robertson, Loanhead colliery, for £62.10.0. and of Wm Hughes of the same colliery for £5 and Mrs George Nisbet £300 on the death of her husband at Prestongrange Colliery [was reported].

16th July 1910

A Board & financial meeting was held here today. The Minute of the last meeting was read and adopted on the motion of Mr W.H. Brown, Seconded by Mr John Patterson.

Mr James Thomson raised the question of 15s. being paid to BankPark Colliery at the last meeting and moved that it be refunded. Mr John Nairn Seconded. The previous question was moved by Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr Wm Somerville, and carried by 14 votes to 4.

A Minute of a Meeting of the Wages Committee held on the 2nd July was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr James Ormiston, and approval of the findings of the Committee was agreed to on the Motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr James Thomson.

A claim to Strike allowance by BankPark colliery was considered and after the Vice President and the Secretary had reported on the proceedings at the colliery causing the dispute Considerable discussion ensued, After which Mr Nicholas Young Moved, Seconded by Mr Jas Thomson, that under the circumstances no Strike allowance be granted; and Mr Andrew Clarke Moved, Seconded by Mr Wm Blackie, That one week's Strike pay be allowed to all financial Members who had lost Six or more days owing to the dispute. Mr Clarke's motion was carried by 12 votes to 7, After which it was agreed on the Motion of Mr Wm Somerville, Seconded by Mr John Patterson, That Messrs W.H. Brown & William Blackie meet with the committee and Secretary of BankPark to ascertain from the Branch books and Members' pence cards the actual number of financial Members and to Sign the Statement to be Submitted by the Branch Secretary to the general Secretary. Mr Nicholas Young at this Stage Moved, Seconded by Mr James Thomson, That before any money was paid in this case, the whole of the members be consulted. Mr Andrew Clarke moved the previous question which was carried nearly unanimously.

A letter from Mr Michael Kelly was read requesting the Board to pay him one week's wages on account of the men at Oxenford Pit not having paid him for the week he claimed to have been their Checkweigher. It was agreed on the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr Nicholas Young, That the association could not pay any such claim but that the former decision be confirmed, Viz., That the Miners of Oxenford Colliery were entitled to pay Mr Kelly a week's wage.

Andrew Graham's case: It was agreed to take up this case and press for compensation.

It was agreed to take action against James Wood to recover the 18s. ¹/₂d. each due to Messrs James Blake & Wm Kelly.

A claim by Seivewright Cheyne, Loanhead, to compensation was reported on and left with the Secretary to make further enquiry and also Wm Tait's of the Same Colliery.

The Secretary reported on Andrew McFarlane's Case, Ormiston, Which was left with him to further deal with.

The reports from the collieries on the revised rules were taken on the Gen-

eral rules *Seriatum* [sic]. Standing Orders: Mr Andrew Clarke Moved that 15 be inserted in No. 3 instead of 5. Not Supported. Mr Thos McNeil Moved that all from the word Board be deleted. Not Supported—one other delegate only. Mr Wm Blackie Moved That the word District be deleted and Branch inserted. Not Supported.

Objects: Mr Peter O'Toole Moved that J. & K. in objects be deleted. Not Supported. Mr Nicholas Young Moved that Members not approving of J. & K. only pay 5½d. per fortnight. Not Supported.

Mr Wm Blackie Moved that rule 4 be amended re. the 80 Members. Supported by Polton. On a Vote, [to] remain as drafted. Mr Andrew Clarke Moved that the clause in rule 12 re. two members of Committee retiring by rotation be deleted. *Not Supported*. Mr Thos McNeil Moved that half members be entitled to full benefit whenever paying full contributions. *Not Supported*. Mr Andrew Clarke Moved an amendment re. [rule] 23 on Arbitration. Not Supported. Mr Andrew Clarke Moved to delete rule 32. Not Supported. Mr Thos McNeil Moved to add a New rule, Viz., That an Annual general Meeting be held. Not Supported.

The revised rules were then adopted as printed and the President in reply to a question ruled that it would not be competent to accept any motion for amendment for Six months at least.

British Trades Union Congress: It was agreed that no delegate be sent direct for this year.

It was agreed to adopt a new form of clearance Card as drafted and shewn by the Secretary.

The question of the remuneration for Office & Board Room cleaning with attendance & for Coal & Gas was considered. When upon the Motion of Mr Thos McNeil, Seconded by Mr Alexr Gillies, it was agreed to unanimously, That the sum of £15 be allowed—£12 in lieu of the office cleaning & attendance and £3 towards Coal & Gas. The balance for Coal & Gas to represent rent.

It was agreed that the Secretary deal with the decision of the Inspector of Mines with regard to a reported breach of the Act at Arniston Colliery & to enquire what was being doing in Murray's case that was reported.

The Secretary was instructed to enquire at the Law Agent whether any thing further could be done in James Cullen's Case.

Thos Barrett's Case, Rosewell: This case was left with the local Committee and the Secretary to deal with and upon their being Satisfied that his claim was good they be empowered to pay him for loss of time.

Mr James Thomson Moved, as instructed by his Branch, That Bank Park Colliery be expelled from the Association Owing to the non observance of the Federation decisions on the Eight Hours Mines Act, etc. Not Seconded.

It was agreed to grant liberty to the Prestongrange Branch to take a ballot of

the Members as to whether they were in favour of Stopping work on a day fixed to compel those out of union to join, Subject to the committee first taking Steps by circular & otherwise to try to induce as many as possible before the ballot is resorted to.

It was decided that Patrick McPake, who was dismissed from Prestongrange for filling dirty Stuff, had no claim to be protected.

The Secretary was instructed to write Mr Henry Wilson about wages claimed to be due by him to Wm Ferguson [and] to Pat McGuire—22s. in the one Case & 8s. in the other.

It was decided that the Association could not enforce any of the local rules drawn up by Branches.

It was agreed, on the Motion of Mr Peter O'Toole, Seconded by Mr Andrew Clarke, to grant Charles Watt, Bankton Colliery, one pound victimisation allowance, he having lost eleven Shifts owing to being unjustifiably dismissed.

The Secretary was instructed to write Mr Mungall about the Bankton men being paid their wages at Tranent and about that Pit not getting a fair Share of the work that is going.

A claim to victimisation by Several men at BankPark colliery having been considered, It was decided that the Secretary request the local Secretary & committee at BankPark to submit the names of those financial members who were taking a prominent part in union affairs and had been dismissed and who for so doing were in their opinion victimised.

The Secretary was instructed to write the Manager of Bank Park colliery about James Stevenson's wages being retained.

31st July 1910

A wages committee meeting was held here today, and in the absence of the President Mr James Ormiston, Vice President, Presided.

H. Lynch's case V. James Baxter: It was agreed to instruct our Law Agent to take action to recover 25s. as balance of wages due to Lynch by Baxter. James Gibson V. Sam Mulligan: It was agreed to instruct the Law Agent to take action to recover 10s. due by Mulligan to Gibson as wages.

A letter sent by Mr Arnold McLeod who had acted as Checkweigher at Riggonhead until the colliery was stopped on the 10th July, was read requesting that some assistance be given to those men that had been put idle owing to the Stoppage of the Pit. It was agreed that under the circumstances no assistance could be given.

A letter from the late Checkweighers at BankPark was read giving the names of Arthur Quinn, James Park, John Meek and John Scally as being in the opinion of the Committee victimised, as also Mr Henderson to get removal expenses. It was considered that this matter be further enquired into and that no

decision be come to until the report of such enquiry was given.

The Committee recommend that a loan of £2000 be granted to Dalkeith Town Council upon the Water rate of the Burgh, upon Such being agreed upon by both parties and approved of by the Board at its meeting on the 20th of August.

It was considered that the question of Supplying all the Branches with a uniform Set of Books for the Keeping of the accounts under one System be considered and if aproved of To take effect from the beginning of 1911.

Ballots re non-Unionists at Prestongrange: It was agreed that in view of circulars having been issued to be distributed to non-Unionists requesting them to join, It was advisable to permit a reasonable time to elapse before taking a ballot, and that the committee at the colliery make an effort to induce those outside to join, and report to the Board on the 20th August how Matters stood, after which it would be decided how and when the ballot would be taken.

James Barbour, Loanhead, claimed 9s. as the price of work done at that colliery for which he had not been paid. A Statement from the Colliery Committee was read and also a letter from the Manager to the Committee, After which it was agreed to remit the Matter back to the Committee and to recommend that an interview with the Manager, if agreed, to be held to discuss the Matter with a view to arriving at a Settlement, after which the views of the Committee could be again obtained.

John McNeil: Having been injured at Elphinstone Colliery and been certified to be fit for Surface work by the Insurance Coy's Doctors, It was agreed that Dr Bissit Sked, Tranent, be requested to examine him and to report.

Benjamin Ridly, who was injured at Wallyford Colliery and had been certified by the Insurance Company's Doctors to be fit for light work (which he disputes): It was agreed that Dr Alaric Robertson be requested to examine him & to report.

The Secretary was instructed to get 10,000 copies of the amended rules printed and to send to each branch copies to supply the members as given at last return.

The Secretary reported that arrangements were being conducted for David Scott of Tranent Colliery being examined by Dr Cotterill of Edinburgh, who operated on him for Rupture, to decide whether he was recovered sufficiently to enable him to do his former work. After which it was agreed that the Law Agent be consulted as to whether it would not be advisable to let this case go before the Sheriff and in any case not to submit the matter to Dr Cotterill without having the free & full consent of Scott.

Assistant Secretary: This matter was again considered and it was agreed that all information possible be obtained from other Districts regarding the number of Members and Agents employed, as also the duties required to be done by the Secretary, to enable the committee to prepare a report to be submitted to the full

Board for consideration and after approval to be put from the Board to the Branches.

20th August 1910

A Board & financial meeting was held here today and, in the absence of the President owing to his Mother's death, Mr James Ormiston occupied the chair. The Minute of the former meeting was read and adopted on the motion of Mr A. Clarke, Seconded by Mr Wm Somerville. The Minute of a Meeting of the Wages Committee held on 31st July was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr James Gray, and the findings of the committee were approved of on the Motion of Mr Wm Somerville, Seconded by Mr John Lyon.

Messrs Arthur Quinn, Jas Park, John Meek, and John Scally having requested an interview regarding their claim to have been victimised at Bank Park Colliery, It was agreed on the Motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr Nicholas Young, That they be granted an interview of fifteen Minutes, against an amendment that they do not be admitted, Moved by Mr Jas Gray, Seconded by Mr John Lyon. They were called in and the chairman intimated to them that fifteen Minutes would be allowed and that the time could be utilised by one Speaker or divided as the deputation saw fit Whereupon Mr Arthur Quinn Stated that he would put the case for the deputation and that he thought it could be done in less time than fifteen minutes. In stating the case an extension of time was given to enable him to finish and after the interview had lasted 28 minutes the deputation withdrew, Mr Jas Park stating on his own behalf that he was quite willing to leave the Matter in the hands of the Board. The case as put was then considered, The grounds of the claim being that they the claimants, having been Members of Committee of the BankPark Branch and a dispute having arisen there during the latter end of June and the beginning of July occasioning about one week's Stoppage of the colliery, had been dismissed the following week after work had been resumed, and that it was owing to the active part taken by them during the said dispute that the Manager had singled them out. The case as put before the Board on the 16th of July was to the effect that during the week following the dispute The Manager dispensed with the services of about twenty men—the deputationists being included in that number—on the ground that the Company had lost their trade connection owing to the Pit having stopped during the recent dispute. In view of their dismissal the Vice President, Mr James Ormiston, accompanied by the colliery committee, including Messrs Quinn & Park, visited the Manager re the dismissal of the committee when he repudiated the idea of having singled any particular person or persons out but [said] that he had stopped certain places that he could not keep going under the present circumstances. But with regard to Mr Quinn's position he the Manager asked him

before the deputation if he had not been offered a place but had refused to start in it, which he admitted was the case. Mr James Park, as delegate from the Branch at the Board Meeting of the 16th, admitted that the above statement was correct. On these grounds it was held that Mr Quinn had not been victimised.

It was found that John Meek was not a Member in full Standing with the Association. In John Scally's case he had not been a Member of Committee & had taken no further part in the affairs of the colliery than any of the other men who had been dismissed and had made no claims, It being put that owing to other Matters outside the Scope of the association Steps had been taken to dispense with his services. Neither of these cases were considered to have been proved to be victimisation.

With regard to James Park's case the committee reported that in their opinion the Manager had not given satisfactory reasons for his dismissal; and while it was generally admitted that owing to Park having tried to obtain an appointment as a Checkweigher and from other causes delay had taken place with regard to finding employment, It was carried on the Motion of Mr William Somerville, That he be paid two pounds in addition to the ten shillings already received as a grant, and that should he have to remove, The usual removal expenses be allowed as per rule.

A letter from the Clerk to the Dalkeith Town Council was read enquiring if the association could grant a loan to the Council of £2000 on the Water rate of the Burgh. Mr William Somerville Moved, Seconded by Mr Andrew Clarke, That we grant a loan of £2000 to the Dalkeith Town Council on the Water rate of the Burgh for a period of twenty-five years at three and one half per cent interest, the capital to be repaid in yearly instalments of £80; against an amendment by Mr Nicholas Young, Seconded by Mr. George Ratcliffe, That we do not grant the proposed loan.

The Secretary reported on Ben Ridley's case at Wallyford Colliery, Viz., That he having been certified to be fit for light work by the Insurance Company's Doctors and on the Association's behalf by Dr Alaric Robertson's Locum tenens as being fit but for very light work, Our Law Agent had advised that he apply for work and make a trial to enable the case to be dealt with upon ascertaining his earning power. It was agreed to leave the Matter with the Law Agent.

Alexr Stevenson's Case, Elphinstone: It was expected that a certificate was to be got from the Doctor who attended Stevenson at the Royal Infirmary, and it was agreed to enquire about it and also whether Stevenson was willing to go before a Medical Referee.

The Secretary gave a report of the International Miners' conference, and on the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke received the hearty thanks of the delegates.

The Annual Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain being to

be held in Edinburgh next October It was agreed that the matter of representation to it be considered at next Meeting.

Mr McFarlane, having been offered a sum of two pounds to settle his case, intimated his refusal—he preferring to await the decision of the Home Office regarding the Schedule given on his case by Dr Ritchie, It having been signed Bursitis Patella instead of Subcutaneous Cellulitis or Beat knee.

A letter from Edward Robertson & Sons claiming the allowance that had been granted at BankPark was read, When it was pointed out that they had not been idle the stipulated number of days during the dispute to warrant them in being paid.

Wm Henderson, who claimed to have been paid one Shift Short at Whitehill Colliery on the pay ending 2nd August (which the Company repudiated), to be asked to produce a Statement of the Shifts he worked and where and with whom as far as possible.

John Stewart, Whitehill Colliery, complained that he had been dismissed from Whitehill Colliery upon refusing to Sign a final receipt with regard to an accident he had Sustained. While he had been earning full wages for a time he held that the injury to his knee was not removed. The Manager wrote to say that Stewart had been dismissed for the attitude he had taken up towards the Management when asked to sign off. The Matter was left in the hands of Secretary to deal with upon Stewart finding employment and being unable to follow it owing to the injury.

Siewewright Cheyne's Case, Loanhead: It was left with Mr Nicholas Young to consult Cheyne in view of the last letter received from the Insurance Company re. his case.

The Secretary reported that he had an offer of two weeks' compensation as a compromise in Mowat's case, Niddrie, which was to be Submitted to him.

It was agreed that four non-Unionists at Loanhead be dealt with and that every effort be put forth to prevent work at that colliery on the pay Saturday.

The Secretary was instructed to see about an accident to Thos Lothian that occurred on the 25th June last and for which he had not got compensation.

Barbour's Case: Mr Young after reporting on this case suggested that he request Barbour to produce his evidence and Witnesses in Support of his claim. This was agreed to.

Mr Somerville, Carberry, and Mr Gray, Newbattle, Complained about Collectors for other Branches collecting the contributions from Members who worked in their Branches, When it was explained that each Branch had authority to make all those employed at the Pits comprising the Branch to pay their Contributions where they were working, and that clearance lines should be given when requested by the collectors who were collecting their dues.

Mr Wm Somerville put forward an appeal for assistance on behalf of Jas

Cullen, when it was decided that nothing could be done in his case.

Mr James Thomson Moved on behalf of Tranent colliery that owing to the poor work obtained there a grant of 10s. per man be made to the members. This was Seconded by Mr Nicholas Young. Mr Wm Somerville Moved, Seconded by Mr James Gray, That the matter be referred to the collieries and Mr John Main Moved, Seconded by Mr Wm Anthony, That the matter be disposed of now and that nothing be granted. The Vote resulted as follows:

To grant nothing and to decide now	6
To grant 10s. per man now	3
To remit to the collieries	8

It was then agreed to remit the request to the collieries.

The Secretary was instructed to enquire into a claim by James Dickson, Prestonpans, who had been injured at Prestongrange on the 1st of August. The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr Mungall, Senior, about the Bankton Men being paid at Tranent instead of at the colliery as usual.

The question of what day the Board should meet upon and whether there should be an interval for lunch was discussed and after several suggestions had been made the previous question, moved by Mr Andrew Clarke, was carried by 9 votes to 6.

It was agreed that the Manager at Smeaton be approached with regard to some non-unionists employed there.

The delegate from BankPark asked if Robert Stewart who had been a member of this association 17 years ago could be readmitted under rule 13 without paying an entrance fee. It was pointed out that he had been a Member of another Miners' Association during that period and it was held that under these circumstances rule 13 did not apply.

A claim for Support on behalf of Riggonhead Men was made by Mr Sam Clark owing to the Pit having been Stopped, but it was pointed out that the wages committee had disallowed any claim and that their decision had been endorsed by the Board. Therefore the matter could not be further considered.

5th September 1910

A Meeting of the wages committee was held tonight, Mr George Young presiding.

The Secretary intimated that he had obtained a list of the names of those who had not yet become members of the union at Prestongrange Colliery and that he had sent it to the Manager with an intimation that the Union Members intended to stop work on Thursday the 8th inst. unless those outside had joined by that time. In view of the position of affairs it was agreed That the Secretary and Mr James Ormiston Seek an interview with the Manager, accompanied by as many members of the local Committee as were available on Wednesday evening,

to ascertain what attitude he intended taking up and to meet the men afterwards to decide on what action should be taken if necessary.

James Barbour's Case, Loanhead: The Committee were of opinion that more evidence was required in this case than had yet been obtained before proceedings could be raised to recover what Barbour claimed.

John Ritchie's Case, Loanhead: The Secretary read a letter from the Manager on this Case Stating that Ritchie had not worked his place proper and in accordance with instructions and that it required a pillar to be put in and another pillar to be rebuilt. It was agreed that Ritchie be consulted on the points raised in the Manager's letter.

Siewewright Cheyne's case, Loanhead: It was agreed that the Law agent be consulted on Cheyne's claim to obtain his opinion as to whether there was a likelihood of its being established.

The Secretary reported on James Fairgrieve's case, Tranent Colliery, to the effect that enquiries were being made regarding the fixing of partial compensation.

The Secretary reported that a man named William George had intimated that he had been dismissed from Whitehill Colliery because he would not work longer at the Machine walls than eight hours; The Manager on the other hand maintaining that George wished to know before starting if he could get up at the end of eight hours, which he the Manager could not guarantee, not knowing what may take place during any Shift. He agreed to give George back his employment.

James Graham's Case, Ormiston: It was arranged that Mr. Ormiston would see this man to obtain the particulars of his accident.

James Park of Bankpark desired that his case be further considered in view of him having a Son who was idle along with him during the recent trouble at Bankpark. It was agreed to leave this matter to be dealt with by the Board seeing it had been already considered by them.

24th September 1910

A Board and financial meeting was held today. The Minute of the former meeting was read and adopted on the motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr James Gray. The Minute of a Meeting of the Wages committee held on the 5th September was read and adopted as correct on the motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr James Gray.

The findings of the Committee as contained in the Minute were approved of on the motion of Mr James Thomson, Seconded by Mr Adam Stewart.

It was agreed that a loan of £2000 be granted to the Dalkeith Town Council for twenty-five years at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent interest per annum on the Water rate of the Burgh. The capital Sum to be repaid in yearly instalments of £80 each. Messrs Gray & Handyside to prepare the deed. A letter was read from the Clerk to

Dalkeith Burgh School Board requesting a loan to that body of £400 for a period of five years, and Mr John Main moved, Seconded Mr Colin Allan, That a loan of £400 be granted at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent interest per annum. The principal Sum to be paid in whole at the end of five years. Mr William Blackie moved, Seconded by Mr W.H. Brown, That the question be remitted to the collieries. On a vote Mr Main's Motion was carried by 19 to 5 and the Secretary instructed to intimate to the Clerk to the School Board the terms upon which his Board could obtain the loan and if accepted to carry it through.

Motion of Tranent Colliery for a grant of 10s. per Member: Mr John Main Moved That no grant be given, Seconded by Mr Peter O'Toole. Mr Wm Blackie Moved, Seconded by Mr W.H. Brown, That a grant as requested be given. On a Vote Mr Main's Motion was carried by 13 to 5.

The Secretary reported that Sievwright Cheyne's Case was in the hands of the Law Agent.

Mr John Gordon, BankPark Colliery, and the President were appointed to attend a conference of the Scottish Miners' Federation at Glasgow on Thursday the 29th inst.

In view of the British Miners' Federation annual conference being held in Edinburgh during the first week in October, It was agreed on the motion of Mr Wm Somerville, Seconded by Mr Andrew Clarke, That Six delegates and one of the officials be sent directly by the Association.

Notice of Motion was given by Mr Wm Somerville That at next Meeting the question of representation to conferences and congresses by the delegates be reconsidered.

The Secretary reported that Peter McCrae had left Ormiston colliery without making arrangements to pay four Men who had been employed by him, Viz., Messrs Anderson, Reilly, Penman & Breen, whose aggregate wages amounted to £7.7.0., and that a Sum of over four pounds was in the hands of the colliery company in the name of McCrae. It was agreed that steps be taken to secure that money and Meantime the Secretary be empowered to advance to each of the four men a Sum equivalent to his Share of the sum in hand.

Sam Robertson & James Malcolm having lodged a claim for removal expenses with the Secretary from Rosewell Colliery, but which the delegate from Rosewell had no knowledge of, It was agreed on the motion of Mr James Ormiston, Seconded by Mr James Gray, That the matter be remitted to the colliery to be dealt with before being dealt with by the Board.

The Secretary read over the resolution passed by the Trades Union Congress at Sheffield on the Osborne Judgement, And it was unanimously agreed on the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr Wm Somerville, that this [Association] approves of the resolution on that matter by the Trades Congress and agrees to cooperate with all other labour bodies to bring about a change in the

law to enable Trades Unionists to have control by Majority vote of their Members over their own funds.⁷

The delegate, Mr John Gordon, from Bankpark stated that a few men still claimed that they should have got the allowance of 10s. per member that was granted to those who had been idle Six days or more during the late dispute at that colliery. Mr Andrew Clarke Moved That the claim be not entertained, Seconded by Mr Peter O'Toole. Mr Wm Blackie moved, Seconded by Mr W.H. Brown, that the claim be paid on a vote. Mr Clarke's Motion was carried by 12 to 7.

The law agent directed the attention of the Board by letter to Andrew Graham's case, Niddrie, to the effect that he did not think it was likely to be established; but in view of the nature of the case it was agreed on the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr Thomas McNeil, That he be instructed to go on with the case.

The Secretary was instructed to communicate with the Manager at Prestonlinks Colliery concerning an alleged breach of the eight hours mines Act and of men working on the recognised idle day.

James Barbour, Loanhead, wrote requesting that his Case be dropped, and Ritchie's Case of the Same colliery was left meantime with the local committee.

Mr Nicholas Young intimated that the Limestone Miners at Straiton wished to become members of the Association but it was decided that an official application on behalf of the Limestone miners would have to be made before that matter could be considered.

Alexr Allan & Alexdr McLeish complained that they had not been paid at Rosewell colliery for the pay ending 30th August as the Under Manager, Mr Meek, had promised. The Matter was left with the Secretary to take action if necessary to recover the amount claimed to make the average county wage.

Mr Patrick Smith desired that an action be raised to recover one day's wage

⁷ The Trades Union Congress earlier that month had passed almost unanimously a resolution calling for legislation to reverse the Osborne judgement by the House of Lords in Dec. 1909. W.V. Osborne, a branch secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, an active Liberal, and supported by funds raised through publicity in the *Daily Express*, brought a court action against his union in 1908 to prevent it subscribing funds to support the Labour Party. He lost his case but the Court of Appeal upheld his arguments; and the House of Lords, to which the ASRS appealed, also upheld Osborne's case, basing its decision on the fact that the Trade Union Act, 1876, had not included political activities as part of the definition of trade unions. The Osborne judgement thus prevented trade unions from carrying out political activities and it also severely affected the financial position of the Labour Party, which was the only party to which unions were affiliated. The Osborne judgement was superseded by the Trade Union Act, 1913, which allowed unions to undertake political activities provided they first took a ballot of their members and secured a majority in favour of establishing such activities as an object of the union, and set up a separate political fund and allowed members who wished to do so to 'contract out' from paying contributions to it. B.C. Roberts, *The Trades Union Congress, 1868-1921* (London, 1958), 223-6, 258; P.S. Bagwell, *The Railwaymen: the History of the National Union of Railwaymen* (London, 1963), 241-55.

from the Shotts Company to him for being delayed a day in waiting for a Shift of 6s. he had to lift. It was considered that he had no case.

A claim was made for victimisation money on behalf of Wm George, Rosewell Colliery, for being dismissed upon refusing to work beyond eight hours. The case having been before the wages committee and the action of George not being approved of, It was agreed on the Motion of Mr James Gray, Seconded by Mr John Patterson, That the matter drop.

It was agreed that the secretary try to arrange for four Meetings being held during the first week in October in Musselburgh, Tranent, Loanhead and Newtongrange to be addressed by some of the English or Welsh delegates attending the British Miners' Federation conference that week.⁸

Complaints were made from Elphinstone colliery about men again going out on the days the Pit is notified by the Management to be idle. The Secretary was instructed to write the Manager on the matter and to remind him of the agreement lately arrived at by him and the Men's representatives on the Subject.

James Park having requested that further consideration be given to his case in view of his Son having been idle also, It was agreed on the Motion of Mr Wm Somerville, Seconded by Mr James Thomson, That the matter remain as it was fixed at last Board meeting.

15th October 1910

A Wages committee was held here today.

Mr Sam Graham with Andrew Graham his Son, who was injured at Niddrie colliery on the 14th April 1910, were present and Mr Handyside, Law Agent, was also present to adjust Several points in Graham's case which is being taken to Court owing to the employers denying liability on the ground of Graham being guilty of Serious and wilful Misconduct by infringing Special rules 81 and 100. It was agreed that this case and Sievewright Cheyne's case against the Shotts Company be proceeded with.

James Kay's Case, Carberry, was put into the hands of the Law Agent to deal with.

The Law Agent intimated that Frank Lynch had not come forward with his witnesses to be prepared for his claim against James Baxter, which was down for Monday. It was remitted to Mr Andrew Clarke to interview Lynch on the matter.

⁸ Harry Twist (1870-1934), agent, Lancashire and Cheshire Miners' Federation and Labour MP for Wigan, and Robert Smillie, president, Scottish Miners' Federation, addressed a meeting of some 200 miners at Musselburgh Town Hall on the evening of 3 Oct., that was organised by Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association. A similar evening meeting, of about 400 miners, was addressed at Loanhead Drill Hall on 4 Oct. by W.E. Harvey (1852-1914), Derbyshire Miners' Association and Labour MP for North-East Derbyshire; and at Lothian Halls, Newtongrange, on 5 Oct., Harvey and Smillie spoke at a miners' meeting of 'the labours and achievements of trade unions'. No report has been found of meetings at Tranent. *Haddingtonshire Courier*, 7 Oct. 1910; *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 6 Oct. 1910; *Midlothian Journal*, 7 Oct. 1910.

James Dickson's claims against Summerlee Coal & Iron Coy, Prestongrange: This man having got one of his legs injured by a fall of coal was refused compensation on the ground that he had failed to put up Spraggs in accordance with Special rule 9.⁹ He having admitted that he had no spraggs in, and the Company's officials Stating that he failed to do so after being warned, It was decided That in the opinion of the committee the claim could not be maintained and that it be allowed to drop.

Wm Fraser's Case V. Newbattle was considered and Dr Sinclair's, the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, opinion on Fraser's eyesight read; and the Matter was left with Fraser (who was present) and the Secretary to try to arrange terms of Settlement with the Insurance Company.

A letter from Mr G. Stewart, Chairman of the BankPark Branch, was read, In which he renewed a claim for an allowance of 10s. per Man to certain men whose claims had been already dealt with by the Board and refused; He arguing that those in whose behalf he was writing were as much entitled to it than some who had been paid and were not entitled to it. Mr Colin Allan Moved, Seconded by Mr Alexander Gillies, That the former decision with regard to BankPark be adhered to. This was carried unanimously and it was pointed out That the 10s. per Member paid to those Men who were said to have lost Six or more days during the fortnight the dispute existed at that colliery was given on a report furnished by the Secretary of the Branch & carried out by a Special Committee appointed from & by the Board, and that if any person or persons had been paid who were not entitled to be paid under the conditions laid down It would be better that Such should be refunded rather than extend the Matter. It was also the expressed opinion of the Wages Committee That while dealing with Mr Stewart's letter It was more as a matter of courtesy than recognising it as falling to be dealt with as a right, Seeing that all such questions should come from the Branch and by the recognised delegate to the Board.

Ritchie's Case, Loanhead, was left with the local committee & the Secretary to see if it could be adjusted.

The Secretary produced a letter from Mr Wm Tennant with a list of 16 names, including his own, who were employed at Straiton Limestone Work, Making application to be admitted to the Association, When it was agreed to request the Board to leave this matter in the hands of the Wages Committee for further investigation and to report.

Allan & McCleish V. Rosewell Colliery: The Secretary reported that the Company refused to pay the wages earned by these men on the ground That they were told the hewing rate and that no other assurance was made that they would be on Company's time but to be paid by piece and that proceedings were being taken to recover full wages at the County rate of 6s.

⁹ Sprags: props to support the coal or roof during the working of a seam.

for each Shift worked.

A letter was read from Penston Colliery Making a claim to allowance on behalf of 11 Men who were working in a Section that was Stopped. It was decided that under the Circumstances they had no claim to Strike pay.

Jas Graham's case V. Ormiston: The Insurance Company having offered 18s. 6d. to Graham as an *ex gratia* payment but would not admit liability, It was agreed to make enquiry to ascertain whether any evidence of Graham having been injured could be obtained.

Thos Pollock, Niddrie: It was agreed to have this man examined by Dr Alaric Robertson, Musselburgh, before agreeing to submit the Case to the Medical Referee.

The question of a Grant towards the relief of the distress existing in the Tranent District owing to the short time prevailing was considered. Mostly all the collieries were in favour of Something being done to mitigate the distress prevailing amongst the Women & children. In dealing with the question the Wages Committee Desire to emphatically announce that under no consideration can any claim be sustained by any member or members of the association That as Members there is any provision made or that there is any legal claim can be put forward and Maintained against the association for Support under the circumstances prevailing throughout the district owing to bad trade, but that with the Consent of the Members a grant may be made to assist a little in relieving the distress of the Most urgent Cases. While keeping this in view it was agreed to instruct the Secretary to write the delegate or Secretary of each of the three collieries of Bankton, Elphinstone & Tranent, To request that a Joint meeting of the committees be held to arrive at the number of Householders there were in the three collieries, and having ascertained that To as far as possible submit the number who in their opinion under the circumstances were in need of relief, and while the matter will fall finally to be dealt with by the full Board on Saturday the 22nd inst. The committee trust that the Board will approve of the general principle That it is only towards relief of distress that any grant may be made, and that it is only Householders that can be classed as being in need of such consideration.¹⁰

After a Sitting of three & a half hours the Meeting stood adjourned to enable the Committee to deal with the question of an assistant Agent prior to the Board meeting on the 22nd inst.

21st October 1910

The Wages committee resumed the adjourned meeting of the 15th inst. to-night. The foregoing Minute was read and approved of on the Motion of Mr James Gray, Seconded by Mr Thomas McNeil.

Upon further consideration being given to the question of a grant in relief

¹⁰ No newspaper reports of the distress have been found.

of the distress in Tranent district as defined in the last Minute, and having a report that a Joint committee of the three collieries named had met and approved of the principle of only householders who were in distress being included in the grant, It was moved by Mr Alexander Gillies and Seconded by Mr Andrew Clarke That a sum of £300 be devoted for that purpose and that the Joint Committee of the three collieries deal with its allocation as a district committee to those who in their opinion come under the Scope of the resolution, and that the Maximum Sum granted to any case not to exceed one pound. This was agreed to unanimously.

A letter from Bankpark colliery was read requesting that the Members employed there be included in any grant that was given, The Statement being made that fifty Shifts had only been worked in that colliery during the last Seven fortnights. Mr James Gray Moved, Seconded by Mr Thomas McNeil, That Bankpark be not included in the proposed grant. This was carried unanimously and it was pointed out That it was not for the short period of three months that this matter was being dealt with but owing to the continuance of the bad trade during the past three years.

Four delegates from Cwmteillery and Heyworth Lodge having called Soliciting assistance towards a Strike that was going on there, The Secretary had advanced them one pound to enable them to get to Lanarkshire and other districts. This was approved of by the committee.

Mr Andrew Clarke Moved, Seconded by Mr Alexander Gillies, That we recommend to the Board to further recommend to the collieries That in Their opinion The time was opportune for the appointment of an assistant Secretary. The Membership of the association being [blank] and the work in connection with Compensation increasing so much That from fifty to Seventy cases were continually on hand to be dealt with and Still on the increase—That and the large amount of work involved owing to the large increase in the membership justified them in making this recommendation; and upon this recommendation being approved of by the collieries Each Colliery be requested to send in a Nomination or name of whom They preferred for the position, Such Selection to be open to any member or district within the Association. This was agreed to unanimously.

The Committee instructed the Secretary to get incandescent burners fitted to the gas fittings on the premises and to alter the position of the gas bracket in the office to be more convenient for the work being carried out.

The Law Agent wrote to say that a decree had been obtained against Mulligan by Gibson and enquired what Sum the Witnesses should be paid. This matter was considered and it was agreed to recommend that 7s.6d. per day with 2s.6d. of expenses be the Maximum for members who may be called and worked at the face on their own account; and that in the case of others having a fixed wage the same Sum be paid as may be lost by their attendance at Court, with the same

expenses, Viz., 2s. 6d. each. The Law Agent also intimated that F. Lynch had failed to appear upon his case being called and that his claim against Baxter was dismissed with expenses.

Arising out of these cases the wages committee recommend that some means may be desired, by cooperating with the other districts of the Scottish Miners' Federation, To deal with men who failed to pay the wages due to those whom they had employed in a more summary manner than going to Court, and Suggested that upon a district having decided that any one was entitled to pay a certain Sum as wages with which he or they did not comply That he or they be not admitted to Membership by any other district until the matter was Settled between he or they and the district in which the matter occurred. The foregoing recommendations were all endorsed by the full Board at its Meeting on the 22nd inst.

22nd October 1910

A Board and financial meeting was [held] here today. The Minute of the former Meeting was held as correct on the motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan. The Minutes of the Wages Committee Meetings held on the 15th and 21st inst. were read and were held as being correct on the Motion of Mr James Gray, Seconded by Mr Thos McNeil.

Mr John Gordon Moved disapproval of that part of the Minute of the 21st in which the Committee refused to include BankPark Colliery to Share in the proposed grant towards relief of distress, and Moved that BankPark be included, Seconded by Mr John Patterson. Mr Colin Allan Moved, Seconded by Mr Wm Somerville, That the Wages committee's recommendation be upheld. For Mr Allan's Amendment 12; For Mr Gordon's Motion 4.

Mr John Patterson Moved That the claim on behalf of the eleven men at Penston No. 1 Pit to Strike allowance be upheld, Seconded by Mr John Gordon. Mr Andrew Clarke moved that the decision of the Wages committee be upheld, Seconded by Mr James Gray. For Mr Clarke's amendment 12; For Mr Patterson's Motion 3.

With regard to the proposed grant to East Lothian, Mr Andrew Clarke Moved, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, That the general principle as laid down by the Wages Committee be approved of. This was carried unanimously.

Mr Nicholas Young Moved that the recommendation re. the appointment of an Assistant Secretary be approved of, Seconded by Mr Peter O'Toole and agreed to unanimously. After which on the Motion of Mr James Thomson, Seconded by Mr William Somerville, the Minutes of the Wages committee as a whole were approved of unanimously.

Resolutions to Annual Conference of the Scottish Miners' Federation: Mr Wm Somerville on behalf of Carberry Colliery Moved That all adults be held to

be entitled to the Minimum wage of 6s. per day who were employed underground. But after discussion and consultation he agreed that it Should be limited to Firemen, Repairers and those engaged in Such work That required Men of Skill & experience to perform, and left it with the Secretary to draft a resolution on these lines. Mr. Thos McNeil on behalf of Wallyford Colliery Submitted Two resolutions, One dealing with Non-unionists declaring that local efforts be discontinued and it be dealt with nationally by declaring that a general Strike take place until all non-unionists were expelled from the Mines who had not joined before a date to be fixed. Mr John Patterson Moved, Seconded by Mr Duncan Stein, that Such Motion be not sent forward on behalf of the Mid & East Lothian Miners' Assn. Mr Thos McNeil Moved, Seconded by Mr Nicholas Young, That it be sent on. For Mr Patterson's Motion 17. For Mr McNeil's 2. Mr Thos McNeil also moved that a resolution be Submitted requesting that every member be supplied with an annual report or balance sheet of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain. This motion was not pressed on the Secretary stating that he understood that as many reports were sent as would provide each delegate with one, which if it was not the case the matter could be again raised.

Upon the Motion tabled by Mr William Somerville at the last meeting re the appointment of delegates to conferences & etc., being taken up, It was agreed on the Motion of Mr Somerville and Seconded by Mr John Patterson, That all delegates including officials be put on an equal footing and go in turn to conferences & etc.; Reserving the right of the Board when a delegation of four or more were appointed to decide whether any of the officials, Viz., President, Vice President or Treasurer, Should be appointed outwith their ordinary turn resulting in the ballot for turns, but that two classes of conferences be recognised, Viz., ordinary and extraordinary, and That a ballot be taken for each class to establish the rotation in which each colliery or representative would take. Mr John Patterson then Moved That the last ballot taken placing the collieries in rotation be adhered to and that the President be put at the top of the list, The Treasurer in the middle & the Vice President at the bottom, and that the order of ballot be reversed for the two classes of Conferences, Viz., That the name on the top of the list in the one class be at the bottom of the list in the other class, and that the ballot already taken be the one for large conferences. Seconded by Mr Andrew Clarke. Mr Nicholas Young Moved, Seconded by Mr Duncan Stein, That a new ballot be taken. Mr Patterson's Motion was carried by 10 Votes to 6.

Circulars having been issued by the British Miners' Federation inviting delegates to a conference to be held of that body on the 9th November to decide on the attitude to be taken up at the Conference of all the Labour bodies to be held on the 10th November to decide on what action should be taken on the Osborne Judgement Case, Mr Peter O'Toole Moved That two delegates be ap-

pointed and that upon one from Mid & East Lothian being appointed by the Scottish Miners' Federation He be one of the two, failing which two be sent direct In Accordance with the arrangement for such representation. Seconded by Mr Somerville. The President and Mr John Main, Elphinstone colliery, were appointed.

A Conference having been called for the 31st October of the Scottish Miners' Federation in Glasgow, It was agreed to that two delegates attend, Viz., The Vice President & Mr Duncan Stein, Prestongrange delegate.

Johnston Law's Case, Loanhead: It was agreed that the Manager would be asked to permit of Law's place being inspected by two workmen to ascertain whether it was deficient or not. Ritchie's Case of the same colliery: The Secretary to ascertain whether the deduction from Ritchie's wages made by the company was an infringement of the Truck Act, 1896.

The Secretary was instructed to write Harry Young, contractor, Elphinstone colliery, re. a claim by Messrs Wm Roberts & James Raeburn & John Chalmers for one Shift each of 6s. on the plea that they had to come home on the 31st of August last owing to two Shovels belonging to them having been broken by Young or his men during the preceding night.

Mr John Patterson reported that there was Some disagreement between a Section in No. 2 Pit, Penston, & the Manager regarding the price to be arranged upon a portion of the drawing road being cut off. The matter was left with Mr Patterson & the Secretary to deal with as it developed.

It was agreed that upon the members at Oxenford Pit, Ormiston, being permitted to erect a collecting box, That the usual allowance of 4s. would be granted towards the expense.

The Secretary was instructed to enquire as to the pay lines issued at the other collieries [than Prestongrange] of the Summerlee Company with a view to joint Action being taken to have them more explicit and to write the Manager about the company's check and the Checkweigher's not tallying at the end of the day. While on this matter it was pointed out that the men could claim payment from the Checkweigher's books.

In View of the large increase of Members at Smeaton Colliery and the work entailed on the local committee, one of whom lost one day's work, it was agreed that the member who lost the day's work be paid 6s. for the same and each of the four Members of Committee be paid 2s.6d. each.

The Secretary was instructed to obtain all the information possible from the other Scottish Mining districts regarding Membership and the Number of Agents or Secretaries employed, to be embodied in a circular to be issued in the name of the Board to the collieries re. the question of appointing an assistant Secretary.

The Secretary reported That in the opinion of Messrs Gray and Handyside, S.S.C., in conjunction with Mr McBain & McBeth, S.S.C., and Messrs Cassells

& Frame's, S.S.C., the Association was liable to pay income tax as the law re. unregistered Trade Unions at present stood; Upon which Mr Wm Somerville suggested that each individual member be requested to seek to be refunded his individual share.

26th November 1910

An Executive and financial meeting was held. The Minute of the former Meeting was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr John Gordon, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan.

Charles Sutherland's Case, Niddrie: It was agreed that Sutherland be examined by an Eye Specialist to enable the Law Agent to effectively deal with his case. Andrew Graham's Case, Niddrie: It was left with Mr Andrew Clarke to try to arrange for evidence being obtained in Support of Graham's contention That the Company were cognisant of rule 100 of the Special rules not being strictly observed.

John Jack, Newbattle, wrote complaining about the funeral claim of four pounds upon his Father's death having been paid to his brother-in-law Thos Davidson. It was explained by Mr James Gray that Davidson produced the Pence Card of the deceased and that he had paid the contributions for some years. It was decided that we could not interfere in the matter as we were entitled to pay the claim to the party paying the contributions.

Matthew Vance claimed that Daniel Brown of Woodhall Colliery was due him 14s. 11d., while Brown maintained that they worked in Company and that Vance had got his share of the coal produced between them during the time they were working together. It was considered that Vance had failed to prove that he had been employed at a fixed wage by Brown and that nothing could be done in his case.

An Appeal on behalf of the Boiler Makers, Leith, who are locked out was read from Mr James Bruce, Secretary, when on the motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr W.H. Brown, It was agreed to make a grant of £5 towards the relief of the distress existing.¹¹

Mr Alexr Duncan, Tranent Colliery, wrote requesting that his expenses in attending the Royal Infirmary for treatment in connection with his injured foot be paid by the Association, when It was agreed on the Motion of Mr James Gray, Seconded by Mr John Main, That no Such expenses could be paid by the Association.

¹¹ A national lock-out of members of the Boilermakers' Society by the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation had begun on 3 Sept. over several disputes, including a new procedural agreement. The lock-out, which affected 380 members of the Boilermakers' Society in Leith, of whom only 92 qualified for union lock-out pay of 10s. per week, was called off on 14 Dec. when the Society and the Employers' Federation reached a new agreement that 'represented a significant victory for the Boilermakers' Society'. J.E. Mortimer, *History of the Boilermakers' Society*, vol. ii: 1906-1939 (London, 1982), 34-8; Minutes of Edinburgh Trades Council, 15 Nov. 1910.

The Law Agent having written Stating that Blake & Kelly's Case against Wood upon coming on had to be postponed owing to their having left the district and not left their addresses, he also pointed out the great expense to be incurred for the small sum involved; When on the Motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr Edward Robertson, It was agreed to drop the case.

The Law Agent wrote intimating That Allan and McLeish's Case against the Lothian Coal Company had failed and that Allan & McCleish's Statements were contradicted at every point by the Witnesses for the Company.

A letter by Mr Harry Young was read repudiating any claim by Raeburn and Chalmers against him. He denied having broken their Shovels and asserted that they went home when they could have got Shovels to do their work with. It was left with Mr W.H. Brown to enquire into this case & to report.

A letter from Bankpark was read requesting a grant for the pit being closed over a week while the Winding engine was being repaired While Seven days' work for the pay in question had been obtained. It was agreed that no grant be given, on the Motion of Mr James Gray, Seconded by Mr Nicholas Young.

It was agreed to grant Wm Byers, Polton colliery, 12s. as removal expenses and loss of time as being a case of victimisation, on the motion of Mr William Somerville, Seconded by Mr John Gordon.

Ritchie's Case, Loanhead: The Manager having offered to refund 5s. of the 20s. retained in this case, and having paid 15s. to the man who had started in the place plus having to put in a pillar and rebuild another at the Company's expense, It was agreed to advise Ritchie to accept the Settlement offered.

Mr McTierny & Carmichael having been Summoned at the instance of the Shotts company charged with a breach of Special rule 104, The Matter was discussed as to whether the Association Should undertake their defence. When on the Motion of Mr James Ormiston, Seconded by Mr John Gordon, It was agreed that we meantime do not recognise the Case but leave it to Loanhead colliery for consideration.

Nominations for Assistant Secretary: All the collieries except Arniston, Rosewell, Carberry, Ormiston & Woodhall reported in favour of an Assistant Secretary being appointed and the following nominations sent in—Mr Joseph Young and Mr Andrew Clark by Niddrie; Mr James Ormiston, by Tranent, Prestongrange & Bankton; Mr David Allan, Newbattle; Mr Nicholas Young, Loanhead; Mr James Moore, Prestonlinks; Mr Hugh Adams, Wallyford; Mr Michael Kelly, Smeaton. Mr Andrew Clarke moved That in accordance with the reports the Board proceed to deal with the business of appointment, Seconded by Mr Nicholas Young and agreed to. It was agreed on the Motion of Mr Thomas MacNeil that 40s. per week be the Salary paid as a Minimum but Subject to advance upon the Miners' wages advancing. Seconded by Mr Jas Gray. After

considerable discussion and deliberation It was agreed that the eight Names be submitted to the Members in the form of a ballot for the purpose of obtaining a Short leet of three, each member to have three votes. The three obtaining the highest number of votes to be Submitted to another ballot of the Members. Mr Peter O'Toole Moved that upon the three highest in the first ballot being obtained An opportunity be given to the members to hear them by a series of meetings being arranged for that purpose. Seconded by Mr James Gray. Mr John Gordon Moved as an amendment, Seconded by Mr John Main, That no such meetings be held but to leave the matter in the hands of the members. For Mr O'Toole's Motion 11, For Mr Gordon's Amendment 9. Mr Andrew Clarke moved That the assistant when appointed be made to reside in Musselburgh. Seconded by Mr James Thomson. Mr Colin Allan Moved, Seconded by Mr John Gordon, That no Special place of residence be fixed. For Mr Clark's Motion 5, For Mr Allan's Amendment 13. It was agreed that the Secretary issue the ballot papers in accordance with the foregoing arrangements.

A report was Submitted by the Joint Committee of Bankton, Tranent & Elphinstone Collieries re. the grant of £300. Mr James Ormiston thanked the Board and the Members generally on behalf of the recipients who were most grateful for the consideration Shewn them. Mr Wm Somerville then Moved That in view of the amount of labour involved on the Committee a Sum of ten pounds be given to cover hall rents and give a small remuneration to the committee numbering 27 and the Secy for the splendid report supplied to the Board.

A Motion from Newbattle Colliery was Submitted by Mr James Gray That the rules of the Association be printed in the Polish language in Sufficient numbers to Supply Polish Members with one each.¹²

Johnston Law, Loanhead, requested to be recompensed for the time he had worked below the average wage. It was agreed on the Motion of Mr Wm Somerville, Seconded by Mr John Main, That nothing be given.

In view of representation being made from Carberry re. the payment of Witnesses It was agreed that any one going as a Witness who was paid day's wages by the Company in addition to what he was paid would be added in the same proportion as in Miners at the face.

It was agreed that Wallyford be empowered to deal with the nonunionist element.

Newbattle Nominated Mr David Allan for the position of President.

Mr Colin Allan reported that a number of Men at Polton complained at not being properly paid for doing Company's work.

¹² See above, p. 105, n. 106. A considerable number of Lithuanians or 'Poles' had settled in Midlothian, especially at Newtongrange, by 1910: the 1911 census indicated a total of 253 males and 109 females in the county. *Census of Scotland, 1911* (London, 1913), iii, 54-7.

3rd December 1910

A Wages Committee meeting was held today.

The Secretary read a letter from James Bruce, Secretary to the Boiler-makers, Leith, Thanking the Miners for the grant of £5 given towards the relief fund, and letter from Mr W.H. Brown on behalf of the distress committee of Bankton, Elphinstone & Tranent Thanking the Board for the recognition of their services in distributing the grant of £300 to the relief of the distress existing in the district.

The Secretary intimated that one of those nominated for the position of Assistant Secretary, Viz., Mr Michael Kelly, was not a Member of the Association, and on the motion of Mr James Gray, Seconded by Mr Thomas McNeil, It was agreed not to put his name on the ballot papers about to be issued. The form of ballot paper to be issued with instructions and explanations for the taking of the ballot was agreed upon and the Secretary instructed to have the voting papers issued at the earliest possible date.

A claim by Messrs Wm Lindores, Michael Hughes, Thomas McArthur, James Murphy, T. McNamara & A. Hughes, against Michael Ward, Contractor, Elphinstone colliery, for part wages amounting to 27s. in all was considered and the Secretary instructed to take the Matter in hand.

Andrew Graham's Case, Niddrie: Mr Andrew Clarke Stated that he was not in a position yet to make any report regarding the Witnesses required in this case.

A letter from Mr Michael Corrie, Prestongrange, was read Enquiring whether a funeral claim could be paid upon the death of an ex-Member who had obtained an International clearance Card and after five weeks had died in America While his Wife & family were still in this country and were paying the contributions to the Association. It was held that under rule 17 no funeral claim could be paid under such circumstances.

24th December 1910

A financial and Board Meeting was held here today. The Minute of the former meeting was read and adopted on the motion of Mr John Gordon, Seconded by Mr John Main. A Minute of A Wages Committee Meeting held on the 3rd December was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr James Gray, and approval of the decisions arrived at by the Committee was moved by Mr James Thomson, Seconded by Mr W.H. Brown and agreed to.

The Chairman referred to the great disaster at the Pretoria Mine, Hulton, and the delegates upstanding passed a vote of Condolence with the relatives and friends of those who had lost their lives by the explosion and instructed the Secretary to convey the same to Mr Thomas Ashton, the Secretary of the

Lancashire and Cheshire Miners' Association.¹³

The vote by the Branches for an Assistant Secretary upon being taken resulted as follows: Mr Hugh Adams, Wallyford, 1759; Mr David Allan, Newbattle, 1614; Mr Andrew Clarke, Niddrie, 2240; Mr James Moore, Prestonlinks, 1151; Mr James Ormiston, Tranent, 2146; Mr Joseph Young, Niddrie, 2955; Mr Nicholas Young, Loanhead, 1651. After some discussion regarding the further procedure before a final ballot was taken with regard to meetings being held for the purpose of hearing the respective candidates, It was agreed to remit the matter to the Wages Committee to formulate a Scheme to be put before the full Board at its next meeting for consideration and approval. It was agreed on the Motion of Mr Wm Somerville, Seconded by Mr Peter O'Toole, to recommend to the collieries That in Making the appointment the one appointed Should have a clear Majority of the votes cast: even Should a Second ballot be required to obtain Such result between the two highest on the first ballot.

Appointment of delegates to the Annual Conference of the Scottish Miners' Federation: Mr Andrew Clarke Moved that Six in all be Sent, Seconded by Mr James Gray. Mr Thomas McNeil Moved that Nine be Sent, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan. Mr John Main Moved that Seven in all be Sent, Seconded by Mr John Patterson. Mr Duncan Stein Moved, Seconded by Mr Ed. Robertson, That no officials be included in the number sent. Mr Peter O'Toole Moved, Seconded by Mr Wm Falconer, that an official be included. Mr O'Toole's Motion was carried by 11 votes to 10, and for Mr McNeil's Motion that nine be sent 10 votes, Mr Clarke's Motion that Six be sent 6 votes, Mr Main's Motion that Seven be sent 5 votes. It was finally agreed to appoint nine including the Vice President and the Secretary.

James Graham's Case, Ormiston: on this case being considered the Board agreed that no action could be taken to secure compensation and advised that the gratuity of 10s. offered Should be accepted, on the Motion of Mr Thomas McNeil, Seconded by Mr Duncan Stein.

Appointment of interim Auditor in room of Mr James Young deceased: Mr Joseph Young, Mr Archd Vickers and Mr Robert Milne were put forward and upon a Vote Mr Milne was appointed.

Nominations for President, Vice President and Treasurer were taken. Newbattle Colliery nominated Mr David Allan for the position of President, Prestonlinks & Smeaton Nominated Mr Joseph Young as President and Smeaton nominated Mr Hugh McKinnon as Vice President. Wallyford nominated Mr

¹³ In one of the worst mining disasters in British history 344 men and boys were killed in an explosion on 21 Dec. at the Pretoria mine at Hulton, near Bolton, Lancashire. Of the 345 miners in the mine at the time of the explosion, only two survived; one rescuer was also killed. Duckham, *Pit Disasters*, 206; *Glasgow Herald*, 22 Dec. 1910. Thomas Ashton (1844-1926), was secretary, 1881-1919, Lancashire and Cheshire Miners' Federation, and, 1889-1919, of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain.

Andrew Quigley as President and Mr Wm Bryce for Vice President. All the other nominations were in favour of no change. Niddrie, Carberry, Polton and House of Muir made no nomination. It was agreed on the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr John Main, That the Nominations be Submitted to the collieries for consideration.

Henry Fowler's case, Loanhead, upon being reported upon was left with the Secretary to consult with Fowler regarding the offer made by the Insurance Company to pay £8 in view of the fact that £9.3.9. represented full payment.

Upon representations being made by Mr O'Toole regarding the taking of the recent ballot the opinion was expressed that no colliery Should Make known the result of their ballot before the total ballot had been completed.

The Motion from Newbattle That the rules be printed in the Polish language for the convenience of Polish Members was lost by a large Majority.

It was agreed to permit John Fraser, Newbattle, to pay up his arrears rather than to join anew, He having fallen back while in receipt of compensation and voluntarily came forward to pay up on getting a Settlement—on the Motion of Mr Wm. Somerville, Seconded by Mr Thos McNeil.

Mr Jas Gray, Newbattle, Tabled a Motion for Submission to the collieries to consider whether Mid Lothian be contested at the first election in the Labour interest.¹⁴

Mr Andrew Clarke on behalf of Niddrie Colliery tabled a protest against the action of the Board not having arranged for all the Seven candidates that were nominated for the assistant Secretaryship not having had an opportunity of appearing before the Members prior to the ballot being taken, and on a suggestion put forth from the same colliery it was agreed that only the names of the individuals standing be put on the next ballot paper.

Mr Nicholas Young put forward a claim for the expenses incurred in the prosecution of Messrs McTierney and Carmichael of Shotts Colliery under the Mines Act and Special Rules, They having been convicted by the Sheriff of a breach of Special rule 104. Mr Thos McNeil Moved, Seconded by Mr Wm Somerville, That £3 be paid. Mr John Gordon Moved, Seconded by Mr John Main, that nothing be paid. Mr McNeil's Motion was carried by 11 to 9.¹⁵

Sneddon's Case, Loanhead, Continued: The Secretary was instructed to write the Manager of Loanhead Colliery regarding a Notice he had posted on the Pit heads that was thought to have some bearing on the protection afforded workmen under the Truck Act, 1896, and to repudiate the notice on behalf of the workmen.

Raeburn & Coy Against Harry Young, and Lindores, Hughes & others against Ward, Elphinstone Colliery: It was agreed that the Secretary write Ward & Young

¹⁴ See above, p. 25.

¹⁵ No further information about this case has been found. 'Shotts colliery' means the collieries at Loanhead (Burghlee and Ramsay) owned by the Shotts Iron Co. Ltd.

offering that their respective cases may be referred to an arbiter as is provided for in rule 23.

A claim for removal expenses of D. Jenkins, Prestongrange, was disallowed. Wm Coutt's Case at Bankton re wages remitted to the colliery.

Mr George Ratcliffe reported of John Rooney's Case at Smeaton which was held to have been dealt with in a Satisfactory manner.

It was agreed on the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr Peter O'Toole, that 3s. per hundred be paid for taking the last ballot, Subject to any colliery raising the matter at next Meeting, but upon Such being done a proper Statement of the extra expense incurred, if any, to be Submitted to the Board for consideration.

14th January 1911

A Wages Committee meeting was held today. In addition to the members of Committee Mr Joseph Young, as one of the Candidates for the position of assistant Secretary, was present and Mr William Somerville, in connection with the Non-Unionist question at Carberry & Wallyford.

With regard to the arranging of Meetings for the candidates for the position of Assistant Secretary addressing the members, It was agreed that the Secretary would prepare a list of dates tentatively, to be Submitted to the collieries for their approval, to enable the matter to be dealt with at the Board Meeting in a more definite form when Complete Arrangements and conditions could be made.

Non Unionism at Wallyford & Carberry: The Secretary intimated that he had been called to attend a Meeting of the Wallyford Miners on Sunday the 8th inst. at which the chairman of the meeting explained that the men were desirous of dealing drastically with those who were outside the Union; and Acting on his (the Secretary's) advice it was agreed to couple the two collieries of Wallyford and Carberry together and that the two committees would meet together to ascertain the numbers out of union in the respective collieries, and to send a list of the names of Such to the Secretary who meantime would put the matter before the Scottish Miners' Federation, Soliciting the Support of that body in the event of any Stoppage requiring to take place. He the Secretary intimated That the matter had been considered by the Executive Committee of the Scottish Federation and that a deputation consisting of the President, Mr Robert Smillie, the Vice President, Mr John Robertson, and Mr William Adamson, M.P., Treasurer, had been appointed to if necessary meet the Directors of the Edinburgh Collieries to try to adjust the Matter before any drastic action was taken.¹⁶ He also read the lists of names of over one hundred, Mostly employed by Contractors at Brushing and etc., and of men & lads at Oncost work fourteen of which he had arranged with during that

¹⁶ John Robertson (1867-1926), worked in the pits from age 13; chairman, Lanarkshire Miners' County Union, vice-president, 1904-19, and president, 1919-20, Scottish Miners' Federation (from

day; and having obtained the addresses of the respective Contractors who were understood to be Members he was writing them requesting they would see that all those they employed were Union men. The Wages Committee approved generally of the Action taken but came to no definite finding as to whether the full 10s. entry should be demanded in one payment or to leave the matter in the hands of the local committees. Mr Somerville having stated that they had already agreed to exact the full 10s. in one payment and that this would be Submitted to a combined meeting of the two collieries on Sunday the 15th He was urged upon to leave the matter an open question and that the local Committees could Act as circumstances arose, which was considered to be more in keeping with rule 16.

It was agreed that the Secretary attend the Annual conference of the Labour Party at Leicester on the 1st of February.¹⁷

The Secretary intimated that a conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain had been called to deal with the payment of abnormal places, The Wages of dayswagemen and the Strike at the Cambrian Collieries, South Wales, and that the Scottish Miners' Federation had appointed delegates to attend, one of whom fell to Mid & East Lothian to appoint.¹⁸ It being the Treasurer's turn he was appointed and it was agreed on the Motion of Mr James Ormiston, Seconded by Mr Collin Allan, That a delegate be sent direct. It being Wallyford

1914 National Union of Scottish Mine Workers); Labour MP, Bothwell, 1919-26. William Adamson (1863-1936), son of a Fife miner and until the Act of 1842 his mother had also worked in the pits; Adamson himself worked as a miner from age 11 to 38; assistant secretary, 1902-8, and secretary, 1908-28, Fife, Kinross and Clackmannan Miners' Association, and, 1928-36, Fife, Clackmannan and Kinross Miners' Association; treasurer from 1908, Scottish Miners' Federation; Labour MP, West Fife, 1910-31; leader, 1917-21, of the Labour Party; Secretary of State for Scotland, 1924 and 1929-31. Knox (ed.), *Scottish Labour Leaders*, 58-61; MacDougall, *Militant Miners*, 169.

¹⁷ This appears to be the first time that the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association had sent a delegate to the Labour Party annual conference.

¹⁸ Robert Brown, Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association, explained on behalf of the Scottish Miners' Federation to the MFGB special conference on this and other issues on 24-26 Jan. in London, that in Scotland there were no fixed principles nor any agreement with the coalowners concerning payment to miners for working in abnormal places. 'The usual practice is this: where a miner finds his place is not normal, he will try to make a bargain with the underground manager. If he makes a bargain personally we usually find it is all right. But our greatest grievance is that sometimes we find the miner relies on the under-manager to make him all right at the end of the [pay] fortnight, and therefore works away, but he usually finds it is all wrong. He usually applies to the Union officials, and by negotiations they sometimes succeed in getting him paid what they think he should get. But we have no fixed rate or method of doing the thing other than this. I believe that it is a grievance in Scotland, although it may not be so acute as it is in South Wales and some of the other districts, because apart from Fife all the miners in Scotland work on day's notices. I as an individual think this is a weapon in the hands of the miner when he is negotiating with the underground manager for his price, that he does not need to work more than one day in that abnormal place if he cannot come to an agreement ... [The question] is not so acute [in Scotland] as in many districts where men have to work a fortnight or a month before they can get rid of that particular place. But we have no general system of having committees to meet and adjust these matters. The MFGB special conference unanimously resolved to

colliery's turn Mr Thos McNeil was appointed and instructions given to support the Scottish Federation policy of assistance being given to the Strikers in South Wales and to support the principle of Men in abnormal places being paid not less than the average wage of the district.

The Secretary read a Statement made by Harry Young regarding the claim preferred against him by Robert Raeburn and others but the Matter was referred to the full Board.

Michael Ward not having made any reply to the offer of Arbitration in his case It was agreed to recommend that failing his compliance with the suggestion of the Board that an Action be raised to recover the balance of the Workmen's wages.

28th January 1911

Board and financial Meeting was held here today. The Minute of the former meeting was read and adopted on the motion of Mr James Thomson, Seconded by Mr George Ratcliffe.

The Minute of a Wages committee Meeting held on the 14th January was read and approved on the motion of Mr James Gray, Seconded by Mr Andrew Clarke, and the findings of the Committee endorsed by the full Board on the motion of Mr Duncan Stein, Seconded by Mr John Main.

The Secretary submitted a draft copy of the Annual report which was approved and instructions given to get it printed and to supply each member with a copy thereof.

The Secretary reported that James Gray's case, Loanhead, had been Settled,

instruct each district 'to immediately press for a minimum wage for all workmen engaged in abnormal places, and that should any district fail within three months the members of the Federation be recommended to take national action to enforce the same'. The dispute at the Cambrian Combine Company collieries in South Wales had begun on 1 Sept. 1910 with a lock-out of the miners at Ely pit in the Rhondda valley. It developed into a major conflict. The dispute was over the price of getting coal in a new seam recently opened up. Not only the eighty men directly involved but all 800 miners at Ely pit were locked out by the company. The South Wales Miners' Federation resolved to call out on strike from 1 Nov. all 12,000 miners employed in the Cambrian collieries and to fund the strike by a general levy. The South Wales coalowners' association on the other hand agreed to cover the Cambrian company for losses through the dispute and to refuse to employ Cambrian strikers. Strikers in a separate dispute at Aberdare co-operated with those at Cambrian collieries in mass picketing, and efforts were made by the strikers to call out the safety men in order to flood pits. Resulting rioting at Tonypany in early Nov. caused the death of a striker, injuries to more than 500, and extensive damage to property. The heavy police presence was reinforced by the sending in of troops. There were further riots later that month and in Mar. and July 1911. The MFGB special conference on 24-26 Jan. 1911 was told that the Cambrian dispute was costing the South Wales Miners' Federation between £6,000 and £7,000 a week and was beginning to drain its funds. Settlement of the dispute was said to be dependent on settling of the question of abnormal working places. The conference agreed to grant the South Wales Miners' Federation £3,000 a week through a levy of 3d. per member each time it was called. *MFGB AP, 1911: Report of Special Conference on Abnormal Working Places, Daywagemen's Wages, and Financial Support to South Wales Miners on Strike, 24, 25 and 26 January, 10, 40, 70, 87; Clegg, History of British Trade Unions, ii, 28-32.*

He Gray getting £60. Also that Sievwright Cheyne's case at the same colliery had been gained, he getting 15s. per week as Compensation. Andrew Graham's Case, Niddrie, was reported as having been Successful he being awarded 12s.4d. per week up to the 15th September from the date of the accident on the 14th of April. Henry Fowler's case, Loanhead, was reported on as Settled, he receiving £8. 12s., and David Scott's case, Elphinstone colliery, was reported on as having been Settled, he Scott receiving £275.

Charles Sutherland's Case, Niddrie, was left Meantime in the hands of the Law Agent with authority to obtain the necessary certificates regarding Sutherland's eyesight.

The Secretary and Mr Andrew Clarke gave a Short report of the proceedings at the Annual Conference of the Scottish Miners' Federation at Ayr, emphasising the resolution that was carried That the weekly contributions throughout the Federation Should be uniform and not less than Sixpence per week. In view of future developments regarding this It was agreed that the Secretary try to obtain copies of rules of some of the English Districts where Sixpence per Member per week is at present being paid, with a view to finding out the liabilities incurred by such Associations to their Members.

Mr A. Quigley and The President having both been nominated for the Presidency it was agreed that a ballot be taken by the Members during the Month prior to next meeting. Mr James Ormiston was reelected as Vice President. Mr Wm Falconer was reelected as Treasurer and a recommendation [to be considered] by the Board that the Salary be raised from ten to fifteen pounds per year. Mr John Pryde, Newbattle Colliery, and Mr Robert Milne, Arniston Colliery, were chosen as Auditors for next audit.

In view of a ballot being taken for the election of President it was agreed that the ballot for Assistant Secretary would not be taken until after the next Board Meeting, arrangements having been made for them appearing before the Members at the Several branches during the month—Moved by Mr Thos McNeil, Seconded by Mr Nicholas Young, Against a Motion Moved by Mr Wm Somerville, Seconded by Mr John Gordon, that both ballots be taken at the same time.

The following were elected as Members of the Wages Committee: Mr William Somerville, Carberry Colliery, Mr Andrew Clarke, Niddrie Colliery, Mr W.H. Brown, Elphinstone Colliery, Mr Peter O'Toole, Arniston Colliery, Mr Nicholas Young, Loanhead Colliery, It being understood that upon any of those appointed being removed from the position as delegate to the Board a new appointment would take place, the Board reserving that power.

In view of Several claims being submitted for the taking of the last ballot, The question of fixing a definite Sum was considered, and on the Motion of Mr

Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr Peter O'Toole, It was agreed that 4s. per hundred ballot papers be paid, reckoned upon the Membership of the Branches from their last returns.

A request by Arniston Colliery to deal with the Non-Unionists was granted.

Mr Nicholas Young intimated that John Ritchie claimed Arbitration against the decision of the Board re. his case disposed of at the Board Meeting of the 26th November. Mr Young was requested to formulate the complaint in proper terms to enable the Board to know what defence to put forward. Mr Young also claimed Arbitration on behalf of Mr Johnston Law against the Board having refused to make up a deficiency in his wages that he asserted he had had for some weeks at the colliery. It was decided that the Association was not liable to augment the wages of any Member who did not or could not earn the average wage and that there was no case for Arbitration.

It was remitted to the Secretary to enquire into the dismissal of John King of Loanhead Colliery. A definition of Rule 16 was desired by Carberry & Wallyford Branches to ascertain whether it was competent to Compel any person to pay the entrance fee of 10s. in one payment. Whereupon Mr Peter O'Toole Moved, Seconded by Mr James Gray, That the proper interpretation of rule 16 is that any person joining can have 12 weeks in which to pay the entrance fee of 10s. Mr Wm Somerville Moved, Seconded by Mr Nicholas Young, That Such is not the proper interpretation but that Branches may compell payment as may be decided upon. Mr O'Toole's Motion was carried by 16 Votes to 3.

With regard to Raeburn & Others against Harry Young: after considerable discussion it was left with Mr W.H. Brown and the Secretary to try to arrange Some means of a Settlement by endeavouring to get the parties to the dispute to meet with the colliery committee. Mr Ward's Case also to be further enquired into by Mr W.H. Brown, the Branch delegate.

Mr John Main Stated a complaint by Andrew Stewart & Sons To the effect that they had not been properly treated at Oxenford Colliery. Upon it being explained that Stewart & his Sons had actually left the colliery for some time before lodging any complaint It was agreed that his Case could not be taken up.

A Motion was Submitted on behalf of Wallyford Branch to amend rule 22 To read that 2s. per day per Member be paid as Strike pay and one Shilling per week for each child under 14 years of age—The gist of the proposed Amendment being That Strike allowance at 2s. per day be paid from the first day of any Strike and though it only lasted one day. The Motion was remitted to the collieries.

Another Motion from the same Branch was tabled, Viz., That the Assistant Secretary about to be appointed be elected or reelected for one year by a ballot vote of the Members of the Association and shall be eligible for reelection. The Board held that this motion was incompetent as rule 8 dealt with the election

and appointments of Secretaries as a whole.

Polton Branch was empowered to deal with the non-unionists.

Thos Little's Case, Bankton, was left in the hands of the Secretary.

Mr James Gray raised the question of Labour representation for the County of Mid Lothian as tabled by him at last Meeting, when it was agreed to remit it again to the Branches in view of Several of them having no report on the question.

11th February 1911

A Wages committee meeting was held here today.

The Secretary reported on Several cases with regard to Compensation, Viz., Charles Sutherland, Niddrie, George Beveridge, Niddrie, & Michael Malloy, Carberry, When it was agreed to leave the cases in the hands of the Law Agent & the Secretary meantime with power to obtain all necessary Certificates, Medical or otherwise, to assist in obtaining the best terms possible for the respective parties.

The Secretary reported that he had obtained a Settlement in Thos Little's case, Bankton Colliery, by the Company paying a Sum of 50s. to Little, and that D. Anderson's Case, Penicuik Colliery, had been Settled by payment of a lump sum of £300.

The Vice President Reported that The two Pits Comprising Tranent Colliery had at the instance of the Edinburgh Colliery Company Ltd been closed down on Thursday the 2nd inst. and that the Company refused to pay the wages due to those Workmen who occupied houses belonging to the Said Company unless they the Workmen Signed a document that they in the first place would vacate Said houses in Seven days' time and Secondly allow the Company to retain Seven days' rent in advance from off the wages due. He the Vice President and Secretary had consulted the Law Agent on the legality of the Company keeping the Workmen's wages back for rent not yet due & under such circumstances and he gave the same opinion as held by them, Viz., That the company were entitled to pay all wages due at date of stoppage less the rent and other offtakes due at Said date. In view of this several of the Workmen refused upon the advice given to comply with the Company's demand and the Vice President and Secretary had advanced to them the Sum due by the employer and requested that an Action be raised to recover the wages in their hands due at date of Stoppage without any deduction for future rent. Mr Andrew Clarke Moved That the action of the Vice President and the Secretary be approved of by this Committee, Seconded by Mr William Somerville and carried.

The Secretary reported that a Conference was to be held on Friday the 17th inst. to consider whether N.E. Lanark Should be contested in the Labour interest at the impending bye election, When it was agreed that we be represented

and that in the opinion of this Committee our delegates Support the view that a Labour candidate be put forward.¹⁹

With regard to the Non Union question at Wallyford and Carberry, The Secretary read a letter from Mr Adam McNeil, Secretary at Wallyford, Stating that Since the first Meeting to deal with this question 57 Members had been Joined at Wallyford, 39 by paying part entry money and 18 producing clearance lines from other collieries at which they had been paying. He gave the name of Thomas Fisher who refused to Join, and the Secretary had requested to get his address So as he could approach him, but he the Secretary had also requested the Manager Mr Rowan to speak to him so as to avoid trouble and he had agreed to do so.

Mr William Somerville reported that while a large number of those who were outside at Carberry had come forward and joined, There were a few still remaining obdurate, one Bernard McPhilips in particular. It was arranged that Mr Somerville send the address of McPhilips or any others taking up the same attitude to the Secretary to enable him to approach them, This line of procedure having been advised by the Scottish Miners' Federation, Viz., That the local Committees do everything possible to induce those outside to join by interviewing them personally or otherwise until they had reached those who may take up an attitude of defiance, When upon Such a Stage being reached The matter would be dealt with by the Federation. The Committee approved of this line of Action being pursued and left the matter with the local Committees & the Secretary to be carried through.

4th March 1911

A Board and financial Meeting was held here today. The Minute of the previous meeting was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr John Gordon, Seconded by Mr Duncan Stein. A Minute of the Wages Committee Meeting held on the 11th Feby was read and held to be a correct record of the proceedings on the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr Wm Somerville, and on the Motion of Mr John Patterson, Seconded by Mr George Ratcliffe, The findings of the Committee were endorsed.

The ballot for the appointment of President was as follows: for Mr George Young 4671, for Mr A. Quigley 2801, Majority for Mr Young of 1870. It was agreed that Mr George Young had been reelected to the Presidentship for the ensuing year.

On the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke The Standing Orders were Suspended to consider the propriety of whether any adjournment Should take place during the day when the Board meets for business. Mr Andrew Clarke Moved That

¹⁹ John Robertson (above, p. 152, n. 16) was Labour candidate in the by-election on 9 Mar. and came bottom of the poll with 2,879 votes, against 7,976 for the Liberal and 6,776 for the Unionist candidate. *Glasgow Herald*, 24 Feb. and 10 Mar. 1911.

unless there was good cause to Shew that the business as a whole could be got through by 2 o'clock That an adjournment for threequarters of an hour take place at 1 o'clock. Seconded by Mr Wm Somerville. Mr John Patterson Moved That the hour be three, which was Seconded by Mr Wm Anthony and Carried.

The Secretary was instructed to issue the ballot papers for the appointment of assistant Secretary and upon the returns reaching the office to call a Meeting of the wages committee to deal with the returns and if necessary arrange for a final ballot.

Upon Consideration being given to the Situation likely to arise in the event of the Colliery Engine-Keepers coming on Strike Seeing that their notices were lodged, Mr Andrew Clarke Moved, Seconded by Mr Wm Somerville, That upon it becoming necessary to call a conference of the Scottish Miners' Federation to consider the attitude to be taken up by the Miners under Such Circumstances, We instruct our delegates to Support the request of the Engine Keepers, Viz., That the Miners refuse to be lowered into the Pits by Enginemmen who may take the place of those on Strike. Mr Colin Allan Moved, Seconded by Mr John Gordon, That we support a neutral policy—This was carried by 10 votes to 6.²⁰

The Secretary reported on David Gibb's case, Niddrie, and the matter was left in his hands to deal with.

A letter was read from the clerk to Tranent Town Council requesting a loan of £195 for Street improvement of that Burgh at 3½ per cent for ten years. It was agreed to grant Said loan and the Secretary to arrange the terms, &c., on the Motion of Mr John Patterson, Seconded by Mr Wm Anthony. It was also agreed that the Secretary arrange for a proposed loan to the Town Council of Bonnyrigg at 3½ per cent.

James Hogg having Married a Widow Six Months ago who had a daughter 23 years of age and said daughter having died, he put in a claim for funeral allowance under rule 29, Member's Daughter. It was decided unanimously (With the exception of the Elphinstone delegate) That he Hogg had no claim to funeral allowance under Such Circumstances.

The returns on the Newbattle Motion, Viz., That Mid Lothian be Contested in the Labour interest at the next election, those in favour—Arniston, Newbattle, Niddrie, Tranent, Elphinstone, Penstone, Smeaton; Against: Loanhead, Carberry, Rosewell, Ormiston, Prestongrange, Wallyford, Polton, Prestonlinks. On the result of the vote it was agreed to allow the Matter to remain in abeyance in the meantime.

Mr Andrew Clarke raised a question regarding a Workman in Niddrie

²⁰ The United Engine Keepers' Mutual Protection Association of Scotland had resolved to strike from 8 Mar. for an 8-hour day. But a subsequent agreement with the Scottish Coalowners' Association to consider terms of a possible settlement led first to postponement to 1 Apr. of the strike, then, as the result of a ballot of the enginekeepers, to acceptance of the terms offered and withdrawal of the strike notices on 29 Mar. *Glasgow Herald*, 20 Feb., 7 and 30 Mar. 1911.

Colliery having handed his pay line to the local Secretary which showed that for Seventeen Shifts the Amount earned was £4.0.10., with a request that a Sum be paid to him equal to the difference between £5.2.0. or 6s. per Shift, It being admitted that the cause was want of cleek or congestion which prevented the men getting full work.²¹ The matter gave rise to a discussion of the problem, Viz., What to do under Such Circumstances, and while a general consensus of opinion was given agreeing that the matter urgently called for a remedy, It was generally admitted That it would require not only National Action by the Miners & all other Workers but political Action as well, but in the case referred to no provision or means of dealing with such exists at present within the Scope of the Association, and that Mr Clarke might take the Case referred to back to the colliery for first consideration.

The train fares of Messrs Clarke & Young, candidates for Assistant Secretary, amounting to 12s. each, was passed for payment.

Mr Nicholas Young intimated that his Committee had now concluded that Johnston Law's Case & John Ritchie's Should now drop, and the Secretary was instructed to get Ritchie's pay line Cashed with the five Shillings that the Manager agreed to refund.

In Mr Dickson's Case claiming Compensation, It was left with Mr Young and the Secretary to make further enquiry into how the alleged accident arose; and John Laydon's case was to be further enquired into.

Mr Young claimed permission to bring Loanhead Colliery on Strike to Compell the Manager to divide the extra work that was necessary to be done amongst other men other than those employed by the Contractor having the Contract. But it was decided unanimously that no Such permission could be granted on Such a complaint.

Upon the request of the Loanhead branch It was agreed that they could pay their dues by cheque.

Alexander Rowley's Case, Elphinstone, to be enquired into by Mr W.H. Brown, who would Send a report to the Secretary.

In reply to a question by the Ormiston delegate, Mr John Main, Viz., Should Pitheadmen pay full weekly contributions of 3d per week, The answer was yes.

A Motion by Wallyford Colliery re. payment when Members may be cast idle at the collieries was, on the Motion of Mr John Gordon, remitted back to Wallyford branch for further consideration re. the ways & means to meet with the proposed benefits.

The reports from the collieries on the Motion Submitted by Wallyford re. rule 22 was lost by a large majority.

It was considered that Charles Vanbeck, Prestonlinks Colliery, had no case.

Mr George Ratcliffe, Smeaton, made a request for assistance on account of

²¹ Cleek: haulage, or means of transporting coal from face to surface. See also above, p. 106, n. 107.

the poor work being obtained at the colliery. It was agreed that he get a Statement to put before the Wages Committee of the work obtained for Some months back when the matter would be further considered.

It was carried by a large Majority to raise the Salary of the Treasurer from ten to fifteen pounds per year.

27th March 1911

A meeting of the Wages Committee was held here today.

Compensation Cases: The Secretary reported that Chas Sutherland's case, Niddrie, had been Settled for a Sum of £120 and that partial Compensation of 10s. per week had been offered to Wm Stewart; and in Donald Wright's case, also of Niddrie, partial Compensation at the rate of 12s. per week had been offered. It was agreed that in both Cases The Secretary take the matter in hand to Still try to obtain a higher rate and to report. It was reported That James Pearson, Wallyford, had obtained a Settlement receiving £20, when before putting his case in the hands of the association a Sum of five pounds was all that was offered. James Tarbet's Case, Loanhead, and James Barbour's Case from the Same Colliery were reported on and left with the Secretary to deal with and to report. Richard Horsburgh's Case, Loanhead, left with the Law Agent to defend The review Sought by the Company.

Ballot for Assistant Secretary: The result of the ballot being as follows—Mr Joseph Young 4265, Mr James Ormiston 1634, Mr Andrew Clarke 1534—It was decided that owing to Mr Young having a clear majority of the votes recorded There was no necessity for a Second ballot and that the meeting Stand adjourned until Saturday the 1st April; and that Mr Young be invited to attend with a view to arrangements being made as to how the work can be carried out to the best advantage of the Association. To be Submitted to the full Board for approval or otherwise.

1st April 1911

The adjourned meeting resumed today, When Tarbet's case, Loanhead, and Barbour's of the Same Colliery were dealt with. Mr Chas Fairgrieve's, Tranent, Wm Clyde's & David Robertson's, Niddrie, and Neil's & McKenzie's, Loanhead, to be enquired into and instructions given to lodge notice of claims in Dickson's case, Loanhead.

The Committee Then decided on the following arrangements re. the Secretary and Assistant Secretary: 1st That Mr Young continue to reside in Musselburgh; 2nd That the Telephone be installed at his house; 3rd That he take up his duties on Monday the 10th inst.; 4th That at the outset to enable Mr Young to get in touch with the Branches He open up Communication with local committees and meet with them to learn the local conditions. After which, upon a report

being Submitted to the Board, further arrangements can be made Such as the Selecting of Branches to which Special attention may be devoted with regard to non-unionism and etc.; 5th The Secretary, Mr Brown, and the Assistant Secy, Mr Young, to consult and Cooperate with each other on all important questions affecting the Welfare of the Association to ensure that its best interests will be Served.

8th April 1911

A Board & financial Meeting was held today. The Minute of the previous Meeting was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr John Gordon, Seconded by Mr Andrew Clarke. The Minutes of the wages committee Meetings held on 27th March and 1st April were read and adopted on the motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr James Ormiston; and on the Motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr David Allan, The findings of the Wages Committee were approved of.

The Secretary submitted a report on the New Mines Bill.²² Approval of which was moved by Mr Andrew Clarke and agreed to, with the proviso that the Secretary draft a short report on Some of the important points in the Bill to put before the collieries.

Welsh Strike: It was agreed on the Motion of Mr William Somerville, Seconded by Mr John Main, That we instruct our delegates to vote in favour of the present Support to this Strike being continued, At the conference called to deal with that question.²³

The Secretary reported on the following's Compensation Cases that were being dealt with, Viz., Wm Stewart, Niddrie, Donald Wright, Niddrie, David Gibb, Niddrie, Wm Clyde—To be taken up though in arrears, John Steel, Arniston, injured Stirlingshire—To be taken up, James Tarbet, Loanhead, James Barbour, Loanhead, William Dickson, Loanhead.

It was agreed that one delegate be sent to the Scottish Trades Union Congress at Dundee during the 26th, 27th, 28th & 29th inst., Mr Wm Foster, Rosewell, being chosen, and Mr Wm Anthony, Woodhall, to represent the Scottish Federation.²⁴

It was agreed on the Matter being raised by Niddrie & Wallyford Branches to include in the Annual report the value of the property belonging to the

²² The Coal Mines Regulation Bill, introduced by the government on 15 Mar. 1911, had been given its second reading in the House of Commons two days later.

²³ The MFGB special conference in London on 26 and 28 Apr. unanimously resolved that the matters in dispute at the Ely pit, where the Cambrian lock-out and strike had begun, should be submitted at once to arbitration. *MFGBAP, 1911: Report of Special Conference, 26 and 28 April*, 4-18.

²⁴ This appears to be the first Scottish Trades Union Congress to which the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association had sent a delegate, although Robert Brown, Association secretary, and at least two other members had occasionally attended STUC congresses as delegates from the Scottish Miners' Federation. See *Report of Annual Scottish Trades Union Congress, 1897-1911*.

Association.

It was agreed to remit to the Branches a request by Niddrie Colliery for a grant of £50 towards the relief of the distress caused by the closing down of Nos. 11, 12 & 13 Pits for two weeks, with a recommendation that it be granted, On the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr Wm Blackie, Against an amendment by Mr Nicholas Young, Seconded by Mr John Main, That no recommendation be made.

Mr Nicholas Young Submitted the following Motion from Loanhead Colliery, Viz., That any Member who is unable to earn the recognised Minimum wage shall report his case to the Association and on being authorized by the Association or its officials to work on pending an amicable Settlement. The Association shall be responsible for all deficiency in wages until a Settlement is ultimately effected.

It was agreed on the Motion of Mr James Ormiston, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, That Such a resolution being detrimental to the best interests of the Association it be reported under Standing Order No. 40—Against an Amendment by Mr Wm Somerville That it be sent to the collieries with a recommendation that it be reported, Seconded by Mr Nicholas Young.

It was agreed to pay 12s. extra for taking the ballot at Carberry owing to the Pit being idle on the day that arrangements had been made to take it & thereby causing extra expense—On the Motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr Duncan Stein, against an Amendment by Mr Nicholas Young, Seconded by Mr John Main. A Sum of 42s. was granted to Wallyford under similar circumstances.

A Motion from Wallyford that no more loans be granted was noted, with the understanding that full consideration be given to the matter upon any application for a loan being made in future.

A Motion from Wallyford That a printed Statement of the proceedings at the Board Meetings be issued to Branches was approved of and the Secretary instructed to adopt the new method next monthly meeting.

The Motion from Wallyford re. Out of Work benefits was again put before the Board and on the Motion of Mr Wm Somerville, Seconded by Mr Duncan Stein, It was agreed to Submit it to the collieries to be reported upon at next Board Meeting.

The Board was unanimously of opinion That the dismissal of Robert Drysdale, Blacksmith, Wallyford, did not come under the definition of victimisation as per rule 27.

Mr Colin Allan reported that a number of Non Unionists had been induced to join at Polton colliery. Mr Wm Blackie intimated that the Bankton Committee were dealing with the non Unionists at that colliery and Stated that Some assistance would be required which would be given in due time. A request from the same colliery that some Single Men who had allowed themselves to fall out

of the association by being displeased at not getting a Share of the grant made to Bankton, Elphinstone & Tranent ... It was carried on the motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr Thos McNeil, That the full entrance fee of 10s. be paid. It was agreed on the Motion of Mr Duncan Stein, Seconded by Mr Edward Robertson, that 4s. extra be allowed to Bankton colliery for taking the ballot.

Mr Edward Robertson having made a claim to some remuneration to the Prestonlinks Committee for time Spent in dealing with non-unionists was instructed to produce a detailed Statement of the work done at the Next Meeting.

A complaint by Smeaton colliery was left with Mr Ratcliffe, the delegate, & the Secretary to deal with.

22nd April 1911

A Meeting of the Wages Committee was held here today and in the absence of the President who had been injured at his work, Mr James Ormiston, Vice President, Occupied the chair.

The Secretary reported that Malloy's case, Carberry, had been Settled, £100 being paid, and that Fairgrieve's, Tranent, had been Settled, £20 being paid, and that the following cases were being dealt with: D. Wright's, Niddrie, Wm Clyde's, Niddrie, Barbour's, Loanhead, Dickson's, Loanhead, Tarbet's, Loanhead, McKenzie's, Loanhead (This case abandoned: Noted by Mr Young), Banks', Prestongrange, Selkirk's, Prestongrange, Edmond's, Prestongrange, Inglis', Prestongrange. George's case, Rosewell: It was agreed to request a Dr's Certificate from this man as Dr Young had Certified him to be Suffering from Lum-bago. A Communication having been received from the Secretary of the Wallyford Branch intimating That the committee & the Members of said Branch were of opinion that Robert Drysdale, Blacksmith, had been Victimised, and that pending the matter being reconsidered by the wages committee, The colliery committee had awarded him one pound per week in the meantime. The Wages Committee instructed Mr Joseph Young, Assistant Secretary, to interview the Manager, Mr Rowan, along with the local committee on Monday the 24th at 4 o'clock & to report the result of the interview to the committee, The Secretary being instructed to write Mr Rowan requesting that he grant an interview and to intimate to the local committee to apprise them of what was desired to be done.

It was agreed that upon Mid & East Lothian getting one of the representatives to be Sent by the Scottish Federation to the Conference to be held in London on the Welsh Dispute and the New Mines Bill, That Mr John Gordon, Bankpark, be appointed to attend, The Secretary being called as a Member of the Executive.

6th May 1911

A Board and financial meeting was held here today, Mr George Young presiding. The Minute of the previous meeting was read & adopted on the mo-

tion of Mr Duncan Stein, Seconded by Mr Edward Robertson. The Minute of a wages committee meeting held on the 22nd April was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Nicholas Young, Seconded by Mr Peter O'Toole; and on the motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr John Main, The decisions of the Wages Committee were endorsed.

The Motion by Wallyford Colliery to provide an out of work benefit, while retaining the present Contributions was defeated, The following being the result of the vote by the collieries: In favour of Motion—Niddrie, Elphinstone, Wallyford, Prestonlinks, Smeaton; Against the Motion—Arniston, Newbattle, Loanhead, Rosewell, Carberry, Penston, Ormiston, Prestongrange, Polton, House of Muir, Bankton, Woodhall, Bankpark.

The note regarding the grant to Niddrie Colliery was carried, fourteen branches being in favour and four against. It was agreed that fifty pounds be paid.

A letter was read appealing for Support to the Strike in South Wales, When it was agreed on the motion of Mr James Ormiston, Seconded by Mr Duncan Stein, That no grant be given but that we favour Support being given by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain and that the districts be levied accordingly.

The Secretary reported on the progress made in Committee with the New Mines Bill, and on the motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr William Somerville, It was agreed to strongly recommend the Members of the Several collieries to give their utmost Support to the clause dealing with Working accommodation at the Mine.²⁵

Newbattle Colliery intimated that at a Meeting held Since last Board meeting The members of the branch protested against any extra payment being made to taking a ballot beyond the Sum fixed, Viz., 4s. per hundred.

Mr Nicholas Young again put forward the Motion from Loanhead Colliery that was rejected at the last meeting, and on the motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, It was decided to abide by the former decision.

The Secretary was instructed to write the Manager of the Edinburgh Collieries regarding a Shortage of Material at Carberry Colliery to enable the Miners to perform their work, The prop-wood especially being deficient both in quantity and quality. Consideration was given to the question of Whether workmen who may have been idle for Six Consecutive working days from the above cause, Viz., want of prop wood, would be entitled to Strike benefit; When Mr Andrew Clarke moved That under the Circumstances as narrated by Mr Somerville in this case Strike allowance be given to those who were off work Six full days, seconded by Mr Duncan Stein. Mr Nicholas Young Moved, Seconded by Mr John Patterson, That no payment be made under Such Circumstances. There

²⁵ Clause 77 of the Bill dealt with provision of accommodation and facilities for baths and drying clothes in mines.

voted for Mr Clarke's Motion 4, For Mr Young's amendment 12.

Motion from Carberry to amend rule 16, To empower Colliery committees if they so decided to exact the full entrance fee of 10s. from new entrants at one payment—Remitted to the collieries.

Mr Boswell, Oxenford Colliery, Ormiston, having been dismissed for filling foreign material amongst his Coal, put forward a claim to removal expenses. It was decided on a Motion by Mr Nicholas Young, Seconded by Mr Aw Clarke, That removal expenses under Such Circumstances be not paid.

It was agreed to pay 39s.6d. to Wallyford Colliery Committee for work in connection with the nonunionists, on the motion of Mr Duncan Stein, Seconded by Mr George Radcliffe.

The Committee of Wallyford Colliery having desired That Robert Drysdale's case, dealt with at last Board Meeting, be reconsidered, After having heard the Minute of the Wages Committee and hearing a verbal report by Mr Joseph Young, assistant Secretary, of an interview he had had with Mr Rowan, Manager, along with the committee, It was decided on the Motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr John Patterson, to abide by the decision arrived at last Meeting, Against an Amendment by Mr William Somerville, Seconded by Mr W.H. Brown, That Drysdale's removal expenses be paid. Amendment 3 votes, Motion 15.

It was agreed on the Motion of Mr Thos McNeil, Seconded by Mr Duncan Stein, to grant a Sum of 30s. to Bankton Colliery for the extra work in dealing with nonunionists that had been enrolled, against an Amendment by Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr William Foster, That nothing be paid.

A letter from Mr Archibald Vickers claiming removal expenses for his Sons, Who he claimed to have been victimised at Woodhall Colliery, was remitted to the Colliery for first consideration.

The claim to extra allowance by the Prestonlinks Committee was refused on the motion of Mr Nicholas Young, Seconded by Mr William Foster.

The Assistant Secretary reported upon his Visits to Several Collieries and emphasised the importance of dealing with Rosewell Colliery at which it was reported the Eight Hours Act was not being observed. The Secretary was instructed to write the general Manager regarding the Matter.

27th May 1911

A Wages Committee meeting was held here today.

The following Compensation Cases were reported on as being dealt with: 1 Thos McTiernan, Loanhead, 2 George Hogg, Loanhead, 3 James Tarbett, Loanhead (Settled £7.10.0.), 4 Wm Forrest, Penston, 5 Peter Ormiston, Penston, 6 Peter Davidson, Elphinstone, 7 John Syme, Newbattle (fatal, £215.2.1., Settled), 8 Alexr Riddell, Newbattle (Settled £140, eyesight injured), 9 Archie Shiell's case, Niddrie.

The Law Agent's account for the past six months, amounting to £30.11.8., was passed for payment.

John Hay, Ormiston, having accepted payment of four weeks' Compensation at 13s. per week, complained that Such did not represent his average wage. The Secretary was instructed to make enquiry as to how his average had been arrived at.

A letter from the Secretary of Wallyford branch was read claiming arbitration under rule 23 against the decision of the Board regarding the claim by Robert Drysdale, Blacksmith, to victimisation allowance, Which was rejected by the Board as not coming under rule 27 defining Victimisation. It was agreed to comply with the request for Arbitration and that, With the approval of the full Board, upon being obtained Instruct the Secretary to write the Branch Secretary, Wallyford, to that effect, and to ask That the charge of Complaint by the Said Branch against the Board be Submitted in Writing to enable the Board to know what had to be met and to prepare its defence; Also that the fee of 10s. be remitted with the name of the Arbiter chosen by the Branch, Leaving it to the full Board to name an arbiter to represent its interests.

In View of an important Conference to be held in London on the 13th June on the South Wales dispute, Abnormal wage question &c., The Wages Committee recommend That one delegate be sent direct by and on behalf of the association.

3rd June 1911

A Board and financial Meeting was held here today. The Minute of the former Meeting was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr Duncan Stein. The Minute of a Wages Committee meeting held on the 27th May was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr James Ormiston, And the recommendations and findings contained therein carried unanimously on the Motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr John Main.

Arbitration Case, Wallyford Branch: In accordance with the recommendation of the wages committee on this case The Secretary was instructed to intimate the decision to the Secretary of the Wallyford Branch and Meantime agreed that Robert Smillie, President, Scottish Fedn, Wm Adamson, Treasurer, M.P., and John Robertson, Vice President of the Scottish Miners' Federation, be asked in the order given to Act as arbiter on behalf of the Board.

The Secretary reported on the New Mines Bill at present in Grand Committee of the House of Commons and referred to Sub Section B of clause 32 as being likely to inflict great inconvenience on a large number of those employed at Several of the largest collieries if passed into law. When after due Consideration It was agreed to unanimously on the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded

by Mr John Patterson, To take all the action possible to obtain the deletion of Sub Section B of Clause 32 and that the Secretary write the representatives of the Two Counties & of Leith Burghs requesting that they would assist in the clause being deleted, Viz., The Master of Elibank, M.P., Mr John D. Hope, M.P., and Munro Ferguson, M.P.²⁶

It was agreed that we be represented at a Conference to be held at Glasgow on Thursday the 8th inst. on the Welsh Strike and abnormal wage question, and in view of the importance of the Subjects to be dealt with it was agreed to appoint Mr Joseph Young, Assistant Secretary, Mr George Young, President, Mr Colin Allan, Polton, Mr Edward Robertson, Prestonlinks, and Mr James Pringle, House of Muir, With instructions to hear the matter discussed and afterwards consult as to how to vote with regard to the instructions to be given to the delegates to attend the British Miners' Federation Conference to be held in London on the 13th inst. to deal with the Same Subjects.

It was agreed that we be represented at the British Miners' Fedn Conference in London and that Mr Nicholas Young, Loanhead, and Mr W.H. Brown, Elphinstone, be appointed. It was also agreed that Mr Joseph Young, assistant Secretary, represent the Association at the International Conference to be held in London on the 24th July and four following days.²⁷

The Secretary reported on George Gray's Case, Ormiston, and Peter

²⁶ Clause 32 of the Bill dealt with safety lamps and provided that 'No lamp or light other than a locked safety lamp shall be allowed or used—(a) in any seam where the air current in the main return airway is found normally to contain more than one half per cent of inflammable gas; or (b) in any seam (except in the main intake airways within 200 yards from the shaft) in which an explosion of inflammable gas causing any personal injury whatever has occurred within the previous 12 months.' Mr Atherley Jones, MP, emphasising during the debate on the Bill in the House of Commons Standing Committee on 31 May that 'the position in Scotland in regard to naked lights was serious', said that between 1896 and 1907 46 deaths had resulted in Scots mines from naked lights as against 186 deaths in the rest of the United Kingdom, and almost half of all those injured from that cause in UK mines were in Scotland, although there were eight times more miners in England and Wales than in Scotland. An attempt in the Standing Committee on 14 June to delete sub-section (b) was defeated by only one vote. But a government amendment to give the Secretary of State power to grant exemptions from the sub-section 'in cases where on account of the special character of the mine the use of safety lamps was not required', was agreed to. *The Times*, 1 and 15 June 1911; *Glasgow Herald*, 1 and 15 June 1911. The Master of Elibank was Alexander Murray, 1st Baron Murray of Elibank (1870-1920), Liberal MP, Midlothian, 1900-5 and 1910-12, Peebles and Selkirk, 1906-10, Scottish Liberal Whip, 1906-10, Chief Liberal Whip, 1909-12, Under-Secretary of State for India, 1909, Parliamentary Secretary to Treasury, 1910-12, John Deans Hope (1860-1949), Liberal MP for West Fife, 1900-10, East Lothian, 1911-18, and Berwick and East Lothian, 1918-22. Ronald C. Munro-Ferguson (1860-1934), Viscount Novar from 1920, Liberal MP, Ross and Cromarty, 1884-5, Leith Burghs, 1886-1914, Private Secretary to Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, 1886 and 1892-4, Provost of Kirkcaldy, 1906-14, Governor-General and C.-in-C. of Australia, 1914-20, Secretary for Scotland, 1922-4.

²⁷ The Miners' International Congress met 24-28 July at the Westminster Palace Hotel, London. Robert Brown and Joseph Young, Mid and East Lothian Miners, were present as delegates from the Scottish Miners' Federation. Some 853,452 miners in unions in Britain, Germany, France, Austria, Belgium, Holland and Sweden were represented at the Congress. *MFGBAJ*, 1911, 76-9.

Ormiston, Penston, re Compensation, and the matter was left in his hands to deal with.

A Motion from Carberry That a working policy of five days per week be observed and that Saturday in each week be observed as a holy day was considered, When it was thought that Such a question Should be dealt with from a National Standpoint and that it might be put on the agenda of the Scottish Miners' Federation for the Annual Conference during August, Which if approved of could be put forward by the Scottish Federation to be dealt with at the Annual Conference of the British Miners' Fedn during October.

The Motion by Carberry Colliery re rule 16 was defeated, Nine collieries voting against and five in favour—the remainder no report.

A Motion by Bankton to delete all the rule 16 dealing with persons leaving the Mines to follow other occupations was remitted to the Branches for to be reported upon at next Board Meeting. A complaint regarding the Wages earned in the fourfoot Seam at this Colliery was left with the Secretaries to deal with as also that enquiry be made into the working of the proposed Scale of deductions for foreign Material in the hand-filled Coal Seam at Oxenford Pit, Ormiston.

The Smeaton delegate reported a complaint by Lawrence Martin to the effect that he was underpaid for the work he was doing. After he had explained the circumstances of the Case It was considered That in Martin's own interest it would be better to leave matters alone.

Mr Wm Anthony, Woodhall, reported That no evidence could be obtained of Mr A. Vicker's Sons having been Victimised at that colliery and the matter dropped.

The Secretary was instructed to deal with George Lamb's claim to compensation at Bankton Colliery, liability having been denied.

1st July 1911

A Wages Committee Meeting was held here today.

The following cases under the Workmen's Compensation Act were dealt with: 1 Peter Davidson V. Edinburgh Collieries—Agreed to Submit this case to the Medical Referee and to request that Mr Davidson produce a Certificate from his own Doctor in the first place. 2 George Gray's case, Ormiston, Settled, Six pounds being obtained. 3 David Scott's claim, Ormiston—further enquiry being made as to whether he had left the employment before making any claim. 4 Richard Horsburgh, Loanhead—This case having been reviewed The Sheriff (Guy) reduced the Compensation from one pound to ten Shillings per week. 5 Mr Neil's Case, Loanhead, Settled. £30 obtained. 6 Thos Scott's case, Tranent—This case to be tested in Court (as a one eyed Workman). 7 Wm Forrest's Case, Penston, in Law Agent's hands. 8 Thos Banks, Prestongrange—Agreed to request

a Medical Certificate in this Case with a view to further proceedings being taken. 9 Mary Goldrick, Prestongrange—This Case cannot be undertaken by the Association, She not being a Member. 10 Robert Roseburgh's Case, Loanhead, was reported upon and was left in the hands of the Secretary. 11 John Livingstone, Woodhall—An offer of five pounds having been offered in this Case, Upon the Matter being explained It was considered that the offer Should be accepted. 12 John McInnes' Case, Prestonlinks—Further enquiry to be made in this case re. whether he is a Member or not. 13 John Cullen's Case, Niddrie—This case was left in the hands of the Secretary to be further dealt with. 14 Wm Clyde's Case—Upon review the Sheriff reduced Clyde's Compensation from 15s. per week to 10s. per week. 15 John Mealyou's case—This claim was settled, five pounds being obtained.

A letter was read from the Secretary of Penston Colliery requesting that the Board would recommend a grant of a Sum to assist towards the relief of the distress that has arisen owing to the two Pits being Shut down from the 14th June following on a long period of Slack work. The wages committee recommend to the Board That under the Circumstances a recommendation be made to the Branches to grant Something towards relieving the distress existing.

A report was Submitted of the adjustment of the rates in the Jewel Section of Bankton Colliery by the two Secretaries on behalf of the Men. The Drawing road had been Shortened by three hundred yards and the Manager wished to reduce the hewing rate in one instance from 2s.9d. per ton to 2s.3d. per ton and in another case from 2s.10½d. per ton to 2s.6½d. per ton. He was induced to reduce his claim for Sixpence to fourpence and the claim from fourpence to twopence in the other case, Without any extra output from the Shortening of the drawing road and from the wages earned prior to the change, and the output per two men at the rate agreed upon, Viz., 2s.5d. per ton at Six tons for a man and his drawer. This left a Sum of 14s.6d. between the man at the face and his drawer. It was reported that it was with great reluctance that the men accepted these terms but ultimately were persuaded to do so. The wages committee agreed unanimously that the terms obtained were under the Circumstances Such as Should have been accepted and endorsed the Action of the Secretaries.

A deputation of Six members of the committee of Wallyford Branch were admitted to the meeting with a view to arriving at Some agreement regarding the dispute between the Board and the Branch over Robert Drysdale's claim for victimisation allowance. After discussing the question for a considerable time Mr Andrew Quigley proposed on behalf of the deputation That the wages Committee Might recommend to the Board to refund to the Branch the two pounds expended with some little allowance for Drysdale's removal. After further consultation it was agreed that the wages committee would give Mr Quigley's

proposal their consideration with a view to Making Some recommendation to the Board on the matter next Saturday, after which the deputation withdrew.

Mr Robert Handyside, The Law Agent, was present and explained that Wm Dickson's Case, Loanhead, was coming before the Sheriff in a week's time and asked and obtained some information with regard to the Special rules bearing on the Case. He also thought it would be advisable that if possible a one-eyed witness could be obtained to give evidence in Thos Scott's case of the difficulties to be faced in Mining work [and] That he Should be asked to attend.²⁸

The Committee recommend That as far as possible all claims for Compensation or in which Compensation has been withheld or Stopped Should be Sent to the Secretary by the Colliery Secretary of the Branch of which the injured person is a member, to enable the local Committee to be conversant with all the cases arising at Such Branch.

The Wages Committee after a long discussion failed to arrive at any recommendation regarding the dispute between Wallyford Branch & the Board and left the matter to the full Board for decision.

8th July 1911

A Board and financial Meeting was held here today. The Minute of the former meeting was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Edward Robertson, Seconded by Mr George Ratcliffe. The Minute of a Wages Committee Meeting held on the 1st inst. and continued this Morning was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr Peter O'Toole. Approval of the decisions of the wages Committee were agreed to on the Motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan.

William Murray's claim for Compensation: This man was injured at the Hirst Colliery, Salsburgh, but had been paying his Union dues at Arniston Colliery, and under the circumstances it was agreed that The Secretary take his case in hand.

Thos Banks' Case, Prestongrange: It was decided that unless Banks produced a Certificate from his Medical attendant as to his unfitness for his own work That no further Action could be taken in his case. Shield's & Cullen's cases, Niddrie: It was agreed that these cases be put in the hands of the Law Agent failing adjustment by the Secretary. David Scott's Case, Ormiston: It was agreed to obtain the Law Agent's opinion on the point in this case, Viz., He Scott having voluntarily left the employment before making any claim. Peter Davidson's Case: It was agreed that Davidson be examined by Dr Alaric Robertson, Musselburgh, on behalf of the Association.

The Secretary reported on the conference held by the Miners' Federation of

²⁸ No more information about this case has been found.

Great Britain on the 13th June & following days to deal with the abnormal wage question and the South Wales dispute. Mr Andrew Clarke moved that the report be accepted, which was approved of.²⁹

The Secretary intimated that fourteen levies of one hundred pounds each had been called up by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, principally in connection with the South Wales Dispute, and that other levies were falling due to the Scottish Miners' Federation for Strikes at Braidhurst and Dixon's collieries in Lanarkshire and that the present expenditure was exceeding the income, which required consideration by the Board.

Resolutions for the Annual Conference of the Scottish Miners' Federation to be held during August were dealt with, and three from Newbattle Branch and one from Carberry were passed and instructions given to forward them to the Scottish Executive to be put on the Agenda.

The Board approved of the recommendation by the Wages Committee regarding a grant of 10s. per Member to those employed at Penston Colliery and recommended the matter to the Branches to be reported upon as early as possible.

Wallyford Colliery and the Board re. Robert Drysdale's case: This matter was taken up by the Board as remitted from the wages committee and after considerable discussion Mr Wm Somerville moved, Seconded by Mr Andrew Clarke, That with a view to prevent further irritation and to promote harmony within our ranks This Board agrees to grant a Small Sum to meet part of the expense incurred by the Wallyford Branch in dealing with Robert Drysdale's case. Mr Nicholas Young Moved, Seconded by Mr John Main, That the Board abide by its former decision. There voted for Mr Somerville's Motion 10, and for Mr Young's 9. It was then after some further Consideration agreed to make an offer of three pounds to the Branch upon Mr A. Quigley having Stated that the expenditure had been about Six pounds or so.

Murphy's Case, Rosewell: This case was remitted to the Colliery.

Compensation cases, Carberry: John Ferrier having complained that his Son John had not got compensation for an injury he Sustained at Newbattle Colliery on 18th January last, The Secretary informed the Board that the Matter was in his hands at the time of the alleged injury and upon the claim being repudiated

²⁹ Robert Brown, Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association, told the MFGB special conference on 13-15 June in London that in Scotland 'We usually look for whatever is recognised as the minimum wage whenever a man is working in an abnormal place' (or a 'deficient' place, as it was termed in Scotland). Brown said there was no victimisation of miners in Scotland who refused to work in abnormal places, and that the minimum wage there was reckoned at 6s. per day. The special conference decided to adjourn until 28 July so that reports about abnormal places from the affiliated districts could be completed. The special conference also decided to end the national levy in support of the Cambrian strike, and ruled out on procedural grounds a request from South Wales delegates for a national strike for a guaranteed minimum wage. *MFGBAP, 1911: Report of Special Conference, 13, 14 and 15 June*, 92-129; Clegg, *History of British Trade Unions*, ii, 32.

by the Company the boy's Father called at the Office and instructed him to abandon the claim.

James Park's Case: This case was left with the Secretary to deal with.

Mr P.L. King and his Drawer's wages: This matter was left over pending investigation by Mr Andrew Quigley.

The following Motion by Wallyford & Carberry was remitted to the collieries: That in the event of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain Stopping payment of the levy of £3000 per week which had for some time been paid towards the Strike fund at the Cambrian Collieries, South Wales, That the Mid & East Lothian Miners' Assn Continue to pay their Share of Such levy direct upon the Strike continuing.

Non Unionists, Elphinstone: It was agreed that some Action of a drastic nature would be taken unless those outside of the union joined by the 15th inst.

Prestongrange & non Unionists: It was agreed on the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr Wm Somerville, That a Sum of 40s. be granted to this branch towards part of the expense and loss incurred in dealing with the nonunionists—Against an amendment by Mr Andrew Anderson, Seconded by Mr. John Main, that nothing be allowed.

18th July 1911

A Wages Committee meeting was held today. All the members were present except Mr Wm Somerville. The Secretary reported on Several cases of Compensation: George Penycook, Loanhead—Settled £275; John Douglas, Tranent—Settled £190; Archd Sheilds, Niddrie, Settled £10; John McNamara, reduced to 15s.6d. per week from 20s.; Wm Dickson, Loanhead, Won this case—10s. 11d. per week; Alexr Duncan, Tranent, Compensation reduced to 10s. per week and awards £10.10s. expenses against him; Thos Scott, Tranent, to 10s. per week from 31st March to 31st May and until further orders 7s. per week and awards £10.10s. expenses against Scott; Robert Roseburgh & Andrew King's cases were being dealt with. Wm Murray's case, Arniston, Settled for £12.10s.

All the collieries that had held meetings intimated that the Members were in favour of a grant of 10s. per Member being made to Penston Colliery and it was agreed that the Treasurer pay over to the committee & Mr James Ormiston, Vice President, a Sum equal to meet the requirements, The Membership being estimated at over two hundred.

Appeals were made for a grant from Wallyford, Prestonlinks and Bankton collieries on account of the loss of work arising from the Seaman's Strike and other causes. Upon the claims being considered it was explained that in Several other cases the same State of Matters had prevailed as at the three collieries appealing, One pit at Newbattle having lost two weeks' work and at Niddrie,

Loanhead and Arniston Much time had been lost. In View of Such a condition of affairs the committee could not recommend that any grant be made to any of the three collieries Making application.³⁰

It was agreed to leave the question of whether the Association be represented at the Trades Union Congress to be Settled by the full Board, Seeing that it would Meet on the 5th of August.

5th August 1911

A Board and financial Meeting was held today. The Minute of the former Meeting was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr John Gordon, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan. The Minute of a wages committee Meeting held on the 18th July was read and adopted on the motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr James Ormiston. And on the motion of Mr David Allan, Seconded by Mr George Ratcliffe, the decisions of the wages committee were approved of.

Report of Conference, Abnormal Wage: The Secretary gave a report of the Conference on this question which was accepted.³¹

Report on Motion of Carberry & Wallyford: The result of the vote on this question, Viz., whether the Mid & East Lothian Miners' Assn continue to pay the levy towards the Cambrian Strike in South Wales upon the Strike continuing—4575 voted in favour and 4304 against. In View of the closeness of the vote Mr Andrew Clarke Moved That this matter be remitted to the Wages Committee with power To the extent That upon the Strike not being Settled in two weeks' time They the wages committee would make a grant of £100 towards the relief of the distress, Seconded by Mr Wm Somerville. Mr Nicholas Young Moved, Seconded by Mr Edward Robertson, That nothing be given. Upon a vote being taken a large majority Voted in favour of Mr Clarke's Motion.³²

³⁰ Seamen had gone on strike from 14 June at ports around Britain, including Leith, over wages, manning scales, and for recognition by the shipowners of their union, the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union. The strike affected coal exports, which were important to Mid and East Lothian collieries. At Leith, where on 26 June 37 steamers were lying in port unable to find crews, the strike was settled on 12 July. The seamen's strike, which continued for several weeks in some ports and sparked off strikes by dockers, carters and, later in the summer, railwaymen, was largely successful in achieving its aims. Clegg, *History of British Trade Unions*, ii, 33-5; G.D.H. Cole, *A Short History of the British Working-Class Movement, 1789-1947* (London, 1947), 328-31; *Glasgow Herald*, 26 June and 13 July 1911.

³¹ The MFGB adjourned special conference in London on 28 and 29 July defeated by 82 votes to 54 a motion from Lancashire and Yorkshire that a ballot be taken for a national strike unless the coalowners agreed to a payment of 7s. a day for all abnormal places 'or such payment equal to day-wage coaling rate' for each affiliated district or county in the MFGB—in favour of an amendment from its Executive Committee that the MFGB meet the coalowners to consider a district minimum rate for abnormal places before taking a Federation strike ballot. *MFGB AP, 1911: Report of Special Adjourned Conference, 28 and 29 July*, 12-52; Arnot, *Years of Struggle*, 78.

³² The Cambrian strike continued until Aug., when the miners were forced to accept the original terms of settlement of Oct. 1910 concerning the cutting price in the controversial seam at Ely pit. But

Trades Union Congress: Mr Andrew Quigley Moved, Seconded by Mr Nicholas Young, That on this occasion we do not send any representative to the Congress. Mr Andrew Clarke Moved, Seconded by Mr James Ormiston, That we be represented, Which was carried. Mr Andrew Clarke Moved, Seconded by Mr Wm Somerville, That one representative be sent. Mr Duncan Stein Moved, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, that two representatives be Sent—which was carried, and the Secretary and Vice President Selected to attend.

Scottish Federation Annual Conference: The agenda for the annual Conference was considered and the representatives instructed thereon, It being carried that four delegates attend and the President and two Secretaries.

While in favour of the principle of a National Union It was agreed that our representatives take up a non-committal attitude on the question at present.³³

Appeals for a grant from Wallyford, Bankton, Prestonlinks and Carberry Collieries upon being dealt with Mr Nicholas Young Moved, Seconded by Mr Andrew Quigley, That Some consideration be given to those collieries applying. Mr Colin Allan Moved, Seconded by Mr Wm Foster, That under the circumstances The request cannot be complied with—Which was carried by 12 votes to 5.

Mr Andrew Clarke Moved That it be remitted to the wages committee to formulate some Scheme whereby provision could be provided to Meet Such contingencies as had arisen during the last few years amongst the members. This was agreed to unanimously on the understanding that any Scheme must first be Submitted to the Board and have its approval and also of the members before being adopted.

A Motion by Arniston Colliery was remitted to the Branches to ascertain whether they favoured or not The holding of a general Meeting at Dalkeith once a year.

P.L. King's case and Robert Anstruther was left in the hands of the Assistant Secretary to try to effect a Settlement.

Cases of Compensation: Sievwright Cheyne, Loanhead, having died while in receipt of Compensation It was agreed that steps be taken to see if further Compensation was obtainable on the ground that he had died from the injury sustained. Andrew King's Case, Loanhead, was left with the Secretary. Also enquiry to be made into McTiernan's case & Robert Roseburgh upon taking his case out of the Agent's hands, who claimed to have been instructed by Roseburgh,

the struggle had made the issue of abnormal places a national one and had also raised the issue of a national minimum wage. Arnot, *Years of Struggle*, 76-7.

³³ This was an indication of coming changes in the structure of Scots miners' union organisation that resulted, following a ballot, in Oct. 1914 in the Scottish Miners' Federation becoming the National Union of Scottish Mine Workers. Despite its title the NUSMW was a federation of the various affiliated county unions, including Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association, but with a closer degree of federation than under the former SME. Arnot, *Scottish Miners*, 133-4.

The Secretary to again undertake the Management of the Case. Foster's case, Loanhead, to be enquired into regarding Whether any claim could be maintained under the employers' liability Act. Matthew Watterston's case, Rosewell—This Case was remitted to the Colliery to Consider as a Branch Watterston's claim to being victimised. John McCracken's claim against Lawrence Leslie was reported and Mr John Main Stated that Leslie had promised to pay the 20s. due to McCracken.

It was agreed to pay two pounds towards the Cost of a Collecting Box at Carberry Colliery.

Mr Andrew Quigley stated a grievance regarding Sam Murphy who claimed to have been underpaid at Wallyford colliery to the extent of 20s. It was agreed that as the Assistant Secretary was to be at Wallyford Colliery office on Monday on other business he would enquire into Murphy's complaint.

25th August 1911

A Wages Committee Meeting was held today. Mr James Ormiston, Mr Andrew Clarke, Mr William Somerville, Mr John Patterson, Mr Nicholas Young, Mr Peter O'Toole, and the Treasurer were in attendance. The Secretary reported on the following Cases under the Workmen's Compensation Act that were being dealt with: 1 William Forrest, Tranent, Settled—£20. 2 James Park's Case, Settled—£3. 3 Robert Roseburgh's, Loanhead—an offer of 10s. per week was offered for the period in dispute in this case and full Compensation afterwards. It was left with Mr Nicholas [Young] to consult Roseburgh regarding the acceptance of the offer. 4 Andrew King, Loanhead—Liability in this case is denied but an offer of £8.10s. is made to Settle. Dr Alaric Robertson after examination could not give a favourable report in favour of King and under the Circumstances the Committee recommend that the offer made be accepted. 5 Charles Blackie, Prestonlinks—This man got one of his fingers amputated as the result of an Accident, but has been Seized with another bodily trouble and Dr Bisset Sked Certifies That the injury to his hand has healed up and So far as it is concerned he is fit for work but he still suffers from Double Orchitis. It was considered that no further Action could be taken in this case. 6 John Foster, Loanhead—This young man died from injuries Sustained and Meantime a claim under the Employers' Liability Act has been made. 7 Peter Davidson, Elphinstone—This man has now got started at light work and getting 75% of the difference in wages as partial Compensation. He is not inclined to accept the partial compensation for the period between the full compensation being Stopped and his resuming work and it was left with the Secretary to consult with the Law Agent as to obtaining full compensation for one Month at least up to the date of examination, but failing which to advise that the Settlement be Confirmed. 8 Peter Livingstone—This case was

left in the hands of the Secretary in the Meantime. 9 John McPherson, Loanhead—This case is still under Consideration: He being in the Royal Infirmary at Edinburgh could not go to Glasgow to be examined. 10 George Rae, Newbattle Colliery—This Man States that he Strained himself while lifting a Stone while at his work Brushing. The claim for Compensation was refused on the ground that no proof was forthcoming of his being injured as stated. He Rae gave the name of Robert Lockhart, who worked with him, as a Witness and the following is a Statement by Lockhart: 'Rae worked with him all night and travelled to the pit bottom with him at the beginning of the Shift. He never complained to him that he had hurt himself nor did he Show any Sign of having been injured.' It was considered that under these Circumstances nothing could be done with Rae's claim. 11 Thos Orr's Case, Prestonlinks—The Insurance Company had stopped payment in this Case and Orr had produced a Dr's Certificate that he was still unfit for work. The Secretary intimated that this case was Recorded and had notified the Insurance Company to that effect and demanding that the Compensation be continued. 12 Thos Sandiland's Case—This man was killed at Wallyford and the Case is in the hands of the Law Agent. 13 Wm Humble's Case, Arniston—This was remitted to Mr Falconer to obtain information regarding the alleged accident. 14 Mr Joseph Young reported an interview with Mr P. L. King regarding the dispute between him and R. Anstruther and the matter was left in his hands for further inquiry in view of the communication King had made to the Secretary and the Statement made to Mr Young, assistant Secretary. 15 The Secretary read correspondence between himself and Lawrence Leslie regarding the claim against Leslie by John McCracken for one pound for wages, and in view of the nature of the replies by Leslie It was decided that action of a drastic nature would require to be adopted in Such cases and that the Secretary intimate Such to Leslie. 16 Richard Porteous having left Loanhead Colliery without paying his Drawer his wages The Matter was left with the Secretary to take steps to Secure what was due to Jas Linton, The Drawer alluded to. 17 Alexr McNeil, Contractor, having left Polton Colliery while due those working to him a Sum of £5.15.0. It was left with the Secretary to take Steps to recover the Same. 18 A letter was read from Mr Michael Corrie, Prestongrange, regarding a breach of the Eight Hours Mines Act by Robert Stein and his Drawer. It was agreed that the Secretary write the Manager regarding the matter to the effect that if Such were to continue The Inspector of Mines would be informed of it with a view to a prosecution.

The Committee upon considering the remit from the full Board Meeting regarding a Scheme to provide a fund for out of work relief, and having had a copy of a Scheme formulated by the Lanarkshire Miners' Union, were of opinion That the first essential towards any out of work fund being established was an increase in the weekly Contributions.

16th September 1911

A Board and financial Meeting was held today. The Minute of the previous meeting was read and adopted on the motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr John Gordon. The Minute of a wages Committee Meeting held on the 25th August was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Wm Somerville, Seconded by Mr Andrew Clarke. It was agreed to approve of the decisions of the wages committee on the Motion of Mr John Gordon, Seconded by Mr John Main.

It was agreed that Mr John Patterson be elected to the Wages Committee in the place of Mr W.H. Brown.

An interview was granted to the Law Agent and Mr Alexander Foster and his Son regarding the death of John Foster, who was killed at Loanhead Colliery in July last, The question being whether a claim could be established under the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, or not. Upon their retiring Mr James Ormiston Moved That we do not take action under the Employers' Act, 1880, Seconded by Mr Peter O'Toole. Mr Andrew Quigley Moved, Seconded by Mr Wm Foster, That we obtain the opinion of counsel on the Matter. Upon a vote The Motion by Mr Ormiston was carried by 10 Votes to 4.

Mr Peter O'Toole raised the question of Mr Andrew Quigley having written to the press about the business done at the last Board Meeting; and after He and Several of the delegates had expressed their disapproval of what had been done as being inimical to the best interests of the Association the matter was allowed to drop.³⁴

A letter was read from Bonnyrigg Town Council requesting a loan of £240 at 3½% per Cent interest for twenty years. It was agreed on the Motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr Nicholas Young, not to Comply with the request.

It was intimated that John Dickson, who had acted as Collector of the Union dues at Smeaton Branch, had retained a sum of £2.9.6. which he refused to pay over to the local Treasurer. It was left with the Secretary to See that the Money was forthcoming, Otherwise to take Action by putting the case in the hands of the Authorities.

Donald Wright and Robert Morrison of Niddrie Colliery having instructed other Law Agents to deal with their claims to Compensation While both Cases were being dealt with by the Law Agent for the Association, It was agreed to abandon their Cases So far as further liability was concerned by the Association.

James Graham, Ormiston Colliery, having signed a final receipt and the Agreement recorded It was decided that no Action could be taken in his case.

Alexr McNeil, Contractor, having left Polton Colliery while due a Sum of

³⁴ Quigley's letter has not been found in any of almost a dozen local and national newspapers searched.

£5.15.0. as wages to eight workmen, It was left with the Secretary to Secure payment of the Sum due.

The Secretary reported that Lawrence Leslie has Absconded from Ormiston Colliery and his whereabouts not known.

Thos Orr's Case, Prestonlinks, was reported on and left with the Secretary to consult with and advise Mr Orr.

Thos McTiernan's Case, Loanhead: It was agreed that failing a Settlement of this case McTiernan be examined on behalf of the Association.

It was agreed that two delegates and the Secretary attend a Conference of the Scottish Miners' Federation on Tuesday the 19th inst.

The Agenda for the British Miners' Federation Annual Conference was considered and the delegates instructed thereon; and with regard to the request by Lanarkshire to bring out all the Men employed by the Summerlee Iron & Coal Coy over the dispute at Braidhurst Colliery It was agreed to oppose Such action in the Meantime and to propose That the Scottish Miners' Federation Executive take up the dispute with a view to bring about a Settlement.³⁵

Accounts for Compensation Cases were passed for payment, amounting to £142.13.9.

It was agreed that two representatives be appointed to attend the Annual Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain at Southport during the first week in October.

The Motion from Arniston Colliery to hold an Annual Meeting at Dalkeith each year had the approval of a large Majority of the Collieries.

Newbattle Colliery was empowered to deal with the non-unionists.

A request by Niddrie Colliery for Some allowance for dealing with the non-unionists Was refused on the Motion of Mr David Allan, Seconded by Mr William Somerville, against a Motion by Mr Wm Foster, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, That some allowance be granted.

A request by Mr Nicholas Young That the Board grant £250 towards the relief of 500 Men who had lost work during the late Seamen's Strike was refused on the Motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan.

It was agreed to allow Matthew Watterston, Rosewell, 12s. as removal expenses.

A Motion was tabled by Elphinstone Colliery requesting That District Quarterly Meetings be held. It was remitted to the collieries.

It was reported that at Elphinstone Colliery The Miners were going down the Pit on the Saturday Mornings at 6 a.m. While 7 a.m. was the Starting hour

³⁵ The dispute at Braidhurst colliery, Motherwell, involved 250 miners there. The dispute had arisen out of a claim by oncost workers for an increase in wages to bring them up to average rates for Motherwell area, which were from 5d. to 8d. a day higher than those paid at Braidhurst by the Summerlee Co. Ltd. The Scottish Miners' Federation had agreed on 8 June to take over financial responsibility in the dispute. *Glasgow Herald*, 9 June 1911.

during the week. It was pointed out that Such action was against a decision of the British Miners' Fedn and that it should be put a stop to.

A partial reduction of 2d. per ton in a few places in the Fleets Pit, Elphinstone, was reported. It was agreed that it be resisted on the ground that the men were not earning a wage to justify any reduction and the matter left with the Secretaries.

It was agreed to grant Polton Colliery Committee 42s. in lieu of work done in enrolling non-Unionists, Mr Colin Allan reporting that every man in the colliery was in Union.

It was decided That a claim to funeral allowance by James Cairns, House of Muir, could not be paid, He being out of benefit.

14th October 1911

A Meeting of the Wages Committee was held today. Present: Mr Andrew Clarke, Mr Wm Somerville, Mr Nicholas Young, Mr Peter O'Toole, Mr John Patterson, Mr Jas Ormiston & The Treasurer.

The Secretary reported That in view of the Commissioners having objected to the amount at the credit of the Association deposited in the Trustees Savings Bank he had made enquiry into the average interest paid by the Scottish Banks, compared with 2½ per cent per annum paid by the Savings Bank, and it was found That owing to a new departure by the Scottish Banks, Viz., to pay one half per cent interest More than the current rate on deposit receipts on Sums over ten thousand pounds, That, by transferring the funds to the Commercial Bank of Scotland, on a Calculation of the past five years from twenty five to thirty pounds More can be got as interest than is being obtained from the Savings Bank. It was agreed to unanimously to recommend that the funds be transferred.

A deputation from Newbattle colliery were admitted to the meeting to put the position of the colliery before the committee regarding the Non-Unionists. Mr David Allan Stated the case for the deputation to the effect that after much effort by the local committee a considerable number who worked in the colliery were outside the Union. The Wages Committee agreed to permit the Branch to take whatever Steps [were] deemed best to accomplish the object of getting all those outside to join—even to the Stopping of the Mines.

The following Compensation Cases were reported upon: 1 Sievwright Cheyne's, Loanhead—representatives had obtained a Sum of £132.10.0. 2 Thomas McTiernan's case, Loanhead—In View of Dr Alaric Robertson's report in this case it was decided to take no further action. 3 The Secretary was instructed to record A. Hogg's Case, Loanhead. 4 Wm Rae's Case, Prestonlinks—This man having been Certified fit for light work by his own Dr he be advised to try it, and the Secretary to arrange about the partial

Compensation. 5 Thos Orr's Case—This man is certified as being fit for light work and is in the hands of the Law Agent. 6 John Hinkley's case, Loanhead—This case is being dealt with by the Secretary. 7 Wm McNeil, Prestonlinks—It was agreed to take up this case in which compensation had been Stopped, McNeil being the person who had failed to pay his workmen at Ormiston Colliery a Sum of £5.10.3., being due to John Firth, between McNeil & Cameron who was in company with him. 8 Alexander Robertson's Case, Ormiston—This man's Compensation having been Stopped the matter was left with the Secretary to consult him regarding an alleged Settlement he had been making on his own account with the Insurance Company. 9 John Smith's case, Bankpark—This case is being enquired into to ascertain Whether any claim can be established. 10 John Rutherford, Bankpark—This case Settled in Rutherford's favour by the Secretary. 11 Wm Cosser found dead in his working place—This case is being dealt with on the assumption that Cosser was Asphyxiated. A post Mortem examination was made, and an analysis of the blood is being made. 12 The Secretary reported that he had recovered five pounds five shillings from Alexander McNeil to pay the wages of the men employed by him at Polton Colliery, Which had been paid over to the men. 13 Robert Raeburn paid the money due to his drawer at Elphinstone Colliery upon being requested to do so. 14 It was agreed that unless J. Watt Gilroy paid the Sum of 11s. due the checkweighers by him at Prestongrange Colliery an Action be raised to recover it. 15 Alexander Boyd's case, Elphinstone—This case was after consideration left, pending further information being given by Mr John Patterson regarding how the accident occurred and if any witnesses were available. 16 Elphinstone Colliery Starting hours: The Manager having written Mr Young, Assistant Secretary, That the Fleets Pit would Start at 6 a.m. and Stop at 2 p.m. on week days and Saturdays and the Howden Pit at 7 a.m. on week days and Saturdays, it was left with Mr Young to see the Manager regarding whether both Pits could not start at the same hour, In View of the Manager having agreed to that principle when interviewed, And if possible that the Starting hour Should be the same as the neighbouring Collieries, Viz., 6.30 a.m.

The Secretary read the resolution passed at the British Miners' Fedn Conference at Southport on the Wages question and explained that it was understood to mean That every man and boy working at the Coal face Who was a full day in the pit must be paid the Minimum rate of wages for the district Whether he had earned it or not at the fixed hewing rate, or Simply a fixed daily wage up to the Minimum below which no man would work, but leaving piece rates So as if any one could earn more it could be done; and that each district was to arrange for a Minumum or Standard rate. It was intimated that a Conference was called for Monday the 16th to consider the resolution in all its bearings with regard to the position of the

Scottish Miners.³⁶

21st October 1911

A Board and financial Meeting was held today. The Minute of the former Meeting was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr John Main. A Minute of a Wages Committee Meeting held on the 14 inst. was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr James Ormiston. Mr John Gordon Moved approval of the findings of the Wages Committee Which was Seconded by Mr John Main and agreed to unanimously.

Motion from Elphinstone Colliery re district Meetings was not approved of by the collieries.

Wm Neill's Case, Bankton Colliery: It was agreed to take up this case to recover £15.8.6. due for Cutting and Brushing but Meantime to approach the Under Manager, Mr James McLean, under whom the work was done, to endeavour to clear up the Matter.

John Watt Gilroy, Prestongrange: It was agreed to take action against Gilroy to recover 11s. due to the checkweighers' fund at Prestongrange Colliery unless it was paid at once.

Wm Syme & Others, Rosewell: The Secretary reported that these men had been Summoned before the Sheriff at Edinburgh for a breach of Special rule and that he had instructed the Law Agent to defend them, Who succeeded in getting the case dismissed.³⁷

The Secretary reported on the Southport Conference especially with regard to the resolution on the wages question. He explained the steps being taken by the Scottish Miners' Executive regarding meeting the employers. After which it was agreed That a special Board Meeting be held to obtain reports from the collieries on the employers' reply to the terms submitted and to instruct representatives to the conferences to be held to deal with that question.

John Hinkly's case, Loanhead: The Secretary was instructed to write John

³⁶ The meeting between the MFGB EC and the coalowners (above, p. 174, n. 31) on 29 Sept. having ended in deadlock, the annual conference of the MFGB at Southport on 3-6 Oct. resolved: 'That the Federation take immediate steps to secure an individual District Minimum Wage for all men and boys working in mines in the area of the Federation without any reference to the working places being abnormal. In the event of the employers refusing to agree to this then the amended 21st Rule of the Federation be put into operation to demand the same. That a Conference be called on November 14th for the purpose of taking action under Rule 21.' Rule 21 of the MFGB (formerly Rule 20 before the rules had been amended and renumbered in 1910) was amended by the annual conference at Southport on 6 Oct. to change its earlier strictly defensive terms (see above, p. 63, n. 43) into these: 'That whenever any Federation or District is attacked on the wages question or the conditions of labour or with the approval of the Conference specially called for that purpose has tendered notice to improve the conditions of labour or to obtain an advance in wages a Conference shall be called to consider the advisability of joint action being taken.' Another part of the stage was being set for what proved to be the great national strike of miners in Mar.-Apr. 1912. Arnot, *Years of Struggle*, 77-81, 89.

³⁷ No further information about this case has been found.

Livingstone re this case—to ascertain finally whether he could or would testify to Hinkly being injured.

Letter from W.H. Brown, Elphinstone, Mr Brown having requested the Board to give an opinion as to whether a Member was entitled to attend Meetings of the Branch of which he is a Member. It was agreed that as long as any one is a Member he is entitled to all the benefits and privileges that association Confers—On the Motion of Mr Wm Somerville, Seconded by Mr Peter O'Toole.

James Forrest's Case, Bankton, was left with Mr James Ormiston & the Secretary to make enquiry.

Pumpmen, Prestonlinks: The question of compelling Pumpmen at this colliery to join the union, was referred back to the colliery for further consideration on the ground that there is a Separate Association for that class of workman.

Watterston's case, Rosewell: Mr Andrew Quigley, Wallyford, Moved that this Case be reopened, but found no Support.

Foster's case, Loanhead: Mr Andrew Quigley, Wallyford, Moved that this case be reconsidered, but was not supported.

Motion by Wallyford Branch, 1st That the Monthly expenditure be embodied in the Monthly Minutes; 2nd That the Agents visit every colliery at least once a Month. Remitted to the collieries. A complaint from this colliery, Viz., That proper facilities were not provided for the weighing of the Miners' Material was considered, When it was agreed that the Mines Inspector was the person who should be applied to to remedy the grievance.

The question of the charge for tool sharpening upon being raised by Mr Quigley was left over to obtain a report from all the collieries of what charges were made and what was done regarding repairing of tools as well as Sharpening.

A complaint re the Starting hour at Fleets Pit was remitted to the Collieries to be considered and reported on at next Meeting, On the Motion of Mr Andrew Quigley, Seconded by Mr Edward Robertson.

A Case of a Miner's pick having been Stolen at Carberry Colliery was reported and left with the delegate and the Secretary to make enquiry regarding a prosecution.

Adam Stewart's Case, Rosewell: The Secretary was instructed to institute criminal proceedings against Stewart for using money belonging to the Rosewell Branch amounting to £3.0.1. to his own uses.

It was agreed on the Motion of Mr Duncan Stein, Seconded by Mr George Ratcliffe, to make a grant of 42s. to the committee of Rosewell Colliery for the work done in dealing with the non unionists—Against an amendment by Mr David Allan, Seconded by Mr Edward Robertson, That no grant be given.

Loanhead: John King's case for Compensation and John Young's and

Alexander Lee's Cases re their working place was left with the Secretaries to deal with.

P.L. King's case and Anstruther's was left with Mr Quigley to See whether arbitration could be carried out or not.

Arniston: Complaint was made about Robert Clark's Compensation Case, and of the time for the lowering and raising the Men having been extended at the Emily Pit; and the delegate with the Secretaries were empowered to deal with it, As Also with the Matter of non Unionism.

An Amendment of rule 27 & 28 was tabled by Arniston delegate and remitted to the collieries.

11th November 1911

A Special Board Meeting was held today. The chairman made reference to the Secretary having been elected to the Provost's chair, Dalkeith, and the delegates expressed their appreciation of what had occurred.³⁸

Minimum Wage question: The Secretary reported that at a Conference held in Glasgow on Wednesday the 8th inst. It had been decided to appoint nine delegates to attend the Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain to be held in the Westminster Palace Hotel London on the 14th inst. to deal with the above question, and that they were instructed to meet when there to decide, after hearing the reports from other districts, What attitude they would take up on the question. It being understood that upon all the other districts having claimed that their present Minimum Wage be Made a fixed daily individual wage That the Scottish delegates Support the principle of a general Stoppage to enforce the claim, but upon any of the other districts having demanded a general advance The delegates to confer as to what Should be done under Such circumstances. Mr John Patterson Moved, Seconded by Mr John Gordon, That we approve of the recommendation of the Glasgow conference. Mr Andrew Quigley Moved, Seconded by Mr George Ratcliffe, That we disapprove of the recommendation. Mr Patterson's Motion was carried by 18 votes to 3. Mr John Main Moved, Seconded by Mr Nicholas Young, That two delegates be appointed to represent the Association. Mr Andrew Quigley moved that none be sent but was not seconded. Mr James Ormiston Moved, Seconded by Mr John Gordon, that one be Sent. Upon a Vote being taken it was carried to Send two.

Mr Neil's Case, Bankton: Mr James Ormiston Stated that Neil was willing to accept in Settlement of his claim whatever sum Mr James McLean, late Under Manager, Stated to Mr McMeakin, Manager, that he Neil was entitled to, and the Secretary was instructed to write Mr McMeakin on that point.

The Secretary reported that J. Livingstone refused to make any statement re.

³⁸ Robert Brown had been unanimously elected provost of Dalkeith the previous day. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 16 Nov. 1911.

Hinkly case at Loanhead Colliery and that the Company refused to admit Liability. Mr N. Young explained how Hinkly stated that he had been injured, and the Secretary was instructed to convey such information to the Insurance Company.

The Secretary reported that he had effected a Settlement of Wm Humble's case, Arniston, by each of the two Insurance Companies paying a half of the Compensation due.

25th November 1911

A Board and financial Meeting was held today. The Minute of the former Meeting of 21st October was read and adopted on the motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr John Main. The Minute of Special meeting held on the 11th November upon being read was adopted on the Motion of Mr John Gordon, Seconded by Mr Edward Robertson.

Adam Stewart's case, Rosewell: The Secretary intimated That the money detained by Stewart, Viz., £3.0.1., had been refunded.

Penman's & Struck's case, Elphinstone: A letter from Penman was read which conveyed that the Money earned had not been properly divided and the Matter was remitted to the Colliery committee to make further enquiry and to report to the Secretary if necessary.

Sam Ferguson, Polton Colliery: It was agreed to give Ferguson a clearance line on Condition that he paid the arrears accumulating during the twelve weeks he had been in the United States, He having returned home again and held his clearance card of this Association up to the 5th August 1911.

Motion by Wallyford Colliery: No. 1st—It was agreed that a monthly statement of the expenditure be sent out with the Minute of each meeting. No. 2—the Motion regarding the Agents visiting each Colliery at least once a month was considered to be impracticable and upon being considered by the Board a general agreement was arrived at That the Agents Should be available at all times when called upon to visit any Colliery as far as possible however often it may be.

Alteration of Rules 27 & 28 by Arniston Colliery: It was agreed that the proposed alteration be Made and that leaflets containing the rule as Amended be issued to the Members.

The Secretary submitted a list of the cases Settled by the Law Agent under the Workmen's Compensation Act both in lump Sums and in fatal cases. The Same was held to be very Satisfactory and the Secretary instructed to get a copy printed for each of the delegates for reference.

The Secretary reported on the Mines Bill and regret was expressed at Sub Section B of Clause 32 Dealing with Safety Lamps being retained in the Bill.

Mr Andrew Clarke & the Secretary reported from the conference held in London on the Minimum Wage question and intimated that the Conference had been adjourned till the 20th December; After which it was agreed to hold a

Special Board Meeting on Saturday the 9th December at 10 a.m. to hear reports from the collieries as to whether they were in favour of National Action being taken to enforce the principal of an individual wage for all men & boys employed full time in the Mines, and to instruct representatives to the Conference Thereon.

Compensation Cases: Patrick McGaff's Settled—£70; Wm McFarlane's Settled—£220; Wm Humble's Settled—£4.10.; Wm McNeil's To be Submitted to the Medical Referee failing a Settlement otherwise. David Barr's Case & John Hinkly's were left in the hands of the Secretary. John Herd's Case was being attended to, and it was agreed that the Law Agent press for full Compensation on behalf of the late Wm Cossar's representatives.

Elphinstone Colliery: It was reported that the Manager at this colliery had resorted to the System of Starting prevailing some time ago, Viz., Starting at 7 a.m. during five days of the week and at 6 a.m. on the Working Saturday. It was agreed that Such was an infringement of the Eight Hours Mines Act as defined by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain and Should not be Complied with as Sixteen hours Should elapse between Shifts, and that whatever hour was fixed for Starting it should apply to every day the Pit is at work.

Smeaton Colliery: The Secretary was instructed to write George Fowlds regarding 2s. claimed from him by John Horsburgh.

The Secretary reported that he had obtained 31s.9d. as wages due Messrs Turner & Williamson.

Loanhead: It was decided that a letter produced by Henry Jack from America was not a proper clearance card & could not be accepted. A claim to funeral allowance by Alexr Morris was refused, His entrance fee not being paid up.

House of Muir: It was agreed that Wm Dodds of this Colliery must pay 5s. as an entrance fee.

Newbattle: A report was given regarding the non unionist question at this Colliery, to the effect that it was being dealt with and if the Matter was not adjusted the Scottish Federation Executive would deal with it.

Carberry: The Secretary was instructed to communicate with the Procurator Fiscal regarding the charge against P.L. King at the instance of Wm Moffat for theft of his Picks.

Wallyford Colliery: Mr Aw Quigley reported that King & Anstruther's Case had been Settled by Arbitration, and it was agreed to allow the Arbiters 2s. each and allow 20s. towards the enlargement of the collecting Box at the Colliery. Mr Aw Quigley Submitted Several Motions from the colliery but after Some discussion of and Consideration regarding the effect they would have, he Suggested that they be remitted to the Colliery for reconsideration with the exception of No. 2, which proposes to alter rules 4, 7 & 10 regarding the election of Vice President, which it was agreed to put before the Collieries.

9th December 1911

A Special Board Meeting was held today for the purpose of hearing reports from the Collieries regarding the Action to be taken towards enforcing the principle of an individual Minimum Wage and other questions of a Minor nature.

It was agreed to defend Adam Notman, Loanhead Colliery, against a charge of having broken rule 95 regarding Shot firing.

Sam Ferguson: This man having sent on a Registrar's Certificate regarding the death of his child that had taken place on the 15th November and for which he claimed funeral benefit, It was decided unanimously on the motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr John Gordon, That the claim be not allowed, Ferguson not being a Member of the Association at the date upon which the child died.

The following Compensation Cases were reported upon and continued, The Secretary being instructed how to Act: John Herd, David Barr, Alexander Davidson, all of Loanhead; James Campbell, Niddrie.

Minimum Wage: Upon the reports being taken it was found That all the collieries, with the exception of Niddrie, were in favour of the principle and of a ballot being taken to ascertain whether the Miners favoured a National Stoppage of work to enforce it upon the employers refusing to grant the terms asked; Wallyford and Loanhead qualifying their report to the effect That the claim for Scotland Should be 8s. per day.

It was then agreed that two delegates and the Secretaries attend the conference to be held in Glasgow on Saturday the 16th at which the attitude of the Scottish Miners' Federation would be discussed and decided upon and from which delegates would be Sent and instructed to the Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain to be held in London on the 20th on that question, Messrs Duncan Stein & Peter O'Toole being appointed. It was also agreed after discussion and a vote That Messrs Wm Somerville and David Allan attend the conference in London on the 20th. Mr Andrew Clarke Moved That the delegates to the Glasgow Conference be instructed to Move that the Scottish Miners demand a Minimum individual wage of 8s., Seconded by Mr Aw Quigley. Mr Colin Allan Moved as an Amendment, Seconded by Mr John Patterson, That the delegates be instructed in accordance with the returns from the collieries on the question—The Amendment being carried by 15 Votes to 4.

30th December 1911

A financial and Board Meeting was held today. The Minutes of the Two former Meetings were read and adopted on the Motion of Mr John Gordon, Seconded by Mr Ed. Robertson, and by Mr Andrew Clarke and Mr Duncan Stein.

Still Born children: It was agreed that a Certificate of interment be produced

of Such Cases to warrant a claim for funeral allowance being paid.

Election of Vice President: The Motion of Wallyford colliery to change the Method of Appointment was defeated.

Nomination of Officials: For President—Mr George Young, Arniston Colliery, Mr James Ormiston, Bankton Colliery, Mr Andrew Clarke, Niddrie Colliery, Mr Andrew Quigley, Wallyford Colliery. It was agreed to put these names before the collieries to enable those not nominating to Make their Selection. Vice President—Nominated, Mr James Ormiston, Bankton Colliery, Mr Robert White, Newbattle Colliery. Treasurer—Mr Wm Falconer—Elected: (Only one Nomination). Auditors—Nominated: Mr John Pryde, Newbattle, Mr Robert Milne, Arniston, Mr Thos Harvey, Wallyford, Mr Alexr McNab, Wallyford. Remitted to Branches to Select two.

It was decided That in all circumstances Sixteen hours should elapse between Shifts to properly adhere to the Spirit of the Eight Hours Act.

The following Compensation Cases were reported on: Mr Charles Blackie, Prestonlinks, Mr Robert McLeod, Prestonlinks, Mr Robert Blyth, Prestonlinks, Mr David Blyth, Prestonlinks, Mr Wm Pennycook, Loanhead, Mr John King, Loanhead.

The Secretary was instructed to intimate a breach of the Eight Hours Act at Prestongrange Colliery to H.M. Inspector of Mines.

Minimum Wage: Mr Wm Somerville & The Secretary reported from the Conference held on this question at which it was agreed that a Ballot be taken. The report was accepted and Arrangements made for taking the Ballot, The payment not to exceed 4s. per hundred from the Central fund—Motion to pay more being defeated. Mr James Pringle, House of Muir Colliery, and Mr Edward Robertson, Prestonlinks Colliery, were appointed to attend a Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain at Birmingham on the 18th January on the Minimum Wage question.

Labour Party Conference, 24th January, at Birmingham: It was agreed to send two representatives to this Conference, Viz., Mr Colin Allan, Polton Colliery, and Mr Robert McKinnon.

Mr Wm Neill's Case, Bankton: It was decided to drop this case. A Complaint re. Messrs Meek, McInnes was remitted to the colliery for further enquiry.

Working on Pay Saturdays: It was agreed to recommend to the Collieries That under all circumstances The pay Saturdays be observed as an idle day.³⁹

Charges for Tool Sharpening: It was an instruction that each delegate be able to State at next Meeting what was charged for this work at his colliery.

Non Unionism at Arniston Colliery: A complaint was made about Workmen not having freedom to change their employment under the Coy, and with regard to what Action Should be taken to ascertain who were out of union It was decided that no Action Should be taken to compel the Manager to grant

³⁹ Pay day was every second Saturday, in an 11-day working fortnight.

facilities at the Pit Bank for that purpose, but the Committee were advised to adopt the Same means as had been done at other collieries; And upon any member Suffering hardship re. not being permitted to change his employment Such Case to be dealt with.

Carberry Colliery: It was agreed to grant 15s. to this colliery towards Meeting the expense and labour involved in dealing with the non-unionists.

Robert Notman's Case, Loanhead: It was agreed to press for Compensation in this case.

Rosewell Colliery: It was agreed to grant 17s.6d. to Mr Patrick Smith for loss of time arising over a dispute about his Measurement, in which his claim had been proved to be right.

Smeaton Colliery: James Cameron Patterson having obtained one pound as a funeral claim upon the death of a child but which it was afterwards discovered was illegitimate, It was agreed that Steps be taken to have it refunded.

Loanhead: Wm Watson's case: This man having engaged Mr Scanlon, S.S.C., Glasgow, to take up his case for Compensation after being in the hands of the Law Agent for the Association and was being dealt with by him, He upon having obtained a Settlement requested that Mr Scanlon's fee of £10 charged from him be paid by the Association. The Secretary read all the correspondence in Connection with the Case to prove That the Matter was being properly dealt with. After Which it was decided that Mr Scanlon's fee be not paid and that the Motion from Loanhead Colliery re the Law Agent be not Submitted to the Collieries, on the Motion of Mr Wm Somerville, Seconded by Mr Peter O'Toole, Against the Motion of Mr Nicholas Young, Seconded by Mr Robert McKinnon. Upon a request by Mr Nicholas Young the Secretary agreed to attend at Loanhead to read the Correspondence in Watson's case to the Colliery Committee.

Penston Colliery: Byer's Case—This complaint was delayed to ascertain whether he was in Union or not.

Wallyford Colliery: A request for a grant of three pounds by this Colliery was delayed until a balance sheet was produced of how the local money was being expended.

Wallyford: The following Motions were tabled by this colliery and remitted to the collieries. 1 That a chartered Accountant be appointed to audit the books and accounts of the Association and report to the Members if the funds have been invested and expended in accordance with the rules and objects of the Association. 2 That a working policy of five days per week be put in operation at once. 3 That the expenses of the Ballot for weekly pays be paid from the general fund. 4 That Robert Brown, The Agent, resign his position as Secretary of the Scottish Miners' Federation and that the Assistant Agent attend all Conferences alternately with Robert Brown. 5 That each Branch shall Submit a quarterly

statement giving the number of members who have joined by paying entrance fees or clearance cards, also the number who have left by clearance Card or lapsed by arrears. 6 That the President of the Association be elected by and from the Executive Board, Rules 4, 6 & 10 to be altered accordingly.

Motion by Niddrie Colliery: That the question of taking fifty shares of one pound each in the Labour Newspaper be Submitted to the collieries.⁴⁰

Motion, Loanhead Colliery: That the Branch Books be audited every half year by two or More Auditors appointed by the Association for that purpose, The time & place to be fixed by the general Board. Amend rule 6—The words 'Who Shall be elected by the Members of the Association' be deleted, and the words 'Who Shall be elected from and by the Board' to be inserted.

Motion, Newbattle Colliery: Rule 10, page 6—After the word 'elected' and before the word 'at' in Second line delete 'or reelected in February in each year' and insert 'For two years only and Shall not be eligible to Serve as Such until the expiry of two years from the time of their leaving the Board'.

⁴⁰ The newspaper was the *Daily Citizen*, owned by the Labour Party and Trades Union Congress and launched in Oct. 1912. The Labour Party leaders Ramsay MacDonald and Arthur Henderson had attended the MFGB EC meeting in mid-Nov. 1911 and sought £150,000 in shares of £1 to launch the paper. The shares 'could be taken up by Trade Unions, Socialist Societies and individuals. The whole management would be in the hands of the Labour Party.' The *Daily Citizen* ceased publication in June 1915. *MFGBAP, 1911: EC Minutes, 13-15 November*, R. Harrison et al., *The Warwick Guide to British Labour Periodicals, 1790-1970* (Hassocks, 1977), 125.

Chapter 3

MINUTES, 1912-1913

16th January 1912

A Meeting of the Wages Committee was held today.

The following Compensation Cases were reported on and instructions given how to proceed. 1. Wm Hamilton, Niddrie: It was decided to test this case. 2. John Foster's case, Loanhead: The Secretary intimated that he had learned that This case had been Settled under the Workmen's Compensation Act. 3. Wm Watson's Case: The Secretary intimated That the law Agent who had this case in hand had been paid £10.10s. as expenses by the Insurance Company over and above the ten pounds he had charged Watson.

Lawrence Martin [Smeaton]: This man had written a letter to the secretary alleging some grievance which he had last June but which was disposed of by the Board on the 3rd of June.

Eight Hours Act, Prestongrange: The Secretary read a letter from Mr Wm Walker, H.M. Inspector of Mines, To the effect That the complaint lodged regarding what had occurred on the 19th December Was not a breach of the Eight Hours Mines Act.

Birmingham Conference on the Minimum Wage question & Ballot: In View of the importance of this conference The committee were of opinion (Mr Nicholas Young dissenting) That it was necessary that the Assistant Secretary should attend to enable him to be able to deal with the question at the collieries, and instructed him to attend.¹

3rd February 1912

A Board and financial Meeting was held today. The Minute of the previous meeting was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Wm Somerville, Seconded by Mr David Allan. The Minute of a Wages Committee Meeting held on

¹ The MFGB special conference at Birmingham on 18 and 19 Jan. received the result of the national ballot of miners taken in mid-Jan. on whether to strike to establish the principle of an individual minimum wage for every man and boy working underground. The result was 443,801 for strike action, 115,921 against (Scots miners voted 60,611 for a strike, 12,035 against)—more than the two-thirds majority required by MFGB rules. The conference unanimously resolved that the miners give notice to terminate work at the end of Feb. But it was also unanimously agreed that MFGB representatives remain ready to meet the coalowners to continue negotiations in the districts and nationally in the hope of arriving at a satisfactory settlement. *MFGBAP, 1912: Report of Special Conference, 18 and 19 January*, 6-10; Arnot, *Years of Struggle*, 90-1.

the 16th January was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr Peter O'Toole; and approval of the Wages Committee's decisions was agreed to on the Motion of Mr Edward Robertson, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan.

George Allan & Others, Smeaton Colliery: It was agreed to pay the Law Agent for defending this case.

Funeral claim paid to James Russell, Polton: As there is some dubiety about the Legitimacy of this claim, The Secretary was instructed to Make enquiry into it.

It was agreed by a Majority to take no part in the proposed Lothians Railway.²

Wallyford Motion: All Six Motions were lost. Niddrie Motion re. Shares in the *Daily Citizen*: This Motion was carried, Viz., That Fifty one pound Shares in the *Daily Citizen* be taken on behalf of the Association in the Name of the Office-bearers and their Successors in Office. Motion, Newbattle, re. tenure of office by officials: This motion was lost.

Election of Officials: President, Nominated—James Ormiston, 6 Collieries; Andrew Clarke, Four collieries; George Young, Three collieries; Andrew Quigley, one colliery. Four collieries no report. Vice President—James Ormiston, Elected by ten collieries, against three for Robert White. It was agreed that upon James Ormiston Accepting the Vice Presidentship That Andrew Clarke and George Young's names be Submitted to the Branches regarding the Presidentship. Auditors: Mr Robert Milne, Arniston, & Mr John Pryde, Newbattle, were elected for the ensuing year.

Joseph Main, Ormiston Colliery: This claim to Compensation to be enquired into by the Secretary. James Patterson Cameron Case: This man returned the one pound received as a funeral claim, He not being legally entitled to it.

Peter McGeorge's Case, Wallyford: This case was remitted to the Secretaries to deal with. The grant of three pounds asked by this Colliery was refused.

Prestongrange: It was agreed to insert a resolution protesting against the new Auxiliary Forces & their danger to Trades Unionism, Sent by this Colliery.³

Penston Colliery: Byers' Case: It was agreed to request Byers to attend at the colliery along with the Committee to investigate his case.

Loanhead Colliery: Mr Young Made a claim for a grant of Six pounds ten shillings to assist in the Local work at the colliery. He moved accordingly, and

² The Lothian Railways Bill, promoted by local coalowners, was intended to result in the building of a new railway to carry coal from pits in Mid and East Lothian to Leith docks. It was opposed by Edinburgh Town Council, the North British Railway Co., and others. The Bill was rejected by the Select Committee in the House of Lords on 21 June. *Midlothian Journal*, 19 Jan. and 28 June 1912; *Glasgow Herald*, 8 May and 22 June 1912.

³ The text of this resolution has not been found. It seems to indicate fears that the Territorial Army created by the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act, passed by the Liberal government in 1907, might be used in industrial disputes.

Mr Robert McKinnon Seconded. Mr Wm Somerville Moved, Seconded by Mr John Main, That nothing be given—Which was carried by 11 votes to 2.

Bankton Colliery, McInnes' Case: It was agreed on the Motion of Mr Peter O'Toole, Seconded by Mr Wm Foster, That there was no case of Victimization.

Labour Party Conference: Messrs Colin Allan and Robert McKinnon reported on this Conference, and were thanked for their report.

Minimum Wage Conference: The Secretaries reported how matters stood regarding this question and intimated that another Conference was to be held on the 13th inst. to further deal with the matter. Mr John Main Moved, Seconded by Mr Nicholas Young, That only one representative be sent to the Conference on the 13th. Mr Peter O'Toole Moved, Seconded by Mr David Allan, That the Assistant Secretary accompany the Secretary. This was carried by 9 votes to 6.⁴

The Secretary was instructed to obtain 100 copies of the New Mines Bill for the use of delegates.⁵

It was agreed to delay the election of the Wages Committee until next Meeting.

Motion from Loanhead re. Audit was lost.

20th February 1912

A Wages Committee Meeting was held today. All the Members were present except Mr James Ormiston, who was absent owing to illness. The Law Agent was present and arrangements made in the following Compensation Cases: Wm McNeil and David Blyth, Prestonlinks, Wm Hamilton's Case, Niddrie, and Peter Archibald's Case, Riggonhead. It was also intimated that Compensation had been secured for Adam Notman, Loanhead, with Court expenses.

Lawrence Martin, Smeaton Colliery—a letter having been received from Mr T.W. Pole, Law Agent, Leith, in connection with this Man, requesting that the contributions paid to the Association by him be refunded otherwise Action would be taken by him to interdict the Association against paying any monies towards Labour purposes: After full consideration it was agreed that the best course to adopt would be to pay him the sum of £2.12s. claimed by him and to cancel his Membership upon the matter being carried through by Martin himself.

The Committee approved of a circular being sent out to the Branches to instruct the local Secretaries and Committees to have the Books in proper order

⁴ The MFGB adjourned special conference on 1 and 2 Feb. had approved a schedule of claims for fixing minimum day-wage rates for piece-workers at the coal face, varying from 4s. 11d. in two small coalfields (Bristol and Somerset) to 7s. 6d. in the largest ones, such as Yorkshire, with 6s. in Scotland. Three other special conferences were held by the MFGB during Feb. as negotiations with the coalowners proved abortive and the crisis in the industry developed. Arnot, *Years of Struggle*, 91-5.

⁵ The Coal Mines Act (1 & 2 Geo. 5, ch. 50) had been enacted on 16 Dec. 1911.

to insure that only those entitled to Strike benefit receive Such Should a Stoppage of work take place over the Minimum Wage question. The Secretary was instructed to notify the employers by Circular That failing any Settlement of the wages question before the end of the present Month The Workmen would hold themselves free to Stop Work on the 1st of March.

Conference, Glasgow 26th inst.: It was agreed that upon a Conference that had been Summoned for the 26th inst. taking place That the two Secretaries attend.

Balance Sheet for 1911: Proof Copies of the Annual report were before the Meeting and approved of and instructions given to have them Sent out to the districts.

Lothians Railway: It was agreed to grant Mr M.T. Moore an interview with the full Board to explain the benefits likely to be derived from Such an undertaking.⁶

Arrangements were made regarding the Banking Account to be in readiness for any emergency Such as a Stoppage of Work during the next Month.

Election of Wages Committee: Upon Considering this Matter It was Agreed that the Spirit of rule 12 was That upon the Committee being elected Two of them would retire each year in rotation, Carrying the inference that the appointment is for three years, and during that time The personnell would be changed Owing to two fresh Members being appointed each year; and to permit of this being done on equal terms it was agreed to recommend That the Committee Should be Composed of Six Members instead of five.

4th March 1912

A Board & financial meeting was held today. The Minute of the former meeting was read and adopted on the motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr Duncan Stein. The Minute of a Wages Committee Meeting held on the 20th February was read and approved of on the motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr John Patterson. Approval of the decisions arrived at was agreed to on the motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr John Gordon.

Funeral claims: It was decided that as Burial as defined in the rules had not taken place with John Carrigan's Still Born child, That the one pound paid to him Should be refunded. A claim by Wm Stevenson to funeral allowance was refused.

Compensation claims: It was agreed to obtain the Law Agent's opinion regarding Wm Pennycook's Case, Loanhead, and J.W. Philip's, Prestongrange.

Wages question: The Secretaries reported on this question and arrangements

⁶ Dr Robert T. Moore, 'one of the greatest authorities on mining in Scotland', was a partner in A.G. Moore & Co. Ltd., owners of Dalkeith Collieries, chairman of Niddrie and Benhar Coal Co. Ltd., and a director of Edinburgh Collieries Co. Ltd., all of which were among the promoters of the Lothian railway. *Midlothian Journal*, 19 Jan. 1912 and 7 Feb. 1913; *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 26 June 1913; Slaven & Checkland (eds.), *Dictionary of Scottish Business Biography*, i, 44, 45.

were made for holding a Series of Meetings to put the Situation before the men, Viz., at Newton Loan toll, Loanhead, Musselburgh and Tranent.⁷ It was arranged that Branch Secretaries attend at the office on Thursday the 7th inst. to complete arrangements for the payment of Strike benefit, The first two weeks to be paid on Thursday the 14th inst. and weekly afterwards. It was agreed to permit the necessary oncost to work to keep the pits in a State of repair.

It was decided on Mr Peter O'Toole's Motion, Seconded by Mr Wm Somerville, That one Shilling per hundred ballot papers issued for the election of President be paid—Against an Amendment by Mr Robert McKinnon, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, that four Shillings per hundred be paid. The ballot to be taken when Strike pay was being paid.

Election of Wages Committee: It was agreed to that Six Members plus the officials form this Committee, and carried that one would retire and two be appointed—which upon lots being drawn Mr Nicholas Young retired and Mr David Allan, Newbattle, and Mr John Main, Ormiston, were elected.

Arniston Colliery requested that the Scottish Miners' Executive be approached towards holding a Series of Meetings in Mid Lothian to advance the cause of Labour Representation in the House of Commons. This was approved of.

Patrick McGaff's case was considered and held that he had not been Victimised.

It was decided that upon George Findlayson not paying the Wages due to Thomas Sinnet & John Finlayson Action be taken to recover the amounts due.

Mr Macfarlane's claim to funeral benefit was refused.

A Motion by Loanhead That no fees be paid to delegates for attending wages committee or Board Meetings other than train fares was remitted to the collieries.

James Bockley's [case], Elphinstone, to be enquired into to ascertain the full facts of the case. Peter Ward's Case to be taken up for Compensation. Mr John Patterson to send the Secretary full particulars.

It was agreed that upon Patrick McTierney not paying what he was due his drawer Action be taken to recover the Sum due.

Several Suggestions by Wallyford colliery were considered and disposed of.

⁷ The first national strike of miners in British history had begun on Friday, 1 Mar. The stoppage of work in Scotland, where between 94,000 and 95,000 miners went on strike out of a total of 96,450, was 'practically complete'. Around 9,700 men were on strike in Mid and East Lothian. A mass meeting of strikers at Musselburgh Town Hall on the morning of 5 Mar. had to be adjourned to the open air at Goose Green (where 1,500 were reported to have been present) as the Hall could not hold all the strikers who tried to crowd into it. Joseph Young, assistant secretary, also addressed a mass open air meeting of some 2,000 strikers at Forrester's Field, Tranent, that afternoon. On 4 and 5 Mar. crowded meetings of miners were held in the Volunteer Hall, Loanhead, the second of which was addressed by Robert Brown. No report of a meeting at Newton Loan Toll, Gorebridge, has been found. *Glasgow Herald*, 2 and 6 Mar. 1912; *Midlothian Journal*, 8 Mar. 1912; *Haddingtonshire Courier*, 8 Mar. 1912.

7th March 1912

A Wages committee meeting was held today. Decisions regarding claims to Strike pay: 1. It was agreed that Sons of Members Should be paid although not being three months at work. 2. It was agreed to accept the arrears of those Members who were due twelve weeks at the last collection day at their Branch. 3. It was agreed to adhere to the former decision to pay one pound per member for the first two weeks.

18th March 1912

A Board meeting was held today.

It was agreed to pay Strike benefit on Thursday the 21st inst. at the rate of 10s. per member. Wages committee & delegates: It was agreed that no allowance be paid for attendance at Meetings during the Strike except train & bus fares and expenses. The Secretaries having intimated that under the circumstances they preferred to be paid Strike allowance only, The Board approved of their action.

The following cases were considered and Strike Allowance refused: David Stewart, Prestonlinks, Cameron Smith, Prestonlinks, Wm Anderson, Woodhall, George Davies, Woodhall, John Drummond, Niddrie, James Tugman, Niddrie, George Gibson, Niddrie, James Milan, Niddrie, Henry Jack, Loanhead, Peter Judge, Elphinstone, J. Greig, Elphinstone, W. Boyd, Elphinstone, Peter Connerton, Prestongrange, Andrew Millar, Polton, John Byrne, Polton, Pat McGaff, Arniston, Aw Hogg, Arniston, Wm Dickson, Bankton, J. Mulholland, Bankton.

It was decided that any member working more than two days during a Strike week get no Strike pay; If working one or two days the Strike pay allowance for each day to be deducted.

Benefits: It was agreed that Members paying half contributions and cast idle by the Strike get half benefit. Contributions: It was agreed that Members pay half contributions during the Strike. Pay Sheets at Collieries: It was agreed to call in the pay sheets from each of the collieries after payment had been made on Thursday 21st inst.

It was decided not to permit a Sinking Dook to go on at Niddrie as requested by the Company.⁸ The Secretary was instructed to intimate to the Manager at Smeaton that upon men whose ordinary work was below ground being employed to fill coal from the Bing on the Pit Banks all Oncost Workers would be stopped.

Compensation cases: It was decided to warn Members who may be injured to carefully read any receipt they are requested to Sign and if Such agreement

⁸ A sinking dook was a lower seam of coal reached by a roadway driven downhill, usually following the inclination of the strata. Kerr (ed.), *Mining Terms in Fife*, 27; information from Mr Tommy Kerr, veteran miner, Gorebridge.

was for one week only to refuse to Sign it. Wm Brown's Case, Newbattle, to be dropped. Wm Pennycook's case, Loanhead, put in Law Agent's hands.

The Secretaries reported regarding the Wages question and were instructed to put forth every effort at the conference to be held on the Wednesday following, to have the ruling Minimum of the Districts Secured before work could be resumed.⁹

25th March 1912

A Board Meeting and Wages Committee meeting was held today.

Arrangements were made for payment of Strike benefit on the 28th inst. Claims considered: Wm Gillies, Prestonlinks, Admitted; Aw Gray, Woodhall, to be further enquired into; Alexr Scott—claim admitted. Adhere to the former decision not to pay full Strike pay to those in receipt of partial compensation.

Oncost at Loanhead: Agreed that upon coal being sent up all Oncost be withdrawn. The Manager to be informed in the first place of the men's intentions. At Wages Committee meeting it was Agreed to notify Collieries that the only expenses to be met from the general fund for the distribution of Strike pay were Hall rents, Train or Car fares, and for [word illegible] where required.

29th March 1912

The Board met today.

It was agreed on the motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr Duncan Stein, That the Secretary and Treasurer make arrangements with the Commercial Bank of Scotland to obtain an advance of two Thousand pounds on the Security of the Bond for Two Thousand pounds with the Dalkeith Town Council and the Bond for four hundred pounds with Dalkeith School Board.

Sam Murphy's Case: This man was admitted to State how he and his Sons had fallen in arrears, and Seeing that they had been good paying members for Several years it was agreed to make a grant of 30s.

The Secretaries reported from the conferences held in London and intimated that a ballot was to be taken, after which it was agreed That the following resolution be passed: That this Board, while recognising the benefits that the Miners Minimum Wage Bill confers, Agree that as it does not explicitly state what the Minimum wage shall be That the best Course to pursue would be for the men to remain idle until the Wages Boards had been Set up and fixed the

⁹ This refers to the MFGB special conference on Wednesday, 20 Mar., which resolved that 'No Act of Parliament which does not provide for the inclusion of a minimum wage of not less than 5s. per day for all adult workers other than piece-workers, and 2s. a day for boys at fourteen, will be acceptable to the workmen.' It was also resolved that the government's Minimum Wage Bill, introduced the previous day into the House of Commons, must include not only the minimum wage of 5s. and 2s. but also the schedule rates for coal hewers (piece-workers) in each separate district (see above, p. 193, n. 4). But the miners' demands were rejected in the Commons on 23 Mar. by the combined votes of Liberals, Conservatives and Irish Nationalists. Arnot, *Years of Struggle*, 106-7.

respective Minimums.¹⁰

Arrangements were made for a Series of Meetings being held prior to the ballot being taken, and it was carried that 2s. per hundred be paid for taking the ballot.

Claims considered: George McQuarrie's case—Left with the local Committee with powers; James McNamara—no claim; James Beacroft—It was held that any claim this man may have should be met by the Stirlingshire Miners' Assn, He not having delivered up his clearance card here until after the Strike was begun.

Carberry Colliery: The Secretary was instructed to deal with Ramsay Vicker's claim for Compensation. Wallyford Colliery: George Orr's claim to Strike benefit was refused as he was only paying for funeral benefit and had not prior to the Strike been working in or about the Mines. Prestonlinks: James Mackie and Lawrence Mackay's claims to Compensation were left with the Secretary to deal with.

5th April 1912

A Board meeting was held today. The Minute of the previous meeting was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr John Main. The Minutes of the Wages Committee of 7th and 25th March were read and adopted On the Motion of Mr Wm Somerville, Seconded by Mr Richard Scott, against an amendment by Mr Robert McKinnon, Seconded by Mr Duncan Stein, That the recommendation by the committee regarding the remuneration of local committees for paying Strike benefit....

The notice by Mr Thomas Ashton calling a conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, with a recommendation of the Executive Committee of that body, was read, After which it was agreed to be represented by the Secretary and Assistant Secretary and to instruct them to insist on the terms of the ballot being carried out as in the opinion of this Board a two thirds majority was not required to continue the Strike, and further to protest against the Action of the Executive of the Federation in Making Their recommendation public before the Conference met.¹¹

¹⁰ The Liberal government's Coal Mines (Minimum Wage) Bill, embodying the principle of the minimum wage but omitting the detailed rates of wages demanded by the MFGB, was enacted ten days after it was introduced into the House of Commons on 19 Mar. The MFGB special conference, opposed to the Bill as falling short of their demands, resolved on 27 Mar. that a ballot of the miners be taken on whether to continue the strike. Arnot, *Years of Struggle*, 106–8.

¹¹ The result of the ballot was that 244,011 voted to continue the strike, 201,103 for a resumption of work pending settlement of the minimum rates of wages by the district boards to be established under the Coal Mines (Minimum Wage) Act. In Scotland, 30,473 miners voted to continue the strike, 23,186 for resumption of work. In Mid and East Lothian the vote was 4,926 for continuing the strike, 1,436 for resumption. At every one of the 18 collieries in the two counties a majority of the miners favoured continuing the strike. The MFGB EC, on the ground that there was not a two-thirds majority for continuation of the strike, and convinced that its continuation might seriously strain the unity

Ballot for President: In view of the Ballot returns not being in from all the Branches it was agreed to defer giving the result until the next Meeting of the Board.

Loanhead Colliery: The Motion Submitted by this colliery regarding the payment of delegates found no Support.

Newbattle Colliery: A Complaint was made by this Colliery against Members of the Association having enrolled themselves as Special Constables during the Strike and it was decided to put the Complaint before the Branches to obtain an expression of opinion at Such Action on their part.

Niddrie Colliery: Mr G. McQuarrie's case—It was decided that this claim to Strike pay be complied with. Sam Murphy: It was decided that no further grant be Made in this case. Ormiston Colliery: The Secretary was instructed to deal with a claim to Compensation on behalf of David Gordon. Wallyford Colliery: A Motion from this Colliery regarding payment of delegates was deferred pending the question being dealt with after the Strike was over.

The Secretary was instructed to write Robert Wood to request him to refund two pounds that he had claimed and been paid as Strike pay While he was in receipt of Compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906. Bankton Colliery: It was decided that Mr Coutts of this Colliery had no claim to Strike pay.

An appeal on behalf of a Soup Kitchen at Portobello was made and a grant of one pound given. It was agreed that a Sum of £20 be allocated pro rata to assist in Maintaining the Soup Kitchens where they were Still in existence, and where no Soup Kitchen existed to be allocated by the local committees for cases deserving Consideration.¹²

9th April 1912

A Wages Committee meeting was held today.

Mr Wm Rollo was by request admitted to the Meeting and Stated that owing to the Manager at Bankton Colliery having adopted another Method of dealing with the Brushing That his (Rollo's) brother had contracted, he Wm Rollo, who prior to the Strike having worked with his brother, could not find employment. He Stated that he had Views of a Start in Ayrshire but had not the means to take him there. Upon his retiral the Committee considered his case

of the Federation, advised resumption of work. This advice was accepted by a large majority at an MFGB special conference on 6 Apr. Most miners were back at work by mid-Apr. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 4 Apr. 1912; Arnot, *Years of Struggle*, 108-10.

¹² Over 200 children were reported to be attending the soup kitchen at Portobello by the end of the fourth week of the miners' strike, and there was 'a good deal of distress' in the town. Soup kitchens were opened at Newbattle (the school board having refused to provide free meals to necessitous children under the Education Act, 1908), and 'well over 300 children' were given dinners, at Bonnyrigg, where 'nearly 200 meals have been served daily', at Dalkeith, where on 27 Mar. alone 646 children were served with meals, and at other mining centres. *Midlothian Journal*, 29 Mar. 1912; *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 28 Mar. 1912.

but came to the conclusion that any claim he preferred Should be made through the colliery committee of Bankton Colliery.

The Secretary intimated that a Conference of the Scottish Miners' Federation was called for Thursday and that the business would be with reference to the Setting up of a joint Board for Scotland under The Coal Mines (Minumum Wage) Act, After which it was agreed that the Secretary and Assistant Secretary attend, And to represent That if at all possible the representatives to the Joint Board be chosen by the Men of the districts.¹³

The question of Strike pay was next considered When it was found that under no Circumstances could another week's Strike pay be given on Account of the funds being nearly exhausted. But in View of the fact that large numbers of Members would fail to find work during the first week and possibly longer, It was agreed to call a Special Board Meeting and to request that each delegate have a list of the Members of his Branch that had not been able to resume work and the cause for Such if possible, To enable the Board to deal with Such Cases in Accordance with the Means at its disposal.

13th April 1912

A Special Board Meeting was held today. The Minute of the former Meeting was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Andrew Clarke, Seconded by Mr Richard Scott. The Minute of a Wages Committee Meeting held on the 9th April was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr David Allan.

Mr Robert McKinnon Moved, Seconded by Mr Edward Robertson, That all the money available in the Association be divided equally amongst the Members. Mr Andrew Clarke Moved the previous question, Seconded by Mr John Main. The previous question was carried by 14 votes to 3.

Mr David Allan Moved that Strike pay be allocated in accordance with the time all the Members were on Strike, Seconded by Mr Richard Scott. Mr John Main Moved, Seconded by Mr Nicholas Young, that what money there is to be disposed of be given to those men who have not yet got Started to work— This was carried by 10 votes to 7. Ultimately, A Motion by Mr Wm Somerville, Seconded by Mr John Main, was carried, Viz., by 16 votes to 3, That 6s. per member be paid to those members who had not yet Started to work up to and

¹³ The Joint District Board for Scotland established under the Act first met on 10 Apr. and met again several times by 30 May. The Board was composed of 18 representatives of the coalowners, plus their secretary, and the same number of representatives of the miners (including Robert Brown and Joseph Young of the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association), plus their secretary, James Currie Macbeth, a solicitor. The Board failed to agree on the minimum rates of wages or on the district rules. A consequent award concerning rates and rules made on 5 June under the Act by the three joint chairmen, including Sheriff A.O.M. MacKenzie, appointed by the Board of Trade, aroused strong dissatisfaction among the miners. *Coal Mines (Minimum Wage) Act, 1912: Joint District Board for the Mainland of Scotland. Proceedings at Conferences, 10th April to 30th May 1912, with Award and District Rules by the Independent Chairmen* (Glasgow and Edinburgh, 1912), passim; Arnot, *Scottish Miners*, 130-1.

including Thursday or one full Strike week, and that cases extending beyond that time be further considered—Against a Motion by Mr Robert McKinnon, Seconded by Mr Edward Robertson, That a Sum of £450 be divided pro rata among the collieries to be devoted to necessitous cases.

It was agreed to defer payment of the funeral claim upon the death of Alexander Russell, pending investigation by the Parish Council, he having died in Inveresk Poorhouse. George Gray's Case: It was again decided that this man was not entitled to Strike allowance.

Dr Moore by request had an interview with the Board and Showed a plan of the proposed Lothians Railway for the Coal Trade of Mid Lothian. He explained what he considered the advantages would be in facilitating a better Supply of Waggon and especially that a great Saving in Carriage would be effected compared with the rates at present charged by the North British Railway Coy. In promoting this railway he was desirous that Some one should appear before the Commission on behalf of the Miners of Mid & East Lothian, And the Board upon his retiral agreed to Submit the Matter to the Collieries to decide whether anyone as a Witness Should appear on their behalf.

The Secretary submitted a report of the Conference held at Glasgow on the 11th inst. at which the members of the Joint Board under the Coal Mines Minimum Wage Act were appointed. It was explained that eighteen Members on either Side with a Secretary would form the Board and that both Secretaries of Mid & East Lothian had been appointed as representatives of that district.

The Secretary reported that at the Conference held at London on Saturday the 6th inst. the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the Federation of Great Britain advising a resumption of work was carried by a large Majority, Fife & Mid & East Lothian being outvoted on the question by the other Scottish Districts.

The ballot for the election of President gave 4789 votes for Mr Andrew Clarke and 3061 for Mr George Young. Mr Andrew Clarke was declared elected and Mr Young upon resigning the chair thanked the delegates for their courtesy to him during the time he had the pleasure of presiding at their Meetings and wished every Success to the Association in the future.

The Board agreed to put before the Collieries for Consideration the following proposal: That the Board Meetings be held in future on a Week day other than Saturday, and that a sum of 7s.6d. per delegate be paid for attendance and train fare instead of 5s. per delegate as formerly with 6s.6d. added with train fare When it happens to be held on a Working day and the delegate lost a day's work.

Henry Hendry's Case, Niddrie: It was agreed that this man was entitled to Strike pay (Three weeks in Jail). James McFarlane's Case, Carberry: It was decided that no change be made in this case from that adopted locally.

A Vote of Sympathy and Condolence with the family of the late Mr John

Wilson, Shale Miners' Agent, was passed by the delegates upstanding.¹⁴

30th April 1912

A Wages Committee Meeting was held today, Mr Andrew Clarke presiding. The following Members were present: Andrew Clarke, James Ormiston, Wm Falconer, Wm Somerville, John Main, John Patterson, Peter O'Toole, and David Allan.

A list of names from Loanhead, Supplemented by a few from other collieries, were Submitted of Men who had failed to get Started for more than two weeks after the termination of the Strike, When upon consideration it was agreed to recommend to the Board that all Members who had not got Started up to the 19th April be paid a Sum of 6s. each.

The Secretary read a letter he had received from the Secretary of Wallyford Colliery requesting him to attend a Meeting on Sunday the 28th to explain why Lawrence Martin had been paid full Strike pay when he had only been paying half contributions. The Secretary stated that he had replied to the effect That he could not attend a meeting on the day proposed, Viz., Sunday, and that the Board having dealt with Lawrence Martin's case he would Submit the letter to it To enable it to decide whether it was necessary that any further information was required Than what each delegate ought to have been able to report to his Colliery. The Committee agreed that it was a Matter for the Board to deal with before either of the Secretaries could enter into it.

Letter, Richard Young, Bankpark: It was decided that the decision arrived at on the 13th inst. did not apply to this case but that Consideration be given to it and cases of a Similar nature by the Board. Letter, Arthur Kay, Niddrie: This case was left over for further enquiry by the President and local Committee. James Hall, Smeaton: This man claimed that he had not got Started up to the 19th inst., but the Matter was delayed until the delegate from Smeaton was present to obtain the full particulars of the case.

Arniston Colliery: A report was Submitted from this Colliery of Several men who were employed by Contractors having been reduced Since the Strike to 6s. per Shift, while prior to the Strike 6s.3d. to 6s.6d. was paid. It was agreed that further enquiry be made by the Committee into the Matter with a view to get all the facts brought out.

Elphinstone Colliery: A complaint was made from this colliery to the effect That upon Several occasions Workmen had been called up the Pit and dismissed on the initiation of the Checks for the employers, on the charge of having filled a quantity of foreign Material amongst their Coal, While the Workmen's Checkweigher had no opportunity given him to check Such foreign Material alleged to have been filled. It was decided that under no consideration could such Arbitrary Conduct be tolerated and both Secretaries were instructed

¹⁴ See above, p. 65, n. 46.

to visit the Colliery on the Wednesday Morning to see Mr Burt the Manager, to stop the method adopted, and to see about the reinstatement of George Fairgrieve & Sons who had been dismissed under the circumstances narrated.

Niddrie Colliery: Several Cases were reported from this colliery of Men having been Victimised, Viz., George Stein, John Newall, and John Riggs, Also a Case regarding James Weir and Thos Gorrie, but in View of a Board Meeting having been called for Saturday it was agreed to deal with these cases then upon having a report from the delegate.

Some Consideration was given regarding what remuneration should be given to Branches to cover the work done in preparing the Strike Sheets and payment of Strike allowance, but no definite finding was come to and the Matter was left to the full Board.

A letter was read from the Secretary of Falkirk Trades Council asking information regarding a claim for Compensation by a Woman whose husband had been killed at Niddrie Colliery, but as the Case had not been dealt with by the Association, the Man being killed not having been a Member, The Secretary was instructed to reply to the letter to the effect that we had no knowledge of the case.

A report was given of how matters Stood with the Joint District Board under the Coal Mines Minimum Wage Act.

A letter was read from P.L. King, but his case having been disposed of at a meeting of the Board It was decided not to take any further action regarding the case.

4th May 1912

A Board Meeting was held today. The Minute of the former Meeting was read and adopted, Moved by Mr Duncan Stein, Seconded by Mr John Gordon. The Minute of a Wages Committee Meeting held on the 30th April was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr John Patterson. The findings of the Wages Committee were approved of on the Motion of Mr John Gordon, Seconded by Mr Richard Scott.

Allowance to those who had not obtained work after the Strike: It was agreed that 10s. per Member be paid for the Second and third Week and that consideration regarding removal expenses be given beyond the three weeks.

Allowance to Local Secretaries: It was agreed to allow one Shilling per hundred Members of each Branch to the Secretary for preparing the Strike Sheets and other work during the Strike.

Remuneration to Committees: Upon a vote between paying 6s. per Member of Committee, as Moved by Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr John Patterson, and 4s. per hundred pounds dealt with, Moved by Mr Peter O'Toole, Seconded by Mr Wm Falconer, It was carried in favour of 6s. per Member of Committee, but ultimately an Agreement was come to that the Matter be put before the collieries.

Claims under Minimum Wage Act: It was agreed that the Colliery Committees obtain from the Members all claims they may have to make upon the Minimum being fixed.

Mr Wm Foster, Rosewell, and Mr Duncan Stein, Prestongrange, were elected to serve on the Wages Committee in place of the President, Mr Aw Clarke, and Mr Wm Somerville.

Subscription Sheets re. the Kirkconnel case were allowed to lie on the table pending the Matter being dealt with by the Scottish Fedn.¹⁵

Loanhead Colliery: Barr's Compensation Case and Jonathan Deas not finding employment were reported.

Newbattle Colliery: A Motion from this Colliery regarding the position of the Legal Adviser of the Association was tabled but it was considered advisable before putting the Matter before the Collieries that he be requested to appear before the Board at its next Meeting in order that he may have an opportunity of Meeting and dealing with the question raised.

Niddrie Colliery: The following Cases were dealt with: Mr Thos Gorrie—Left with colliery committee; Mr Arthur Kay—Strike benefit granted; Mr Thos Halliday's claim to funeral allowance—decided he had no claim; Mr John Rigg—Agree to pay removal expenses as per rule 28; Mr George Stein—Agreed that he be paid 10s. per week for the time he was off work after the Strike; Mr John Newall—Remitted to Colliery Committee to deal with his application.

Ormiston Colliery: Three Motions from this Colliery were tabled but two of them having reference to the time of and remuneration for Board Meetings were disposed of by the returns from the Branches on that question; And the other having reference to one Secretary being Sufficient for the work of the Association was considered to be incompetent to be Submitted to the Collieries.

Prestongrange: Wm Donaldson's Case for Compensation to be dealt with. Mr Robert Blair to be paid the allowance made. Several cases of Men who had worked one day during the first week after the Strike and who claimed benefit were refused.

Rosewell Colliery: This Colliery desired that the entrance fee be reduced for a period but it was pointed out That the Scottish Federation had to deal with that question.

Woodhall Colliery: George Bell's claim to Compensation to be enquired into.

Wallyford: John Daly's case—No Victimisation. Jas McFarlane's Case,

¹⁵ During the miners' strike a *melée* had taken place at Kirkconnel, Dumfriesshire, on 21 Mar., when 500 miners from Auchinleck and Old and New Cumnock came into conflict with police. About 200 non-unionists had been at work at local pits, which came within the area of the Ayrshire Miners' Federal Union. Ten miners were arrested. Four of them sentenced to 30 days' imprisonment on charges arising from the *melée* had their conviction on one of the charges quashed on 20 June by the Justiciary Appeal Court. *Glasgow Herald*, 22 Mar. and 21 June 1912.

Carberry, was Sought to be reopened but the previous question was moved and Carried. A proposal to amend rule 8 was tabled but the delegate agreed to take it back to the Colliery to be properly drafted as desired by the Colliery. James Allan who had been ill during two weeks of Strike was granted Strike pay.

6th June 1912

A Board meeting was held today. The Minute of the former Meeting was read, When Mr Robert McKinnon Moved that the part referring to the remuneration of local Committees was not correct and that it be amended, Seconded by Mr Duncan Stein. Mr Nicholas Young Moved the adoption of the Minute as read, Seconded by Mr John Main, and upon a vote being taken Mr Young's Motion was carried by 13 votes to 3.

As agreed upon at last meeting the Law Agent attended at the Board to give an explanation regarding the Motion by Newbattle Branch following an interview between a deputation and him during the Strike. After hearing his explanation and Answers to questions bearing on the Subject The Board agreed to request Newbattle Colliery to withdraw the Motion Sent in on that Matter, being convinced that the best interests of the Association would be conserved by Such being complied with. This was carried on the Motion of the Chairman, Seconded by Mr Peter O'Toole, against a Motion by Mr Robert McKinnon, Seconded by Mr Duncan Stein, That the matter be referred to the collieries, by 13 votes to 6.

The Secretary intimated that a donation of £12.5.6. had been Sent by the Leith Boilermakers towards the relief of distress arising during the Strike. The Board appreciated the Action and instructed the Secretary to warmly thank the Boilermakers for their kind consideration.

The Secretary intimated that arrangements had been completed for the Scottish Miners' Federation forming an Approved Society under the Insurance Act, 1911, and instructions given to Local Secretaries and Committees how to proceed for the enrolment of Members.¹⁶

Minimum Wage Act: The Award of the Chairman of the Joint Board was disclosed, When it was decided that with a view to complete arrangements at the Collieries in Compliance with the District Board Rules a Special Board Meeting be held after the rules were finally adjusted.

Several Cases of Compensation were reported on and arrangements Made for dealing with them.

¹⁶ Part II of the National Insurance Act, 1911, provided for unemployment insurance for certain industries but these did not include coal mining. Part I of the Act provided a free medical service for employees, though not for their families, and sickness and disability benefit among others. Contributions were paid by employers, government and employees—the last making the largest contribution. Benefits were administered by approved societies that might include those established (as in this case) by trade unions, but union members were not obliged to join the latter. Cole, *Working-Class Movement*, 307-10; Clegg, *History of British Trade Unions*, ii, 101-5.

International Congress: It was decided on a motion by Mr Peter O'Toole, Seconded by Mr John Main, That no representative be Sent to this Congress this year—Against an Amendment by Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr John Patterson, that a representative be Sent.

Payment to Local Committees during the Strike: The votes from the collieries being in favour of 6s. per Member of Committee being paid it was approved of.

Motion re. rule 8 by Wallyford Colliery: Mr Robert McKinnon Moved, Seconded by Mr Duncan Stein, That the Motion be remitted to the Collieries. Mr James Ormiston Moved, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, That as empowered by the Standing Orders The Board refuse to put the Motion to the Collieries. Mr Ormiston's Motion was carried by ten votes to five. A Motion of a Similar nature from Newbattle Colliery was dealt with in the same way.

James Allen's Case, Carberry: It was decided to rescind the resolution come to by the Board at the last Meeting whereby this Member was granted Strike pay, On the Motion of Mr Peter O'Toole, Seconded by Mr David Allan, Against a Motion by Mr Robert McKinnon, Seconded by Mr James Thomson, That the decision remain. Mr O'Toole's Motion 13—Mr McKinnon's 3.

Joseph Gill, Niddrie: This man having written regarding his not getting Strike pay during the late Strike, It was pointed out that he was not in benefit and had no claim. Wm Rollo: It was agreed to grant removal expenses in this Case in Accordance with rule 28. Thos Clyde's case: It was agreed to remit this case to the Carberry Committee to deal with.

Elphinstone Colliery: It was reported that the Eight Hours Act was being infringed at this colliery and it was agreed that upon a Specified report being given the Matter would be put into the hands of his Majesty's Inspector of Mines for Scotland.

House of Muir Colliery: Mr Robert Laird Jack's case: It was decided that this man having been ill during the Strike period had no claim to Strike pay and therefore his claim was disallowed.

Loanhead Colliery: Wm John Morgan, Thos Sinnot and George Calder who after having left the Colliery after the Strike had returned and claimed benefit up to the third week on the ground that they had not found employment. The matter was remitted to the Loanhead Committee to make full investigation into the Circumstances and to report.

Mr James Darting's case, Newbattle: This case was remitted to the colliery committee and the Secretary. Mr Jonathan Deas's Case, Loanhead, was again remitted to the Committee of the colliery.

Niddrie Colliery: The delegate reported that the Cases remitted to the Colliery Committee by the Board at last Meeting had been Satisfactorily dealt with.

Polton Colliery: A report re. a reduction of rates in a Section was remitted

to the Colliery Committee to make enquiry and if necessary to call upon the Secretary to deal with it.

Henry Rooney's Case, Prestongrange: It was agreed to grant removal expenses in this Case, as recommended by the Colliery Committee and Members, amounting to two pounds.

Prestonlinks Colliery: A reported partial reduction of $1\frac{3}{4}$ d. per ton was left with the Agents and local Committee to deal with.

David Blyth's case: After the Delegate reported on this Case The Board endorsed the local Committee's decision that he had no case for the interference by the Association.

Wallyford Colliery: Mr Andrew Mack from this Colliery by request was admitted to the Meeting to state a grievance he had about being requested to leave the house he occupied belonging to the Company. The Case stated by him was as follows: He was off work as the result of an injury and in receipt of Compensation. He got intimation that upon his being able to resume work he could do so in the Colliery but that he must vacate the house he occupied belonging to the Company. The reason for Such Action by the Company being that he (Mr Mack) had been blamed for poaching, which he repudiated. After hearing Mr Mack's Statement Mr David Allan Moved, Seconded by Mr John Main, That no Action be taken in such a Case as it was not affecting his wages or work. Mr Robert McKinnon Moved, Seconded by Mr Duncan Stein, That the Case be taken up. Mr Allan's Motion was Carried by 14 votes to 4.

Bankpark: It was agreed that removal expenses be allowed to James Graham.

15th June 1912

A Special Board Meeting was held today and in the Absence of the President the Vice President Occupied the chair.

The Secretary intimated that the claim for an advance of Wages of 25% had been discussed before Lord Hunter as Neutral chairman on the 13th inst. and that the meeting Stood adjourned till Monday the 17th.¹⁷

Approved Society: Explanations were given regarding what had been done towards the formation of the Society and proof Copies of rules supplied to the Members of the Board, and agreement was come to that the local Secretaries attend at the Office on Saturday the 22nd at 5 o'clock, to consult with the Secretary regarding the enrolment of Members on the Sheets &c.

Nominations having been taken from both Counties for representatives to the County Committee under the Insurance Act, the following names were

¹⁷ William Hunter (1865-1957), Liberal MP for Govan, 1910-11, Solicitor-General for Scotland, 1910-11, a Senator of the College of Justice, 1911-36. Lord Hunter, as independent chairman of the Scottish Coal Conciliation Board, awarded on 21 June an increase of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in miners' wages on the 1888 basis, making the new piecework rates $62\frac{1}{2}$ per cent above that basis. The award meant that wages were increased by 6d. a day to an average of 6s.6d. The miners had sought an increase of 25 per cent on the 1888 basis—an extra 1s. a day. *Glasgow Herald*, 22 June 1912.

put forward: Mid Lothian (for five representatives): Nominated—Andrew Clarke, George Young, Nicholas Young, John Young, Peter O'Toole, Robert Burnside, John Duncan, Wm Cunningham, David Haddow, Andrew Anderson, David Allan, Walter Walker, Robert White, David Flockhart, Harry Byers. East Lothian (for four representatives): Nominated—James Ormiston, John Main, John Swan, Jas Hoggan, George Wilson, John Gordon, Ed. Robertson Jnr, James Moore, John Patterson, Joseph Hewitt, Joseph Rowberry, Alexr Selkirk, Michael Corrie, Thos Gunn, Duncan Stein, David McLuckie. No Nomination having been sent from Wallyford, The question arose as to whether nominations be closed, and Mr Peter O'Toole Moved, Seconded by Mr Edward Robertson, That the vote be taken at the Collieries at once. Mr Robert McKinnon Moved, Seconded by Mr Duncan Stein, That the vote be not taken. It was carried by 9 to 8 to take the vote at once, and each delegate took a note of the Nominations to be Submitted to his colliery for a final vote and to send the result to the Secretary before the 21st, which is the last day upon which the names are eligible.

Committees under the Minimum Wage Act: Arrangements were made for meetings being held at every colliery for the purpose of enabling the Members to appoint two of their representatives to the Committee for Settling disputed Cases under the Act, The Secretary to issue a Special Circular and Bills for that purpose.

6th July 1912

A Wages Committee Meeting was held today, Mr Andrew Clarke presiding.

Thomas Davidson's Case, Loanhead: The Secretary intimated That the expenses incurred in this Case amounted to £27.16.6., and in view of the developments in connection with many Such Cases The Wages Committee recommend That local Committees Should make careful enquiry into disputed claims to ensure that all the evidence possible may be obtained and due consideration given as to whether an Action be raised to Secure Compensation or not before entering Court.

A letter was read from Thos Scanlon, Law Agent, Stating That as the Miners' Association had in October last intimated to Michael McTiernan that no further Action would be taken in his Case He had been engaged and obtained Compensation but not full expenses and on behalf of McTiernan's Father requested that the Miners' Association pay Such expenses. It was agreed unanimously on the Motion of Mr James Ormiston, Seconded by Mr Peter O'Toole, That no Such expenses be paid, On the principle that The Association can only be responsible to Law Agents whom we employ.

William McNeil's Case: A letter was read from Mr Thomas Scanlon Stating that McNeil had put his Case in his hands. A letter from Mr Handyside was read Stating that he had been Successful in obtaining 12s.2d. per week as partial

Compensation to this man, and that McNeil without any intimation to him of his own accord approached Mr Scanlon. It was agreed on the Motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr James Ormiston, That the Association have no further responsibility in this Case.

James Patterson, Loanhead: It was agreed that Dr Cathcart be approached for a Certificate in this case.

Claims Under the Minimum Wage Act: It was agreed that as the employers had not paid those workmen who were entitled to have their wage advanced for the period from the passing of the Act till the obtaining of the Award by the chairman of the Joint Board, That Such claims upon being intimated to the local Committees be put forward on the Men's behalf Collectively.

Drawers to Miners and Contractors: The Wages Committee, upon Considering the claims of Drawers and those men working to Contractors, Consider that all Such Men are entitled to the Minimum in Accordance with their Age, and that the advance of Wages obtained apart from the Minimum ought not to be used as a Set off to Meet the increase due under the Minimum Award but ought to be given apart from the question of what the Minimum Wage Act award gave them. In Cases where Drawers had claims against Contractors and were disputed The Committee recommend that Such questions Should be dealt with by the Colliery Branch Committee, and upon Contractors refusing to Submit their Case to the Committee Then they as Such will require to appoint their own two Members of Committee under the Act to meet the Men's Members.

The Secretary intimated That the Bankpark [branch] having complained That they had received the advance at the rate of 1³/₄d. upon 1s.9d. of a hewing rate and 10d. on 10s. of a fathomage rate but that they wanted it all put on the hewing rate, He had advised that the advance had been given in the proper proportion on both rates, which advice the Wages Committee endorsed.

The Lawyer's Account for the past Six Months was produced amounting to £75.5.0., being outlays £21.12.3. and fees & other charges £53.13.0., Davidson's Case not being included in this account.

A letter was read from the Managers of the Royal Infirmary¹⁸ requesting that the Workmen would pay the Small Sum to that institution for the Strike period and the Committee agreed unanimously to recommend to the Men to pay the arrears for the five weeks in View of the benefits derived from that institution, especially in Cases of Accident.

11th July 1912

A Board and financial Meeting was held today.

The Chairman Made a feeling reference to the Mining disaster at Cadeby

¹⁸ I.e., Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

Colliery, Yorkshire, by which 87 lives were lost.¹⁹

The Minute of the last Meeting was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Nicholas Young, Seconded by Mr James Hoggan. The Minute of a Wages Committee meeting held on the 6th inst. was read and held to be a correct record of the proceedings, on the Motion of James Ormiston, Seconded by Mr Peter O'Toole. Mr Robert McKinnon moved disapproval of the part of the Minute dealing with the wages committee refusing to pay the expenses of the Law Agent engaged by Mr Michael McTiernan's Father, and moved that Said expenses be paid, Seconded by Mr Nicholas Young. Mr Wm Bryce Moved, Seconded by Mr Edward Robertson, approval of the committee's decision. On a vote being taken 17 voted for approval and 2 against. And on The Motion of Mr James Thomson, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, The Minute as a whole was approved of.

Scottish Miners' Federation Annual Conference: It was agreed to take reports from Collieries on the Agenda and instruct delegates to the Conference thereon at the next Board Meeting, which it was agreed to hold on the Tuesday preceding the Conference. The question of how many delegates Should attend and their remuneration was then discussed and Mr Robert McKinnon Moved that unless the financial report of the Scottish Miners' Fedn for the past year be in the hands of the men and delegates No representative be Sent. This was not Seconded. Mr Colin Allan Moved That Seven delegates be appointed but found no Seconder. Mr Peter O'Toole Moved, Seconded by Mr James Thomson, That four including the Secretary be appointed. Mr Nicholas Young Moved, Seconded by Mr John Patterson, That the Assistant Secretary be included to Make five. This was ultimately Carried by 12 votes to 4. Mr John Main Moved That delegates attending the conference be paid The Same Fee as delegates attending the Board Meetings, Seconded by Mr Robert McKinnon. Mr Colin Allan Moved that 10s. per day be allowed but did not find a Seconder. Mr Nicholas Young Moved the previous question and Mr Wm Bryce Seconded, which was carried by 13 votes to 3.

While the question of the delegation and the remuneration to be paid to delegates was under discussion The Vice President, Mr James Ormiston, took part in the debate and upon Mr McKinnon, the delegate from Wallyford, replying he referred to the Vice President as representing only himself at the Board and did not represent any other body. Upon which the chairman, upon an appeal by Mr Ormiston, having requested Mr McKinnon to withdraw the Statement on the ground that the Vice Chairman equally with himself as President in Virtue of his office represented all the Members of the Association and as Such

¹⁹ On 9 July two successive explosions killed 88 men at Cadeby Main colliery, Conisborough, near Doncaster. The first explosion killed 35 miners, the second 53—most of whom were rescue workers, including HM chief inspector of mines for Yorkshire and two other inspectors. Duckham, *Pit Disasters*, 20-1, 206; Montgomery, *Mining Chronicle*, 134.

was entitled to take part in any discussion, Notwithstanding Mr McKinnon held he had expressed his opinion and refused under any condition to withdraw the Statement and thereby defied the chair. It was then agreed to unanimously on the Motion of Mr David Allan, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, That the chairman's position be upheld, and Mr McKinnon was accordingly Suspended under Standing Order No. 2 and the Secretary instructed to intimate the Same to the Colliery.

The Secretary, upon reporting on the returns from the Collieries of expenditure for Strike purposes, Stated that the return by Wallyford Branch Contained an item of expenditure of £10.14.6. Which the Local Committee had paid to themselves while distributing Strike pay, Which exceeded the allowance granted by the Members for this purpose, by £7.8.6. The Same thing applied to the Committee of Prestongrange Branch, who had paid themselves a Sum of £6, or £3 in excess of the allowance granted. It was agreed that these two Branches be requested to forward the balance due in their respective Cases to the Board.

Weekly Pays: This question was reported on by the Secretary, who intimated that an effort was being made not only to obtain weekly pays but to try to have a uniform System established for the whole of Scotland with Friday as pay day: The Board advise that Meantime Collieries may await the issue of the negotiations before balloting on this question.

New Mines Act: The question of the cost of explosives was raised and the Secretary instructed to ascertain the opinion of His Majesty's Inspector of Mines for Scotland regarding the definition of cost price, and as to whether the pay lines to be Supplied to the Workmen are to be retained by them.

The Secretary intimated that the legal expenses including fees and outlays for Compensation cases amounted to £94.9.9.

Under the Industrial Diseases Section of the Workmen's Compensation Act, The Secretary was instructed to write to the Home Secretary to request that a Certifying Surgeon be appointed for Tranent as a purely Mining Centre, and also that a Medical Referee be appointed resident in Musselburgh.

Bankpark Colliery: This Colliery desired to raise the question of Mr Andrew Mack's Case, disposed of on 6th June, but found no Support. The delegate reported that James Graham had been paid removal expenses amounting to 27s.6d.

Bankton Colliery: This Colliery, upon tabling a Motion re. rules 12 and 18, were instructed that upon desiring to amend or alter any rule Such Amendment or alteration must be formulated in writing to enable What is intended to be fully understood, and the Motion [was] remitted to the Colliery again for that purpose.

Loanhead Colliery: A Complaint against the New Explosives Order was lodged by this colliery but was deferred until it was seen how other districts



Prestonlinks miners' outing, 1912. (Courtesy of East Lothian Libraries.)

were affected with a view to Joint Action being taken.²⁰

Newbattle Colliery: It was reported that this Colliery had Complied with the request of the Board and had withdrawn the Motion re. the Law Agent.

Polton Colliery: A Workman at this Colliery upon applying for his back money under the Minimum Wage Act was given the option of Signing a Certificate that he was an inefficient Workman or to be dismissed. He refused to Sign and was dismissed. The Board decided that the Secretary write the Manager to request that the proper procedure be adopted of putting the case before the Committee, and upon his refusing to do so the Wages Committee be empowered to adopt Whatever Measures they think best even to the Stopping of the colliery as a protest against Such Action.²¹

Prestongrange Colliery: This Colliery raised the question of how the Committees appointed in Accordance with the rules of the Joint Board were to be paid, when it was decided that the Branches would have to consider this matter and report.

Prestonlinks: A claim to 6s. was allowed to this Colliery as having been expended in calling meetings during the Strike.

Rosewell Colliery: It was intimated that four men had been paid 6s. each, they having been off one full week after the Strike terminated.

Smeaton Colliery: This Colliery requested that a grant be given to assist in local work but was refused on the Motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr James Hoggan, against a Motion by Mr Duncan Stein, Seconded by Mr Wm Foster, That one pound be allowed—Carried by Chairman's Casting Vote.

It was agreed to recommend payment of the arrears to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary accumulated during the Strike.

26th July 1912

A Wages Committee meeting was held today. Present: Messrs Peter O'Toole, John Main, John Patterson, Duncan Stein, Wm Foster, Wm Falconer and Joseph Young.

Compensation Cases: The Secretary intimated that the Insurance Company had offered ten pound to avoid litigation in Alexr Haig's case, Loanhead, and that Haig had authorized the Law Agent to Settle on the best terms he could obtain. James Patterson's claim, Loanhead—The Secretary reported that Doctor

²⁰ The Home Secretary had issued on 21 May an Explosives in Coal Mines Order regulating the supply, use and storage of explosives under section 61 of the Coal Mines Act, 1911. The new Order, revoking five previous Orders issued in 1910-11, came into force on 1 July. Other Orders issued by the Home Office on 6 June contained provisions for the standardisation of cartridges and drills, and special provisions applying to mines containing inflammable gas and during sinking work. A list of 'permitted explosives' was given. *Colliery Guardian*, 7 and 14 June 1912.

²¹ There had been several complaints by miners at other Mid and East Lothian pits of similar treatment by management when they sought payment of wages due for the period from resumption of work after the national strike in Mar.-Apr. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 18 July 1912.

Holmden had granted a Certificate to the effect that Patterson had been operated upon for Appendicitis, which could not have arisen from the Cause attributed by Patterson, Viz., That he had Strained himself while picking at the roof.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Prestongrange Branch intimating that at a Meeting held on Sunday the 21st inst. a Motion was carried That all Money drawn for the Federation (Association) be retained until Satisfaction had been got as to why weekly pays had not been obtained. It was agreed to leave this Matter to be dealt with by the full Board.

A letter was read from Mr Adam McNeil, Secretary to Wallyford Branch, as follows: 'Wallyford, July 14th, 1912. Dear Mr Brown, My Colliery had a meeting this Morning When I read your letter re. Robert McKinnon's Suspension by the Board. McKinnon explained how he came to be Suspended through being against Ormiston Moving that the delegates for some Conference being paid 12s. as he had a delegate from the colliery he works at. Our Men are of the opinion that if Ormiston had any idea what his position on the Board is he would not take part in any discussion, and they uphold McKinnon's Action in telling him that he had no right to move that any delegate be paid to go to a conference to pass a balance Sheet that they had never Seen. A Motion was then carried: That we the Men of this Branch are convinced that the Action of the Board was wrong in Suspending our delegate for upholding his instructions by the men of this Colliery. Another Motion was carried that we Send neither Money or delegate until we receive a Scottish Balance Sheet and that this be Sent every year when the balance Sheet is made out. I am to ask you to attend a Meeting to be held on Wednesday, July 17th, at Quarry Head at 6.30 or on Sunday, July 21st, in Basket Hall Lane at 11.30 to explain the whole business in regards to the Medical Referee's report on Compensation Cases. This was our Election of Committee and I may Say that McKinnon has been appointed delegate for the next Six Months. Hoping to hear from you by return of post, I remain, Yours truly, Adam McNeil.'

It was decided to leave this matter for Consideration by the whole Board.

The following letter from Mr Quigly to the Secretary was read: '46 Forth View, Wallyford, Musselburgh. Mr Robert Brown: Dear Sir, in the Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Mid & East Lothian Miners' Association of Thursday, 11th July 1912, which have been printed and Circulated throughout the Counties of Mid & East Lothian You make one of the most Sweeping & Slandrous charges imaginable against every member of the Wallyford Committee—That the return of the Wallyford Branch contained an item of expenditure of £10.14.6. which the local Committee *had paid to themselves* while distributing Strike pay. This [is] an exceedingly Serious charge to make against any person even if made orally, but when you proceed to have the libel printed and Circulated without first ascertaining if the Committee had Seen or Certified the correctness of the returns you certainly act with a total disregard of all the Canons of fairness that

Should Actuate a man placed in a position of responsibility Such as yours. The charge you make is essentially one of Misappropriation of the funds and so far as I am Concerned is utterly false. Unless you are prepared to withdraw your charge so far as it affects me I will be compelled to afford you the opportunity of trying to Substantiate it in as public a Manner as you could desire. Yours truly, Andrew Quigly, one of the Wallyford Branch Committee.'

The following letter was also received on the 23rd July 1912: 'Sir, I have been consulted by Mr Andrew Quigly, 46 [Forth View], Wallyford, who until recently was President of the Wallyford Branch of Mid & East Lothian Miners' Association, and also by Mr Adam McNeil, The Secretary thereof, with reference to a Statement made by you, and published in the Report of the Board Meeting held on the 11th inst., to the effect that the Committee of the Wallyford Branch had paid to themselves the Sum of £7.8.6. while distributing Strike pay, Which Statement is utterly without foundation in fact. It has been circulated throughout Mid & East Lothian by means of the printed report referred to Sent by you not only to the delegates of each branch (as is the usual custom) but also on this occasion to the Secretaries thereof. The Statement was also reiterated by you at a meeting of the Wallyford Miners held on the 17th inst. The Members of the Committee and my Clients in particular as the parties more immediately Concerned have naturally been very much injured in their feelings and reputation by the imputation thus cast on their probity and honour. Said Statement is clearly defamatory and unless I hear from you within the next three days that you are prepared to withdraw same unreservedly and express your regret that it Should have been made, and pay my clients a reasonable Sum in name of damages (Your retraction and apology being given the Same publicity as was accorded the libel referred to) There will be no alternative for me but to carry out my clients' instructions to raise an Action of damages against you in the Court of Session for Slander, in order to clear their character. I am, Your Obedient Servant, Andrew Gordon.'

The Committee, with regard to these letters, agreed unanimously to recommend to the Board That the Secretary being the Servant of the Association and in framing and issuing the Minute of the Meeting of 11th July was carrying out the instructions of the Board He be defended against Such Action upon it being pressed, and further The Committee desire that it Should be recorded in the Minutes That the statement contained in the Minute of the Board Meeting of 11th July regarding the disbursement of the money remitted to the Wallyford Branch Committee for Strike benefit was understood to be actually what had taken place by every delegate who was present when the Abstract Statement Submitted by the Secretary to the Wallyford Branch was produced. As when the amount Stated, Viz., £3.13.0. and £4.5.0. for the two first payments for Committee Expenses & Hall rent, was commented on The representative from the Branch, Mr Robert McKinnon, offered no explanation further than that the

Committee were entitled to be paid for the work they did and Justified Their action, Thereby confirming the conclusions come to by the delegates That the Committee had paid to themselves the Sums Stated in the returns.

John McKenzie V. Alexr Rollo, Niddrie: John McKenzie claimed that Alexr Rollo was due him 10s. for a load of coal delivered to Rollo and deducted from McKenzie's pay (Rollo being employed by him). Rollo refused payment but upon being written to by the Secretary he paid the 10s. and at the same time raised the question that McKenzie was due him 7s.6d. as his (McKenzie's) Son had promised him a Sixpence per day advance Which had not been paid. McKenzie repudiates that Statement, and Rollo was advised to put his Case before the local Committee in the first place to be enquired into.

Wm Auld V. James Smith, Niddrie: Wm Auld lodged a claim against James Smith for back money under the Minimum Wage Act but afterwards wrote withdrawing the claim.

Robert Young's Case, Polton: The Secretary reported that the general Manager of the Company had written to say that he was quite agreeable to have Young's claim decided as provided for in the rules of the Joint Board; and as Young had found employment elsewhere It was agreed to remit the decisions of the Committee upon his case before it was further considered.

6th August 1912

A Board Meeting was held today.

The minute of the former Meeting was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Nicholas Young, Seconded by Mr John Patterson. Mr Robert McKinnon objected to be held as Seconding the Motion regarding the remuneration for delegates attending Conferences—but the delegates present at the former meeting maintained that he did. A Minute of the Wages Committee Meeting held on the 26th July was read and approved of on the Motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr Wm Foster.

Approval of the findings and recommendations Contained in the Minute were approved of on the Motion of Mr Nicholas Young, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, against an amendment Moved by Mr Robert McKinnon, Seconded by Mr James Thomson, The Motion having 17 Votes, The Amendment 2 Votes.

Bankton Colliery's proposed amendment of rules 12 and 18: The amendments not being forthcoming the Matter dropped.

The Secretary reported that an appeal was being lodged on behalf of the Scottish Miners against the recent order for Shot firing, and that enquiries were being made regarding the Cost price for explosives, The matter being in the hands of his Majesties Inspector of Mines.

Weekly Pays: The Secretary reported on a Meeting held with the Employers on this question, at which no agreement had been arrived at regarding

the number of lying days,²² The Workmen's Representatives offering three while the employers were asking one week. Common Agreement was not come to regarding the day of the week upon which wages would be paid, The Friday being put forward by the Men. A further Meeting falls to take place on this Subject with the employers on Saturday the 10th inst.

A report was given of the Meeting of the Joint Board held for the purpose of appointing a Panel of Chairmen, and after explanations were given of what had been done it was left with the Secretaries as Members of the Board to deal with that Matter. It was intimated that a meeting of the Joint Board was being asked for by the Workmen's Side to obtain the Chairman's definition of certain of the rules upon which the two Sides were in disagreement.

Representation to Scottish Federation Conference: The recommendation that three delegates and the two Secretaries attend was approved of by the Collieries by a large Majority. The Agenda was dealt with and the Representatives instructed in Accordance with the report from the branches, with Special instructions to endeavour to raise the question of having the financial Reports in the hands of Delegates prior to the Conference taking place.

International and other Conferences: Several resolutions and Suggestions were Made regarding the number of delegates that the Scottish Federation Should appoint to these Conferences, but in the absence of definite instructions from the Collieries nothing definite could be arrived at and the Matter Meantime was left as it was.

British Miners' Federation Annual Conference: It was agreed to recommend to the Collieries that Two Delegates be appointed to attend this Conference in October.

It was agreed to Send one Representative to the British Trades Union Congress.

Several Cases regarding Compensation and Members not being paid the Minimum Wage not only by Employers proper but by Miners who acted as Contractors were reported on and instructions given how to Act.

Appeal by Newbattle Branch: Owing to alterations at the Lady Victoria Pit over four hundred Men had been idle for two weeks (including three days' holidays) and they requested that an allowance be Made to each Member of a Sum not exceeding ten Shillings. This matter was remitted to the Collieries to decide and report.

Smeaton Colliery: It was agreed to put the question to the Collieries as to whether a Small grant could be made to the local fund of this branch to enable the committee to carry out the work entailed on them.

Motion, Arniston Colliery: That delegates attending a conference in Edinburgh be paid the Same allowance as for Board Meetings, This to be reported

²² Lying or lay days were the first few worked by an employee starting a new job, payment for which was retained by the employer and given to the employee only at the end of his employment. See also below, p. 256.

on at next Board meeting.

Motion, Bank Park: That a restricted Darg be adopted Throughout the British Coalfields. Reports on this to [be] in for next meeting.²³

Motion, Carberry Colliery: That the question of adopting a different Style of Pence Card be Considered, to last for one year only. To be considered and reports taken next Meeting.²⁴

The question of calling in the Pence Cards for Audit was withdrawn.

Motion, Elphinstone Colliery: 1. That Three delegates be Sent to the Annual Conference of the Scottish Miners' Federation; 2. That two be Sent to the Annual Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain; 3. That one be Sent to other or Special Conferences.

Motion, Polton Colliery: That the British Miners' Federation Officials approach the Officials of the Transport Workers' Union and the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants for the purpose of forming an affiliation Scheme in Cases of dispute. Reports to be taken.²⁵

Motion by Prestongrange: That Rule 12 be deleted.

Motions by Wallyford: 1. That the Colliery claimed Arbitration re Mr Andrew Mack's Case—rejected by 11 Votes to 2. 2. That the motion tabled by Wallyford two months ago re. the Secretaries' appointments be again dealt with as When it was defeated it was on a Motion by the Vice President, Who in the opinion of the Branch is not entitled to take part in the proceedings.²⁶

It was decided that what took place two months ago was in order in Accordance with rule and in Consequence a Motion defeated could not again be dealt with within Six Months.

10th August 1912

A Special Board Meeting was held today.

²³ Restricting the darg or output that could reasonably be expected from a day's work in return for the wages paid was a traditional means used by Scots miners to maintain or improve their wages. Arnot, *Scottish Miners*, 17; Marwick, *Labour in Scotland*, 25; Church, *History of the British Coal Industry*, iii: 1830-1913, 238.

²⁴ Pence cards were the Association's members' contribution cards.

²⁵ This motion reflected the increasing movement among trade unionists in these three organisations to secure co-ordinated action, not least during major strikes by one or more of them that affected members of the others (as in the 1912 miners' national strike). The movement among the miners culminated in the passing by the MFGB annual conference in Oct. 1913 of a resolution that its Executive Committee approach the executives of other big unions 'with a view to co-operative action in support of each other's demands'. The executive committees of the three unions mentioned here met together for the first time on 23 Apr. 1914 and an outcome was the approval, on 9 Dec. 1915, of the constitution of the historic body known as the Triple Industrial Alliance, which, however, because of the wartime industrial truce, began to have practical significance only from 1919. *MFGBAP, 1913: Report of Annual Conference, 7-10 October*, 139-43; P.S. Bagwell, 'The Triple Industrial Alliance, 1913-1922', in A. Briggs & J. Saville (eds.), *Essays in Labour History, 1886-1923* (London, 1971), 96-128.

²⁶ This is a reference to the Wallyford motion concerning rule 8, at the meeting of 6 June last (above, p. 206).

The Secretary intimated That Owing to the retirement of the Master of Elibank as Parliamentary Member for Mid Lothian The question of Contesting the Seat in the Labour interest had been Considered by the Executive of the Scottish Miners' Federation With Mr Arthur Henderson, M.P., Secretary of the Labour Party, present and Mr Arthur Peters, general Organizer of the Labour Party, and that it had been agreed to unanimously to recommend that the Seat be Contested in the Labour interest and to put forward Robert Brown, Secretary of the Scottish Miners' Federation, as a Nominee by the Miners to a Conference of Representatives of all the Organised Workers and Labour Bodies in the County to be held in the Melbourne Hall, Edinburgh, on the 17th at 5.30 p.m.²⁷

After full Consideration and discussion, during which the Chairman explained that the delegates were not Committing the men as any decision of the Board would require to be ratified by the Members of their respective Collieries, Mr William Bryce Moved, Seconded by Mr David Allan, That we approve of the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the Scottish Miners' Federation, Viz., That the Seat be contested in the Labour Interest and that the Secretary be the nominee. Mr John Main Moved, Seconded by Mr Robert McKinnon, That we do not approve of a candidate being put forward before consulting the members.

The Chairman Moved That we reconimend that the Constituency be contested, Seconded by Mr Peter O'Toole. This was carried, against the previous question Moved by Mr Robert McKinnon, by 13 Votes to 4. Mr Peter O'Toole Moved, Seconded by Mr James Hoggan, That we be represented at the Conference to be held on the 17th in Support of the Scottish Executive's recommendation. Mr Robert McKinnon Moved, Seconded by Mr Richard Scott, That we be not represented. The Motion to be represented was carried by 13 Votes to 5 and The Chairman and Mr David Allan were deputed to attend.

Weekly Pays: The Secretary intimated that at a meeting of the Employers' and Miners' representatives held that day it was found that no agreement Could be arrived at for a general System of payment of Wages throughout Scotland, As the employers were holding out for Six lying days. He Stated that a Suggestion Made by the Workmen's representatives, Viz., To pay on the Friday of the pay week as at present and on the Saturday of the lay week, with the pay ending on

²⁷ For the Master of Elibank, see above, p. 168, n. 26. Arthur Henderson (1863-1935), a moulder by trade, Labour MP, Barnard Castle, 1903-18, Widnes, 1919-22, Newcastle, 1923, Burnley, 1924-31; chairman, Parliamentary Labour Party, 1908-10 and 1914-17; President, Board of Education, 1915-16, a member of the War Cabinet, 1915-17, Home Secretary, 1924, Foreign Secretary, 1929-31; secretary, Labour Party, 1911-34. Arthur Peters was National Agent, Labour Party, 1908-19. Robert Brown stood as Labour candidate in the by-election, having been endorsed also by the MFGB. The poll on 10 Sept. was: Major J.A. Hope (Unionist), 6,021; Hon. Alexander Shaw (Liberal), 5,989; and Robert Brown (Labour), 2,413. Thus the Liberals, who had held the seat in two-cornered contests against the Unionists since Gladstone's election there in 1880, lost it in 1912 through the intervention of a third party, Labour. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 12 Sept. 1912; *MFGBAR, 1912: EC Minutes*, 14, 16 and 17 August.

Tuesday as usual, While it was not acceptable to all the employers Might be obtained from the employers of Mid & East Lothian.

It was then decided on the Motion of Mr Wm Bryce, Seconded by Mr James Hogg, That the Secretary put before the employers Collectively proposals of the kind indicated which if approved of could be Submitted to the men for their acceptance or rejection. Mr James Hoggan Moved, Seconded by Mr Richard Scott, That each Colliery take action for itself. But the Motion of Mr Bryce was Supported by all the other delegates except three, The Vote being 12 against 3.

19th September 1912

A Board and financial Meeting was held here today. The Minute of the Meeting of 6th August was read and adopted, Moved by Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr David Allan. The Minute of the Special Meeting held on 10th August was read and adopted, Moved by Mr Wm Bryce, Seconded by Mr James Hogg.

The Secretary read a letter from Wallyford Colliery requesting him to attend a Meeting to explain why the Board had refused Arbitration in Andrew Mack's Case. The Secretary having replied to the letter to the effect That upon explanation being required the Same Should be obtained at the Board with regard to Such decisions, the Matter dropped.

It was agreed that a Statement would be Sent by each Branch to the Secretary giving the Cost of explosives as Supplied by the employers, To enable the question to be dealt with as Set out in the New Mines Act, Section 61(2), Also the price at which private traders were Supplying them at.

The Secretary intimated that the employers had Made a claim for a reduction of wages of 12½ per Cent but that the Matter had been deferred till the Second week in October when a Meeting with Lord Hunter takes place concerning the payment of the last advance and the Minimum Wage Act.

The Secretary of the Mid and East Lothian Coalmasters' Association intimated to Mr Brown, General Secretary, That where weekly pays had not been already begun they would begin on the first pay day in October. Colliery Committees are to See about local arrangements re. times of paying, etc.

It was agreed on the Motion of Mr James Hoggan, Seconded by Mr John Main, That in Settling the accounts for Strike purposes a Sum be allocated to each Branch for the local fund to put all Colliery work on equal terms—Against a Motion by Mr James Thomson, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, That the Sums expended by Prestongrange and Wallyford Committees beyond the allowance, be discounted.

Newbattle claim for idle time: There being eleven collieries against any grant and Six in favour The request was not complied with.

British Miners' Federation Annual Conference: The Agenda for this Con-

ference was considered and the Delegates instructed thereon. Two delegates were appointed in Accordance with the decision of the Branches, Viz., Nicholas Young, Loanhead, and John Patterson, Elphinston.

Scottish Miners' Federation Conference: One delegate, Viz., Mr David Johnstone, Smeaton, was appointed with the Secretary to attend this Conference on 25th September to deal with the Agenda of the British Miners' Federation Annual Conference.

Alexr Haig's Case, Loanhead: The Secretary intimated that this case was being prepared for Court and all the Witnesses precognosed. When intimation was made by another Law Agent that Mr Haig had put his case into his hands. It was agreed that in View of Such Action nothing further could be done by the Association and that all liability on behalf of the Association cease from this date.

Grant to Smeaton Colliery: The Report in favour of this Grant being nearly unanimous it was decided to grant 30s. to the local fund of the Branch.

Motion by Arniston Colliery: That delegates attending Conferences in Edinburgh be paid the Same Allowance as for attending Board Meetings. This Motion was Carried by a large Majority.

Bankpark Motion re Restriction: This Motion was defeated by a large Majority.

Carberry Motion, Pence Cards: It was agreed that this motion be deferred until the Secretary obtained copies of the Pence Cards in use in the Scottish Districts of the Federation.

Carberry desired that a Ballot of the Members be taken on the question of whether they were in favour of a working policy of five days per week, but in View of the Members having already decided nearly unanimously in favour of Such a policy the Board decided against incurring the expense of a ballot. This matter falls to be dealt with by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain at the Annual Conference in the first week of October—Sent on by the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association to the Scottish Miners' Federation for that purpose.²⁸

A claim to Strike Allowance by Thos White was disallowed.

Motion by Elphinstone: To Add to Rule 10 That one of the Officials be Selected from East Lothian, Branches to report at next Board Meeting. It was carried by 13 Votes to 6 to Make no recommendation re. the above motion, on a Motion by Mr Robert McKinnon, Seconded by Mr Duncan Stein, Against an Amendment by Mr Peter O'Toole, Seconded by the chairman, That the Board recommend non compliance with the Motion.

The following Motions were approved of: 1. That three delegates attend the Annual Conference of the Scottish Miners' Federation, apart from

²⁸ The MFGB annual conference passed by 306,000 votes to 283,000 on a card vote a resolution from Scotland and Durham that the Federation 'adopt a five days' working week for all miners in the country', and also agreed that a ballot be taken on the policy. *MFGB AP, 1912: Report of Annual Conference, 1-4 October, 83-97.*

the Secretaries; 2. That two delegates attend the Annual Conference of the British Miners' Federation; 3. That one delegate attend other or Special Conferences.

Motion, Polton Colliery: This Motion, as referred to in last Minute, was Carried by a large Majority. It was agreed to give Robert Young of this Colliery 15s., he having been idle one week upon refusing to Sign a Certificate that he was a deficient Workman under the Minimum Wage Act.

Motion by Prestongrange Colliery: 1. A Motion to delete rule 12 was defeated. 2. This colliery Submitted an Amendment to Rule 8 but it was remitted to the colliery to be framed as desired by the colliery. 3. A claim for payment for taking a Ballot re. weekly pays was made by this colliery but was not allowed as the Colliery had Acted on its own initiative and had no instructions from the Board.

Expenses of Joint Committees: The Secretary was instructed to ascertain how these Committees at Collieries under the Minimum Wage Act were paid by other Districts of the Scottish Federation.

General Meeting: This Matter was remitted to the Wages Committee to arrange.

Compensation Cases: The Secretary intimated that an Action was being raised to obtain full Compensation for the dependents of the late Robert McIntosh who was killed at Newbattle Colliery, full liability having been denied. A Settlement of Mr Spier's Case, Wallyford, has been effected.

Committees Under the Joint Board Rules Minimum Wage Act: The following are the chairmen for Mid & East and West Lothian Districts: 1. Mr Wm Prentice, Fauldhouse; 2. Provost Robertson, Bathgate; 3. Mr Alexr Robertson; 4. Mr Alexr Mitchell, Musselburgh; 5. Provost Williamson, Loanhead; 6. Provost Young, Tranent.²⁹

12th October 1912

A Wages Committee meeting was held today.

Annual Meeting: The remit regarding this question was Considered and agreement arrived at as follows: 1st That the Wages Committee recommend to the Board That the meeting be on a Thursday. 2nd That Such day be recognised as an idle day by all the collieries. 3. That upon approval of the above recommendations by the Board and approved by the Branches Thursday the 28th November be fixed for the first meeting being held.

A Letter from Mr John M. Gourlay re. an Annual Competition in Rescue and Ambulance Work was read but was remitted to the full Board to ascertain if possible the number of Ambulance teams that were within the two Counties or

²⁹ The only other information gleaned about these appointees is that William Prentice, Main Street, Fauldhouse, was a JP; Alexander Robertson of Haywood, by Lanark, was a former colliery manager; Alexander Mitchell was a solicitor; and Provost John Williamson of Loanhead a banker. *Glasgow Herald*, 14 Oct. 1912.

may be formed.

A Circular from Mr Thomas Ashton was read requesting Districts within the Miners' Federation of Great Britain to consider and report Whether they were in favour of the Federation taking out Shares to the extent of £10,000 in the Daily Citizen Newspaper. The Committee recommend approval of Shares being taken to that amount.

In View of the Executive Committee of the Scottish Miners' Federation having recommended That Five Constituencies in Scotland be contested in the Labour interest on behalf of the Federation, It was agreed That The Organisers, Messrs Graham & Watson, be permitted to appear at the Board Meeting to be held on the 17th inst. to explain the position, The Constituencies being: 1. Mid Lanark—Candidate Robert Smillie; 2. West Fife—Member Wm Adamson, M.P.; 3. South Ayrshire—James Brown; 4. Mid Lothian—Robert Brown; 5. South Lanark—Candidate to be chosen by the district.³⁰

Sample Pence Cards were on View from Lanarkshire, Fifeshire, Ayrshire and Stirlingshire, and after full consideration The Committee came to the conclusion That with Slight alteration of the Pence Card in use, and instructions given to local Collectors, with regard to Marking them The one at present used was preferable to any of those obtained from other Districts and recommend its continuance with the alterations Suggested, Viz., to add a column for entrance fees and a Column for entrance of half Contributions when a Member is Sick or injured, with instructions that Collectors entered the date upon which no payment has been made and leave the space clear and Mark arrears.

Compensation Cases: The Secretary reported That Thos Orr's Case had been Settled for £80 and that John McInnes' case had been Settled for £60.

The Secretary reported that at a Meeting of the Conciliation Board held on the 10th inst. The Employers had agreed to withdraw their claim for a reduction of Wages of 12½ per cent which had been lodged by them.

³⁰ Duncan Graham (1867-1942), began work aged 11 in the Lanarkshire pits, active in the union from 1886, checkweigher, Tannochside colliery, 1892-7, and at Eddlewood colliery from 1897, a member from 1894, Executive Committee, Lanarkshire Miners' County Union; originally an active Liberal, he joined the Independent Labour Party in 1894; a political organiser, Scottish Miners' Federation, 1908-18; general secretary, Lanarkshire Miners' County Union, 1918-23, then agent, 1923-42; a member, 1918-30, Executive Committee, National Union of Scottish Mine Workers, and 1920 and 1929 of the MFGB EC; Labour MP, Hamilton, 1918-42. William McL. Watson (1874-1962), began work aged 12 in the pits in Fife, active in the Fife miners' union and a member of the Independent Labour Party; a student, 1906-7, at Ruskin College; a political organiser, 1908-22, Scottish Miners' Federation; a Fife county councillor, 1913-28; Labour MP, Dunfermline Burghs, 1922-31 and 1935-50. James Brown (1862-1939) began work aged 12 in the Ayrshire pits, president, 1895, Ayrshire Miners' Federal Union, a full-time official from 1904, secretary, 1908-18; secretary, 1917-36, National Union of Scottish Mine Workers; a member, MFGB EC, 1909, 1916 and 1935; originally a Liberal, he joined the Independent Labour Party, c. 1899; unsuccessful Labour candidate, 1906 and 1910, Labour MP, South Ayrshire, 1918-31 and 1935-9; Lord High Commissioner of the Church of Scotland, 1924 and 1929-31. Bellamy & Saville (eds.), *Labour Biography*, i, 133-4; Knox (ed.), *Scottish Labour Leaders*, 70-1, 127-8, 266-8.

17th October 1912

A Board and financial meeting was held today. The Minute of the former Meeting was read and approved on the Motion of Mr Nicholas Young, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan. The Minute of a Wages Committee Meeting held on the 12th October was read and held to be correct on the motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr William Foster. The chairman explained that the recommendations of the Wages Committee would be dealt with one by one.

Annual general Meeting: The Wages Committee after considering this question recommended to the Board that such a Meeting be held on a Thursday and that it be observed as an idle day by all the collieries and, upon being endorsed by the Board and afterwards by the Members, That the first meeting be held at Dalkeith on Thursday the 28th November. The general outline of the business to be That the Chairman and Secretaries deal with the proceedings of the year, The present position of affairs and the future prospects and policy to be pursued by the Association. The Board approved of the recommendation and Agreed to put the matter finally before the Branches for approval, which upon being obtained arrangements will be Completed at next Board Meeting—on the Motion of Mr N. Young, Seconded by Mr C. Allan.

The Wages Committee recommended an alteration in the Pence Cards That the Board approved of, Samples of which were on View and they recommend the acceptance of Same.

Rescue and Ambulance Work: Mr John McGrory, Quarry Cottages, having [written] re. a Trophy being presented for Competition in this work The matter was remitted to the Branches to ascertain their views on the Subject and also to obtain a report of how many Ambulance Teams there are, if any, or Rescue Brigades.³¹

Payment of local Committees under the Minimum Wage Act: The Secretary reported that the feeling of the Lanarkshire Executive on this question was that the Expenses of Committees under the Joint Board Rules should be paid from a local fund created for that purpose and to be under local control. The Board then agreed to put the Matter before the Branches to ascertain Whether that payment Should be made from the General Fund or from a Local Fund created for that purpose.

The final allocation of Local Allowance for Strike purposes being approved of the matter was finally adopted, The Strike Expenditure being £21,489.19.2.

The British Miners' Federation recommended that 10,000 Shares of one pound each be taken out by the British Miners' Federation in the Daily Citizen Newspaper. The Wages Committee and the Board approve of the proposal and recommend it to the Members, Moved by Mr Peter Scougal, Seconded by Mr C. Allan.

³¹ McGrory appears to be the same man as Mr John M. Gourlay mentioned above, p. 222.

Labour Representation: The Scottish Miners' Federation Executive recommended that Five Seats be Contested at the Next Election, Viz.: Mid Lanark's Candidate—Mr Robert Smillie; West Fife Member—Mr Wm Adamson, M.P.; South Ayrshire—Mr James Brown; Mid Lothian—Mr Robert Brown; South Lanark Candidate to be chosen. Messrs Graham and Watson, Political Organisers, were admitted to the Meeting and explained the policy and reasons why these Seats Should be contested, after which by 13 votes to Six The Board agreed to endorse the recommendation of the Scottish Executive And to Submit the Same to the Branches for approval—Carried on the Motion of Mr Peter Scougal, Seconded by Mr Nicholas Young, against an Amendment moved by Mr Robert McKinnon, That the matter be left with the Members, Seconded by Mr Edward Robertson.

Price of Explosives: This question was delayed until the reports were completed.

Report from British Miners' Federation Annual Conference: The Secretary reported from this Conference, The report being accepted.

The Secretary intimated that the reduction of Wages of 12½ per cent claimed by the employers had been Withdrawn.

Wages Committee: Mr Robert McKinnon, Wallyford Colliery, was appointed to the Vacancy on this Committee on the retiral of Mr Duncan Stein, The understanding being that any one being elected in room of a Member retiring before his term of office expires the Member filling the vacancy to retire at end of Such term.

Motion by Elphinstone Colliery: The necessary Majority for altering this rule was not obtained So it remains as at present.

Motion by Newbattle Colliery: That the last clause of Standing Order No. 4 be deleted, Viz., from the word 'The' to the end. It was agreed to Submit the Motion to the Collieries. Six Workmen at this Colliery desired that Steps be taken to have them classified under the District Board Rules of the Minimum Wage Act and the Matter Meantime was left with the Secretary.

Motion by Prestongrange Colliery: That rule 8 read Thus—'The Secretaries Shall be elected by the Members of the Association (Insert here) every two years and Shall be eligible for reelection, First nomination to be Sent in on Months of November and December, 1912, and a Ballot to be taken in the Month of January, 1913. Ballot only to be taken when more nominations are Sent in than are required to fill the vacancies.' Remitted to Collieries. This Colliery desired that the decision regarding rule 12 of last Meeting be reconsidered but it was held that the question could not be reopened.

Motion by Wallyford Colliery: 'That the Vice President Shall be elected Annually by the Board and from amongst the Delegates Composing the Board and Shall preside at all Meetings of the Board in the absence of the President.' Remitted to collieries.

Bankton Colliery: The delegate from this Colliery put forward a claim by Mr Alexr Barnet re Compensation but in View of the lapse of time Since the Matter Should have been dealt with it was considered there was no Case and that no Action could be taken.

Carberry Colliery: This Branch desired that Mr James Allan's claim to Strike Pay be reopened, but the previous question was moved and carried. This Colliery also raised the question of a Badge for the Union Members. After Some discussion the matter was remitted to the Collieries to elicit any information obtainable on the question regarding its adoption and Working by other bodies.

Polton Colliery: This Colliery requested that a claim by Mr James Murdoch against the Company be taken up but upon the nature of the Case being explained it was decided that no action be taken as in the opinion of the Board there was no hope of succeeding. This Colliery desired that the Allowance Made to Mr Robert Young of 15s. at last meeting be doubled. The previous question was Moved and Carried.

Smeaton Colliery: It was decided to pay funeral benefit on the death of Mr John Dinwoodie's Son and to grant the usual allowance for a Collecting Box When put up at the Colliery.

Compensation Cases: Thos Orr's Case reported Settled—£80; John McInnes' case Settled—£60.

14th November 1912

A Board and financial Meeting was held today. The Minute of the Meeting of 17th October was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr Nicholas Young.

Compensation Case: The Secretary reported that the Sheriff had decided that Mrs McIntosh was only partially dependent on her husband Mr Robert McIntosh, Who was killed at Newbattle, and he awarded £80 as Compensation.

Wages question: The Secretary reported on the advance of Wages that took effect from the 13th inst. and Stated that the question of fixing a New agreement or basis price would be considered by the Conciliation Board.³²

Annual General Meeting: The reports from the Collieries Showed that Twelve Branches were in favour of a General Meeting being held on the 28th inst. and Six Branches against. In View of the nature of the reports, especially with reference to Whether the Collieries would observe the 28th inst. as an idle day and the uncertainty of that being done, The Board decided That upon Such an important Matter the opinion of the Members Should be obtained by Ballot Vote and remit to the Collieries to decide as to whether a Ballot be taken or not—against a Motion That the Meeting take place on the 28th inst. Motion,

³² The Scots coalowners had conceded an increase of $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent (equal to 3d. a day) in miners' wages from 13 Nov., which raised wages to 6s.9d. a day. *Glasgow Herald*, 13 Nov. 1912.

Moved by Mr Robert McKinnon, Seconded by Mr John Naysmith, that in View of the reports The Meeting take place. Amendment, Moved by Mr James Thomson, That The question be again Submitted to the Collieries to decide as to whether a Ballot be taken or not on the question—Seconded by Mr David Johnstone. Amendment 15, Motion 4.

Daily Citizen Newspaper: The Returns from the Branches were in favour of the recommendation of the British Miners' Federation Executive, Viz., to take 10,000 Shares in the paper in the name of the Federation.

Labour Representation: Twelve Collieries were in favour of the recommendation of the Scottish Federation Executive to Contest the Seats named in last Minute. Three Collieries against and Three no report. It was agreed to accept the report as being favourable, against a Motion for delay until a ballot was taken. Mr Peter Scougall's Motion That the report be accepted, Seconded by Mr James Thomson. Mr Peter O'Toole Moved delay, Seconded by Mr Robert McKinnon. Motion 13, Amendment 5. It was agreed to remit to the Collieries to decide as to whether they were in favour of North East Lanark being Contested in the Labour interest, as recommended by the Executive of the Scottish Miners' Federation.

Labour Party Conference: It was decided that the Association be represented at this Conference to be held next January, against an Amendment That no representatives be Sent. Motion, To be represented, Moved by Mr Peter Scougall, Seconded by Mr James Thomson. That we be not represented, Moved by Mr Robert McKinnon, Seconded by Mr John Main. Motion 14, Amendment 2.

The Branches approved of the amended Pence Cards as Submitted at last Board Meeting and the Meeting instructed their adoption.

Minimum Wage Act: In View of Certain claims that are being made from time to time under this Act the Board desire to impress on all Members the urgent necessity of Such claims being lodged immediately the Wage paid is below the Minimum to which any one is entitled to, both with regard to age and classification, And upon no Consideration to Accept a Wage below the Minimum in the belief that a claim can be made after leaving the Colliery.

Claims Under Minimum Wage Act: The Secretary reported that two claims by Mr George Hogg had been Settled, one at Loanhead Colliery and one at Rosewell Colliery, The Sum obtained for both Cases amounting to £8.

Payment of Joint Committees Under the Minimum Wage Act: The reports favoured payment from the General fund, and after consultation and discussion it was Carried to Submit to the Collieries the question as to whether payment Should be Made to Such Committees on the Same basis as The Local Committees were paid, and that Local Committees deal with the payments and Submit a Statement to the Board of the expense incurred and passed by them to have the same refunded—Against a Motion that payment be made at 1s.6d. per

hour for the time they may be Occupied in dealing with claims.

The Secretary intimated that he had been Summoned to appear at the Court of Session at the instance of Mr Andrew Quigley to answer to a charge of alleged Slander in connection With a Statement in the Minute of the Board Meeting of the 11th July, The damages claimed being £500.

Badge Question: This question not having been taken up by the Branches was allowed to drop.

National Union: In View of the importance of this question it was agreed to hold a Special Board Meeting on Saturday the 16th to consider the proposed Rules, to enable the Delegates to explain their provisions to their Branches.³³

Electricians at Newbattle: The Case regarding the men who claimed to be classified was reported on, The Manager having intimated to the Secretary That they were classed as *all others* in the classification.

Wm Watson, Loanhead: Mr Nicholas Young desired that this Man's Case be reopened, but the previous question was carried.

Elphinstone Colliery: A return regarding the number of Non Unionists employed at this Colliery was produced and the Matter Meantime was left with the Local Committee and the Secretaries to deal with.

Motion by Elphinstone, Penston & Ormiston Collieries was Submitted as follows: That Rule 4 read thus—'The affairs of the Association Shall be Conducted by a President, Vice-President, Secretary or Secretaries, and Treasurer, Two of whom Shall be appointed from East Lothian'. After discussion the Board by 12 votes to 6 recommended that no change in the Rule referred to be complied with.

Prestongrange Colliery: The Delegate from this Colliery and the Assistant Secretary reported on what was being done to deal with Non Unionists at the Colliery and the Matter was left with the Local Committee and the Secretary to carry it through.

Wallyford Colliery: This Colliery requested that a detailed Statement regarding the Sums paid by each Colliery for Strike purposes be issued Showing the expenses for Hall rents, train fares, car fares, etc., separately. This was agreed to.

Newbattle Motion re. Standing Order No. 4: This Motion was lost. Prestongrange Motion re. Rule 8: This motion was defeated. Wallyford Motion re. Rule 7: This motion was also defeated.

In View of the importance of Ambulance Work to Miners The Board Strongly recommend that Classes be got up and Teams formed which could take part in an Annual Competition, a Trophy for Such having been promised to Mr John McGourlay who is taking a keen interest in this question.

16th November 1912

A Special Board meeting was held today.

³³ See above, p. 175, n. 33.

The Secretary intimated that an Invitation had been received inviting representatives to attend a Meeting in the Scientific Hall, Dalkeith, on the 7th December at 7 p.m. to consider the formation of a Trades and Labour Council for Dalkeith District. It was agreed that two representatives be Sent, Viz., Mr David Allan, Newbattle, and Mr Peter O'Toole, Arniston.³⁴

Thos McDonald's Case, Loanhead: The Secretary reported on this case, pointing out that McDonald claimed to have been injured on the 25th of June and Dr Badger, Penicuik, gave a certificate to Certify that McDonald had been unfit for work from the 25th June up to the 25th September, the date of the Certificate being given. The Company State That McDonald Worked up to the 12th of July and that he was engaged in a fight on the 13th of July. McDonald Admits that there was Something of the Nature of a fight but that it was on the 29th of June. In View of the conflicting Statements The Matter was remitted to the Colliery Committee to make full enquiry and to report their findings.

Patrick Hanley's Case, Rosewell: The Secretary intimated That this man had died on the 5th Sept 1912 from injuries Sustained on the 13th Novr 1911 and that his Parents were in Ireland. He was negotiating for Compensation for the Father as a dependent and had an offer of £20 but had now got intimation that a Lawyer in Ireland had the case in hand. It was agreed to permit of matters remaining as reported.

The proposed Rules for a National Union were Considered and No. 1 Amended to read *The National Union of Scottish Mine Workers*. No. 3 Amended by deleting from the word Members in Second line. No. 6—Amendment to insert 'two hundred' in line 4, in place of fifty. Add a rule, No. 13, That upon the Membership of any District (As at present defined) increasing So as to warrant the Appointment of Another Agent, While the Committee of Management and the general body of the Members Must first approve that Such an Appointment is necessary, The Members of the District above referred to Shall have the power of Appointment. The Board recommend the adoption of these Rules as Amended.

14th December 1912

A Wages Committee meeting was held today. Present: James Ormiston, John Main, John Patterson, Peter O'Toole, David Allan, William Foster, Robert McKinnon, Wm Falconer, & The Secretaries.

The Secretary read a Statement from the Law Agent to the effect that the Sheriffs were exacting elaborate Statements from relatives upon the allocation being made of the Compensation payable for any fatal accident, and that while the Sheriff allowed four guineas as expenses for Such work He the Law Agent proposed two guineas be the fee as against one guinea formerly charged. It was agreed to recommend that two guineas be paid for each Case.

³⁴ No report of this meeting has been found. STUC annual reports show no sign of any Dalkeith or Midlothian Trades Council affiliated to it in the period to the end of 1918 covered by these minutes.

A letter was read from John Gourlay Stating that a provisional committee had been formed with a view to carry out an annual Competition in Ambulance work by Teams for which a Trophy had been presented by Lord Murray, and requesting that three members be appointed by the Association to assist in carrying out the Annual Competition and the necessary work connected therewith.³⁵ It was agreed to recommend to the Board that three members be appointed as desired but that no expenses be incurred towards their attendance at Meetings.

A letter by Mr Joseph Rowberry of Prestongrange Colliery was read Complaining that he had been Victimised, but it was decided to take no Action until the Matter had been reported on by the representative from the Colliery.

It was agreed that George Hardie be paid train fare and 1s.6d. expenses upon having to attend at Haddington for examination by the Medical Referee.

Robert Baxter made a claim for funeral Allowance upon the death of his son who had been a confirmed cripple through life, and the claim was granted as being in Accordance with rule.

It was agreed to recommend to the Board that a Circular be issued to each Member Containing instructions how to act in Connection with Compensation when injured, And that Branches arrange for issuing without payment for distribution.

Reports were Submitted to the effect That at Newbattle Colliery the on-cost workers had obtained the last advance which was at first refused, and that the Back Money to all the Oncost under the Minimum Wage Act had been paid, Amounting to a Considerable Sum.

D. Kemp's Case, Loanhead—Minimum Wage Act: The first Case under an Arbiter took place at this Colliery on Thursday the 12 inst., Mr Alex. Mitchell, Solicitor, as Arbiter, Who decided in the Workman's favour on all points.

The Secretaries reported on an interview held with Mr Andrew Burt, Manager, Elphinstone, regarding the non-Unionists, and other matters, and it was agreed to await the report from the colliery at the Board Meeting on the 19th inst.

19th December 1912

A Board and financial Meeting was held today. The Minute of the previous meeting of the 14th November was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Nicholas Young, Seconded by Mr David Allan. Minute of the 16th November 1912: Upon this Minute being read Mr Robert McKinnon Moved That it was not a correct record of the proceedings, Seconded by Mr Peter O'Toole.

Mr James Thomson Moved the adoption of the Minute as being a Correct record of the proceedings, Seconded by Mr Richard Scott. The Motion approving of the Minute was carried by 13 votes to 3. Minute of Wages

³⁵ For Lord Murray, see above, p. 168, n. 26.

Committee Meeting of 14th December: This Minute upon being read was approved of on the Motion of Mr William Foster, Seconded by Mr John Main.

It was carried by one vote that a ballot be taken on the question of having a general Meeting once each year.

Law Agent's fees re. fatal Accidents: It was Agreed that the fee for obtaining the Money for Compensation in fatal Cases be fixed at 42s. as recommended by the Wages Committee, and that George Hardie's train fare (4s.5d.) be paid for attending to be examined by the Medical Referee at Haddington.

It was also agreed to appoint representatives to represent the Association on An Ambulance Competition Committee that is being Set up for the County. The President, Vice President, and Mr James Thomson were chosen as the representatives.

North East Lanark Constituency: The returns on this question were largely in favour of the Seat being Contested in the Labour interest as recommended by the Scottish Miners' Federation Executive.

It was agreed that one delegate attend a conference to be held on the 3rd January to consider The Trades Union Bill at present before the House of Commons, on the Motion of Mr John Patterson, Seconded by Mr Peter Scougall—Against an amendment Moved by Mr Robert McKinnon, Seconded by Mr James Thomson, That none be Sent. The Bankton representative Mr Richard Scott to attend.³⁶

Payment of Joint Committees: The returns from the Branches were in favour of these Committees being paid on the Same basis as the local Committees, and the Board approved of Such being done.

Motion re. Rule 4: This Motion was defeated by a large Majority.

National Union: The reports on this Subject were So conflicting with regard to the principle itself that after Considerable discussion the Carberry delegate Moved and the Wallyford delegate Seconded That the decision of the Members formerly given in favour of a National Union for Scotland be rescinded. This was accepted by the Board and on a Vote it was carried to recommend that it be rescinded.

³⁶ See above, pp. 137, 138 and n. 7. The MFGB held its own conference on the subject on 2 Jan. (at which Robert Brown, Mid and East Lothian, was present) and passed a resolution, 'That no measure or Bill can be accepted as satisfactory that does not completely reverse the Osborne decision, but we accept the present Bill for the time being subject to any further improvement or amendment that can be obtained during the further progress of the measure.' The conference in London on 3 Jan. was called by the Joint Board of the TUC Parliamentary Committee, the General Federation of Trade Unions, and the Labour Party, and more than 500 delegates, representing about 2 million workers, were present. By 346 votes to 76, the conference agreed to accept the Bill under protest, although 'the machinery of the Bill remained cumbersome and might prove dangerous, and the judge-made law of the Osborne Judgement also created an embarrassing position. But the Bill did allow Trade Unions to engage in political action under conditions which, though unfair, could nevertheless be made immediately operative.... Conference should ... regard the Bill as an instalment and not a final settlement.' *The Times*, 4 Jan. 1913.

The Secretary reported on the question of Medical attendance for the Wives and families of the Members in View of the Insurance Act Coming into operation next month. He Stated that the men's representatives had decided that upon any agreement being arrived at on the question of payment, and Such payment to be made through the Colliery offices, That the Money So deducted be paid over to a Committee representing the Workmen who would pay the Doctors their proportion in accordance with the number of Members on their list. He further stated that the proposals put forward by the Doctors represented from 50 to 75 per cent increase on the present payments. These proposals were rejected by the Men's representatives and the matter is Still under consideration.

Nomination of Officials: The following Nominations were made—President: Messrs Hugh Adams and Andrew Clarke; Vice President: Mr James Ormiston and James Thomson; Treasurer: Wm Falconer. Delegates to have final instructions re. the Matter for next Board Meeting.

Departmental Committee re. Shot Firing in non Fiery Mines: It was agreed that the Secretary attend before the Departmental Committee to urge that in Non Fiery Mines the Workmen be permitted to use Squibs instead of Fuse if they So desire.

Law Case, Mr Quigley V. Mr Brown: On the Motion of Mr David Allan, Seconded by Mr James Hoggan, It was carried to appoint a Sub-Committee of Four to Consult with the Legal Advisers in this Case if necessary, and Messrs Clarke, Ormiston, Allan and Young were appointed, Against an Amendment Moved by Mr Robert McKinnon, Seconded by Mr James Thomson, That no Committee be appointed. The Motion received 14 Votes, Amendment 4. Mr McKinnon entered his protest against the decision.

Mr Peter Archibald's Case: Mr Archibald was permanently injured on the 2nd July 1910. His Compensation was agreed upon at 19s.9d. per week but both the Colliery Company and Insurance Company became bankrupt, and he with a Wife and family are left destitute. The Board under the Circumstances Strongly recommend that a Collection be taken on his behalf at each Colliery.

Mr Trail's claim to funeral allowance on the death of his Wife was disallowed, he having only joined last June, and his entrance fee not being fully paid.

Loanhead Arbitration Case: The Management at Loanhead held that Mr David Kemp was not an efficient Workman as defined in the Joint Board Rules, and upon the Matter being referred to an Arbiter, Alexander Mitchell, Esq., S.S.C., Musselburgh, was chosen and decided in favour of the Workman on all the points. It was agreed that the Share of the expense incurred payable by the Committee be paid amounting to £1.

Prestongrange, Joseph Rowberry's Case: The delegate reported on this case and as requested by the local Committee the Matter Was left in their hands to Act with the Agents and to report. The non Union question is being dealt with by the Committee and Assistant Secretary.

Elphinstone Colliery: A report was Submitted regarding the Non-Unionists at this Colliery and the Agents were empowered to adopt Whatever means they thought Necessary to have all those employed at the Colliery enrolled into the union.

Smeaton Colliery: The question of Non Unionists at this Colliery was reported on and particulars are to be Supplied to the Agents to enable the Matter to be dealt with.

Wallyford Colliery: This Branch requests that all Loans be Stated in the Annual Reports, giving particulars as to the rate of interest, time of redemption and such details, Collieries to Consider if such is necessary.

23rd January 1913

A Board and financial Meeting was held today. The Minute of the former meeting was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Peter Scougall, Seconded by Mr James Thomson.

The chairman and Mr James Thomson reported regarding what Steps had been taken towards establishing a Committee to undertake and Conduct an Annual Competition for the Trophy presented by Lord Murray by Ambulance Teams representing Mid, West and East Lothian; After which it was agreed that our representatives attend the Committee Meetings being held and upon terms being adjusted The Same would be put before the Miners, with a recommendation to approve of the principle as being in the interest of the entire Mining Community.

The reports from the Branches were nearly unanimous in favour of a National Union, And it was agreed that the Rules as amended be adopted and the representatives of the Association to the Conference of the Scottish Miners' Federation to be held to deal with that question Support the proposed Amendments, on the Motion of Mr Wm Foster, Seconded by Mr John Naysmith—Against an Amendment Moved by Mr James Thomson, Seconded by Mr Edward Robertson, That the rules as Amended be again remitted to the collieries.

Medical Attendance for Wives and families of the Workmen: The reports on this question were unanimous in favour of accepting the terms agreed upon between the Medical Council and the representatives of the Workmen.

Thomas McDonald's Case, Loanhead: The Secretary was instructed to Consult the Law Agent on this Case and be guided by his opinion.

All the Branches with the exception of two being in favour of the re-election of the present Officials, This election will take effect next Month as per rule.

Wages Committee: Mr James Hoggan was elected in place of Mr John Patterson; Messrs James Hogg and John Naysmith, were elected in place of Mr David Allan and Robert McKinnon.

The Annual report was Submitted to the Board and instructions given to

the Secretary to have the Same printed and issued to the Members after receiving a report from Some of the Branches on a Matter of detail re. the Loans.

It was agreed on a Motion by Mr James Hoggan, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, To include the amount allocated to each Branch for Strike purposes in a Single Statement for each Branch—Against an Amendment Moved by Mr John Naysmith, Seconded by Mr Edward Robertson, That all the items be detailed.

Labour Party Conference: The Agenda for this conference was before the Meeting, but no Amendment was put forward, and Mr Michael Ward was appointed to attend a Conference at Glasgow the following day to deal with it and to instruct the Delegates thereon who were to attend the Labour Party Conference the following week.

Board Meetings: The delegates to the Board request the Members to reconsider the decision arrived at Some time ago changing the day of meeting from Saturday to Thursday, and to revert to the Saturday under the Same Conditions, Viz., 5s. for attendance and Upon a day's wage being lost it be paid for.

Intimation was made that Circulars for distribution amongst the Surface Workers inviting them to become members of the Union had been issued, and the Committees of each Branch requested to issue the Same.

Ballot papers regarding the question of adopting a working policy of five days per Week were issued. The returns to be Sent to the Secretary and instructions given that no Branch disclose the figures. The remuneration for taking the ballot to be 4s. per hundred.

Law Case Quigley V. Brown: The Secretary reported that Lord Dewar had dismissed this Case but the pursuer had appealed to the Inner House.³⁷ The Board agreed unanimously that the Committee chosen at the last Meeting for Consultation with the Legal Advisers for the Association Still continue in existence.

Arniston Colliery: A claim to funeral Allowance by Mr Robert Brown was not entertained, he not being in benefit.

Elphinstone Colliery: A favourable report was given of the Non Union Question at this Colliery, all being induced to join. A claim for an Allowance for local work in Connection with this work was refused.

Loanhead Colliery: This Colliery reported that the payments agreed upon to be paid to Joint Committees was not Sufficient and Suggested that the matter be reconsidered, but found no Support. A difference having arisen at this Branch regarding local affairs Which affected the general question of representation at the Board The Matter was remitted to the Colliery Committee and the Secretary to meet to try to adjust the difference between parties.

Niddrie Colliery: Mr Edward Lapsley's Case was remitted to the Colliery Committee to be enquired into along with the Assistant Secretary and reported

³⁷ Arthur Dewar, Lord Dewar (1860-1917), KC, Liberal MP, Edinburgh South, 1899-1900 and 1906-10, Solicitor-General, Scotland, 1909-10, Senator of the College of Justice, 1910-17.

on at next Meeting. The General Secretary was instructed to consult the Law Agent on another Case pertaining to the Truck Act and to report.

Ormiston Colliery: It was agreed that the usual allowance for a collecting Box be granted.

One pound and threepence was paid to the Polton Joint Committee, Philip & Hogg, and 7s.6d. to the Joint Committee of Prestongrange Colliery, J. Rowberry & G. Young.

20th February 1913

A Board and financial Meeting was held today. The Minute of the Meeting held on the 23rd January was read and approved of on the Motion of Mr James Hoggan, Seconded by Mr Peter Scougall

The Secretary reported that a Meeting of the representatives of the Public Works and Colliery Doctors for Scotland and the Miners' representatives was to be held in Glasgow on Monday the 24th with a view to arranging terms for attendance on the Wives and families of the Workmen. It was agreed to leave the Matter with the Scottish Executive on the understanding that Special attention be given to the question of the charges in Maternity Cases and for Vaccination.

Labour Party Conference: The Secretary gave a report of the proceedings of this Conference which was accepted.

Walter Philip's Case, Niddrie: The Secretary intimated that the Legal opinion obtained was not favourable to any action being taken in this Case, and on the Motion of Mr Peter Scougall, Seconded by Mr John Main, It was agreed to abide by the opinion given.

The Annual Report was Submitted and approved of and instructions given to have copies printed and Circulated to the Members.

Election of Officials: Mr Andrew Clarke was reelected as President, Mr James Ormiston was reelected as Vice President, Mr Wm Falconer was reelected as Treasurer, Messrs John Pryde and Robert Milne as Auditors.

Change of Meeting Day: A large Majority of the Branches favoured the proposed change and it was agreed that the Meetings be held on Saturday in future under the Same Conditions as formerly, Viz., each delegate to be paid 5s. for attending the Board meeting and train fare, and upon any delegate losing a day's work to enable him to attend the Board Meeting he be paid a day's wage as ruling for the time being plus 6d.

It was agreed to recommend the Members to take part in the proposed Scheme for Ambulance Work and to contribute towards the expense to carry on the Competition in accordance with a Scale drawn up, Viz., That Associations pay one pound per thousand Members, The amount payable by Mid & East Lothian being £9 per year.

Wages Committee: Mr Peter Scougall was elected to this Committee, Mr Foster retired.

It was agreed to Send for the Agenda of the Scottish Trades Union Congress The following Motion Submitted by BankPark Colliery: That every effort be put forward on behalf of the workers to abolish as far as possible all Sunday Labour.³⁸

The Secretary was instructed to write the Manager of Carberry Colliery regarding three Oncost Workers who Complain that they were not paid the proper advance for the late increase in Wages. A claim of 4s. for Joint Committee work under the Minimum Wage Act by the Committee of this Colliery was paid.

Loanhead Colliery: The Secretary was instructed to deal with the Condition of affairs existing at this Colliery of a local nature and to report to the next Board Meeting, He being instructed to request the Collectors for the Roslin District to hand over all the Money collected under the Auspices of the Association to Mr Thomas Archibald, Treasurer of the Branch, and to request that the Ledger in the possession of the late Secretary, Mr Nicholas Young, be sent to the head office, to enable the Matter to be cleared up complained of by him about the Auditors refusing to sign the Ledger.

Newbattle Colliery: A request was made by this Colliery that a Sum of 10s. per Member be paid to those men who had been idle for ten days Owing to a break down in the Shaft. There are probably 600 men affected. It was agreed to Submit the request to the Collieries, with a recommendation that it be granted.

Prestongrange Colliery: It was agreed that 25s. be granted to the Committee of this Colliery for work done towards enrolling non-Unionists into the Union.

Rosewell Colliery: It was agreed to pay Messrs P. Mulligan and Thomas Davidson a day's wage of 6s. 9d. each for a day lost in connection with a dispute, They having been idle to Meet with the Manager and Assistant Secretary. The Matter in dispute was ultimately adjusted by Messrs Mulligan and Davidson being paid half of the sum in dispute.

Wallyford Colliery: This Branch suggested that a Meeting of Surface Workers of the District be arranged to put before them the benefits to be derived by becoming Members of the Union and the Matter was remitted to the representatives of the Branches in Musselburgh District to deal with the matter.

1st March 1913

A Special Board Meeting was held today.

Thos McDonald's Case, Loanhead: The Secretary intimated that this case was to be contested before the Sheriff.

Charles Dury's Case, Wallyford: The Board decided That as all the Medical

³⁸ This resolution, moved by John Robertson, seconded by Provost Robert Brown, both Scottish Miners' Federation delegates, was carried at the Scottish Trades Union Congress at Dumfries on 30 Apr.-3 May, against a negative that received only 18 votes. *STUC 17th Annual Report, 1913*, 85.

Advice available was against What Dury Suffered from having arisen from the alleged accident No further Action be taken. Moved by Mr John Naysmith, Seconded by Mr Wm Foster.

George Scott's Case, Elphinstone: The Board decided not to take up this case as the evidence of an Accident Could not be obtained regarding what he was Certified as Suffering from. Moved by Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr John Main.

Loanhead Case: The Secretary read Some correspondence that he had had in this case since the last Meeting and the Matter was left with him and the Assistant to deal with.

Grant to Newbattle Colliery: Thirteen Collieries were in favour of the proposed grant and three against and one no report, And it was carried that 10s. per member be paid to all those who had been off work owing to the Break Down in the Shaft for a period of Nine full days—On the Motion of Mr Peter Scougall, Seconded by Mr Michael Ward, Against an Amendment Moved by Mr Peter O'Toole, Seconded by Mr John Naysmith, That those members Who had been full ten days off owing to the Break Down in the Shaft be paid 10s. each and those who were off nine days get the difference between the one day's wage earned and the 10s.

A Conference having been called in connection with the affairs of the Daily Citizen in London on the 7th inst. It was agreed That in View of the Scottish Miners' Federation being represented That we as an Association Send no representative but that the Secretary represent the Association as Shareholders at the Shareholders' Meeting to be held the same day.

Medical Attendance: the Secretary intimated that at the Meeting of the Doctors and Miners' Representatives held on the 24th ult. The Doctors' representatives had intimated that the Colliery Doctors all over Scotland had agreed to accept a flat rate of 1½d per week per worker without Medicine and 2d. per week per worker with Medicine, and that it was considered that District Committees could Carry out the arrangements better than Colliery Committees and each District was empowered to carry out the details of the Scheme. It was agreed on the Motion of Mr James Hoggan, Seconded by Mr Wm Foster, That this Board approve of the flat rate agreed upon and also of the principle of District Committees being set up and Meantime instruct the Secretary to arrange for a Joint Meeting with the Doctors of the two Counties and the Board to consider the matter both with regard to District Committees and the Question of Maternity fees, Vaccination Fees, and Society Certificates On the understanding that as far as possible a uniform rate for Maternity cases and etc. Should prevail throughout Scotland.

22nd March 1913

A Board and financial Meeting was held here today.

The Minute of the Meeting of the 20th February was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Peter Scougall, Seconded by Mr John Main. The Minute of a Special Meeting held on the 1st March was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr James Hoggan, Seconded by Mr Peter Scougall.

Grant to Newbattle colliery: A Statement was Submitted Shewing that a Sum amounting to £374.4.9. had been paid out to the Men cast idle owing to the Wreck in the Shaft of the Lady Victoria Pit, and as agreed upon by the Branch £50 of Said Sum was obtained from the local fund, The Sum payable by the Association being £325.15.9. including expenses towards paying out the money.

A report of a meeting of Surface Workers held at Musselburgh on Saturday the 15th inst. was given by the President, After which it was agreed that each Branch take up the Matter with a view to enrolling all Surface Workers into the Union.³⁹

Daily Citizen Newspaper: The Secretary reported on the Conference held Concerning the paper to the effect that it was agreed to recommend to all Labour Bodies to pay one Shilling per year per Member for three years to ensure that it be thoroughly established.

It was agreed that a Delegate accompanied by the Secretary attend the Conference at Glasgow on 25th March, and also that one delegate attend a Conference of the British Miners' Federation in London on the 27th & 28th March. The Agenda for both Conferences was Considered and the Delegates instructed thereon. It was agreed that we favour a Memorial to the late President of the Federation, Mr E. Edwards. It was decided that we Support a Rule for a two thirds Majority being obtained before a general Strike be entered into and also to terminate a Strike. Re. The Northumberland and Durham three Shift System The Board is of opinion that upon action having to be taken by these two Counties to abolish the Three Shift System the best way to render Support would be by a general Stoppage.⁴⁰

Lothian Railway Bill: It was agreed to lend all Support possible towards obtaining Such a Railway for the Service of the Collieries and that the Secretary

³⁹ No report of this meeting at Musselburgh has been found in the local or national press.

⁴⁰ Enoch Edwards (1852-1912), began work in the pits at age 9; secretary, North Staffordshire Miners' Association, 1877-1912, president, Midland Miners' Association, 1886-1912, and of MFGB, 1904-12; Labour MP, Hanley, 1906-12. The three-shift system had been introduced in Northumberland and Durham after the passing at the end of 1908 of the Eight Hours Act. Northumberland delegates had told the MFGB annual conference in 1912 that the system meant three successive shifts of workmen at the coal face during each day of 24 hours, 'which begins on the Sunday night at ten o'clock and goes on ... until the following Saturday night at nine or ten o'clock'. The Northumberland miners had struck work at three-shift pits for 18 weeks against the 'obnoxious system', which they said created dangers to life and limb and also brought the destruction of home life: 'Where there is a family of four or five workers it is one continual coming and going', during which miners scarcely saw their children from one week to another. In Durham 133 out of the 200 collieries were working three shifts, the remainder two. *MFGB AP, 1912: Report of Annual Conference, 1-4 October, 16-27.*

represent the Association at the enquiry.⁴¹

Firemen's Wages: A letter having been read Sent by the Secretary of the Newbattle Branch directing attention to this question It was agreed that each Delegate make enquiry and report to next Board Meeting of the wage paid to the Firemen at their respective Collieries, with a view to the Matter being dealt with.⁴²

Medical Question: A report of a Meeting held at Tranent on the 19th inst. between the East Lothian Delegates and the Doctors was Submitted Which was to the effect that the principle of one Committee for the County was approved of with a Secretary to keep the accounts, The flat rate as formerly arranged being confirmed and with regard to the fee for Maternity Cases it was considered that Such Should be dealt with by the National Committee representing all the Colliery Doctors and the Scottish Miners' Federation Executive. Approval of the report was moved by Mr David Johnstone, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan. Mr Robert White Moved disapproval, Seconded by Mr Wm McNicoll. Approval was Carried by a large Majority. The Secretary reported that arrangements had been made for a Meeting with the Mid Lothian Doctors on Saturday the 28th inst. in the Cross Keys Hotel, Dalkeith, at three o'clock. It was agreed that the Mid Lothian Delegates on the Board attend said meeting, after which in accordance with the outcome of the Same the future Action on behalf of the Workmen would be determined.

The Branches having been in favour of Joining the Ambulance Association for Mid, East and West Lothian, The Secretary was instructed to acquaint the Secretary of the Association of the decision and to forward the dues per Scale.

A Circular was read inviting representatives to attend a Conference in the Melbourne Hall, Edinburgh, on Saturday the 12th April to consider whether Mid Lothian Should be Contested in the Labour interest and if agreed that Such Should be done to Select a Candidate. It was agreed that the President and Mr Jas Thomson attend to represent the Board and to favour the County being Contested in the Labour interest, and that Mr Robert Brown be put forward as a Candidate by the Miners.

It was agreed that the Secretary appear as a Witness before the Housing

⁴¹ See above, p. 192, n. 2. Robert Brown, secretary, Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association, and James A. Hood, managing director, Lothian Coal Co. Ltd., both appeared as witnesses in support of the Bill before the House of Lords Select Committee on 5 June. Brown told the Committee that 'Dalkeith Town Council and the miners at every colliery in the district were unanimous in favour of the scheme'. The Bill proposed to build 16 new railway lines extending the connection between Leith docks and Mid and East Lothian. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 12 June 1913.

⁴² Firemen, later known as deputies, were underground officials appointed by the manager to be responsible for ventilation and the safety of men and work in particular areas or districts of a pit and, within limits, firemen were also in charge of men working in those areas. The firemen had their own trade union—the Scottish Colliery Firemen's and Shotfirers' Association. Barrowman, *Mining Terms*, 28; Kerr (ed.), *Mining Terms in Fife*, 26.

Commission to Speak to the improvements So desirable on the Houses of the Mining Villages in both Counties, and to forward the names of Certain Villages that the Commission if so desired may Visit.⁴³

The Order under the Mines Act Compelling Workmen to bring out of the Mine each Shift any quantity of Explosives unused during the Shift being of an oppressive and a vexatious Nature without any beneficial results, it was agreed to cooperate with the Owners of the respective Collieries to try to obtain exemption from the Order.

The following Sums were passed for payment: 31s. towards paying out the grant to Newbattle Colliery, and 8s. for rent of halls at Musselburgh and Tranent.

It was agreed to permit the Post Office Authorities to attach a Bracket to the Office for the convenience of a Telephone Wire, Subject to the terms laid down, Viz., To be removed at the desire of the Association.

It was agreed that a Ballot of the Members be taken in the Month of June to ascertain if they were in favour of taking an idle day to attend a Meeting at Dalkeith—On the Motion of Mr Peter Scougall, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, Against an Amendment Moved by Mr Robert White, Seconded by Mr James Hogg, That it be taken at once: For June 12, at once 5.

Expenses, Joint Board Committees: Newbattle 14s. Passed for payment, Loanhead 26s. 8d. Passed for payment, Collecting Box, Ormiston, 40s. Passed for payment.

Arniston Colliery: This Colliery was empowered to deal as it thought fit towards Solving the non Union question. A request that a Grant be made to a Number of men who had been idle five days at this Colliery was refused, and in Connection with this Matter the Board upon due Consideration recommend that no further Grants be made but urge the Branches to consider whether the time has not now arrived When provision Should be made for members receiving an allowance when Stoppages of work occur of More than a week's duration

⁴³ Scottish miners' deputations had pressed the Secretary for Scotland in 1909 and 1911 to investigate housing in mining areas. The appointment of a Royal Commission 'to inquire into the housing of the industrial population of Scotland, rural and urban (with special reference in the rural districts to the housing of miners and agricultural labourers), and to report what legislative or administrative action is in their opinion desirable to remedy existing defects', had been announced in the House of Commons on 22 Oct. 1912, some months after the miners' national strike. The Royal Commission's members included two leading trade unionists, Joseph F Duncan, Scottish Farm Servants' Union, and David Gilmour, secretary, Lanarkshire Miners' County Union. The Commission held its first meeting on 20 Dec. 1912 in Edinburgh but did not issue its report until 1917. Robert Brown, secretary, Mid and East Lothian Miners, gave evidence to the Royal Commission on 13 Oct. 1913 about the state of miners' houses owned by Summerlee Iron & Steel Co. Ltd., Udston Colliery Co. Ltd., Lothian Coal Co. Ltd., Arniston Coal Co. Ltd., and Edinburgh Collieries Co. Ltd., and suggested improvements necessary to these houses at Prestonpans, Macmerry, Elphinstone, Rosewell, Sherwood (Bonnyrigg), Hunterfield (Gorebridge), and Wallyford. Brown told the Commission that the houses at Arniston, Newtongrange, Whitehill and Sherwood were 'fairly good houses, so far as accommodation is concerned. They are mostly three-room houses.' *Royal Commission on Housing in Scotland: Evidence*, vol. i (Edinburgh, 1921), 710-13; Arnot, *Scottish Miners*, 134-7; *Glasgow Herald*, 23 Oct. and 21 Dec. 1912.

and whether they approve of the Board formulating a Scheme to be put before the Branches for their Acceptance. The foregoing was carried re. the grant on the Motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr Peter Scougall, Against an Amendment by Mr Robert White, Seconded by Mr Peter O'Toole, That the request be remitted to the Collieries—For remittal 5, Against 12.

Loanhead Colliery: The question of paying Checkweighers at this Colliery was raised and the Board emphatically insist that all Checkweighers Should as Members of the Association be paid a proper wage in accordance with the general wage ruling and that all advances Secured for the Miners must be paid to the Checkweighers. Other matters pertaining to this Colliery were left with the Secretary to enquire into with a View of having them adjusted—one case to be Specially dealt with, Viz., Men working more than eleven days per fortnight.

Elphinstone Colliery: This Colliery Committee was allowed £1 for work done enrolling non Unionists.

Niddrie Colliery: A claim to Victimisation Allowance on behalf of Mr David Burton was disallowed.

Newbattle Colliery: A Motion by this Colliery re. payment of Delegates was ruled out of Order. A request by the Joint Committee of this Colliery to deal with Certain Cases Under the Minimum Wage Act was remitted to them to arrive at a decision on the Cases dealt with in Accordance with the Act.

19th April 1913

A Board and financial Meeting was held here today. The Minute of the Meeting held on the 22nd March was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Peter Scougall, Seconded by Mr Michael Ward.

A report of the Wages paid to Firemen at the Collieries was given and the Secretary instructed to embody the Same in the Synopsis of the Minute to be issued to the Collieries: Arniston 7s.3d., Newbattle 5s.8d. to 6s.11d.—average 6s.5½d., Niddrie 6s.6d. to 7s.3d., Loanhead 6s.6d., Rosewell 5s.10d. to 7s.3d., Carberry 6s.8d. to 7s.3d., Elphinstone 7s.3d., Penston 7s.3d., Woodhall 7s.3d., Ormiston 6s.9d. to 7s.3d., Prestongrange 6s.9d. to 7s.3d., Bankpark 7s.3d., Wallyford 6s.6d. to 7s.3d., Polton 5s.11d. to 7s.1d., House of Muir 7s.3d., Bankton 7s.3d., Smeaton 6s.8d. to 6s.10d., Prestonlinks no return.

Mr James Thomson reported that at a Conference held in the Melbourne Hall, Edinburgh, on Saturday the 12th inst. representing all the Trades and Labour bodies in the County of Midlothian it was decided to Contest the County in the Labour interest at the next election, and that the Secretary, Mr Robert Brown, had been adopted as the prospective Candidate. This report was approved of.

The reports from the Branches were in favour of a Scheme Whereby a Weekly benefit could be paid to Members upon being cast Idle through a Mishap at any of the Pits extending beyond a Certain time, and the Matter Was

remitted to the Wages Committee to draft proposals to be put before the Board and ultimately Submitted to the Branches for approval or otherwise—Moved by Mr Peter Scougall, Seconded by Mr James Thomson.

Medical Attendance for Dependants: The Secretary read the correspondence between the Secretary to the Doctors and himself the nature of which in the opinion of the Board required to be dealt with in Conference with the Doctors, and the Secretary was instructed to intimate that View to the Doctors through their Secretary—Moved by Mr James Thomson, Seconded by Mr Wm Foster.

Payment for Special Meetings with Doctors: It was carried by 15 Votes to three to pay 2s.6d. to each delegate plus train fare, against an amendment to pay train fare only—Motion Mr Peter Scougall, Amendment Mr R. White.

Scottish Federation: A Conference having been called for the 20th April in Glasgow to deal with the question of a National Union, The Agenda of the Scottish Trades Union Congress, and the Daily Citizen Newspaper, It was agreed that owing to questions of Such importance falling to be dealt with three Delegates and the Assistant Secretary attend.

Scottish Trades Union Congress: Mr Peter Scougall, Prestongrange Colliery, was chosen to attend the Scottish Trades Union Congress on Wednesday the 30th inst. and three following days at Dumfries—Moved by Mr Colin Allan, Against an amendment by Mr Peter O'Toole That we be not represented.

International Conference: It was carried by 12 Votes to 5 That we do not Send a representative to this Congress this year on the Motion of Mr John Main, Against an amendment by Mr Peter Scougall that we be represented.⁴⁴

Daily Citizen Newspaper: The reports from the Branches favoured the recommendation of the Conference held on the 7th March in the Caxton Hall, London, Viz., That all Trades Unions pay one Shilling per Member for the next three years to thoroughly establish the paper. It was agreed [to] ascertain the opinion of the Branches regarding an effort being made to extend the circulation of the Citizen by providing each Member of the Association With a Specimen Copy free of charge at the expense of the Association. This question to be reported on at next meeting.

Mr John McLelland's Case, Wallyford: The opinion of the Board regarding John McLelland's case is that there is no proper ground for taking any proceedings.

Carberry Colliery: The Non Union question at this Colliery was left with the Colliery Committee and the Assistant Secretary to carry through.

Loanhead Colliery: The Secretary reported that at a meeting held at Loanhead and another at Milton Bridge with the Roslin Pit men an agreement

⁴⁴ The 24th Miners' International Congress was held at Karlsbad in Germany from 21 to 25 July 1913. Robert Brown, secretary, Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association, attended it as a delegate from the Scottish Miners' Federation. *MFGBAR 1913: Report of International Congress*.

had been come to that the Branches would continue to conduct the Trade Union Matters as formerly, Viz., as one Branch; and certain recommendations put forward regarding the Meetings being held alternately at Loanhead and Roslin were recommended by the Board for acceptance by both parties and the Secretary instructed to write the local Secretary on the Matter.

Prestongrange Colliery: Complaint was made that at this Colliery a number of Men were not observing the District Working Policy of Eleven Days per fortnight and it was decided that drastic Measures would be taken to enforce the policy upon men persisting in working more than Eleven days per fortnight.

Prestonlinks Colliery: This Colliery requested that a grant be made to the Committee for local work done enrolling Non-Unionists, but in View of the feeling against the Continuance of Such grants expressed at a former meeting it was refused.

10th May 1913

A Special Board Meeting was held here today.

Medical Attendance Question: The Chairman explained that at a Meeting in the Cross Keys Hotel, Dalkeith, on Tuesday the 6th inst. between The Mid Lothian Colliery Delegates and the Medical Practitioners' Executive The question of the formation of a District Committee for the Working of the Scheme was discussed, It being Stated that the East Lothian Doctors had resiled from the position formerly adopted at the Joint Meeting in the Town Hall, Tranent, on the 19th March and desired to have one Committee for The two Counties. After a long discussion, principally regarding Which Side Should appoint the Secretary to the Committee, The following proposal on behalf of the Miners' delegates was Submitted: 1st That an equal number of Doctors' and Miners' representatives be on the Board with a representation of employers; 2nd That The Board Appoint the Secretary Jointly; 3rd That the Doctors' Representatives have the option of Nominating the Secretary; 4th That all expense incurred in issuing Cards and obtaining Names regarding Selection of Doctors, etc., be borne by The Doctors. 5th That the Doctors give consideration to reducing the charge at present being made in Maternity Cases.

Mr Peter Scougall Moved, Seconded by Mr Wm McNicoll, That the full Board representing both Counties approve of the terms if agreed to by the Doctors. Mr John Main Moved, Seconded by Mr Michael Ward, That the proposals put forward be not approved of. Motion Carried by 14 Votes to 4.

Mr Peter Scougall Moved, Seconded by Mr David Johnstone, That upon the Doctors agreeing to the terms The Board to complete the arrangement without further delay. Mr Robert White moved, Seconded by Mr Alexander Ross, That The Matter be referred to the men before being closed. For the Motion 11, For the Amendment 6.

The Secretary intimated that the Scottish Federation Executive recom-

mended that a Conference representing all the Union Branches in the County be held on Monday the 19th inst. at which a Statement regarding the present position of the Wages question would be made and a recommendation Submitted for the Consideration of the delegates. Mr Colin Allan Moved, Seconded by Mr John Naysmith, That the full Board attend the Conference as desired. Mr John Main Moved the previous question, Seconded by Mr Robert White. The Motion to attend 15, The Amendment 3.⁴⁵

24th May 1913

A Board and financial meeting was held here today. The Minute of the meeting of the 19th April was read and adopted on the motion of Mr Peter Scougall, Seconded by Mr Edward Robertson. The Minute of Special Meeting held on the 10th May was read and adopted on the motion of Mr John Naysmith, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan.

Daily Citizen Newspaper: The reports from the Collieries were in favour of a Copy of the paper being Served to each Member of the Association free of charge with a view to extend its Circulation, and arrangements were made to Carry out the distribution and to issue an explanatory Circular to each Member to be delivered with the Copy of the paper. 9,000 Copies to be ordered; and by 11 Votes to 6 it was decided that no payment be made for the distribution—Mr John Main's Motion, Seconded by Mr R. Scott, Against Amendment by Mr James Thomson, Seconded by Mr Peter Scougall, That payment be allowed.

Compensation Cases: The Secretary intimated that the case had been decided in Patrick Deas's favour, he being awarded a continuance of his Compensation at 16s.4d. per week.

John Sweeney Case, Ormiston: A decision was obtained in this case in favour of Mr Sweeney, Awarding him £1 per week from 16th May 1912 to 10th March 1913.

Thos McDonald's Case, Loanhead: A verdict was obtained in this case in favour of McDonald and ultimately a Settlement was effected for a lump Sum of £50.

Wages question and Contributions to Union: In View of the decision arrived at by the Conference held in Glasgow on the 19th inst., Viz., To submit Certain recommendations to the Miners of Scotland, It was agreed that two Demonstrations be held, one at Tranent on Saturday the 14th of June, and one at Dalkeith on the 21st of June, to put the recommendations before the men, and to invite the Bands where any existed in each district to attend. The Motion to have two Meetings was moved by Mr Wm Foster, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan. An Amendment to have a Series of Meetings was Moved by Mr John Naysmith

⁴⁵ The Scottish Miners' Federation had submitted a claim for an increase of 25 per cent in wages, the coalowners a counter-claim for a reduction of 12 1/4 per cent, and both applications were being considered by the Conciliation Board. *Glasgow Herald*, 20 May 1913.

and Seconded by Mr Richard Scott. For the Motion 13, for the Amendment 4 Votes. Mr Wm Foster Moved, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, That a Speaker be asked to attend at the Meetings from Some other District, Mr Robert Smillie to be preferred. Mr James Ormiston Moved, seconded by Mr John Main, That no one be invited. For the Amendment 10, For the Motion 9 Votes. It was agreed that 12 oclock be the hour for the Meetings and that upon any Band or Bands attending an Allowance would be made. It was agreed on the Motion of Mr P. O'Toole, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, That the Mid Lothian delegates be paid the usual delegate's allowance & train fare + lost time for attending the Meeting at Tranent and the East Lothian Delegates the Same for attending the Meeting at Dalkeith, It being understood that the full Board be present at both meetings. An Amendment by Mr Robert White, Seconded by Mr Richard Scott, That nothing be paid, was lost—Motion 9 Votes Amendment 2.

Mr Peter Scougall gave a lengthy report of the proceedings of the Scottish Trades Union Congress and was thanked by the Board for the Same. The Secretary was instructed to obtain Two Dozen Copies of the Official Report for the use of Delegates.

James Allan's Case, Carberry: This Case was again raised at Allan's request but the decision of 6th June 1912 was adhered to. History of Case in printed Synopsis of Minute.

James Knox, Niddrie Colliery, was refused a claim to funeral Allowance for a child, he being Sixteen weeks in arrears—On the Motion of Mr Robert White, Seconded by Mr John Main, Against an Amendment that the claim be paid, [moved] by Mr Peter Scougall, Seconded by Mr Michael Ward.

Loanhead Colliery: The Assistant Secretary agreed to carry out a ballot at the Roslin Pit to ascertain Whether the men were in favour of a Common Checkweighers' fund for all the Pits.

Wallyford Colliery: A proposal to amend rule 11 re. Local Allowance was put forward by this Colliery but as it entailed an alteration of rule it was remitted back to the Branch to frame the rule as it was desired to be and to put it before the Board.

Medical Question: The Secretary intimated that the Secretary to the Doctors had informed him that it would be a few days before a reply could be given to the proposals discussed at the Joint Meeting of the 6th inst., and it was agreed to await the coming of Said reply.

It was requested that all Branches consider the question of Holidays, and all those in favour of the Summer Holidays being observed during July on the Edinburgh Trades Holiday Week are expected to report by their Delegates at Next Board Meeting. The Aim and object is to try and establish a general Week's Holiday all over both Counties at the Same time if possible.

A Circular re. the establishment of a National Ambulance League having reached the Secretary he issued it with the Synopsis of the Minutes

for Consideration by the Branches.

30th May 1913

A Wages Committee meeting was held today.

It was arranged That a Meeting be held at Tranent on the 14th June and one at Dalkeith on the 21st of June and That upon any of the local Bands attending 2s.6d. per man would be allowed. Delegates to meet at 11.30 a.m, General Meeting at 12 a.m.

Medical Question: No reply having been got from the Doctors' Secretary regarding The terms discussed at the Joint meeting held on the 6th May, it was decided to await Such reply, on the grounds that Mr Mackie had indicated that his people were to be dealing with the matter the following Tuesday.

Tranent Town Hall, 14th June 1913

A general Meeting of the East Lothian District of the Association was held today, Mr Andrew Clarke presiding. The Chairman explained that the purpose of the Meeting was to put a resolution before the Members Carried by a Conference held in Glasgow on the 19th May attended by 271 delegates representing The various Miners' Branches in all the districts of the Scottish Miners' Federation. The Resolution as recommended by the Executive Committee being That the members consider the advisability of increasing the weekly Contributions to their respective Unions to one Shilling per week, and that a ballot would ultimately be taken on the question. The Secretaries dealt with the Situation to Shew the urgency of the recommendation being approved of. Several questions were put and answered and the meeting was brought to a close by a vote of thanks to the chairman.

Forresters' Hall, Dalkeith, 21st June 1913

A general meeting of the Mid Lothian District of the Association was held today, Mr Andrew Clarke presiding—The proceedings being similar to what took place at Tranent on the 14th inst. as narrated in the Minute on the opposite page.

Miners' Office, 28th June 1913

A Board & financial meeting was held here today. The Minute of the Meeting held on 24th May was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr James Thomson, Seconded by Mr Peter Scougall. The Minute of a Wages Committee Meeting held on 30th May was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Peter Scougall, Seconded by Mr John Main.

Medical Question: This Matter was delayed pending a promised communication from the Secretary of the Medical Practitioners' Association.

National Ambulance League: While the Collieries favour a National League

The Matter was remitted to the Secretary to Ascertain what the expense was likely to be before being committed to become Members.

The Branches were practically unanimous in favour of the Annual Holidays being held during July on the Edinburgh holiday week, and it is left with the Collieries to consider whether a full week could be established beginning next July.

Ballot re. Labour Representation: Forms and Instructions were issued Showing and explaining how the Ballot on this question under the Trades Union Dispute Bill is to be carried out, The Ballot to be taken to embrace the whole of the Federation of Great Britain.⁴⁶

Resolution—Scottish Miners' Federation Annual Conference: The Secretary was instructed to forward a Resolution in the name of the Mid & East Lothian Miners' Association requesting that Steps be taken both by the Scottish Miners' Federation and the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, to Secure a Minimum Wage of not less than 7s. per day.

Mr Gorman's Representatives: It was agreed that with the consent of the Widow in this Case Action be taken to try to Secure full Compensation.

Prestongrange Colliery: Mr Alexander Selkirk's Case was remitted to the Secretary to deal with and to report.

The Law Agent's accounts amounting to £98.1.10. were passed for payment.

A letter was read from Mr G.M. Blyth thanking the members for the Collections he obtained, amounting to 21s.5d. after deducting expenses, following his Exhibition of Life Saving Apparatus.

It was agreed that the attention of the Branches be directed to the following, Viz., That Eleven Days per Fortnight is to be observed as the recognised Working Policy for the District, The Saturday following the Pay Friday being looked upon as a Complete Idle Day. Several Complaints have been made of Collieries departing from this policy, and the Board, while requesting the hearty Cooperation of all the members to carry it out, take this opportunity to make the Members Aware that upon any Pit in future being at work on the recognised Idle Saturday, drastic Measures will be adopted towards that Pit even to putting it idle the following week by picketing if necessary.

Mr James Thomson, Carberry Colliery, was elected to the Wages Committee in place of Mr James Hoggan, retired.

⁴⁶ See also above, p. 231, n. 36. The Trade Union Act, 1913, allowed trade unions to undertake political activities and also any other lawful activity authorised by their rules. But before a union could engage in political activity the Act provided that it must first take a ballot and secure a favourable majority of those members voting. Special political rules, in a form approved by the chief registrar of friendly societies, had then to be drawn up. All payments for political purposes as defined in the Act had to be made out of a separate political fund. Any member who objected to contributing to that fund had the right, on signing an approved form, to contract out from all payment toward it without losing any rights as a member of the union, except in the control and management of the political fund. Cole, *Working-Class Movement*, 314.

Ballot re. Having An Annual Idle Day: On the Motion of Mr Wm Foster, Seconded by Mr William McNicoll, It was agreed to postpone taking the Ballot on this question meantime (which fell to have been taken just now) in View of Meetings having been held and other ballots being about to be taken on other important Matters—Against an amendment That the Ballot be taken, Moved by Mr Robert White, Seconded by Mr Peter O'Toole.

The Secretary explained that the question of the Surface Workers all over the Coalfield was being dealt with by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain with a View to fixing a Minimum and raising the Standard of that class all over. Mr Wm McNicoll Moved, Seconded by Mr Robert White, That action be taken to Secure a wage of 4s.3d. per day for the Surface Workers at Loanhead Colliery. Mr Colin Allan Moved, Seconded by Mr Richard Scott, That the matter be delayed pending the arrangements by the Federation. For delay 16, For Action now 2.

Minimum Wage Act: A claim under this Act having been Sent to the Board by Loanhead Branch it was decided that in accordance with the Act and the Joint Board District Rules for Scotland, arrangements must be made locally to deal with Such cases, but in view of the prevailing wage the Board is Strongly of opinion that upon any efficient workman having earned less than 5s.10d. per Shift It is not the Minimum Wage that Should be evoked. Steps Should be taken to ascertain the Cause of the deficiency with a View to Securing the present ruling wage to Such Workman.

Bankpark Colliery: It was agreed that £2 be granted towards the erection of a Collecting Box at this Colliery.

Newbattle Colliery: An Account for 14s. by the Minimum Wage Committee and 2s.6d. for Bills were passed for payment.

Niddrie Colliery: A question re Firemen's Wages at this Colliery was raised and it was left with the Branch and the Secretaries to take Steps in Conjunction with the Firemen with a View to raising the Wages to the Same as at other Collieries.

Prestongrange Colliery: It was decided that a Claim against extra Rents being deducted Made by Mr Kerr could not be taken up as it had been aquiesced in for Several weeks and only raised when he had left the Colliery.

Rosewell Colliery: Mr Michael Moran's Case was left with the Secretary and the Local Committee to adjust in terms of correspondence the Secretary had had with the Manager.

On a Motion by Mr Robert White, Seconded by Mr Wm Foster, The Board agreed that Roslin Colliery be recognised as a Branch to Manage its own local affairs and that Such intimation be made by the Secretary to the local officials who have been Acting in this capacity up till now. An Account of £2 for a Collecting Box at this Colliery was passed, as also an account of 12s. for taking a Ballot re checkweighers' fund.

12th July 1913

A Wages Committee meeting was held today. The following Members were present: Peter Scougal, James Thomson, Peter O'Toole, James Hogg, John Naysmith, and the Secretaries

Two letters dated the 6th and 9th July from Mr Adam Edmond, Secretary to Prestonlinks Branch, were read Requesting that Strike pay be allowed to the Members of the Branch owing to the Stoppage arising from the Dockers' Strike at Leith. After due consideration The Secretary was instructed to intimate to Mr Edmond That there being no provision in the Rules of the Association Under which Strike Pay can be claimed or granted, and that it would be futile to put any Special claim on behalf of any Branch before the Collieries Seeing So many were placed in the Same position as Prestonlinks, Nothing Meantime could be done.

Alexander Selkirk's Case, Prestongrange: The Secretary intimated that this case had been adjusted.

A letter from T.M. Pole, Solicitor, Leith, was read requesting help To enable a Compensation Case to be taken to the House of Lords, but in View of the party having no Connection with the Association It was decided to take no notice of the Appeal.

A letter from John Rennie of Lochgelly was read requesting an interview with the Secretary anent The Convalescent Homes at Saltcoats, but the Committee decided not to enter into any arrangement regarding the Matter referred to.

It was arranged That during the Absence of the general Secretary attending the International Congress That Mr Young, The Assistant Secretary, call upon the President Mr Clarke upon anything arising which he considered required assistance.

31st July 1913

A Wages Committee Meeting was held tonight. The Chairman intimated That the Meeting was Convened to discuss the Situation That had arisen throughout the two Counties as a result of the Dockers' Strike at Leith and to Consider the best Means of relieving the distress that was known to exist among the workers at Several of the Collieries. It was estimated that probably 6,000 Members had been cast idle about four fifths of the time during the past five weeks, and upon Considering the available funds at the disposal of the Association The Secretary made the following Statement: 1st That he had appealed to the Miners' Federation of Great Britain at the Conference held in London on Tuesday and a grant had been made of £250 per week So long as the Strike lasted and to date from the beginning of the dispute, Which put a sum of £1250 at the disposal of the Board at date, and that Deposit Receipts to the amount of £1185 were in the

Treasurer's hands, Making a Sum of £2433. It was then agreed that Steps be taken to obtain a loan of £1000 To enable the Board to have roughly £3000 to dispose of. It was then agreed That as there was a prospect of the Strike being Settled That an equal payment of 10s. per member be made To all those who had not obtained more than ten days' work during the past five weeks, and to recommend the Board to approve of Such being done. It was agreed to instruct the Secretary to Appeal to the Scottish Miners' Federation for Some assistance.⁴⁷

2nd August 1913

A Board and financial Meeting was held today. The Minute of the Meeting held on the 28th June was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Peter Scougal, Seconded by Mr Edward Robertson. The Minute of a Wages Committee Meeting held on the 12th July was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Peter Scougal, Seconded by Mr James Hogg and endorsed on the motion of Mr John Gordon, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan. The Minute of a Wages committee meeting held on the 31st July was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr James Ormiston.

Medical Question re. Dependants: The Secretary read a Communication he had received from Mr Mackie, Secretary to the Medical Association of the Colliery and Public Works Surgeons, Asking that a Joint letter be Sent to the Doctors' and Miners' Representatives to the Employers requesting a Meeting between the parties, A Copy of draft Proposals for the working of the Scheme for the two Counties was read, after which, on the Motion of Mr John Gordon it was agreed to Meet and Sign the Joint letter, upon it being held and to raise the Question of Maternity Fees and etc.—Against an Amendment by Mr P. O'Toole That we do not Sign the letter or meet until further information or Concessions had been Made re. Maternity fees & etc. The Secretary was instructed to obtain Copies of the proposed Scheme to enable each Member of the Board to have one prior to the Meeting.

The Committee of Management of Ruskin College having invited representatives of Trades Unions and Labour bodies to attend a Conference to be held in Glasgow on the 23rd August Such Invitation was read, but it was decided that no representatives be Sent by the Association.⁴⁸

⁴⁷ Delegates to the Board meeting on 28 June had reported (though this is not recorded in the minutes) that the pits had been busy until the beginning of the Leith dockers' strike toward the end of June, but 'now the output was much restricted on account of the sidings being blocked with laden waggons'. In his appeal to the MFGB special conference on 29 and 30 July, Robert Brown said that over 7,000 of the 10,000 miners employed in Mid and East Lothian, 'from which about 75 per cent of the coal is exported', had been thrown idle by the Leith dockers' strike, which continued until 18 Aug. *MFGBAR, 1913: Report of Special Conference, 29 and 30 July*, 4; *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 3 July 1913; *Glasgow Herald*, 15 Aug. 1913.

⁴⁸ The conference was held to consider 'what steps can be taken to increase the means of access to civic and economic education for working men and women'. Chaired by Robert Smillie, miners' leader, as Scottish secretary of the General Federation of Trade Unions, the conference was attended

Ballot re. Labour Representation: Circulars were given to each Delegate with full instructions how the Ballot in connection with this question is to be carried out and it was agreed that payment to the Branches for taking the Ballot be at the rate of 4s. per hundred.

The Secretary reported that he had made an appeal on behalf of those Suffering owing to the Dockers' Strike at Leith to the Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain last Tuesday and that a Sum of £250 per week had been granted to date from the beginning of the Strike, thereby placing £1250 at the disposal of the Board. He also intimated that as instructed by the Wages Committee he had obtained a Loan of £1000 from the Lanarkshire Miners' County Union for Which Security would be required to be given. The Board empowered the Officials to Sign the necessary documents for Such as representatives of the Association. It was then agreed on the Motion of Mr John Gordon, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, That the recommendation of the Wages Committee be adopted, Viz., That an allowance [be made] of 10s. per full Member and 5s. to half Members who had not got more than ten days' work during the past five weeks owing to the Dockers' Strike at Leith, and that the Board meet on the afternoon of Monday the 4th inst. to obtain the returns from the Collieries affected and complete the arrangements for disbursing the money. It is understood that members who May have been off work Sick or in receipt of Compensation for accident are excluded from participating in the grant.

Scottish Miners' Annual Conference: It was agreed that the President, Vice President, and Agents attend this Conference. The Agenda having been considered They were instructed thereon.

British Trades Union Congress: Mr Andrew McGill, Niddrie Colliery, was appointed to attend this Congress to represent the Assn.

The Secretary intimated that the Miners' Federation of Great Britain had decided that a united demand for 15 per cent advance on all Surface Workers' Wages be made, And the Delegates were instructed to ascertain how the Surface Workers at their respective Collieries Stood as regards being members of the Association, and to report as soon as possible to the Secretary.

Mr Robert White was appointed to the Wages Committee in room of Mr John Naysmith, retired.

Ballot re. Annual Meeting: Arniston Colliery desired that the decision of last Board Meeting on this question be reconsidered but the previous question was moved by Mr Peter Scougal and Carried.

Resolutions for British Miners' Federation Annual Conference: Two

by representatives from 89 trade unions and 42 co-operative societies. Principal Gilbert Slater of the College told the conference that 'Their intention was to make [it] ... into the staff college of the Labour movement. The aim was strictly educational.' The conference passed a resolution, with only five dissentients, recommending unions and co-ops to make an annual contribution toward the maintenance of the College and to encourage their members to take advantage of the tuition it gave. *Glasgow Herald*, 25 Aug 1913.

resolutions by Wallyford were accepted and the Secretary was instructed to Submit them to the Scottish Miners' Executive, Viz., one re. days' notice and one re. Annual Balance Sheet.

Minimum Wage Committee, Arniston: A claim for 18s. by this committee was passed for payment.

5th August 1913

A Meeting of the Wages Committee was held today, Mr James Ormiston presiding. Present: Peter Scougal, John Main, James Hogg, Robert White, Peter O'Toole, and the Secretaries.

Two Cases, Viz., Richard Hobart and Alexander Campbell, were considered and upon enquiry being made and the local committee Satisfied with their claims They be empowered to pay.

A deputation of Newbattle Colliery Committee were present and put forward a claim for a Number of Men of that Colliery. The facts put before the Wages Committee were as follows. That Lady Victoria Pit was open for work Three days during the first week of the Strike beginning 30th June, but for the next two weeks and three days of the Fourth week The Pit was closed. It was open the three last days of the Fourth week and five days the fifth week, making eleven days the Pit was open; but on the first day the Pit was open on the Fourth week a large number of men did not get on and a large number owing to the Shifts they were on only got nine or ten Shifts, The output for the first day being only 300 tons, Against 1,400 tons for a full day, being advanced as proof of the Statements Made. The deputation assured the Committee That they would look into the Books and make Sure That any one who had got full work on the day in question would not receive any benefit. They estimated the numbers who were entitled to relief under the Scheme at 700 and on the Motion of Mr Peter Scougall, Seconded by Mr James Hogg, it was agreed to advance £350 to meet these cases under Similar conditions as money had been advanced to other Branches.

The Committee devoted some time to the Consideration of a Scheme for the raising of the Contributions and Making provision for Members when cast idle by accident arising at any Colliery, It being understood that the Secretary draft a Scheme to be Submitted to the next meeting of the Wages Committee for its consideration.

14th August 1913

A Wages Committee Meeting was held today, Mr Andrew Clarke presiding.

James Clark's Representatives: It was agreed That the Secretary deal with the claim of the Representatives to Compensation in this Case.

A letter from Mr Mackie re. Doctors question was read and the Secretary

instructed to reply, and also to write Mr Walker, the Coalmasters' Secretary, on the question.

After the Secretary had reported on the probable Money available for the relief fund and the conditions reported on regarding the respective Collieries, It was agreed That 6s. per Member be allowed to those being entitled to the 10s. already paid to the Members of Carberry, Wallyford, Bankton, Prestonlinks, Smeaton, Penston and Elphinstone Collieries, With an additional Allowance of a few pounds in Accordance with the Membership of the Branch To be dealt with by the local Committee for the relief of Special Cases; And that a Sum be put at the disposal of Niddrie, Arniston and Newbattle Collieries on the Same footing, Viz., to relieve Special Cases of distress.

Mr Gregor's Case, Niddrie: it was agreed that the Secretary forward a Statement Written by Mr McGregor, Fireman, & Signed by him to the Mines Inspector, The complaint being to the effect That he had been dismissed for endeavouring to comply with the Mines Act in carrying out his Duties as a Fireman.

Alexr Young's claim, Newbattle: This man was held to have no claim to the allowance granted, he not having been cast idle by the Dock Strike.

It was agreed to recommend that 3s. per hundred members dealt with be allowed to the local committees for the work done in Connection with the relief fund.

John McIntosh's claim, Woodhall, Dissallowed.

22nd August 1913

A Board & financial Meeting was held today. The Minute of the Meeting of 2nd August was read and adopted on the motion of Mr Peter Scougal, Seconded by Mr Alexander Ross. The Minute of a Wages Committee Meeting held on the 5th August was read and approved of on the Motion of Mr Robert White, Seconded by Mr Peter Scougal. Approval of the recommendations was Moved by Mr John Gordon, and Seconded by Mr Andrew McGill and agreed to. The Minute of a Wages Committee Meeting held on the 14th August was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Peter Scougal, Seconded by Mr Peter O'Toole.

The recommendation to pay 3s. per hundred for taking a ballot was disapproved of, and on the Motion of Mr John Gordon The Sum was fixed at 4s. per hundred Members.

It was agreed to that 4s. per hundred Members dealt with be paid to local Committees for the first payment of relief, and an additional 2s. per hundred for the Second payment to the Committees making a Second payment.

Medical Question: The Secretary read correspondence between the Secretary to the Doctors and the Secretary to the Coalowners and himself on this question, to the effect that the Secretary to the Coalowners intimated that the

request for a Joint Meeting would be considered by the Coalowners at their first meeting and notice Sent of their decision.

BankPark: The Committee at this Colliery upon reconsidering the Matter decided not to put up a Collecting Box and refunded the £2 voted for that purpose at a former Meeting.

Newbattle Colliery: It was decided that Mr Wm Kerr's claim to relief allowance be paid. Mr Alexr Young's claim was disallowed.

Niddrie Colliery: Mr T. McGregor, who had acted as a Fireman, Com-
plained that he had been dismissed for endeavouring to Comply with the Mines Act in carrying out his duties. A Statement written and Signed by him had been Sent to the Mines Inspector, who had replied intimating that enquiry was being made into the Complaint under Section 14 of the Coal Mines Act. It was agreed to await the report by the Mines Inspector before taking further action. A claim by Wm Thomson for allowance from the relief fund was admitted.

Prestongrange: The Representative from this Colliery reported that a ballot was to be taken on the 23rd on the question of whether the men favoured the Pay ending on the Tuesday as against the present practice. It was agreed that upon the result of the ballot being declared the matter would be dealt with accordingly. It was agreed that upon a Collecting Box being erected at the Colliery, a grant of £2 would be made towards the cost upon the cost amounting to or exceeding that Sum.

Woodhall: It was decided that Mr John McIntosh's claim to relief under the Circumstances could not be admitted.

Mr James Currie's Case: Mr Currie claimed the Allowance to those thrown idle by the Dock Strike, but he having been employed at a Colliery not affected during the Strike The claim was disallowed.

Ballot Papers were issued to the Branches to vote on the question as to whether the Majority shall have the right to decide the policy of the Association in all Matters pertaining to its Welfare, and instructions given as to how the Ballot is to be taken and the Mode of procedure in returning the Papers: 1. The Ballot to be taken on the 9th, 10 or 11th September. 2. Each Member Shall be Supplied with a Ballot Paper and an Envelope. 3. The Member after Marking his Ballot Paper puts it into the Envelope and closes it. 4. Upon the Ballot Papers being collected the Branch Secretary and Committee Simply put them into a parcel and Send the parcel to the address given on the Envelope. 5. It will be advisable That the parcel be Stamped with the Branch Stamp by Branches having Stamps or the name of the Branch and District, Viz., Mid & East Lothian, written on the parcel to insure that parcels reaching the Scrutineers are Sent by those entitled to do so.

Local Secretaries are Specially requested to See that no claims for Funeral Expenses are to be paid for Still Born Children without a certificate from an Undertaker that burial has taken place.

6th September 1913

A Special Board Meeting was held today.

The Chairman explained that the Meeting had been called to consider What Should be done regarding the action of the Management at Niddrie Colliery in having issued Cards to the Workmen requesting that they make a Selection of Doctors to attend their dependants and to return the cards to the colliery office by Friday the 12th inst. After due deliberation It was agreed on the Motion of Mr James Thomson, Seconded by Mr Peter Scougall, That in View of the Action of the Management at Niddrie Colliery not being in Accordance with the Considered proposals for Medical attendance for the Workmen's dependants The Workmen of Niddrie Colliery be advised not to fill up or to return the Cards, And that the Secretary Communicate with the Coalowners' Secretary, Mr Walker, on the Subject, requesting a Meeting with the Coalowners.

Elphinstone Colliery: A letter from Thos Walker of this colliery was read complaining That he had been refused the allowance paid from the relief fund, but upon enquiry having been made it was found that he had worked more than the number of Shifts fixed as a Minimum and his claim could not be allowed.

Niddrie Colliery: A letter from the Secretary of this Branch was read intimating That Robert Campbell, Who had acted as collector for the Branch in the Gilmerton District, had failed to forward to the Branch Secretary the dues collected from the members by him to the amount of £7.10.0. The Secretary was instructed to write Mr Campbell requesting him to at once forward the Sum named either to the local Treasurer or to the general Secretary at the Office here.

20th September 1913

A Board and financial Meeting was held here today. The Minute of Meeting held on the 22nd August was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Peter Scougall, Seconded by Mr Richard Scott. The Minute of Meeting held on the 6th September was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr James Thomson, Seconded by Mr John Main.

Medical Attendance for Dependants: Arrangements having been made for a Meeting between Representatives of the Employers and the Workmen on this question on Tuesday the 23rd inst. The following were deputed to attend: President, Vice President, Messrs Peter O'Toole, P. Scougall, Jas Thomson, Robert White, Wm McNicol, and the Secretaries.

It was agreed to appoint Delegates to attend a Conference proposed to be held under the Auspices of the Edinburgh Trades Council at an early date to consider the conditions existing among the Several Trades regarding Organisation for Trades Union purposes with a View to improve matters in that direction. The President and Mr John Main were appointed along with the Secretaries to attend.

Prestongrange Colliery: A letter was read from Mr Thomas Nelson, a Director of Summerlee Company, re. The question of Lying Days, urging that the present System of Six Days Should continue, but in View of the Workmen having expressed their Strong desire by ballot in favour of Four Days, as prevails at other collieries, It was decided to insist on these conditions being granted at Prestongrange.

Scottish Miners' Federation Conference: Mr Alexander Ross, Wallyford Colliery, was appointed to attend this Conference to be held on Monday the 29th.

Miners' Federation of Great Britain Annual Conference: Mr James Thomson, Carberry, and Mr James Hogg, Penston, were appointed to attend this Conference, Accompanied by the two Secretaries. The Agenda was considered and the Delegates instructed thereon.

It was remitted to the Wages Committee to Submit a Scheme re. an increase of Contributions for consideration of the Board at the next Meeting.

Niddrie Colliery: The local Committee were to look into Messrs Currie's claim.

Penston: It was agreed to grant allowance towards a Collecting Box at this Colliery.

Prestonlinks: Complaint was made of Men Working on the recognised idle Saturday at this Colliery and of a Number of Men being out of Union. It was agreed that Mr Young, Assistant Agent, take the Matter up along with the Local Committee and to Visit the Manager re. the grievance which if not remedied drastic action to be taken to the extent of Stopping the Colliery on the first working day after any infringement of the usual working policy. A Subscription Sheet on behalf of David Blyth was Submitted to the Board but no action was taken.

Compensation Cases: It was agreed that the Law Agent for the Association be Consulted on Henry Johnstone's & Mr John Black's Cases, And that no action at Law be taken in Mr James Livingstone's Case. Mr John Casey's Representative had received £90 in Settlement of that Case. Thos Bank's case: It was decided that no further action Could be taken in this Case. Mr Daniel Brown's case, Woodhall: It was agreed that nothing could be done in this Case. Mr Robert Campbell's, Niddrie: In View of the Communication from Mr Campbell to the Secretary The matter was left in his hands to deal with. David Kinghorn's claim, Arniston: It was agreed to pay this funeral claim.

18th October 1913

A Wages Committee meeting was held today. Present: James Ormiston, Vice President, Wm. Falconer, Treasurer, Peter O'Toole, Robert White, Peter Scougal, James Thomson, James Hogg, John Main and the Secretaries.

After considering this question in all its aspects It was agreed to recom-

mend to the full Board That the weekly contribution be Sixpence per week per member, and that Rule 18 be amended by inserting Sixpence per week, instead of per fortnight, and three pence per week for half members as against three pence per fortnight—With the following proviso: That the benefit provided for in Rule 22, Viz., 10s. per Member per week, be increased to 12s. per Member per week.

The Secretary reported that arrangements had been made for a Meeting of a Sub Committee representing the employers, Doctors & Workmen to finally adjust the Scheme for Selection of Doctors etc., for dependants.

National Ambulance League: The Secretary read a letter from Mr Walker Healie, Inspector of Mines for Scotland, Stating That the fee paid for The Lothians League Covered the expenses of the National League, When it was agreed to recommend to the Board to agree to become Members and that two representatives be appointed to attend the meeting about to be called on the Subject.

The President Submitted a report of the Conference held in Edinburgh on Saturday, 4th October, regarding the effort on the part of the Trades Council to extend the influence of Trades Unionism throughout the District. A large representation was in attendance and after explanation by the Chairman, Mr Jas Campbell, re. the object of the Meeting It was agreed that those present would put the Matter before their respective Unions and report to a future Meeting. In View of the report and the importance of the matter, The Wages Committee unanimously recommend to the Board That as an Association we affiliate with the Edinburgh Trades Council and also to assist as far as possible in extending the power of Trades Unionism in the District, The affiliation fee being only three pounds per year.⁴⁹

25th October 1913

A Board and financial meeting was held today. The Minute of the former meeting was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr James Thomson, Seconded by Mr John Main. The Minute of a Wages Committee Meeting held on the 18th October was read and approved of on the Motion of Mr James Ormiston, Seconded by Mr John Main.

The following Compensation Cases were reported upon: Mr Henry Johnstone, Niddrie, and John Black, Prestonlinks. The Law Agent advised against any action being taken in either of these Cases and on the Motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr Wm Foster, it was agreed to abide by the advice of the

⁴⁹ Edinburgh Trades Council was anxious to secure the affiliation of unions 'in the outlying districts of Edinburgh'. Delegates from about 20 unions attended the conference. Andrew Clarke, president, supported by Robert Brown, secretary, Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association, moved a resolution that was carried unanimously, recommending that unions in the Lothians affiliate to the Trades Council. At a later conference on 1 Nov. a District Committee, to meet on the first Saturday of each month, was established to represent these outlying affiliated unions. Minutes of Edinburgh Trades Council, 2 and 30 Sept., 14 and 28 Oct., and 11 Nov. 1913.

Law Agent. Peter Gorman's Representatives, Loanhead: Full three years' wages having been obtained in this case It was considered to be very Satisfactory.

Mr John Allan's claim, Prestongrange: It was decided that further enquiry be made into how this accident arose and to obtain particulars regarding the Powder—whether loose or in Cartridges.

Surface Workers' Wages: A report was Submitted of the number of Surface Workers in Union in each Branch, after which it was agreed that Special Meetings of Surface Workers alone be held to put the matter before them and to See that all employed became Members to Strengthen the claim for an advance on their wages.

The Board unanimously approved of the Association being Affiliated to the Edinburgh Trades Council to help to Strengthen the bonds of Trades Unionism in the County, and Strongly recommend the Approval of the Members, the Annual fee only amounting to £3. Messrs Andrew Clarke, President, and John Main and the Secretaries were deputed to represent the Association on this question on Saturday the 1st November.

Mr John Gordon, Bankpark Colliery, was appointed to the wages committee in place of Mr Peter Scougal, retired.

National Ambulance League: It was agreed to Join the proposed National League, which entails no further expense than is already incurred of being Members of the Lothian League. Mr James Ormiston and Mr James Thomson were appointed to represent the Association on the Committee—fees 2s.6d. & train fare.

Dublin Distress Fund: A Committee having organised a Demonstration and Public Meeting at Tranent, to take place on the afternoon of the day upon which the Board met and invited the Secretaries and Members of the Board to be present, it was agreed to accept the invitation and Twelve Members were able to be present.⁵⁰

Non Unionism: This question was raised by the Newbattle delegate, and after a general discussion it was decided that those employed at the Collieries Must be Members of the Union and the Matter was remitted to Colliery Committees to adopt the best Measures considered by them possible to induce those

⁵⁰ A major industrial conflict had begun in Dublin in Aug., when W.M. Murphy, owner of the city's tramways and other enterprises, attempted to crush the Irish Transport & General Workers' Union led by James Larkin (1876-1947) and James Connolly (1868-1916). Amid strikes, lock-outs and riots in which two men were killed and hundreds, including Larkin, arrested, 400 employers had pledged themselves on 3 Sept. to support Murphy by refusing to employ members of the Union. The annual British Trades Union Congress meeting that week debated the crisis and sent a delegation to Dublin to address meetings in favour of the right to union organisation. On 23 Sept. the TUC Parliamentary Committee decided to raise a fund to send food-ships to Dublin for the strikers and their families and £60,000 was soon raised, the TUC itself committing an initial £5,000. From early Nov. the Parliamentary Committee also made weekly payments in cash to the Dublin workers. The strike continued well into 1914. No report has been found of any meeting at Tranent on the Dublin crisis. Clegg, *History of British Trade Unions*, ii, 60-4; Roberts, *Trades Union Congress*, 265-6.

outside to join, and upon any one or more taking up an attitude of defiance then the only alternative would have to be applied, Viz., That Members cease working at the Colliery upon the employers refusing to put Matters right on being approached. Special consideration to be given to the Method of Stopping. A Special effort being made by the Niddrie Committee, to be reported on at next Meeting, both with regard to adopting a Branch Badge and dealing with Non Unionists.

Newbattle Colliery: A Claim was put forward by a Section of Men at this Colliery to compel the Company to compensate them for being detained in the Pit bottom three hours when they asserted that they could not get on with their work. It was agreed that no action be taken Meantime on that question as the decision of the Courts was against Such payment being obtained. It was reported that the Eight Hours Act was being infringed at this Colliery and the Delegate was instructed to request the Branch to put in force the powers conferred by the Act, Viz., to appoint persons to take note of any infringements and to report any Case or Cases arising, when they would be reported to the Mines Inspector.

Motions & Suggestions from Penston and Ormiston Collieries were held over for consideration at next Monthly Meeting.

Niddrie Colliery: A Claim for Funeral Benefit for a child by Mr Thos Heeps was not allowed.

Loanhead Colliery: A claim to Victimisation Allowance by Mr Samuel Dickson and Mr John Duncan was held not to be in accordance with Rule and could not be entertained.

Elphinstone Colliery: One pound was granted towards the local fund of this Colliery.

Contributions: The attention of the Board has been directed to this question for Some time and it was remitted to the Wages Committee to take it up and report to the full Board.

The Wages Committee after careful consideration were unanimous in Submitting the following recommendation to the Board: 1st. That the Allowance per member per week as Strike or Lockout benefit be increased from 10s. per week to 12s. per week per Member. 2nd. That the Payments per Member be raised from 3d. to 6d. per week. 3. That 10 per Cent of the Income be allowed to Branches for Local work.

The Board unanimously approved of the finding of the Wages Committee and most Strongly recommend its adoption by the Branches, and Submit the following as a few reasons from many that could be advanced in its favour: 1. The condition of affairs industrially has changed So much during the past few years, Which places our members in a position that they may at any time be cast idle owing to Circumstances over which they have no control—Such as the recent Dock Strike at Leith—and it is imperative that there Should be a fund to enable

Some relief to be rendered to those members who are put idle under Similar Circumstances and to enable any genuine Case of distress arising at any Branch to have Sympathetic consideration, Which cannot be done at present owing to the Small Contributions. 2. Mid & East Lothian is the only Association in the Scottish Federation Whose Members only pay 3d. per week, The Fifeshire Association, which formerly paid 3½d. per Member per week, having decided recently by a unanimous Vote of its Branches to increase the weekly Contributions to 6d. per Member per week. 3. By still allowing 10 per Cent of the total income for Local purposes will double the Income to Local Committees, which Should enable them to more effectively carry out the local administration of affairs. 4. It is most important that there should be a strong fighting fund which the Members can rely upon when compelled to Stop work either to enforce their own demands or to resist the demands of the employers, and in this respect there is every indication that the Miners of Scotland will be again put to the testing point in the near future; and if the Minimum Wage is to be obtained that is aimed at preparations must be made to assure the employers that we are in earnest and determined to establish it.

It is earnestly hoped that the Branches will realize the urgent Necessity for this proposal and return a unanimous vote in favour of its adoption.

30th October 1913

A Wages Committee Meeting was held today.

A Circular issued by the South Wales Miners' Federation was read requesting help on behalf of those left as Widows and orphans by the Sengenyd Disaster. A letter from the Secretary of the Lanarkshire County Union was read on the Same Subject, Stating that the Executive of that body thought that the question of relief for those Suffering from the disaster Should be dealt with by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain. The Wages Committee approved of that Suggestion, Viz., That the matter be dealt with by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain.⁵¹

Cards for choice of Doctor: A form of Card as agreed upon at the Joint Meeting between The employers', the Doctors' and Workmen's representatives was Submitted and approved of.

John Allan's Case, Prestongrange: Mr Michael Corrie having written and Stated that the powder That was ignited by this boy was Compressed Powder it was considered that further enquiry was needed as to how the accident arose.

⁵¹ In the worst disaster in the history of coal-mining in Britain 439 miners were killed in an explosion at the Senghenydd pit in Glamorgan on 14 Oct. The cause of the explosion was never completely established, but the Chief Inspector of Mines referred in his report to 'disquieting laxity in the management of the mine'. A prosecution against the owners and manager of the colliery resulted in the acquittal of the owners, and upon conviction on 5 of the original 17 charges against him fines were imposed on the manager that totalled less than £30. The number of dependants who suffered from the disaster was about 1,000. Arnot, *Years of Struggle*, 51-4; Duckham, *Pit Disasters*, 20, 171, 274.

The Secretary intimated that a Conference was to be held the following day to decide whether the Scottish Miners' Federation was in favour of Contesting South Lanark at the pending Bye Election. The Executive of the Scottish Miners' Federation having at a Meeting held on the 27th decided to recommend That the Miners do not contest the Seat at this time, The Wages Committee instructed the Secretary to Support that recommendation at the Conference.⁵²

29th November 1913

A Board and financial Meeting was held today. The Minute of the previous meeting was read and adopted on the motion of James Thomson, Seconded by James Hogg. The Minute of a Wages Committee Meeting held on the 30th October was read and adopted on the Motion of John Main, Seconded by Jas Hogg.

The chairman Made reference to the Vice President being elected to the chief Magistrate's chair of Tranent Town Council, and to the Assistant Secretary, Mr Young's, election to Musselburgh Town Council and Mr Robert White to the Dalkeith Parish Council, and Considered that these appointments reflected great credit to them as individuals and to the Board also.⁵³

At the instance of John Ferguson it was agreed to insert in the Minute that the payment for attendance at Ambulance League Meetings be 2s.6d. for each representative and train fare. Mr Thos McNeil Moved That 2s.6d. be paid for meetings agreed to by the Board, Seconded by Mr Nicholas Young. Mr Colin Allan Moved, Seconded by Mr Andrew McGill, That 2s.6d. per representative be paid for all Meetings. For Colin Allan's Motion 10, for Tom McNeil's 8.

Ormiston: 1. A Motion requesting the Board to take up the question of appointing a Collector for the purpose of Collecting the Union Dues was remitted to that Colliery to formulate what it is desired Should be done, On the Motion of John Gordon, Seconded by Andrew McGill. 2. A Motion that Stamps be affixed to Members' Pence Cards by Collectors for amount paid be adopted was after Consideration remitted to the Wages Committee to consider and report.

A Circular from the Law Agents was read intimating that Mr Robert Handyside had Withdrawn from the Firm of Messrs Gray & Handyside but that the Firm was to continue under the Firm Name of Gray, Muirhead & Carmichael.

⁵² The SMF conference on 31 Oct. in fact recommended that South Lanark be contested by Labour and nominated Thomas Gibb, a Cleland checkweigher, as candidate. The result of the by-election, which was caused by the death of the sitting Liberal MP who had held the seat since 1906, was a win for the Unionist (4,257) over the Liberal (4,006), with Gibb third with 1,674 votes. *Glasgow Herald*, 31 Oct., 1 Nov. and 15 Dec. 1913.

⁵³ Joseph Young, the assistant secretary, seems to have been the first Labour town councillor elected in Musselburgh and won the seat from a bailie who had been a council member for quarter of a century. *Haddingtonshire Courier*, 7 Nov. 1913.

After full consideration it was agreed to retain the Firm as reconstituted as Legal Advisers for the Association, On the Motion of James Ormiston, Seconded by James Thomson, against an Amendment by Colin Allan, Seconded by William McNicol, That a change of Law Agent take place: For Motion 15, For change 5.

Edinburgh Trades Council: The reports from the Branches Showed that they were unanimous in favour of affiliation, and Peter O'Toole and Andrew McGill were chosen as the Association's Representatives to that body, The remuneration to be 2s.6d. per Meeting and train fare.

The Secretary reported that an Advance of Wages of 18³/₄ per Cent had been claimed, and that it was expected the Matter would be dealt with before Lord Balfour of Burleigh as Neutral Chairman on the 15th or 19th December.

Motions, Penston Colliery: A Motion that a District Meeting be held at Tranent every Three months, to be addressed by one of the Agents, was Considered and an understanding arrived at That upon the Representatives of Said District being of opinion that a District Meeting was necessary at any time Such, with the consent of the Board, Could be held. This was Carried by 13 votes to 6, on the Motion of John Ferguson, Seconded by William Foster, against a Motion by James Hogg, Seconded by Robert White, that the matter be referred to the Collieries.

Letter from Polton Colliery: 1st. A Motion by Polton Colliery re. the Resolution by that Branch Sent forward last July was read, when it was explained that the Resolution had been dealt with by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain at the Annual Conference of that body last October.⁵⁴ 2. Re. A Motion that the Board agree to pay the three brothers Currie Out of work Allowance for time lost during the Leith Dockers' Strike—It was decided that the Messrs Currie be requested to call at the Office to enable the Secretary to obtain the particulars regarding their claim to put before the Board.

It was agreed to grant 25s. to Polton Colliery towards the local expenses.

Harry Quelch Memorial fund: A Circular requesting Subscriptions to this fund was read, but in View of a Grant of £10 having been made by the Scottish Miners' Federation it was decided that no further Grant be made—on the Motion of John Gordon, Seconded by Peter O'Toole, Against two propositions, One by Robert White, Seconded by James Hogg, that £2 be granted, and one by Colin Allan, Seconded by Wm Foster, that £5 be granted—No Grant 13 votes, Grant 5.⁵⁵

⁵⁴ See above, p. 218, n. 25. The MFGB annual conference had carried unanimously a resolution from South Wales, 'That the Executive Council of the MFGB be requested to approach the E.C. of other big Trade Unions with a view to co-operative action in support of each other's demands.' *MFGBAP, 1913: Report of Annual Conference, 7-10 October*, 139-43.

⁵⁵ Harry Quelch (1858-1913) began work at age 10 as a shopboy, then became a herd-boy, London factory worker, porter and packer in a warehouse; a leading member from 1883 of the Social Democratic Federation, editor, 1886-9 and 1891-1913, of its journal *Justice*; chairman, 1904-6 and 1910, London Trades Council. Bellamy & Saville (eds.), *Labour Biography*, viii, 198-203.

In view of a Conference having been called to deal with the Dublin Strike on the 9th December and a Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain on the two following days re. Surface Workers' Wages, it was agreed that one delegate be appointed, viz., Robert White, Newbattle Colliery, to represent the Association. Mr White Moved that upon no proposal being Submitted by the Trades Union Congress Committee at the Conference Acceptable to the Dublin People That we Support the principle of a General Strike. Mr N. Young Moved, Seconded by Mr John Gordon, that the delegates be left with a free hand to deal with the Situation as disclosed, each Section if Necessary to retire and decide if necessary. This was agreed to.⁵⁶

The following is an Approximate Statement of the Number of Surface Workers in Union or promised to Join inclusive, with the Ruling Wage as far as known:

In Union	Wage per day
21 Arniston	3s. 10d.
41 Newbattle	3s. 4d.
20 Niddrie	3s. 10d. to 4s. 8d.
60 Loanhead	3s. 7d.
Rosewell	3s. 6d. to 3s. 8d.
Carberry	3s. 4d.
5 Elphinstone	
Penston	3s. 9d.
3 Ormiston	
14 Prestongrange	
14 Wallyford	3s. 8d.
9 Polton	2s. 8d. to 3s. 7d.
House of Muir	
3 Bankton	
9 Woodhall	3s. 6d. to 4s. 3d.
3 Prestonlinks	3s. 6d. to 4s. 8d.
6 Smeaton	
3 Bankpark	3s. 2d. ten hours
27 Roslin	3s. 7d.

⁵⁶ The conference of affiliated trade unions called by the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress resolved unanimously in favour of a resumption of negotiations in Dublin. It also condemned, almost unanimously, 'the unfair attacks made by men inside the Trade Union movement upon British Trade Union officials'. James Larkin, leader of the Dublin strike, was shouted down at the conference. A proposal that transport unions boycott 'blackleg cargo' to and from Dublin firms involved in the dispute, and that a monthly levy on British trade unions be raised in support, was heavily defeated. The MFGB EC in early Dec. agreed to continue 'for the present' the donation of £1,000 a week to the strikers that had been unanimously agreed by the MFGB annual conference on 7 Oct. Clegg, *History of British Trade Unions*, ii, 63-4; MFGB AP, 1913: EC Minutes, 8, 10, 11, 12 December.

In view of the position disclosed, after full discussion it was decided that the Secretary write the Secretary of the Mid & East Lothian Coalowners' Association requesting a Meeting with the representatives of that body and the Miners' Representatives, to Consider a Claim for an advance on Surface Workers' Wages in general, and also that full consideration by the Board be given to the levelling up of the Wages of Surface Workers at any Colliery at which they were below the average paid. The foregoing was Carried by 15 Votes to 3, on the Motion of James Thomson, Seconded by John Ferguson, against an Amendment by Nicholas Young, Seconded by William McNicol, That Action be taken at once on behalf of the Surface Workers at Loanhead Collieries. The President, Vice President, Robert White, Peter O'Toole and the Secretaries were appointed to deal with the question upon the Meeting with the employers being arranged.

The following List gives the Vote for and against raising the Contributions from Threepence to Sixpence per week. In favour—Arniston 1120, Newbattle 1580, Niddrie 1400, Rosewell 285, Carberry 656, Penston 225, Ormiston 320, House of Muir 40, Bankton 353, Woodhall 180: total 6159; Against—Loanhead 650, Elphinstone 195, Prestongrange 634, Wallyford 445, Polton 154, Prestonlinks 480, Bankpark 123, Roslin 270: total 2951; no report from Smeaton.

It was decided that a Ballot of the Members be taken on that question, and that the Wages Committee make the Necessary arrangements, both with regard to the Ballot and putting the Matter before the Members.

Niddrie Colliery: It was agreed that the payment made by Robert Campbell be accepted as Meeting all his liability to the Association. A Question was put from this Colliery, Viz., Can Clearance Lines be accepted from Non Affiliated Associated Associations?—The Answer is No. Mr James Grandeson's Claim to Out of Work Allowance at the time of the Dock Strike was allowed. It was reported that this Branch is adopting the Badge System by providing each Member with a distinguishing Union Badge and that so far the results were very encouraging.

Prestongrange Colliery: The question of Lay Days at this Colliery was again Considered. The Secretary intimated that he had no reply to his Communication to Mr Thos Nelson of the 8th and 28th November. It was then decided that this question be pressed to a final issue and that the Secretary write Mr Nelson requesting him to State the Company's intention in the Matter. A question re. Workmen's Tools going amissing at Prestongrange Colliery was raised and the Delegate was advised that Such Matters could be dealt with locally. A claim to Victimisation on behalf of Charles Friel was made but was disallowed.

Wallyford Colliery: It was agreed to instruct the Law Agent to appear at Court on behalf of Adam McNeill, Who had been Summoned under a breach of the Explosives Order.

Delegates were instructed to have Nominations for Officials at Next

Meeting in December, Peter Chambers being Nominated by Elphinstone Branch for the position of Vice President.

It was decided that the local funds bear the expense of Meetings held with the Surface Workers.

It was decided to insert the following Notice in the Minutes in Conformity with the Act: Miners' Federation of Great Britain, Trade Union Act 1913—A resolution approving the furtherance of political objects within the Meaning of the above Act as an object of the Union has been adopted by a Ballot under the Act. Any payments in the furtherance of those objects will be Made out of a Separate fund, The political fund of the Union, but every Member of the Union has a right to be exempt from contributing to that fund. A form of exemption notice can be obtained by or on behalf of any Member either by application at or by post from the general office or any branch office of the Union or from the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, Abingdon St, London S.W.

16th December 1913⁵⁷

The Wages Committee met tonight. Present The Vice President, Treasurer, John Main, James Thomson, Robert White, Peter O'Toole, John Gordon.

The Secretary read a letter from the Coalmasters' Secretary Stating that enquiry was being made into the Wages paid to Surface Workers at the Various Collieries to enable them to deal with the Matter.

Increase of Contributions: The Committee agreed to issue a Circular to each Member on that question, to be followed by a ballot vote, with instructions that each Branch report the result at the Board Meeting on the 27th inst.

Joe, Wm & Robert Currie: The Committee in View of the evidence produced recommend that these three men be paid the out of work allowance for the period during the Leith Dock Strike.

Lay days, Prestongrange: A letter from Mr Mowat, General Manager of the Summerlee Company, was read indicating That no change from the present System of lay time could be made by the Company. The Committee in View of the Circumstances Surrounding this Case preferred to leave the Matter to the full Board with a Suggestion that an interview with the General Manager may be Sought.

Doctors Question, House of Muir: The Secretary intimated that he was in Communication with Mr Mackie, Secretary to the Doctors' Association, regarding the charges for Drs' fees at this Colliery, Viz., 3d. per week.

After Careful Consideration The Committee agreed That the Stamping of the Pence Cards by the System recommended by Ormiston Branch would not work out in practice to be beneficial in the Various Methods of Collecting the Union dues, and recommend That a System of inspection be adopted

⁵⁷ These minutes were written in the minute book into the middle of those of 27 Dec. 1913.

Whereby the Members' Pence Cards, along with collectors' or Secretary's books, be checked once in three Months.

27th December 1913

A Board and financial meeting was held today. The Minute of the Meeting held on the 29th Novr was read and adopted on the Motion of John Ferguson, Seconded by John Gordon, with the following correction, Viz., A Motion by Arniston Colliery That the Doctors question be reopened—Which was defeated by 17 votes to 2. And a question by Carberry Delegate regarding a Motion by that Colliery not being Minuted, The Secretary explained that a Similar Motion was on the record of the Minute of a recent Meeting and was Still in force, which was held to be Satisfactory.

A Minute of a Wages Committee Meeting held on the 16th inst. was read and the findings approved of: 1st. That the Stamp System would not work out in practice to be beneficial in the various Methods of Collecting the Union dues but that a System of Inspection of Branch Books and Members' Pence Cards be instituted; 2nd. That the Messrs Wm, Robert & Joe Currie and Jas Watt & Son be paid out of work allowance re. Leith Dock Strike.

The Accounts as per printed Statement were passed for payment.

Nominations: President—Andrew Clarke was nominated for reelection by all the Branches. Vice President—James Ormiston was nominated for reelection by 15 Branches, One Branch Nominated Robert White, One Branch Nominated Peter Scougal, Two Branches Nominated Peter Chalmers. Treasurer—Wm Falconer was nominated by all the Branches. Auditors—Messrs John Pryde & Robert Milne were nominated by all the Branches. The Board decided That in View of these Nominations, under the terms of rule 10 No ballot is necessary.

The vote in favour of the weekly contributions being raised from 3d. to 6d. was as follows: Against 4088, For 3490—Majority against 598. This question was remitted to the Wages Committee to make arrangements for putting it before the Members and the urgent necessity for the Increase being obtained. Payment of Ballot: It was agreed to pay at the rate of 4s. per 100 on full Membership.

Mr Aw Quigley V. Robert Brown, Secretary: The Secretary intimated that the Inner House of the Court of Session had upheld Lord Dewar's Judgment given last December and had dismissed the Appeal with expenses.⁵⁸

The Secretary gave a report on the late increase of 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ per Cent on Wages under the Award of Lord Balfour of Burleigh given on Monday the 22nd December and to take effect from Tuesday and Wednesday the 16th & 17th as the Pay may begin.⁵⁹

⁵⁸ See above, p. 234.

⁵⁹ The miners had sought an increase of 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent (9d.) per day on the 1888 basis. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 6 Nov. 1913; *Haddingtonshire Courier*, 7 Nov. 1913.

Conference on Surface Workers' Wages: Robert White gave a report of the proceedings of this Conference to the effect that the question is to be dealt with by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, Nationally. The report was accepted.

In View of the Labour Party Conference being to be held in Glasgow on 27th January and following days, It was agreed that a representative be appointed and James Mulvey, House of Muir, was chosen to attend.

Compensation Cases: The Secretary reported that during the year 281 Cases had been dealt with at the office, 48 of which were Still on hand.

Messrs Thomson & Ormiston gave a report of the last Meeting of the Ambulance League for Mid, East & West Lothian, which was accepted.

Edinburgh Trades Council District Meetings: Messrs Peter O'Toole and Aw McGill gave a report of the last Meeting of the Council and informed the Board That the next Meeting was to be held in Dalkeith on the 10th January.⁶⁰

The following grants were made to local Committees: Niddrie £3, Wallyford £3, Carberry £1, & Roslin £1. Prestongrange got a grant of £2 towards the erection of a Collecting Box.

As Several Collieries have been at work in View of the holidays, While Saturday is the recognised Idle Day, it was agreed that Delegates would be treated on the footing that they had lost a Shift.

The question of the Working Policy of Eleven Days per fortnight was raised in Connection with Prestongrange Colliery, When after discussion it was decided that the Method of working adopted at that Colliery was not an infringement of the Eleven Days' Policy—On the Motion of John Gordon, Seconded by John Ferguson, Against an Amendment by James Thomson, Seconded by Thos McNeill, that the Method in practice was an infringement of the Policy. Motion 13, Amendment 6.

The following Proposed Amendment of Rule 10 was tabled by Carberry Colliery, Viz., To insert after the Word 'Year' in 2nd line of Rule the Words 'And Shall Work in a Colliery'.

Penston Colliery: Two proposals Suggesting different Methods of Collecting Dues and other Matters were allowed to lie on the table—On the Motion of Robert White, Seconded by Colin Allan, Against an Amendment by James Hogg, Seconded by John Main, That they be remitted to the Collieries: Motion 17, Amendment 2 Votes.

The Board recommend that each Branch Secretary Submit a Statement to the next Board Meeting of the expenditure for Collecting the Union Dues

⁶⁰ The monthly District Committee meeting of the Trades Council was held then in the Scientific Hall, when Robert Brown reported that the wage increase of 6¼ per cent for the miners made the 'ruling wage' 7s.6d. per shift and restored it to what it had been before it was reduced by 6¼ per cent on 29 Oct. As a result of a mass meeting of trade unionists in Dalkeith after the Trades Council meeting it was 'hoped that some of the other Unions in the District will become affiliated to the Council'. Edinburgh Trades Council Minutes, 20 Jan. 1914.

alone out of the Local Allowance, Apart from Salaries paid to Branch officials, Hall Rents, Committee Meetings, etc.

Prestongrange Colliery: The Delegate from this Colliery raised the case with regard to Charles Friel dealt with at last Meeting, but the previous question was Moved by Colin Allan and Seconded by Wm Foster and Carried. Lay Days at Prestongrange: A Communication on this question by the General Manager at Prestongrange Colliery was read and the Matter was left with the local Committee and the Agents to deal with and report to the Board.

Several Minor Matters relating to Carberry, Smeaton, Woodhall, and Udston⁶¹ Collieries were left with the Secretary and the respective Delegates of these Collieries to adjust.

⁶¹ Penston colliery was owned by the Udston Coal Co.

Chapter 4

MINUTES, 1914-1915

8th January 1914¹

A Wages Committee meeting was held today.

The question with regard to raising the weekly contribution from threepence to sixpence per week, as remitted to the Committee by the Board, was considered and the following recommendation to the Board arrived at: That it is urgently necessary that the Contributions be raised from threepence to Sixpence per week and that arrangements be Made to put the Matter before the Members at as early a date as possible, After which another ballot be taken on the question. The Committee Suggest that Meetings as far as possible of all the Branches be held, to be addressed by one or other of the Agents and Supported by members of the Board as may be arranged; And to meet the Special Circumstances Meetings May be held at Dalkeith, Musselburgh, Tranent, Gilmerton and Jewel Cottages.²

Quarterly or half yearly returns by Branches: It was agreed that a form of return to be agreed upon by the Board be obtained from the Branches, to be Submitted to the Board Quarterly or Six Monthly as may be decided upon.

Harry Young's Case, Woodhall: The Secretary reported that this Man had been engaged cleaning off The Machine Walls and had 4s.2d. per ton for Solid Coal and 3s.4d. for Machine coal. He Met with an Accident and was off work for nine weeks and upon resuming work he was put to the Same class of work but was paid at 6d. less per ton for Machine Coal and 2d. per ton less for Solid Coal. Young States that upon agreeing to Start work after being idle the nine weeks That he was told to Start at his old rate. The Manager, Mr Roberts, States that upon Young arranging to resume work he told him that he would be paid at the Same rate per ton as the Men who were doing the Same kind of work had. In View of these Statements it was agreed to await further information being obtained from the Delegate on the question.

The Oncost Workers at Arniston having Complained against the Company charging 1s.3d. per Cart for delivering their firecoal The Secretary had approached the Manager, who had written to Say that the charge for driving would in future be 1s. per cart, the Same as to the Miners.

¹ These are the first minutes in the third surviving volume of manuscript minutes of the Association.

² Jewel Cottages were at Niddrie.

Compensation Cases: The Secretary intimated that a Settlement in John Campbell's case upon the death of his Son George R. Campbell had been effected upon a payment to be made of £78.

David Kemp's Case, Loanhead: The Secretary intimated that he had had great difficulty in dealing with this case owing to the various Statements said by the Company to have been Made, but that the case was Still being dealt with.

Board Room, Eskbank, Dalkeith, 24th January 1914

A Board and financial Meeting was held today.

The Minute of the Meeting held on the 27th December 1913 was read and adopted on the Motion of James Thomson, Seconded by Andrew McGill. The Minute of a Wages Committee meeting held on the 8th January was read and adopted on the Motion of John Main, Seconded by James Hogg.

The Wages Committee recommended That a Series of Meetings be held throughout the two Counties, to be addressed by one or both of the Agents assisted by the Officials and Members of the Board, to put the Matter clearly before the Members Why in the opinion of the Board, it was necessary that the Members' Contributions Should be Increased from Threepence per Week to Sixpence per Week. The recommendation was approved of unanimously on the Motion of Colin Allan, Seconded by John Ferguson.

Compensation Cases: The Secretary intimated that Patrick O'Kane's Case, Bankpark Colliery, had been decided by the Sheriff in favour of O'Kane, and that a Settlement had been effected in David Kemp's Case, Roslin Colliery. Harry Young's Case, Woodhall: Mr Young informed Mr Wood, the delegate, that he did not desire that further proceedings be taken in his Case and it was dropped accordingly. Andrew Fraser's Case, Prestonlinks: In the opinion of the Law Agent this case was finally disposed of. Thos McGregor's Case, Niddrie—A Statement having been obtained from the Inspector of Mines on this Case to the effect that it had been before the Procurator Fiscal and the Home Office and no proceedings taken, it was decided to drop the Case, and that the Association under all the Circumstances could not undertake any liability for the actions and doings of McGregor.

Labour Party Conference: The items on the Agenda for the above Conference were gone over and no amendments or opposition to any part was offered.

Proposed Amendment to Rule 10: The reports on the proposed Amendment of this Rule Showed that Nine Branches were against any change, four in favour, and four no reports, The Rule remains as it is.

Andrew McGill, Niddrie, was elected to serve on the Wages Committee in the place of Robert White, retired.

Non Unionism: This Matter was discussed at considerable length, after which it was decided that at all Costs those outside the Union Must be enrolled as Members, and the Matter remitted to each Local Committee to cooperate with

the Agents, With the Understanding that [at] any Colliery upon the Work being undertaken it was to be prosecuted to the end.

It was agreed that a Grant for local Work of £2 each be made to Prestonlinks and Penston Branches.

The Joint Committee of BankPark claimed four Shillings for Works done which was granted, And a claim put in by Newbattle Joint Committee was referred back to be Considered by the Local Committee and endorsed.

A Statement was made that Sunday Labour was being practised to a great extent at Prestonlinks Colliery and it was arranged that particulars of Such would be sent to the General Secretary as that matter was being dealt with by the Scottish Miners' Federation.

A Resolution by Elphinston Colliery was after consideration allowed to lie on the table.

5th February 1914

A Meeting of the Wages Committee was held today. Present: Provost Ormiston, Vice President, Wm Falconer, Treasurer, Peter O'Toole, John Main, John Gordon, James Hogg, Andrew McGill & James Thomson.

Compensation Case: The Secretary intimated that The Sheriff at Haddington had decided in favour of Alexr Haswell V. The Bankpark Coal Coy Ltd.

The Secretary was instructed to write Wm Stein, late Secretary of Carberry Branch, requesting him to pay a Sum of 39s. alleged by the Committee of the Branch to be due by him.

Robert Archibald V. Wm Temple, Polton: The Secretary intimated that he had Seen Temple re. Archibald's claim and that he had advised the local Committee to consider the Matter as he thought it could be amicably adjusted.

Lay Days, Prestongrange: The Secretary produced a letter from Mr Michael Corrie on the question of the Lay days at this Colliery to the effect that the Colliery Committee would have no more to do with the question and That the Board Should use its powers in the Matter; After which the Wages Committee agreed That the Course of procedure agreed upon by the Board at a former Meeting be adhered to, Viz., That before any drastic Action was taken in the matter an interview between The Representatives of the Company and the Association & Workmen's Representatives Should be Sought, failing which The Board would further consider the matter.

Meetings: Arrangements were made for the Agents to fix up Meetings at the Collieries and to call upon the President, Vice President, Messrs Peter O'Toole and James Thomson to render assistance where possible.

7th March 1914

A Board and financial Meeting was held today. The Minute of the Meeting held on the 24th January was read and adopted on the Motion of James Ormiston,

Seconded by John Main. The Minute of a Wages Committee Meeting held on the 5th of February was read and adopted on the Motion of James Thomson, Seconded by John Main. The recommendations contained therein were approved of on the Motion of Colin Allan, Seconded by David Johnstone.

Compensation Cases: The following Cases were reported on as having been Successfully Contested at Court—Mr Haswell V. Bankpark Colliery, Mr Peace V. Prestongrange Colliery, Mr Robert Watson's Case V. Polton Colliery (This Case to be contested if Settlement that was partly completed is departed from by Mr Watson). Andrew Fraser's Case: The Sheriff having Stated that the medical Referee's decision in this Case was final, Mr Fraser requested that the papers in Connection with the Case be given to him to enable him to consult another Lawyer, which was Complied with.

Mr James Mulvey reported on the Miners' Federation of Great Britain and the Labour Party Conference which, as representing the Association, he had attended. The report was accepted.

Law Case—Quigley V. Brown: A Communication from the Law Agents re. this Case was read intimating that Decree had been obtained against the Pursuer, Mr Andrew Quigley, for expenses amounting to £73.10.8. and that his Agent, Mr Gordon, had intimated that his Client had no funds to meet the Sum due, and asked what instructions the Board had to give to recover the Sum due. The Board expressed its Satisfaction at the result of the action and unanimously agreed that the Account be met, but deferred meantime arriving at a decision as to what measures should be adopted to recover the expenses from the Pursuer.

The following Office Bearers were reelected for the ensuing year: President—Mr Andrew Clarke, Vice President—Provost Ormiston, Treasurer—Mr Wm Falconer, Auditors—Messrs John Pryde & Robert Milne.

Messrs Colin Allan and John Ferguson were elected to the Wages Committee in the place of Messrs Peter O'Toole and James Hogg, who retire by rotation.

Edinburgh and District Trades Council: Messrs McGill and O'Toole reported on the proceedings of that body during the past Month, one of the principal points being that an effort was to be made to obtain a Larger Share of representation on the Board of Management of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. It was agreed that upon any Representative of the Association to the Trades Council or Ambulance League having to lose work to attend the Meetings of Such, upon a Statement being Submitted Satisfactory to the Board payment for Same would be made.

It was agreed on the Motion of Mr James Hoggan, Seconded by James Hogg, That a ballot of the Members be taken at once on the question of raising the Weekly Contributions from Threepence to Sixpence per week, and that the Ballot be taken at the Pits So as to insure that only Members get Ballot Papers—Against an Amendment by Mr Peter O'Toole, Seconded by Mr David Johnstone,

That the taking of the Ballot be delayed until a further effort had been made to reach a larger number of the Members on the Subject: Motion 18, Amendment 3 Votes. That The Ballot be taken at the Pit head, was carried on the Motion of Mr John Ferguson, Seconded by Mr Andrew McGill—Against an Amendment by Mr John Gordon, Seconded by Mr John Main, That it be left to Branches to decide upon Carrying out the Ballot as they Saw fit. Motion 14, Amendment 7 Votes.

It was agreed on the Motion of Mr James Hoggan, Seconded by Mr Richard Scott, that only financial Members be allowed to Vote—Against an Amendment by Mr Andrew McGill, Seconded by Mr John Main, That all whose names are on the Books be allowed to vote. The Secretary was instructed to arrange for issuing the Ballot papers to the Branches.

Mr Henry Gordon was appointed to attend a Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain to be held in the Westminster Hotel, London, on the 19th and 20th inst. to deal [with] Surface workers' Wages and other important matters.³

Scottish Trades Union Congress: No Resolutions were Submitted for this Congress.

Lay Days, Prestongrange: It was agreed that an interview with the Managing Director be Sought on this question at which the Secretaries and Local Committee would be in Attendance, and a report of the result made to the Board.

Loanhead & Roslin: The Surface Workers at these two Branches are nearly all Members of the Association, and for Some time have been pressing for an advance of Wages, and on Tuesday the 3rd inst. a Mass meeting of both Miners and Surface Workers was held at which it was carried unanimously That a Minimum Wage of not less than 4s. per day for all able bodied Surface Workers be demanded and if refused Steps be taken to enforce the claim. The Agent for the Company having been approached promised to consider the Matter but had now written to Say that with the exception of five men whose wages he had raised to 4s. per day no further advance could be given. The Board unanimously recommend that the claim of the Surface Workers at these two Branches be Sustained and requests that the Branches will at once respond to the General Secretary if they approve of Measures being adopted to enforce it, even to the extent of Stopping the Collieries.

Proof Copies of the Annual Report having been in possession of the Delegates Since last Meeting No change was proposed, and the Secretary was instructed to have it printed and issued to the Members in the Usual Manner.

³ At the special conference, Robert Smillie, president, MFGB, said miners were 'bitterly disappointed' that despite all their efforts during the past year 'to secure a little measure of justice for a large body of badly treated people' by negotiation, the coalowners nationally and in some districts, including Scotland, had refused to meet with them to discuss surface workers' wages. The conference resolved by 96 votes to 28 that if the miners failed to get satisfaction a further conference be called soon to consider the question further. *MFGBAR, 1914: Report of Special Conference, 19 and 20 March, 7-80.*

Arniston Colliery: A Motion from this Branch to revise Standing Order No. 4 was after discussion allowed to lie on the table.

Bankpark: This Branch requested that Some assistance be given to its Local Fund and a grant of £1 was made.

Carberry: The Secretary was instructed to again write Mr William Stein, late Secretary of this Branch, requesting him to comply with the request Made in a former letter And to report to the Wages Committee. The Delegate was also to enquire into the payment of a Funeral Claim that had been paid, to have it refunded if not in order.

Elphinstone: This Branch Made application for assistance towards its local fund and a grant of £2 was given.

Loanhead: A claim by three Workmen against Mr Wm Millar for wages Said to be due was remitted to the Branch Committee and the parties affected to try to adjust the Matter, failing which the Committee to report its decision to the Board.

Niddrie: A claim to Funeral Allowance on the death of Mr Frederick Bennet was made, but refused on the ground that he was not in full benefit.

Newbattle: This Branch requests that one or other of the Secretaries be present at any meeting held by the Branch. While this could not be laid down as a rule that could be carried out in practice it was left with the Branch to arrange with the Secretaries for their attendance when necessary. A Claim to 10s. by the Joint Committee of this Branch was passed for payment.

Penston: This Branch forwarded a Motion to the last Meeting, Viz., That the Miners of Mid & East Lothian take a week's holidays during the Edinburgh and District Trades Holidays. The Board agreed to Submit the Matter to the Branches without any recommendation, with a View of obtaining the opinions of the Members on the general question of holidays.

Prestonlinks: A Matter requiring investigation having arisen at this Colliery it was remitted to the Local Committee and the Assistant Secretary to deal with and to report.

Rosewell: The question of dealing with Non Unionists at this Branch was remitted to the Branch Committee and the Secretary with powers.

Wallyford: This Branch Submitted suggestions re. the Bills for intimation of Meetings, Which was remitted to the Secretary to consider and report.

Woodhall: A question re. the flat rate by Doctors for Dependants was put by the Delegate of this Branch and a reply given.

Special Notice to Branch Secretaries and Treasurers: All the Money collected from the Members and in the Branch Treasurer's possession at the date of a Financial Board Meeting Must be remitted to the General Treasurer at Such Meeting. No Sum is to be retained to meet any contingencies Such as Funeral claims, etc. Upon any Funeral Claim being made that cannot be met by the Local Treasurer owing to his cash having been Sent to the Board, Such claim can be met by

a remittance from the General Treasurer upon application to the Secretary. Secretaries of Branches are requested to forward all Funeral Claims to the General Secretary at least one day prior to the Board Meeting. The attention of Local Committees and Treasurers is directed to Rule 29 re Funeral Claims and only to pay claims under Such Rule, and where any Claim is doubtful remit Such claim to the Board for Consideration and decision.

Testimonial to General Secretary:

The President requested the Secretary to retire from the Meeting and in his absence Submitted the following circular to the Board for consideration:

'Dalkeith, 3rd February 1914—Testimonial to Provost Brown: In view of the approaching close of Provost Brown's term of office a Committee has been formed for the purpose of raising a fund to present him with a Testimonial as a mark of the high esteem in which he is held by all members of the Community and as a recognition for long and faithful Service rendered both to the Burgh of Dalkeith and to the County of Midlothian. Provost Brown has for many years given ungrudging Service in all public matters with a total disregard to his own Convenience and interest. Mr George Jack, S.S.C, Dalkeith, who has agreed to act as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, will be pleased to receive and acknowledge Subscriptions. The Subscription list will close on the 31st March 1914. In name of the Committee: James A. Todd, Ormisbank, Chairman; Robert Inch, M.D., Gorebridge, Vice Chairman; George Jack, S.S.C., Dalkeith, Hon. Secy & Treasurer.'

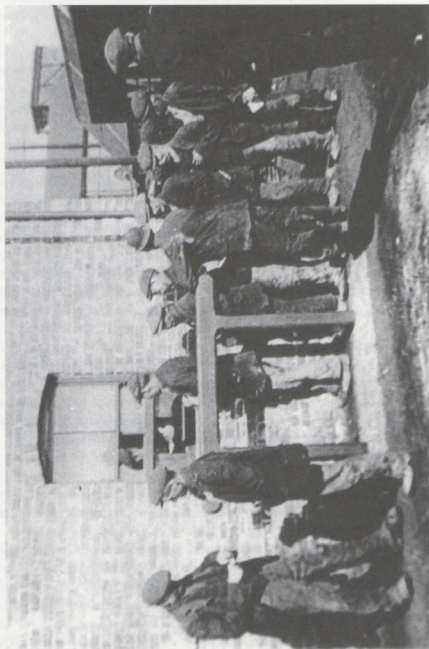
The Chairman Stated that he had learned that the Scottish Miners' Federation and other Mining Districts of Scotland were taking the Matter up. The Board after due consideration recommend that the Branches identify themselves as the Mining portion of the Community with the proposal and that local Committees be empowered to give Members, who may desire to do so, an opportunity of Subscribing to that effect. [Signed] Andrew Clarke, Chairman.

17th March 1914

A Wages Committee Meeting was held today. Present: James Ormiston, Vice President, Wm Falconer, Treasurer, John Main, James Thomson, Colin Allan, John Gordon, Andrew McGill, John Ferguson and the two Secretaries.

Loanhead: The Secretary read a letter by the Agent of this Company in which he insisted that the Surface Workers' Wages question Should be a general question and not confined to Loanhead & Roslin Collieries; After which The Committee agreed unanimously to press for the advance claimed by the Surface Workers of the Two Collieries, Viz., Loanhead & Roslin.

Thomas Scott's Case: The Secretary reported that Dr Knight, having acted as a Witness in this Case, had rendered an Account for £5.5.0. to the Law Agents, which was considered to be more than could be obtained from the Dependants or would be allowed by the Auditor. It was agreed that payment be deferred



Miners being paid at Lady Victoria colliery, Newtongrange, n.d. (Courtesy of Scottish Mining Museum, Newtongrange.)

until further enquiry was made into the matter.

Quigley's Case V. Brown: The Law Agents intimated that they intended to reduce their fees in this case by one third, Making the Sum payable £62.12.7.

The Committee recommend that 2s.6d. per Meeting be paid to the President, Vice President, Messrs Peter O'Toole & James Thomson for meetings attended and addressed by them on the question of increase of the Contribution and [for] train fares.

The Chairman read a Circular by the Executive of the Scottish Miners' Federation Executive, Signed by Messrs Smillie & Robertson, President and Vice President, Intimating That the Executive recommended That a donation of £50 be made on behalf of the Scottish Miners' Federation to the testimonial being raised to The Secretary, and recommending The Districts Comprising the Federation to consider the matter as Districts. The Wages Committee approved of the recommendation by the Executive regarding The grant of £50, and by a Majority agreed to recommend that the Board representing the District make a grant of £20 to the testimonial fund.

11th April 1914

A Board and financial Meeting was held today. The Minute of Meeting held on 7th March was read and adopted on the Motion of James Thomson Seconded by John Gordon. The Minute of a Wages Committee Meeting held on the 17th March was read and approved of on the Motion of Colin Allan, Seconded by Andrew McGill. The recommendations contained in the Minute were approved of by 12 Votes to 6, on the Motion of David Johnstone, Seconded by Peter Scougal, against an Amendment by James Hoggan, Seconded by Richard Scott, That the recommendation re. a grant of £20 to the testimonial fund to the general Secretary be not approved of.

Recommendations: 1st. That 2s.6d. per Meeting and train fares be paid to those Members of the Wages Committee who took part in the Series of Meetings lately held. 2nd. That Certain fees charged by Medical Practitioners upon appearing as Witnesses or advising in Cases of Compensation be enquired into with a View to Modification. 3. Testimonial to Provost Brown—The Executive of the Scottish Miners' Federation having taken up this Matter and recommend that the Federation devote £50 to the fund and request that the respective Districts Comprising the Federation also recognise the Services of the Secretary at this time, The Wages Committee recommend that the Mid & East Lothian Miners' Association give a donation of £20 to the fund.

Messrs Peter O'Toole and Andrew McGill reported on two meetings of the Edinburgh and District Trades Council attended by them. The report was accepted.

Ballot re. Increase of Contributions: This Vote resulted in 4005 Voting against and 3799 Voting for an increase of the Weekly contributions from 3d. to 6d.—

Majority against 206.

Bathing at Mines: It was agreed that 100 pamphlets on this question be got at a Cost of 5s.⁴

Expenses taking Ballot: It was agreed that 4s. per 100 Members be paid and further Consideration to be given in Special Cases, on the Motion of Colin Allan, Seconded by Richard Scott—Against an Amendment by John Main, Seconded by Peter O'Toole, That only 4s. per 100 be paid. The extra allowance amounted to 29s. in all, Viz., Penston 4s., Wallyford 16s., Polton 2s., Smeaton 2s., Bankpark 2s., and Roslin 3s.

Scottish Trades Union Congress: It was agreed that one Representative attend this Congress at Kirkcaldy on April 29th & 30th and 1st and 2nd May, Mr Colin Allan being appointed.

The Secretary intimated that the claim by the employers for a reduction of Wages of 1s. per day would be dealt with at a Meeting of the Conciliation Board to be held on Friday the 17th inst. with Lord Balfour of Burleigh as Neutral Chairman.

The Assistant Secretary reported on Mr Alexr Noble's claim to Compensation to the effect that in the opinion of the Law Agent it could not be Substantiated, but before abandoning the Case it was agreed that further enquiry be made into Certain points raised.

Surface Workers' Wages, Loanhead & Roslin: The Secretary reported that this question had been taken up by the Scottish Miners' Federation as there were 1033 Members involved; and after Considerable Correspondence, in which the Shotts Coy requested that the question Should be dealt with by the Mid & East Lothian Coalowners' Association and giving assurance that that body would deal with it, The Executive advised that Such procedure be adopted, while reserving the right to take Action on behalf of Loanhead & Roslin Branches, failing the Matter not being Satisfactorily Settled as Suggested. But with the understanding that if it Should become necessary to take action on behalf of Loanhead & Roslin Branches alone a Ballot of the Members of these Branches be taken before Stopping the Pits. The Board approved of the above course of procedure.

Doctors & Workmen's Dependents: The Secretary intimated that the representatives of the Scottish Medical Association had requested that a Meeting be held by them and the Workmen's representatives to consider a proposed revision of the flat rate lately Settled, and that the Matter was being attended to by the Executive of the Scottish Miners' Federation. It was also agreed that the Workmen employed at Udston Collieries, Smeaton Collieries and Bankpark—Such Collieries being outwith the Coalowners' Association—Should See to Some

⁴ The pamphlet was almost certainly one by Katharine Bruce Glasier (1867?-1950) and Thomas Richardson, MP (1868-1928), published, n.d., by the Women's Labour League, London. Robert Smillie had commended the pamphlet at the MFGB annual conference in Oct. 1913, and 50 copies of it had been distributed by the MFGB. *MFGBAP, 1913: Report of Annual Conference*, 170.

arrangement being come to with the Doctors attending their dependants with regard to the issuing of Cards for Selection of Doctors.

Lay Days, Prestongrange: Intimation was made that following an interview between the Managing Director and the Colliery Committee and the two Secretaries, certain proposals were to be submitted for the consideration of the Workmen. The report was accepted.

Arniston: The Delegate from this Branch raised the question re. the Motion Submitted by the Branch at last Meeting, but the former decision was upheld.

Bankton Colliery: This Branch favoured a Week's Holidays during Trades Holidays in July.

Bankpark: It was reported from this Branch that the Manager had recently requested the men to work on the recognised Idle Saturday, and upon their refusing to comply with his request he threatened to withhold their wages due. The Board thereupon decided that on no account Should the recognised working policy be departed from, and Should Similar Action be taken in future by the Manager The men are to refuse to Comply and to look to the Association to recover their Wages or to take whatever Steps may be necessary to protect their interests in Conforming to the policy of the Association.

Carberry: The Delegate for this Branch reported the progress being made with the Non-Unionists and the matter was left with the Colliery Committee and the Assistant Secretary to complete the Work.

It was decided that Mr Wm Millar must return the Funeral Claim of £4 paid to him in error.

It was decided that Action be taken against Mr Wm Stein to recover the Money collected by him on behalf of the Association.

Mr James Thomson reported on Ambulance League proceedings and intimated that he desired to retire from the Committee of that body.

Elphinstone: This Branch reported in favour of one week's general Holidays during The Trades Holidays in July. The Delegate for this Branch, being engaged upon Work that required to be attended to continuously, The Board approved of the Statement made by him on the Subject.

Loanhead: The Delegate for the Colliery intimated that his Committee were of opinion that Thos Millar, Contractor, was entitled to pay Messrs Patrick Curran, Wm Morrison and Robert Nisbet the Money due to them as Wages and that the parties were in favour of Arbitration. It was agreed that the Secretary write Mr Millar on the Matter requesting payment or, Should he claim Arbitration in Accordance with Rule 23, to Make the necessary deposit and to name his arbitrator.

Niddrie: A report regarding one of the Collectors at this Colliery was given to the effect that the matter had been put into the hands of the proper authorities to deal with certain defalcations. It was decided that Robert Borthwick Should be paid funeral allowance for his child.

Penston: This Branch is in favour of a Week's Holidays during Trades Holidays in July.

Polton: The Delegate for this Branch reported that the Case of Messrs Temple & Walker re. Coleman and Archibald had been adjusted.

Prestongrange: It was decided that a Certificate obtained by Mr James Boyle for Beat Knee could not be paid for, he having only had his name put on the Books to become a Member during March last.⁵

Prestonlinks: The Assistant Secretary Submitted a report regarding the matter remitted to him at last Meeting and the Case was remitted to the Wages Committee to Consider and report, and also to deal with the relationship existing between the Branches and the Central Board.

Rosewell: It was decided that, upon the promise given by the Management at this Colliery re. the Non-Unionists not being fulfilled, power be given to the Secretary and the Committee to Stop the Colliery until those outside Joined. A grant of £2 towards the local fund of this Branch was made.

Wallyford: This Branch is against taking a Week's Holidays in July.

Membership per Monthly Returns: Full Members 9388, Half Members 586,⁶ Widows 97, Superannuats 117, [total]: 10,188.

24th April 1914

The Wages Committee met today. Present: Provost Ormiston, John Main, James Thomson, John Gordon, John Ferguson, Andrew McGill, Colin Allan, Wm Falconer, Treasurer, and the two Secretaries.

The remit from the Board Meeting of the 11th inst. was dealt with and the following recommendations Made: 1st. That Branch Secretaries Send a Quarterly Report to the Board, as may be approved of by the Board. 2. That the General Secretary and Assistant Secretary be empowered to at any time examine the Books and Members' Pence Cards of any Branch. 3. That Branch Committees arrange for Members' Pence Cards being compared with Collectors' Books at least once in three months. 4. That a Balance Sheet (where one is issued by Branches) be Sent to the General Secretary, and where a Statement is made by Branches only Such Statement, Signed by the Auditors, be Sent to the General Secretary. 5. That Branch Secretaries make intimation to the General Secretary when the Branch Audit is due, and that the Board has power to appoint an Auditor to audit or inspect the Books of any Branch. 6. Recommend that Badges be adopted for the Members of the Association, a Common Badge for the Whole Association but with the name of each respective Branch Added.⁷

Adam Gillies' Case: The Secretary reported That Mrs Gillies had accepted

⁵ Beat knee: bursitis, or a throbbing and swelling of the knee. Kerr (ed.), *Mining Terms in Fife*, 6.

⁶ Half-members were boys or youths under 16, who paid half an adult weekly contribution. *Rules of the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association, 1889*, rule 8.

⁷ A badge worn in the buttonhole made it easier to identify anyone not in the union.

the Sum of £170 upon the death of her Son Adam, who was killed at Vogrie Colliery—Injured 20th December 1913, Died 22nd.

The Secretary was instructed to Write Wm Millar, 2 Old Craighall, Musselburgh, to request that he refund the Sum of £4 paid to him in error by the Treasurer at Carberry upon the death of his Mother.

9th May 1914

A Board & Financial Meeting was held today. The Minute of the Meeting held on the 11th April was read and adopted on the Motion of Peter Scougal, Seconded by Colin Allan. The Minute of a Wages Committee Meeting held on the 24th April was read and adopted as Correct on the Motion of John Ferguson, Seconded by Provost Ormiston.

The recommendations of the Wages Committee regarding the relationship between Branches and the Board were after discussion recommended to the Branches for final approval as printed and in the hands of delegates, with the exception of the clause relating to Badges. This question after discussion and explanation was recommended to the Branches for approval on the Motion of John Hamilton, Seconded by William Foster, and that they be as recommended, Viz., To be County or Association Badges with Branch names added. Agreed to on the Motion of Peter Scougal, Seconded by John Hamilton.

Testimonial to Secretary: The recommendation of the Board on this question was carried by a financial vote by 5821 against 4320.

Scottish Trades Union Congress: Mr Colin Allan gave a lengthy report of the proceedings of this Congress which was accepted, and the thanks of the Board accorded him.

Wages Question: The Secretary gave a report of the proceedings at the Conciliation Board, dealing with the claim by the Coalowners for 1s. per day of a reduction, and the Award of the Chairman granting a reduction of 3d. per day.⁸

Bankton: A request from this Branch to permit of a Certain Section to be worked Continuously was disallowed as no good grounds were Submitted to Justify Such being done.

Carberry: The Delegate from this Branch reported on the good progress made with the Non-Unionists, The Branch being nearly Solid.

Loanhead: This Branch wished the Board to consider a proposal to change the System at present in practice where a double Shift is worked to obviate the necessity of Saturday afternoon work every alternate week, but Which would do away with the recognised Idle Saturday once each fortnight. The Board decided that under no Circumstances Should The Idle Saturday once a fortnight be departed from but rather to aim at That Saturday each week Should be an idle day, Viz., to try to establish a Five Day Week.

⁸ The reduction took effect from 28 or 29 Apr., according to varying pay days, and made the new wage 7s.3d. per shift. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 30 Apr. 1914.

It was decided That unless the wages due by Mr Thos Millar to Messrs Curran, Nisbet and Morrison were paid, or arbitration proceedings claimed by Mr Millar proceeded with, The Secretary instruct the Law Agent to take proceedings to recover the Wages due.

Niddrie: A Suggestion by this Branch that a person be chosen who would Act as Deputy Checkweigher for all the Branches, and when not employed as Such to be engaged in Organising work on behalf of the Association, was negatived.

Polton: The Secretary was instructed to deal with the claim of Messrs Archibald against Messrs Walker and Temple.

Prestonlinks: Upon request a grant of £2 towards the Local Fund of this Branch was Made.

Rosewell: The Non Unionist question at this Colliery was left With the Local Committee and General Secretary, with full power to take any action necessary.

Week's Holidays: While most of the Branches are in favour of a Week's Holidays, There is a want of unanimity as to the time when they Should be taken, which prevents Such an event being put into practice this year; and the Board would Strongly recommend the Branches to try to reconcile the differences that exist regarding the fixing of a time for taking Summer Holidays, with a View to having it general not only in Mid & East Lothian but all over Scotland.

28th May 1914

A Special Board Meeting was held today.

The Chairman explained That Owing to a conference of the British Miners' Federation having been called To deal with The Two questions of The Daily Citizen Newspaper and The Number of Constituencies to be contested under the auspices of Labour, The Executive of the Scottish Miners' Federation had called a Conference for Friday to instruct Delegates on these two questions—hence the necessity for calling a Special Board Meeting to decide whether The Association was to be represented and, if So, To instruct the delegates on the matters at issue. It was then agreed that we be represented, on the Motion of Peter Scougal, Seconded by Colin Allan, and that one delegate, Viz., Colin Allan, and the Two Secretaries attend.

Constituencies: The Executive of The Scottish Miners' Federation having approved of the recommendation of the British Miners' Federation, Viz., That the allocation of Seats to be Contested be as follows, Viz., The Sitting Members and Yorkshire 2, Lancashire 1, Northumberland 1, Durham, Scotland & South Wales 2 each, and That North East Lanark and Mid Lothian be recommended as the two Seats to be Contested in Scotland. Colin Allan Moved, Seconded by Peter O'Toole, That we approve of The recommendation of the Scottish Executive. Andrew McQueen Moved, Seconded by John Main, That we do not ap-

prove of the recommendation with regard to Mid Lothian being one of the Seats. For the Motion 15 Votes, For the Amendment 4 Votes. The delegates were instructed to raise the question of organising The constituencies chosen in the interest of Labour.

The question of whether the Miners' Federation of Great Britain would take at once £50,000 in Debenture Shares in the Daily Citizen was next considered and on the Motion of Peter Scougal, Seconded by John Gordon, It was agreed to instruct our delegates to insist on the Members of the Federation being Consulted by Ballot before being committed to any further financial liability.

It was agreed on the Motion of Peter Scougal, Seconded by John Ferguson, That we adopt the Badge System and order a double Set coloured Red & Blue from the Samples Submitted by the Ivorine Coy Ltd., 34 Gt Titchfield St, London, at 33s. per Thousand.

The Secretary reported on the Wages question To the effect That the employers had made a claim for a reduction of 1s. per day and that the realized value of coal for April was 8/10-77 per ton.⁹

The Doctors having asked That the flat rate of 1½d. and 2d. per week be increased to 2d. and 2½d. per week, it was agreed to consult the Members regarding the proposal.

Surface Workers, Loanhead & Roslin: In View of The Lothian Coalowners having refused to Meet the Workmen's Representatives on this question, The Secretary was instructed to again take the matter up with the Manager of the Shotts Coy and to request that he meet the deputation appointed by the Scottish Federation Executive to deal with that question.

It was agreed That we be represented by one delegate at the British Miners' Federation Conference & The Wallyford delegate was chosen.

Alexr Noble's Compensation Claim: The Assistant Secretary gave a report on this case and was instructed to press the claim to the extent of taking Action at law.

13th June 1914

A Board and financial Meeting was held today. The Minute of the Meeting held on the 9th May was read and adopted on the motion of John Ferguson, Seconded by Peter Scougal. The Minute of a Special Board Meeting held on the 28th May was read and adopted on the Motion of Peter Scougal, Seconded by Richard Scott.

It was decided to credit Niddrie Branch with the Sum of £21.16.0. collected from the members but unaccounted for by the Collector and to enter Such Sum in Contra Account in expenditure Accounts.

⁹ The net average realised value of coal at the pithead, 'taken in conjunction with the state of trade and the prospects thereof', was considered in determining miners' wages. Arnot, *Scottish Miners*, 100. See also above, p. 123, n. 6.

The recommendations re. The Quarterly Returns by Branch Secretaries were approved of as printed, and auditing and inspection of Pence Cards agreed to, but Substituting Six Months for three for inspection of Pence Cards.

National Union for Scotland: All arrangements were made for taking a ballot of the Members on the proposed National Union.

Medical Attendance for Workmen's Families: It was agreed to Submit the claim of the Doctors for an increase of the flat rate for attendance on the families of the Workmen by $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per week to the Branches but to intimate that in the opinion of the Board the rate already paid, Viz., $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per week without Medicine and 2d. per week with Medicine, was Sufficient.

Wages Question and Four Days Policy: The Board unanimously approved of the recommendation of the Executive of the Scottish Miners' Federation in advising the Scottish Miners to adopt a Working Policy of Four Days per week and made arrangements for ascertaining the opinion of the Members on the question. Peter Scougal and the two Secretaries were deputed to attend the Conference to be held on the 23rd inst. to hear reports from Districts on the Matter.¹⁰

Reports were given of the Scottish and British Miners' Conferences by Thos McNeill and the Secretaries.

Daily Citizen Newspaper: The question of whether The Miners' Federation of Great Britain Should at once take £50,000 of Debenture Shares in this paper was remitted to the Members for consideration and arrangements were Made to ascertain the opinion of our Members, The Board advising against the proposal.

Annual Conference Scottish Miners' Federation: All resolutions for this Conference to be in the hands of the Secretary on or before the 1st July.

It was intimated that at the Conference of the Scottish Miners' Federation held on the 10th June it had been decided that the two Seats to be contested in Scotland, Apart from West Fife, Should be North East Lanark and Midlothian.

Intimation was made that Checkweighers' Insurance falls to be renewed on or before the 1st July.

¹⁰ The coalowners' claim for a further 1s. reduction in wages threatened, if granted, to reduce Scots miners' wages to 6s.3d. per shift—well below the minimum of 7s. established as its policy by the MFGB at its annual conference in Oct. 1913, when a resolution to that effect, moved by Robert Brown, Scottish Miners' Federation, had been carried. Brown had written the MFGB EC on 30 May 1914 reporting the coalowners' claim and asking the MFGB to consider the question and give Scots miners their advice. At an MFGB special conference on 3-5 June called to deal with this and other issues, Robert Brown reported on the looming wages crisis in Scotland and asked for MFGB support to ensure wages were not reduced below the 7s. per shift agreed minimum. The special conference resolved to refer the whole question to the MFGB EC 'with power to take any action they deem desirable, and, if necessary, call a further conference at an early date, with a view to taking national action on the matter'. The Scottish Miners' Federation sought to restrict output by the four days' working week policy in order to maintain existing wage levels. *MFGB AP, 1913: Report of Annual Conference, 7-10 October, 191-5; MFGB AP, 1914: EC Minutes, 2 and 5 June, 13-14, Report of Special Conference, 3-5 June, 94-7; Glasgow Herald, 11 July 1914.*

It was left with the Wages Committee to deal with the Badges upon receipt of Same from the Firm.

Loanhead and Roslin Surface Workers' wages: It was remitted to these two Branches to Say whether they desired a ballot to be taken of all the members employed at the two Branches to decide whether they would come on Strike to enforce the claim of the Surface Workers, and if So desiring The General Secretary to arrange for the Ballot being taken.

Compensation Cases: Joe Gill's, Thos Peacock, Pat Shanlin's and Patrick Scott's cases were reported on and the Secretaries advised thereon.

Non Unionism, Wallyford Branch: It was agreed that the local Committee of this Branch be requested to ascertain the position with regard to the non-Unionists, and That the President, Vice President and the two Secretaries be appointed to Cooperate with the Committee to take whatever action may be deemed necessary to deal with the case.

Edinburgh & District Trades Council: Mr Peter O'Toole gave a report of the proceedings of that body during the past month Which was accepted by the Board.

Ambulance League: The Treasurer was instructed to pay the Annual Supscription to the League, and it was agreed That the President and Vice President be the representatives to that body.

It was agreed to put the Electric Light into the Office, House & Board Room.

Carberry: A request by this Branch re. Hugh Allan was not acceded to. A Complaint re. travelling underground from Certain Sections of the Pit was remitted to the Assistant Secretary to enquire into.

Prestonlinks, Mr Thos Faugman's Case: It was decided that this man being a Member of The Fife & Kinross Miners' Assn, Upon any Action at Law requiring to be taken on his behalf It Should be at the instance of the Fife & Kinross Miners' Assn.

Roslin: A request by this Branch to take certain action with regard to deductions for foreign material was not approved of by the Board.

3rd July 1914

A Wages Committee Meeting was held today. Present: Provost Ormiston, C. Allan, J. Ferguson, A. McGill, J. Main, J. Gordon, Wm Falconer, The general Secretary and Messrs McNeill & Adams from Wallyford Branch.

The Chairman Submitted a report of the Meeting of the Wallyford Branch held on Saturday the 20th June at Which the Members of the Association agreed by resolution That unless all those employed at the Wallyford Branch were members of the Assn by the 4th July Action would be taken on the following Monday. Reports were given of interviews with the Management on the question and after obtaining the Views of Messrs McNeill & Adams on the Situation It was agreed That The Members of the Branch be balloted on the question of

Stopping work until all those employed at the colliery were members of the Union, And that the Secretary advise the men on that policy at the Meeting to be held on the following day, Saturday the 4th July.

Patrick Scott's Case: The Law Agents having advised against proceeding further with this Case The Committee recommend That we abide by their recommendation.

Samuel Muir's Case: The Secretary was empowered to obtain a Special Medical Certificate in this case.

Joe Gill's Case: The Secretary was empowered to obtain a Special Certificate in this case.

The Committee arranged for the Badges being Sent out to the Branches and to instruct the Local Committee to Supply financial Members with one each—The definition of financial being Payment of full entry money and less than twelve weeks in arrears. The Secretary to issue a leaflet instructing committees, as also a leaflet to be given to each Member informing them, That the Badges are the property of the Association and must be returned to the Branch Secretary by any Member leaving either the Branch or the District and that no clearance Card be given to any member unless the Badge is delivered up to the Secretary.

It was agreed That the Vice President attend at the meeting of the Wallyford Branch the next day along with the general Secretary.

18th July 1914

A Board and financial Meeting was held today. The Minute of the Meeting held on 13th June was read and adopted on the Motion of John Gordon, Seconded by Michael Ward. The Minute of a Wages Committee Meeting held on the 3rd July was read and adopted on the Motion of John Main, Seconded by Colin Allan. The recommendations made were also approved of after a Vote on a Motion by John Hamilton, Newbattle Branch, against The recommendation That only those having their full entrance fee paid and less than twelve weeks in arrears are to be Supplied with a Badge.

Messrs Adams, Stewart and Durie were present as a deputation from Wallyford Branch, and informed the Board that upon examination of the Books of the Branch They had discovered defalcations to Such an extent that they had given the local Treasurer in charge of the Authorities. After hearing a full Statement by Mr Adams The Board unanimously endorsed the Action of the Local Committee and deputed the President and Assistant Secretary to Cooperate with the Local Committee to make a complete investigation into the Books of the Branch and all Monetary transactions as far as the Same could be ascertained.

The question of non Unionism at Wallyford was reported on and the Matter was left with the Local Committee and the Committee appointed by the Board at last meeting to deal with.

The Secretary reported on the Wages question and the proposed Working policy of Four Days per Week and intimated that a Conference of the British Miners' Federation was to be held at Southport on the 21st inst. to deal with the Scottish question. He outlined a policy that he thought Should be put before the Conference re. the Action to be taken upon the Scottish Coalowners carrying out their threat to lock out the Miners—Which the Board endorsed and appointed The Assistant Secretary and William Foster to attend the Conference, The one representing the Scottish Federation, The other this Association. In View of its having been decided to observe Monday the 27th inst. as the first idled day in putting the Four Days per Week Policy into operation The Secretary was instructed to issue Bills to all the Branches to intimate the Same.¹¹

Motion by Newbattle Colliery: That it be remitted to the Branches to decide whether Rule 18 Should be amended by Substituting the word 'fortnight' in Second line by the word 'Week', and in third line the word 'fortnight' to read 'Week', Thereby making the Contributions 6d. per week for full Members and 3d. per week for Half Members. Branches to report on this at next Board Meeting.

Annual Conference, Scottish Miners' Federation: It was agreed that three delegates and the Secretaries attend the Annual Conference beginning 18th

¹¹ Robert Brown, on behalf of the Scottish Miners' Federation, duly gave a full report on the situation in Scotland to the MFGB special conference. The highest average daily wage as a result of the boom in trade since 1912, he said, had been 7s. 6d. The realised pithead value of coal in Scotland for May had been 8s. 7.44d. per ton, yet the coalowners wanted now to pay a wage of only 6s a day, whereas in the original agreement with the miners some years earlier a 6s. wage was paid on the basis of a realised value for coal of 6s. 11.23d. The Scots miners, Brown said, refused to believe the coalowners' argument that the cost of producing coal had increased by 1s. per ton within the past four years because of the passing of safety and other legislation. The coalowners, he said, had refused to open their books to the miners to show their profits and had said they would never do so as profits were the prerogative of the owners. The Scottish Miners' Federation had consequently decided that, if as the coalowners argued prices were falling because of bad trade, they would follow a policy of working a four day week, to maintain wages. In Fife, where fourteen days' notice had to be given, the miners had already given it (elsewhere in Scotland miners worked on a day's notice only), so the first idle day would be 27 July. The Scots coalowners had responded by informing the Scottish Miners' Federation 'that wherever the policy of four days a week is instituted by the men there would be a general lock-out throughout the coalfield'. After Robert Smillie from the chair had strongly supported the Scots miners' position, and other non-Scotts delegates said the Scots had to be defended against wage cuts but that their adoption of a four-day policy was open to question, the special conference carried by 426-259 votes a resolution from the MFGB EC that 'this Conference agrees that if the Scottish miners' wages are reduced below [7s.] they shall be entitled to immediately cease work, and be supported in accordance with Rule 20, and that a ballot of all the members of the Federation be taken without delay on the question as to whether they are in favour of taking joint action in accordance with Rule 21; and if a general stoppage is ultimately necessary, a Conference of the Federation will be called for the purpose of formulating claims of a general nature which have been dealt with by previous conferences, and which would apply to all districts of the Federation.' The special conference also resolved, this time unanimously, that the MFGB EC be left to consider appointing a deputation to support the Scottish Miners' Federation in the negotiations with the coalowners. *MFGB AP, 1914: Report of Special Conference, 21 and 22 July, 12-71.*

August in Edinburgh.

National Union: The Ballot on this question is as follows: Mid & East Lothian—For National Union 6876, Against 1059, Majority in favour 5817. Total Vote of Scottish Miners: For 64,876, against 8,614, Majority 56,262.¹²

Compensation Cases: The following Cases were reported on and left in the hands of the Agents—Sam Winn, Ormiston, Richard Peaston, Rosewell, Richard Peacock, Carberry. The Secretary intimated that he had Secured a Sum of £215 for Thomas Walker as a dependant on his brother Robert, who was killed at Niddrie Colliery. He also intimated That Robert Gordon's case (Wallyford) had been won. Patrick Scott's, Rosewell: The Law Agents having advised against an Action being raised in this case it was agreed to abide by their decision. Patrick Shanley's, Prestongrange: It was agreed not to take any action in this case in View of the Medical report obtained and the evidence forthcoming.

Newbattle Branch: Mr James Kerr's Case was referred back to the Local Committee to arrive at a decision after enquiry into the allegations regarding the changes in the Method of working at Lingerwood Pit which led to the Checkweigher's Services not being required.

Carberry: This Branch requested that the Firemen's Wages be dealt with to Secure the ruling rate. The Matter was remitted to the Assistant Secretary to enquire into. The Assistant Secretary reported on the remit from last Meeting re. the Travelling Road in one of the Sections at this Colliery. The report was accepted. A claim to a day's wage from his employer by Adam Reid was considered not to be Justified.

Roslin: A complaint was made by the delegate from this Branch to the effect that at the neighbouring Branch of Loanhead The Men had worked on the recognised idle Saturday and that their Action had Caused friction to arise between the Management of Roslin Colliery and the Men owing to their refusal to act as the Men at Loanhead had done. The Loanhead representative Stated that the Men were idle on the Wednesday for a children's day and had worked on the idle Saturday in lieu of Same. The Board desire to put on record That the idle Saturday once in two weeks Should be Strictly adhered to, and that where and when annual events occur They should be observed as holidays on their merits, and on no account Should the fixed idle Saturday be departed from to meet such Contingencies.

28th July 1914

A Special Board meeting was held today.

Patrick Scott's Case, Rosewell: This man having called at the office along with Patrick Flynn, Whom he produced as a Witness to his Statement of having been injured on the 28th February last, and made Certain representations of What had occurred on that date It was agreed That notwithstanding the decision

¹² See above, p. 175, n. 33.

of the former meeting re. Scott's case That the Law Agent be requested to interview Flynn & Mack to ascertain whether their evidence could help to establish a claim to Compensation.

Appeal from Bristol Miners' Assn: It was agreed to make a grant of £20 towards the relief fund of Bristol District towards the relief of those & their families Who have been Cast idle owing to the closing down of the pits.¹³

It was agreed That the request by Wallyford Branch be granted, Viz., To empower all the Members of the Association to withdraw their labour after Monday the 3rd August until all employed underground and eligible to become Members had Joined the Association, and That the general Secretary intimate the Same to the Manager.

In View of the Four days per week working policy having been departed from following the decision of the British Miners' Federation Conference held at Southport, and that a Conference of the Scottish Miners' Federation was to be held on the 29th inst. to consider what Action Should be taken to protect the Wages against further reduction, It was agreed That the President, Vice President and two Secretaries attend and to Support The policy of refusing to go before a Neutral Chairman on the employers' claim—on the Motion of Peter Scougal, Seconded by Andrew McGill, against an Amendment by John Ferguson, Seconded by John Gordon, That we Support the principle of going before the neutral chairman. Motion 8 Votes, Amendment 6 Votes. All agreed to make the Motion unanimous.¹⁴

The question of whether action Should be taken to enforce the decree for £72.4.8. against Andrew Quigley, Wallyford, was considered, but it was agreed to await the issue of the Action re. the non-Union question at Wallyford before taking proceedings to enforce the decree.

22nd August 1914

A Board and financial Meeting was held today. The Minute of the Meeting

¹³ William Whitefield, secretary of the Bristol Association, told the MFGB EC on 8 July that 1,384 full members and 177 half-members out of a total of 2,361 in the Association had been thrown idle by the closure of two collieries, one of which had lost £5,021 the previous year, though the other had made a profit of £8,400. The London, City and Midland Bank, which had been financing the company that owned the pits, had closed down the collieries without notice and all the men's compensation payments had been stopped, though except in a few cases the miners had been paid their wages. The Bristol Miners' Association was paying the men 7s. 6d. a week out of a local fund that would last not more than three weeks. The MFGB EC granted £500 to the Bristol distress fund. *MFGB AP, 1914: EC Minutes, 8 July.*

¹⁴ An MFGB EC deputation of five, including Thomas Ashton, secretary, W. House, vice-president, and William Brace, MP, attended a meeting with the Scots coalowners in Glasgow on 31 July, when Adam Nimmo, chairman of the coalowners' association, said 'they would never agree to a 7s. minimum'. The meeting was adjourned for a week, and by the time the two sides met again the Great War had broken out. 'The owners stated that in view of the position in the country they had decided to withdraw the demand for a reduction in wages but reserved to themselves the right to raise it again when they deemed it opportune ... but it must be clearly understood that the Scottish owners did not recognise the principle of the 7s. minimum.' *MFGB AP, 1914: EC Minutes, 11 and 12 August.*

of 18th July was read and adopted on the motion of Peter Scougal, Seconded by John Main. The Minute of a Special Board Meeting held on the 28th July was read and adopted on the Motion of Peter Scougal, Seconded by John Main.

The President and Secretary gave a report of Conferences held in Connection with the wages question and the present position of the wages question to the effect that the employers, in view of the present National Crisis, had agreed to postpone their claim for a Reduction in wages in the Meantime. The Report was accepted.

Mr Peter Scougal was appointed a member of the Wages Committee in the place of James Thomson, retired.

Claim against A. Quigley: This Matter was deferred until another Meeting.

It was agreed re. Members who have been called up to Serve as Reservists or Territorials or as Soldiers having enlisted That during the War No Dues Shall be exacted from them, and that they Shall be entitled to all the benefits of the Association Accruing to them as Members.

Prince of Wales Relief Fund: It was agreed to make the following recommendation to the Branches with regard to the above fund, That at all the Collieries where four days or More work per week is obtained Each Worker pay One Penny for each day worked towards the fund as a levy. Surface workers and boys to pay half. (Note: For Three days Nil: Four days 4d., Five days 5d., Six days 6d.)¹⁵

The Secretary intimated that the Executive of the Scottish Miners' Federation had advised that the Annual Conference be postponed to a date to be afterwards agreed upon and that notice had been received that the British Trades Union Congress had been postponed.

Newbattle Colliery: The Motion by this Branch re. rule 18 was under the present Circumstances delayed.

It was decided, in View of Claims for Funeral Expenses having been paid by Several Secretaries Without a Certificate being produced of any ordinary Interment having been required or to have taken place of Still Born children, That the attention of Secretaries and Treasurers be directed to Rules 29 and 30. If not observed, those failing to act in Accordance with the Rules referred to, Shall be held responsible for any Claims paid not Justified by rules, and to urge upon local officials in any doubtful Case to defer payment until the matter has been considered by the Board.

The Secretary Submitted a Scheme regarding Clearance Lines, Funeral Benefit Lines, and the Method to be observed in keeping the local Accounts, Which was approved of and instructions given to provide Specimens for the approval of

¹⁵ The Prince of Wales Fund was launched on 7 Aug. It was intended to relieve 'distress arising from the war among the soldiers and sailors ... as well as for industrial distress'. The Prince of Wales had sent telegrams to lords lieutenant, provosts, mayors, and other responsible local authorities throughout the United Kingdom asking them to open subscription lists to the Fund. On its first day £250,000 was subscribed. *Glasgow Herald*, 8 Aug. 1914; *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 13 Aug. 1914.

the Board at next Board Meeting When the whole Matter re. Auditing, etc., be further considered.

A Claim for £2.5.0. by Carberry Branch for distributing Badges to Members was refused on the ground that upon any extra work having been required to do so The remuneration Should be paid from the Local fund. The Same decision ruled with a Claim by Newbattle Branch, as also an Account for 3s. for distributing Bills which falls to be paid locally.

Compensation Cases: Messrs Peacock & Scott's Cases were reported to have been Satisfactorily Settled. Mr Patrick Scott's, Rosewell: It was decided that the decision arrived at on the 18th July in this Case be reaffirmed, Viz., that no Action be taken. Samuel Muir's Case, Ormiston: It was agreed that this case be put before our Law Agents for Action to be taken if in their opinion there was any hope of Success.

Wallyford: A report was given of the Successful termination of the threatened trouble over the Non Union Question at this Branch, and the Committee appointed by the Board and Local Committee were thanked for the Services rendered in Connection with the Matter. In View of the time lost by Several Members of the Local Committee and the extra work involved it was decided that an account of Same be rendered to the General Secretary, to be Submitted to the Board for final Consideration, pending which the Treasurer Make an advance to meet present requirements.

Carberry: Re. The Firemen's Wages case. The Matter was left with the Assistant Secretary to deal with.

House of Muir: It was agreed that George Wilson of this Colliery be permitted to pay up his Arrears instead of having to rejoin.

Newbattle: Re. James Kerr's Case—Upon a Statement being made by the Branch delegate, it was agreed that no further procedure be taken.

Penston: This Branch requested that a grant be made to the Members but under the present Circumstances it was refused.

Prestonlinks: A Claim to removal expenses on behalf of Mr Thos Gillies of this Branch was refused on the ground that no Victimisation had taken place as per Rule 27. The question of work being done on Pay Saturdays and Sundays at this Colliery was left with the Local Committee and Assistant Secretary to deal with in View of Certain arrangements come to with the Management.

Roslin Colliery: A Claim to funeral allowance upon the death of his Wife by Mr John Kirkby was not allowed.

17th September 1914

A Meeting of the Executive Committee was held today. All the members were present.

The Secretary intimated That the Procurator Fiscal having requested that in Connection with the charge against Thomas Harvey, lately Treasurer of the

Wallyford Branch, A Certified Auditor Should be appointed to examine and audit the Branch Books and to prepare a Statement Shewing the defalcations, Mr James C. Cessford, Public Auditor, was appointed, who after a Complete Audit of the general fund, The Local fund and Checkweigher's fund, found That a Sum Amounting to £41.17.11. was due The Association fund by Mr Harvey. The documents prepared and vouched by Mr Cessford were Sent to the Fiscal, who had acknowledged receipt. The Executive Committee recommend to the Board to grant £4.4.0. as a fee to Mr Cessford as being considerably less than the professional fee for the work done and that a Public Auditor be appointed to Audit Branch Books.

The Executive Committee agreed to recommend to the Board to adopt a form of Pence Card Serving for one year Similar to those in use by the Lanarkshire County Union, and That the Ledgers used by Branch Secretaries be recast So that one page would Serve for Six Months' payments instead of twelve Months' as at present [and] Which would provide a Space for a number as well as the name of each Member and a Money column at the Margin for the totals of the Six Months' payments; Also that the local Treasurers be Supplied with two Small Ledgers, one for the general fund and one for the Local fund, Clearance lines, funeral claim forms and Beat Knee Certificates, to be numbered and named for each Branch.

The Secretary intimated That the Manager at Newbattle Colliery had requested the Workmen to permit the Company to pay wages fortnightly instead of weekly during the War, Owing to the official Staff at the Colliery having been depleted owing to enlistment. The local Committee along with the general Secretary having considered the matter were of opinion That to enable the Workmen to express their opinion on the request a Ballot would be the best Means to adopt. The Executive Committee Considered That, to avoid Complications and possibly Similar requests by other Managers, as a Committee They could not Commit themselves to Such proceedings but left the Matter with The Branch Committee to deal with locally as was by them Considered Necessary.

26th September 1914

The Board met today. The Minute of the Meeting held on the 22nd August was read and adopted on the Motion of Colin Allan, Seconded by John Gordon. The Minute of a Wages Committee Meeting held on the 17th inst. was read and adopted as Correct on the Motion of John Ferguson, Seconded by John Main.

The Board approved of the recommendations of the Committee in general, with the proviso that the Ledgers be so arranged that both pages be utilised to obviate the rewriting of Members' names during the year, and that an Audit by a Public Auditor be made at least once a year; and The Secretary was instructed to ascertain from Mr J.C. Cessford the probable cost for auditing all the Branch Books—Moved by Nicholas Young, Seconded by Colin Allan.

The Board agreed on the Motion of Peter O'Toole, Seconded by William Foster, to pay J.C. Cessford a fee of £4.4.0. for auditing the Branch Books at Wallyford to enable a proper Statement to be put into the hands of the Procurator Fiscal re. The charge against Thomas Harvey.

Prince of Wales Fund: The reports bore out that at all the collieries except one Subscriptions were being deducted at the Colliery offices from the Workmen's Wages towards the fund ranging from 2d. to 6d. per week.

The Board agreed to cooperate with other bodies in urging upon the government to put those who May be killed or wounded at the present War on the Same footing as they would have been under the Workmen's Compensation Act had they been killed or injured at the employment they were engaged at when Joining the Army.

The Delegates for Newbattle and Prestongrange Collieries were instructed to enquire and report to Next Board Meeting re. The Funeral claims paid for Still Born Children to Messrs Denis McCroarty and Robert Moffat respectively.

Inspection of Mines Under Section 16 of Mines Act, 1911: The Delegate for Carberry asked whether the expense incurred for inspecting on behalf of the Workmen would be paid for from the General Fund, When after discussion it was agreed that this question was of Such importance that full consideration was required as to the best Method of Carrying out the powers granted to the Workmen under Section 16 of the Mines Act, 1911, and Sub Sections 2 & 3 Thereof. It was agreed to delay arriving at a decision, and if any particular grievance existed at any Pit Meantime re. Travelling Roads or Ventilation, upon the request of the Local Committee the General Secretary would put the Matter before His Majesty's Inspector of Mines.¹⁶

The following Compensation Cases were reported on: Thos Veitch, Bankpark—Settled; Hugh Smith, Loanhead—Settled; Wm Douglas, Loanhead—in Law Agent's hands; Jas Porteous's Reps—Case being dealt with; George Livingstone, Penston—Case being dealt with; Chas Bell's Reps, Woodhall—Case being dealt with.

¹⁶ Section 16 of the Act provided that workmen employed in a mine might appoint at their own cost two of their number or any other two miners with not less than five years' experience of underground work, to inspect every part and aspect of the mine at least once a month, accompanied by the owner, manager or one or more of the other mine officials. The workmen's inspectors were also allowed by the Act to go with anyone acting as a legal adviser to, or with a mining or electrical engineer appointed by, the workmen to any place in the mine where an accident had occurred and to make any inspection needed to establish the cause of the accident. Sub-section 2 obliged the owner and manager to facilitate inspection by the workmen's inspectors, and the manager had to produce to them on demand the certificates of all firemen, examiners or deputies employed in the mine. The workmen's inspectors had to make and sign a full and accurate report of the result of the inspection in a book to be kept for that purpose at the mine, and the owner or manager had to send a copy of the report to the divisional mines inspector. Sub-section 3 warned owners and managers that any failure to conform to these requirements would render them guilty of an offence under the Act.

Elphinstone: This Branch requested that a grant be made to assist the local fund but it was agreed to postpone consideration of the request until a Statement of the Work done and the Condition of the Local fund was produced.

Newbattle: That Branch requested that the expense of taking the Ballot above referred to be paid by the Board, but this was disallowed. It was agreed that a claim by Mrs Knight, Newbattle, to Funeral Allowance for a child be paid.

Wallyford Branch: The expenses re. Nonunionism, including 18s. per Board Committee, amounted to £4.17.0. and were passed for payment.

21st October 1914

The Board met today. The Minute of the former meeting of the 26th September was read and adopted on the Motion of Peter Scougal, Seconded by John Gordon.

A letter from Mr J.C. Cessford, Certified Auditor, was read in which he proffered to audit the Branch Books of the Association for a fee of Thirty guineas for an Annual Audit. After due deliberation it was agreed on the Motion of John Gordon, Seconded by John Ferguson, To defer coming to any decision on the Matter in the Meantime, but to put into operation the Method approved of by the Board on the 9th May, Viz., to appoint Auditors on behalf of the Board, to attend and Audit the Branch Books. It was agreed That Branch Secretaries be requested to close all Branch Accounts for the year on Saturday, 19th December, and have the Audit taken to that date, from which all Accounts for the following year will begin. The following were appointed Auditors on behalf of the Board: John Gordon, Peter O'Toole, William Falconer, James Ormiston, Nicholas Young, Thos McNeill, William McNeill, Peter Scougal, John Ferguson, and Colin Allan.

Scottish Miners' Federation Conference: It was agreed that Four Delegates and the two Secretaries attend the Conference at Glasgow on the 22nd inst., Viz., James Hogg, Andrew McGill, John Hamilton & Louis Affleck. The Delegates were instructed to Nominate Mr Robert Smillie as President, Mr John Robertson as Vice President, Mr James Cook as Treasurer,¹⁷ and Robert Brown as Secretary. It was agreed that the representatives to the Conference urge That the National Union be not put into operation for a period of three Months at least and that in Such interval The Districts have an opportunity to consider and decide the position of the respective Agents regarding remuneration, &c., and that a Special Conference be called for that purpose.

Funeral Claims, Still Born Children: The Board decided that in the two cases of Mr Robert Moffat, Newbattle, and Denis McGroarty, Prestongrange, an ordinary interment had not taken place as per Rule 30 and that the money paid in error in each Case be refunded.

¹⁷ James Cook (1878-1955), secretary, 1895-1917, Clackmannanshire Miners' Association, 1936-44, Fife, Clackmannan and Kinross Mineworkers' Association, and, 1939-44, National Union of Scottish Mine Workers.

It was agreed that a representative on behalf of the Association attend The Conference of the British Miners' Federation in London on the 27th inst. for the Appointment of Officials and Mr Alexander Wood, Woodhall Colliery, was appointed.

Labour Fund: The Treasurer intimated that he had received from Mr Wm Adamson, Treasurer of the Scottish Miners' Federation, the Sum of £28.12.11. to be devoted to local representatives' expenses on local public bodies. The question of formulating a Scheme was left over for future Consideration.

Thos Harvey's Case, Wallyford: It was intimated that the Sheriff had put Mr Harvey on probation on the following terms, Viz., That £15 be paid at once and the balance of £26.17.11. be paid within one year, the end of probation period.

Mr Joseph Gill's Case: A question was asked re. the delay in Connection with this Case and the Secretary explained that he was referred by Mr Gill to Dr Fowler for a Certificate regarding his condition, and that though having both written and phoned Dr Fowler, who promised to Send the Certificate required, he had not yet done so and that he had Notified Mr Gill of the delay.

Arniston: A claim to funeral Allowance upon the death of Mr Adam Kitchen was refused, as he was not in benefit as a Member.

Carberry: A grievance by the Brushers at this Colliery was reported, Viz., That they were made to attend and do work on Sunday Nights Which they Considered could be done on Friday Nights. It was decided that the Assistant Secretary would along with the Committee make enquiry into the Matter.

Elphinstone: A grant of £1 was made towards the Local fund of this Branch.

Loanhead: It was agreed that a grant of 30s. be made to Mr James Skead of this Branch in lieu of Funeral Claim.

Newbattle: The Delegate from this Branch Moved That the decision of the last Board Meeting refusing to pay the expenses of the Ballot be rescinded. The Previous Question was Moved by John Main and Seconded by Peter Scougal and Carried.

Ormiston: The Assistant Secretary reported upon an examination of the Pence Cards and a Collector's Book at this Branch that he had Made and the Matter was deferred pending the return of the Collector, who had enlisted.

Prestonlinks: A request by this Branch that Collectors be provided with Fountain Pens at the Association's expense was refused.

Wallyford: It was agreed to credit the Members of this Branch with the Sum of £41.17.11. that the Treasurer, Mr Thos Harvey, failed to account for but which had been paid by them.

Friday, 27th November 1914

A Board and financial meeting was held today. The Minute of the Meeting held on 21st October was read and adopted on the Motion of Peter Scougal, Seconded by John Ferguson.

The chairman Made touching reference to the death of Mr James Thomson who as a Delegate had for Several years attended the Board and whose Services were highly appreciated both by his Branch and the Board and were invaluable to the Association. The Chairman also expressed his great regret at having to intimate That Mr Peter O'Toole, also a Member of the Board and whose opinions and Services were highly appreciated by the delegates, had met with a Serious accident Necessitating the amputation of one of his legs. The Board endorsed the Sentiments expressed by the Chairman and instructed the Secretary to Convey to the relatives and Mrs Thomson and Mr O'Toole their heartfelt Sympathy.

Mr Joseph Gill's Case: It was agreed That Professor Caird be requested to examine Mr Gill and to certify as to his Condition, with a view to proceedings being taken to recover Compensation Should the report Justify Such Action being taken.

Chas Bell's Repr.: The Secretary was instructed to Accept the Sum of £87.10.0. tendered in this Case.

The Secretary reported on the decision of the Scottish Miners' Federation Conference held on the 22nd October. The report was Accepted.

It was agreed that we be represented at a Conference of the National Union of Scottish Mine Workers Association to be held on Monday the 30th inst. by four Delegates from the following Branches: Ormiston—Mr John Main, Roslin—Mr N. Young, Prestongrange—Mr John Ferguson, and the Vice President & Secretaries.

The Secretary intimated that he had invited all Local Secretaries and Treasurers to the Office and Made Arrangements with them for the introduction of New Pence Cards, Ledgers, Clearance Lines, &c. The Board approved of what had been done and agreed that 2s.6d. as Allowance and train fare be paid to the Local Officials for attendance, and left it with the General Secretary and Assistant along with the Local Officials to Cooperate in introducing the new System and to arrange for the Audit of Branch Books. Local Secretaries to intimate to the General Secretary When they are in readiness for the Auditors.

Mr Robert Burnside was appointed Auditor in place of Mr Peter O'Toole.

A letter from Mr John Rennie re. Saltcoats Convalescent Home was allowed to lie on the table.

It was agreed that Vogrie Colliery be admitted as a Branch of the Association.

Edinburgh & Districts Trades Council: Mr Robert Burnside was appointed as a representative to this Body in place of Mr Peter O'Toole.

Prince of Wales National Relief Fund: The Representatives to the Conference on Monday were instructed to Support the question of full enquiry being made into both the Subscribing to the fund and its disbursement.

Members at the War and funeral claims: It was agreed that the Claims of

those killed at the War or died of Wounds would be paid to the legal representatives or dependants, and in Cases where there may be More than one Authority must be given by the others to the person claiming and the necessary documents produced by him or her before the Money can be paid over.

A claim to funeral allowance on the death of Mr Robert Mooney was disallowed.

Mr Robert Sclater, who was injured at Loanhead Colliery on the 19th September 1913 and put his Case into the hands of a Law Agent, Succeeded in obtaining a favourable Settlement on the 26th February 1914. His Compensation was Stopped on the 23rd September last and he made a request that the Association Should take up his Case. The Board agreed to take up the Case as from this date and instructed the General Secretary Accordingly—on the Motion of Mr Nicholas Young, Seconded by Mr Robert Connor, Against an Amendment That it be not taken up, Moved by Mr John Gordon, Seconded by Mr John Main: Vote to Accept Case 11 Votes, Against Acceptance 9 Votes.

It was intimated That Nominations for Officials were due Next Month.

In View of The National Union of Scottish Mine Workers having been formed as from the 31st October and Rule 13 laying it down that in conjunction with other things Uniformity of Members' Contributions Shall be observed, The Board after deliberation Agreed on the Motion of Mr Nicholas Young That the Members be advised to begin to pay 6d. per Member per week on and after the first pay day in February 1915 to be in accordance with Rule 13 of The National Union, And that the Secretary draft a Circular to be issued to the Members on the question.

Patrick Kelly having been Killed at the War it was agreed to pay the funeral claim To the legal representative, if any, upon the proper authority being [submitted] by the claimants.

Penston Branch: The following question was put by the Delegate of this Branch—Would the Board permit the Men to work on the recognised idle Saturday during the War? The Answer was No.

Preston links: The Delegate from this Branch reported on Negotiations being carried on regarding a Dirt Scale between the Workmen's Committee and The Management, with Mr Young advising. It was left in their hands to Complete the Arrangements.¹⁸

Smeaton: A Complaint regarding Medical Attendance on the Workmen's Dependants at this Branch was remitted to the Local Committee and the General Secretary to try to adjust.

Wallyford: A funeral claim put forward by the Branch was refused, The Deceased, Andrew Fulton, not having been Six Months a Member. The Local Committee of this Branch having had to attend at the Audit of Mr J.C. Cessford, The

¹⁸ The dirt scale represented deductions made by colliery managements from the miners' tonnages, to allow for stone or other rubbish filled into the hutches or tubs with the coal.

Board recommend that they be remunerated for their Attendance from the Local Fund.

12th December 1914

A Special Board Meeting was held today.

It was agreed that Mr Joseph Gill's claim to Compensation be remitted to a Medical Referee upon both parties agreeing.

The Board decided That in the event of any person having enlisted who had Joined the Association but had not paid the full entrance fee nor been Six Calendar Months in Since paying the first instalment of the entrance fee, the balance of the entry money would be accepted and full Contributions for the full Six Calendar Months, After Which Such person or persons would be entitled to benefit as clear Members.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman & Mr Ferguson Submitted a report of The Conference held at Glasgow on the 30th November to consider the report of the Special Committee regarding The Wages to be paid to Agents. The President, as one of the Members of the Wages Committee, explained The Report and recommendation of that body in detail as it had been presented to and adopted by The Conference, And Suggested That The Members of the Board Should express their opinions on it With a View either to recommend it to the Branches or otherwise. After Considerable discussion Mr Robert Burnside Moved, Seconded by Mr John Main, That no recommendation be made. The Chairman Moved, Seconded by Mr William Foster, That the Board recommend The report to the Branches. The Motion not to recommend was Carried by 12 Votes to Nine. The question of whether The report had to be dealt with as a Whole and either accepted or rejected as a Whole was considered and an understanding arrived at That The Several points contained in the report Could be Submitted and the opinions of the Branches taken thereon to ascertain The items approved of, if any, and the items objected to.

26th December 1914

A Meeting of The Board was held today. The Minutes of Meetings held on the 27th November and 12th December were read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Peter Scougal, Seconded by Mr Robert Burnside.

Compensation Cases: The General Secretary reported on 21 Cases that had been dealt with by The Law Agents Most of Which had been Successful and others upon which a decision had not been given. Two Cases, Viz., Mr Alexr Peaston and Mr Alexr Noble, were held by the Sheriff from the Medical evidence led Not to be due to an injury. Other 265 Cases had been dealt with by the Secretary, all from Newbattle, Polton, Rosewell, & Ormiston Collieries—These companies being insured outwith the Scottish Coalowners' Mutual Defence Insurance Assocn—and compensation Secured in every case, also a large

number of cases from other Collieries dealt with Jointly by both Secretaries in which compensation had been Secured.

Joe Gill's Case: It was agreed to put this Case into the hands of The Law Agents.

Sam Muir's Case: the Law Agents intimated that owing to Mr Muir having Signed a final discharge There was in their opinion no hope of Succeeding in the claim; but before abandoning the Case the Board decided to obtain the opinion of Counsel and instructed the Secretary Accordingly.

Mr Sam Lorimer's and David Patrick's Cases were reported on by the Secretary both of whom had only paid part of the entrance fee to Join the Association, When it was held that Rule 38 debarred any one from claiming that the Association Should be responsible for Such Cases. A question arose in Connection with Sam Lorimer's case upon [which] the Secretary was instructed to Make enquiry, Viz., What was the legal position Under The Workmen's Compensation Act with regard to a Minor Signing a final discharge.

It was agreed that Robert Burnside, Arniston, and David Johnstone, Smeaton, Attend a Conference at Glasgow on Tuesday the 5th January to deal with the recommendation of the Committee appointed to consider and report on the Wages to be paid to the Agents. They were instructed, in Accordance with the reports from the Branches, to oppose the recommendation and to advance Counter proposals on all points embraced in the Circular issued by the Committee, Viz., That three pounds per week be the Standard Wage, and Agents Under Said Wage at present to rise to the Standard by Yearly increments and Messrs Smillie & Adamson to retain their present Wage.

A Conference having been called to be held in London on Friday the 8th January re. The Daily Citizen Newspaper, It was agreed that no representative be Sent direct by the Association as a District but that our Delegates to the Conference to be held at Glasgow on Thursday the 5th January (at which the question would be dealt with) Support the recommendation of the Scottish Executive, Viz., To oppose the resolution to be Submitted dealing with the Paper and to hold to the Caxton Hall Conference Resolution, and to instruct the Delegates to the London Conference Accordingly.¹⁹

All the Nominations made were in favour of the reelection of the present Officials, With the exception of one Branch, Viz., Woodhall, Which Nominated Mr Peter Chambers for Vice President. In View of the Nominations it was decided that no further Vote could be taken and that the present Officials would

¹⁹ See above, p. 190, n. 40. The *Daily Citizen* had been struggling financially since it began publication in Oct. 1912. A national trade union conference at Caxton Hall, London, on 7 Mar. 1913 had recommended that all unions contribute 1s. per member per annum for three years to maintain the paper. The MFGB itself had done so, and by Jan. 1915 the Scots miners had paid all five successive levies, amounting to £5,062 out of a total of £29,092 from all MFGB districts. A further £10,000 in shares in the *Daily Citizen* had been taken up by the MFGB centrally. The MFGB were critical of other unions that had failed to carry out the Caxton Hall resolution. *MFGB AP*, 1912, 1913 and 1914, *passim*.

fall to be elected at the February Meeting as per Rule.

The reports from the Branches were unanimous in favour of the Contributions being raised to 6d. per member per week, beginning on the first pay week in February next.

A Motion was tabled by Arniston Branch as follows: That upon any Member requiring to claim Compensation Under The Workmen's Compensation Act or Employers' Liability Act Taking Action on his or her own account and engages a Lawyer to Conduct her or her Case, Such Member or Members cannot after having gone So far afterwards claim that the Association Should take up their Case. It was agreed to defer Consideration of this Motion till next Meeting of the Board.

A Motion from Ormiston Branch was read but found no Support and was allowed to drop.

Upon request, and recommendation of the Auditors in Some Cases, the following grants were made: Polton Branch 45s., Prestonlinks 40s., Bankpark 30s., Roslin 45s.

It was agreed to pay 1s. per hundred to the Local Officials for distributing leaflets re. increased contributions.

19th January 1915

A Special Board Meeting was held today.

Funeral Claims, Ormiston Branch: A claim upon The death of David Hadden, Killed in Action, was considered and instructions given to pay. The Deceased's Pence Card Showed That he was a clear Member at the date he was called to the Colours, and while the Branch Ledger bore out that he was in arrears It was held That the Collector, James Mack, had failed to forward the contributions collected by him.

Funeral Claim, Wallyford Branch: A claim upon the death of Robert Horsburgh was refused on the Motion of William Foster, Seconded by Robert Connor, against a Motion by Peter Scougal, Seconded by David Barr, That it be paid. The Deceased's Pence Card Showed That he had Made no payment Since the 27th March 1914 and was two weeks in arrears at that date.

Compensation Claims: The Secretary read an Opinion by Counsel D.G. Dykes re Sam Muir's claim against the Ormiston Coal Coy Ltd., Which was to the effect That as Mr Muir had Signed a final discharge accepting Three weeks' and one day's Compensation, Such discharge could not be Set aside. The Board Agreed on The Motion of Colin Allan, Seconded by Peter Scougal, Not to proceed further with the Case.

The opinion of the Law Agents was read regarding a Minor Signing a discharge under the Workmen's Compensation Act, Which was to the effect That upon The Father being dead and No Curator being appointed a Minor could Act for himself, and it would only be under very exceptional Circumstances and

involving much loss that any Such discharge could be Abrogated.

Messrs Scougal, Allan, Burnside, Falconer, Ferguson, Gordon, McNeill & Ormiston, Reported on The Audits of The respective Branch Books Conducted by them. The reports were in general Very Satisfactory and The Secretary was instructed to prepare a Statement of the reports regarding each Branch, to be Submitted to the Board at its next Meeting for consideration and to deal with any Suggestion or recommendation Contained in Said reports. It was agreed on The Motion of Robert Burnside, Seconded by Lewis Affleck, That the Sum of 5s. be paid for each Branch Audit. On the Motion of Colin Allan, Seconded by Lewis Affleck, it was Carried to allow Peter Scougal and Thos McNeill 5s. each extra on the representation being made That two meetings were required to Complete the Audits of Carberry and Smeaton Branch Books—Against an Amendment Moved by Wm Foster, Seconded by Robert Connor, That nothing extra be paid.

Each delegate was Supplied with the Second lot of Badges for distribution, arrangements for which was [to] be made at a future meeting, The general understanding being that where payment for distribution was necessary the Branches be responsible for Such from the local funds.

It was agreed that the financial Meeting be held on Friday the 29th inst. at 10 oclock.

29th January 1915

A Board and financial Meeting was held today. The Minute of Meeting held on 26th Decr 1914 was adopted on The Motion of Peter Scougal, Seconded by Colin Allan. The Minute of Special Board meeting held on the 19th January was adopted on the Motion of Peter Scougal, Seconded by Alexr Cuthill.

It was agreed on the Motion of John Hamilton, Seconded by Robert Burnside, That we issue a leaflet to each Member, intimating that the increased Contribution would begin as from The 5th and 6th of February, which ever of these dates fall to be the Collecting day at any of the Branches.

It was carried by 13 votes to 8 That 2s. per hundred be paid for The distributing of The leaflets, on an Amendment by Robert Burnside, Seconded by Thos Bain, Against a Motion by John Ferguson, Seconded by Robert Connor, That 1s. per hundred be paid.

The reports Submitted by the Auditors were very favourable with regard to the keeping of the Branch Books by The Branch Secretaries. But in Several instances it was found that considerable balances were being retained in the hands of Local Treasurers, and in one case the Money belonging to the General Fund had been borrowed to pay grants and other expenses Which, if necessary to be incurred, Should have been provided for out of the Local Fund. The Auditors' Reports were accepted and the Board agreed unanimously that intimation be made to Branch Officials as follows: Contributions—That under no

Circumstances Should the Contributions of the Members, or Money in The hands of Local Treasurers belonging to the General Fund, be used for Local purposes. Treasurers are responsible to the Board for Such Money after coming into their hands, The Branch Committee and Members having full control of money returned to the Local Fund only. Balances—That all the Money in the hands of Local Treasurers at the date of any Financial Meeting Must be forwarded to the Board unless sums under five Shillings.

It was decided that Widows and Members who were retaining their connection with the Association, and whose position was Such that only Funeral Benefit could be obtained, would only be required to pay 1½d. per week. Sick Members on Compensation to pay half Contributions, Viz., 3d. per week.

It was agreed not to decide the Contributions to be paid by Members who worked on The Surface until it had been ascertained what was charged from the Same class of Members by the other Districts in The National Union.

A Circular from the East of Scotland Soldiers' and Sailors' Friends Association²⁰ was read Suggesting that the Miners would take Action with that body towards obtaining money from The Prince of Wales Relief Fund to assist the dependants of Soldiers and Sailors or to withhold Their Subscriptions to that Fund, when it was agreed unanimously to take no Action in that direction, The Board being of the opinion that it was a State obligation to provide for the dependants of Soldiers and Sailors.

Mr Robert Burnside gave a report of The Conference held at Glasgow on the 5th January to deal with the question of Agents' Wages, To the effect that the recommendation of the Sub Committee on that question was Supported by Lanarkshire, Fife & Kinross, Ayrshire, Stirlingshire, Clackmannan and Kirkintilloch (representing 81,350 Members) and Mid & East Lothian and West Lothian were against (representing 13,000 Members). The Report was Accepted.²¹

The Secretary presented the Annual Report as Certified by The Auditors, and was instructed to have it printed and Copies Sent to the Branches for distribution to the Members.

A letter from the Coal Exporters' Assn was read requesting that the Miners agree to depart from the present working policy of Eleven days per fortnight, and to agree to the Suspension of the Eight Hours Mines Act, When it was agreed to unanimously to adhere to the present working policy and to Stringently uphold The Eight Hours Mines Act.

Proposals were Submitted for the Setting up of Joint Committees representing the Miners and The Employers to in the first place consider disputed Claims for Compensation before entering Court with a View to lessening Legal Expenses, and The Board approved of the principle provided That the interests of

²⁰ 'Friends' was incorrect: it should have been Families.

²¹ No detailed information is available in the National Union of Scottish Mine Workers' EC minutes about agents' wages. The EC agreed on 14 Dec. 1914 that agents' wages would be paid every four weeks. NUSMW EC Minutes (in NLS, PDL 45/7).

the Members were preserved.

It was agreed to make a grant of £7 towards The Local Fund of the Niddrie Branch and of £2 to the Penston Branch.

Arniston Motion: The following Motion was carried by 14 Votes to 7, on The Motion of Robert Burnside, Seconded by Colin Allan, Against The previous question, Moved by John Gordon, Seconded by Wm McNeill—That upon any Member requiring to claim Compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act or Employers' Liability Act, taking Action on his or her own account and engages a Lawyer to conduct his or her case, Such Member or Members cannot, upon having gone so far, have any claim upon the Association to take up Such Cases.

Several questions were raised regarding the present rate of Wages and the present price of Coal and the Secretary Submitted the realised prices of Coal for each Month from October 1913 to and including November 1914, and explained the relative position between Prices and Wages under which Wages had been regulated Since the Board of Trade Agreement in 1909.

The Delegate from Bankton Branch asked whether The Son of a Miner who was over Sixteen years of age could enter the Association at a lower fee than 10s. The answer was in the case referred to—no reduction of the fee could be made.

Carberry Branch: The question of inspecting The Locus of an accident was raised by the Carberry Delegate and the matter was deferred till another Branch Meeting.

Loanhead Branch: A question was Submitted from this Branch, Viz., Could Firemen be Members of the Assn and only pay 3d. per week, while other Members paid 6d.? The answer was that Firemen must pay the same as any other underground worker.

18th February 1915

An Executive Committee Meeting was held today. Present: Peter Scougal, John Gordon, Colin Allan, John Ferguson, Andrew McGill, & The Treasurer and Secretary.

It was agreed That The President attend the Conference to be held The following day called by The National Union to Consider The Agenda for a Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain regarding The Citizen Newspaper, Wages, Agreements, Minimum Wages, Surface Workers' Wages, &c. It was agreed that we Support in general The proposals of the Miners' Federation Executive re. the Agreements & Wages, and also Several of the proposals of The Labour Party Executive re. The Citizen Newspaper With a View to if possible keep it going and as Shareholders to Support The reconstruction of The Company, Viz., Newspapers Ltd., to enable other Trades Unions to Subscribe to it from their ordinary funds if they so desired.

The Secretary reported on the dispute at Loanhead Colliery over the Wages of the Surface Workers To the effect That after a day's Stoppage of the whole Colliery and Much Negotiation The Manager had increased the Wages of 16 Men from 3s.6d. to 3s.8d. and 3s.8d. to 3s.10d. per day, The advance being from 1d. to 2d. per day. In view of the fact that 25 men at least, all Members of the Association, were under 4s. per day It was agreed to unanimously to Support the claim by them to be paid at least 4s. per day to each able bodied Adult Worker, And to put the matter before The National Union Executive for its approval to take Action if necessary to enforce it.

In View of the Variation in the train fares between Glasgow and the respective Districts from where The delegates have to travel, The Executive Committee recommend That the uniform rate of 16s. hitherto paid for attendance at Conferences held in Glasgow Should be revised And put on the Same footing as the attendance at Board Meetings, Viz., a delegation fee of 5s. and train fare and The usual allowance for day's wage, being equal to 12s.6d. at present and train fare.

It was agreed That one representative be Sent by the Association To the Conference of the Miners' Federation in London on the 22nd inst., and John Gordon, Bankpark Branch, was chosen.

Prince of Wales Fund: It was agreed That The Board give Special Consideration to This fund at the Meeting to be held on the 27th with a view to Make Some recommendation to the Members on the question.

Private James Potter, who was Said to be a clear Member of the Association, having been killed in Action and had one child alive, It was agreed That The funeral allowance of £4 be paid over to the proper guardian of The child for behoof of Said child in the future.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Board to approve of Shelving being provided for The Accommodation of Books and papers accumulating in the Office.

27th February 1915

A Board and financial Meeting was held today. The Minutes of Board Meeting held on 27th January²² and Executive Committee Meeting held on 18th February were read and adopted.

Mr Robert Burnside, Arniston Colliery, was elected to The Executive Committee in place of Mr John Main, retired.

Prince of Wales Fund: It was agreed to Meantime recommend that the Members pay a Uniform Contribution of 2d. per week to the above fund, Surface Workers and Boys 1d.; and that the question be raised at a Meeting of the National Union Executive as to whether the workers Should Continue any longer paying to the Fund unless other Members of the Community, who have only

²² This should be 29th January.

paid one Subscription, Made a further Contribution to it also. As requested by the Bankton Branch it was agreed that enquiry be made regarding The Sums disbursed from The Fund to the respective Counties.

Mr John Gordon gave a report of the proceedings of a Conference held of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain in London on The question of Wages, Agreements, Minimum Wages, Basic Rates, and with regard to the Citizen Newspaper. The report was accepted and the thanks of the Board accorded to Mr Gordon.

It was agreed That Surface Workers pay 3d. per Member per week and have full benefit for funerals in accordance with rule, and protection against Accident as other Members, but only half Strike allowance.

Loanhead Surface Workers: The Secretary intimated that Messrs John Robertson and Tom McKerrell, representing The National Union, had along with Mr Young and himself had an interview With The Agent, Mr Love, and the Manager, Mr Howieson, regarding The Surface Workers' Wages; and that although a list of 24 Names was Submitted all under 4s. per day (18 of them having only 3s. 6d. per day) No advance Could be obtained, and at a Meeting of the Surface Workers and Miners held after the interview it was agreed that a Ballot of all the Members of The Branch be taken on Monday to ascertain whether they were prepared to Support The Surface Workers in their claim for an Increase of Wages. The Board Unanimously agreed to endorse The Action taken and decided That all the encouragement and Support possible be rendered to ensure a Successful result. It was agreed That the expenses of the three Members of The Loanhead Branch Committee be paid Who accompanied The General Secretary When Meeting The Managing Director, Mr Turnbull, regarding The dispute.

A Motion Sent by Wallyford Branch was held Not to be in order and was allowed to drop, and it was agreed that The General Secretary prepare a Circular to be put into the hands of each Member of the Wallyford Branch, explaining the Situation regarding the raising of the Contributions from 3d. to 6d. per Member per Week and directing their attention to the fact that Members falling in arrears would deprive themselves of all benefits provided for by The Rules of The Association.

Polton Branch: A Claim by Mr John Nugent to Removal expenses was re-mitted to the Branch Committee to Make enquiry and to report.

Bankton Branch: A Claim to the Usual funeral Allowance having been Made upon The death of Mr Andrew Baird, Who was killed at The War, it was decided to pay the claim upon the relatives agreeing to whom it Should be paid.

Elphinstone Branch: It was agreed to pay the usual Funeral Allowance on the death of Mr James Rathen, who was killed at the War, upon it being ascertained that he was a Clear Financial Member when called up to the Colours.

Smeaton Branch: The Secretary was instructed to enquire into an alleged

breach of The Eight Hours Mines Act at this Branch.

Bankpark Branch: The Delegate from this Branch tabled a Motion for Next Board Meeting requesting That the Board Meetings in future be held on a Thursday.

9th March 1915

A Special Board Meeting was held today.

It was agreed That two delegates from Elphinstone & Bankton Branches attend a Conference of The National Union to be held in Glasgow the following day To consider proposals to be Submitted at a Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, to be held in London on Wednesday, regarding making a claim for an advance of Wages all over The British Coalfield to Meet the Extra Cost of living owing to the War. It was agreed that our Delegates Support The proposal That an advance be claimed, and to uphold The attitude of the National Executive regarding The Dispute at Viewpark Colliery in Lanarkshire, and to Support The Committee's recommendations re. agent's expenses.²³

It was agreed That Robert Connor, Loanhead Branch, attend The Conference of The Miners' Federation to be held in London on the 17th inst.

A Conference having been called by The Workers' War Emergency Committee, to be held in London on The 12th inst., It was agreed that our delegates to the National Conference Move that only 4 representatives from that body be Sent instead of 9 as recommended by The Executive.²⁴

It was agreed to recommend to the Branches That the resolution of Meeting held 19th Sept 1912 be rescinded, Viz., That one delegate only be appointed to

²³ The MFGB special conference on 17 Mar. agreed almost unanimously 'That the demand be for an immediate increase in wages to the extent of 20 per cent on the present earnings.' The Viewpark dispute had begun in mid-Feb. and continued for several months, over contracting but more importantly over legal proceedings by the manager to have the checkweigher removed from his position. The National Union of Scottish Mine Workers EC had advised the miners on 15 Feb. to return to work, and had appointed a deputation to meet the manager. But no meeting took place because the manager refused to discuss the issue of the checkweigher. The NUSMW EC resolved on 19 Feb. to take no action pending the outcome of the manager's legal proceedings. By the beginning of Apr. the sheriff had decreed the removal of the checkweigher from the pit bank and interdicted him from entering the colliery premises. The NUSMW EC agreed on 2 Apr. to appeal against the sheriff's decisions. Meantime the dismissed checkweigher was reappointed by the miners at Viewpark under the Eight Hours Act, 1908, and as an inspector under the Coal Mines Act, 1911, and the interdict against him was 'modified accordingly'. On counsel's advice it was decided in mid-June not to proceed with the appeal against the sheriff's original decision removing the checkweigher. A month later the management appealed against the checkweigher's re-appointment and he was interdicted from acting as checkweigher. On another issue the Viewpark miners struck work for a day, but nothing more has been found about the checkweigher's case. *MFGBAP, 1915: Report of Special Conference, 17 March, 17; NUSMW EC Minutes, 15 Feb.-13 Aug. 1915, passim.*

²⁴ The War Emergency Workers' National Committee was established by a national conference of organised labour on 5 Aug. 1914 and was to be 'responsible for safeguarding working-class interests during the "Emergency"'. R. Harrison, 'The War Emergency Workers' National Committee, 1914-1920', in Briggs & Saville (eds.), *Essays in Labour History*, 211-59.

attend Conferences Special or otherwise, That only two Delegates attend The Annual Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, And only Three Delegates attend The Annual Conferences of the Scottish Miners' Federation (Now National Union), And that the Matter of The appointment of delegates be left with the Board to decide, re. Number, in Accordance with the importance of The Conferences to be held.

The Proposals Submitted by the Employers' Mutual Insurance Association for the Setting up of Committees to deal with disputed claims for Compensation were considered, and the terms were Such That it was considered advisable to allow The Matter to drop.

Loanhead Surface Workers' Wages Dispute: The general Secretary reported That The ballot on the question of Supporting The Surface Workers in Their claim to an advance of Wages Showed a Majority of 232 in favour of Action being taken (322 against 90) and after The Work had been Stopped two days, Viz., The 2nd and 3rd inst., An interview had been obtained with The Managing Director, Mr A.W. Turnbull, Mr Harry Love, Agent, and Mr Howieson, Manager, representing The Company, and Mr John Robertson, Mr Tom McKerrell, Mr John Herd and The Secretary, at which a Settlement was effected Whereby 14 Workmen had their wages raised from 3s.6d. to 4s. per day, two to 4s.2d. and other ten raised from 3s.6d. to 3s.9d. and 3s.10d. per day, Which had been accepted by The Surface workers and work resumed the following day.

Joe Gill's Case: A Statement by The Law Agents was read regarding this Case, intimating that in their opinion his action would not be Successful in View of The Medical evidence adduced. It was agreed on The Motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr Thos Bain, That no further proceedings be taken in the Case at Law.

Prince of Wales Fund: The reports were unanimously in favour of The recommendation of The Board That 2d. per week be paid to this fund and 1d. for Surface Workers and boys, and the Secretary was instructed to intimate to the Management of The respective Collieries The decision come to (Penston, Roslin & Loanhead Not Complying).

Rosewell Branch: A claim to funeral allowance was put forward on behalf of James Dyer upon The death of a daughter, but as it was Stated that he was in arrears The Matter was held in Abeyance until a Statement of how he Stood regarding arrears and how they had Accrued was produced from The Branch Secretary.

Niddrie Branch: A funeral claim of £4 having been paid to Robert Gibson, Who had claimed the Same upon the death of his Mother, Upon Making false representations to the Secretary of the Branch, It was decided that upon discovering his Whereabouts Action to [be] taken to recover the £4 or to put the Case into the hands of the authorities.

It was agreed That Branches proceed to collect The Blue Badges and to issue

the Red Badges, and at next Board Meeting the question of a Badge Day would be Considered.

Andrew McGill was reelected to the Wages Committee.

3rd April 1915

A Board and financial meeting was held today. The Minute of The Meeting held on 27th Feby was adopted on the Motion of Mr Peter Scougal, Seconded by Mr Wm Foster. The Minute of The Special Meeting held on the 9th March was adopted on The Motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr John Ferguson.

The Chairman gave a report of the Conference of The National Union held in Glasgow on the 10th March on The Wages Question, and The Secretary reported on The Conference of The Miners' Federation of Great Britain held in London on The 17th March on The Same question. The reports were accepted on The Motion of Mr Peter Scougal, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan.

Prince of Wales Relief Fund: Intimation having been Made That The Management at Prestongrange Colliery were Still deducting 6d. per week from The Workmen's Wages towards This fund, The Secretary was instructed to intimate that The Workmen desired that 2d. per week be deducted and 1d. from Surface Workers and boys, as per Circular that was issued on the 10th March.

Funeral Claims: A claim by Robert Graham was not granted, he being over five Months in arrears. A similar claim by James Dyet was also refused. It was agreed That The funeral Allowance upon the death of Mr Thos Park be paid to his Mother, and That The claim be paid on behalf of James Potter. In both Cases The Members had been killed at the War.

It was agreed to remit to the Branches to rescind The resolution of The 19th September 1912 regarding The Delegations to Conferences and to leave the Matter open to enable appointments to be made in accordance with the importance of each Conference or Congress to be held.

A Motion that The Board Meetings be held on Thursday instead of Saturday by Mr John Gordon was defeated.

The whole question of the Working Policy was raised owing to intimation having been made that Six days per week was being worked at Ormiston Branch, When it was decided that the Secretary write to the local Committee of Ormiston Branch to request that the usual idle Saturday once every two weeks be Strictly observed, and upon any assistance being required to carry out The Policy Such would be forthcoming. The Working policy at one of the Pits at Prestongrange was also raised, When after a long discussion It was carried by 12 Votes to 6 on The Motion of Mr Robert Burnside, Seconded by Mr David Johnstone, That The Method of working as described at The Pit referred to was not a Violation of The recognised Working policy—Against an Amendment by Mr Peter Scougal, Seconded by Mr Thos Bain, That it was.

Mr Peter Scougal gave notice of Motion for Next Meeting That The whole

question of The payment of Delegates be considered with allowances for Train fares, dinners and &c., and also that Some basis be laid down regarding how [a] delegate Should be paid whose Branch was at work while he was attending a Board Meeting, and The date of Board Meeting being The recognised idle day of the Branch.

It was agreed That the Local Committees at the Branches Make arrangements for having a Badge Day by Notifying The Members That on The day appointed They Must exhibit Their Badges So as to Satisfy The Secretaries of their Membership, The general Secretary being instructed to prepare and issue Notice Bills to the Branches for that purpose. It was agreed That The Method of checking on Badge Day be left with The Local Committees to do it as effectively as possible and That The expense incurred be met from The general fund, each Branch to render its account for consideration by the Board.

It was decided that The attention of local Secretaries be directed to The arrangement come to last December, Viz., That The Branch Secretary alone give out Clearance Cards and before any Clearance Card is given The Member desiring it must hand his Pence Card and Badge to the Secretary of his Branch.

Mr John Ferguson intimated that he would raise The question of Whether low paid Men underground Could be permitted to pay a lower contribution than 6d. per week, and a request re. Two old Men employed at Wallyford as Pumpmen to be reported on and considered from The Same Standpoint.

The Question of Contracting at Arniston Branch was left with The Local officials and the Secretaries to deal with.

The Delegate for Penston Branch asked if a Member of The Enginekeepers' Association who had obtained work underground could be admitted to membership of The Association by a Clearance Line from that body. The decision was That he must pay the full Entrance fee of 10s.

Prestonlinks Branch: It was decided That David and John Orr of This Branch Must Join anew, Their clearance lines from Roslin Branch being dated 3rd October 1914. A grant of 39s. was made to the Local fund of this Branch on the Motion of Mr Thos McNeill, Seconded by Mr Peter Scougal, Against an Amendment by Mr John Ferguson, Seconded by Mr Wm Foster, That no grant be given.

Polton Branch: It was decided That in John Nugent's case at this Branch No Victimisation had taken place and That removal expenses could not be allowed.

Wallyford Branch: The Delegate for this Branch requested that The Checkweighers be paid for filling up The forms regarding Output before and during The War, When it was decided That no payment be made.

16th April 1915

An Executive Committee Meeting was held tonight. Present: Provost Ormiston, Aw McGill, Peter Scougal, John Ferguson, Colin Allan, John Gordon,

Robert Burnside, The Treasurer and Secretaries.

The Secretary intimated That a Conference of the Scottish Miners' National Union was to be held in Glasgow on Monday The 19th to consider The Wages question, The Daily Citizen Newspaper, and Wages agreements, and to instruct delegates thereon to attend a Conference of The Miners' Federation of Great Britain to be held on These questions on The 21st and 22nd inst. It was agreed That The Conference to be held in Glasgow being of Such importance the Vice President and Three delegates attend, Viz., Alexr Wood, John Gordon and Robert Connor; and that Wm McNeill, Elphinstone, and The Assistant Secretary attend The Conference of The Miners' Federation of Great Britain in London. It was agreed That our representatives Support The policy of enabling The National Union of Scottish Miners to press a claim for an advance of wages on behalf of The Scottish Miners Under The Conciliation Board, Apart from The National claim, on the ground of The increased Cost of living, in accordance with the increased value in the realized Selling price of Coal.²⁵ Citizen Newspaper: It was agreed That we Support the Motion to Cancel The Caxton Hall resolution That pledged Members to pay 1s. per year towards The Maintenance of The paper, and to Support The latest proposal of 4d. per Member per year being paid.

8th May 1915

The Board met today. The Minute of Meeting held on 3rd April was read and approved on the Motion of Mr Wm Foster, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan. The Minute of an Executive Committee Meeting held on The 16th April was read and approved on the Motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr John Gordon.

The general Secretary gave a report of the Conferences held at Glasgow and London on the Claim for an advance of wages of 20 per cent. He also intimated that the men were working on an advance the amount of which would be fixed next week. The report was accepted and the Action of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain approved of unanimously.

It was agreed that we adopt the Same attitude with regard to the payment of legal expenses to Insurance Companies in unsuccessful Compensation Cases as the other Districts Comprising The National Union of Scottish Mine Workers.

The reports from the Branches following Badge Day regarding the Number of Men employed who were found to be Non-Members of The Union were considered to be very favourable and arrangements were made to insure that all known to be outside the Union would be compelled to join, The Local Committees and Secretary being empowered to adopt whatever means they considered

²⁵ The NUSMW EC agreed on 19 Apr. to decide what action to take 'towards claiming an advance of wages under the Conciliation Board, in accordance with the advance in the realised value of coal', once the MFGB special conference met on 21 and 22 Apr. There the NUSMW EC agreed to delay making a claim for an increase in wages until the MFGB's claim for a 20 per cent increase had been settled. *NUSMW EC Minutes, 19 and 23 April, and 1 May 1915.*

Necessary to attain that end.

The reports from Branches were unanimous in favour of the recommendation by the Board, Viz., That the appointment of delegations be left with The Board to deal with in accordance with the importance of the Conferences to be held.

The question of allowance to Delegates for attending Board Meetings was considered and as the attendance at Such Meetings occupied a full day of from eight to ten hours, It was agreed to recommend that a day's wage of 7s.6d. and train fare be paid for that work, on the Motion of Mr Robert Burnside, Seconded by Mr Robert Connor—Against a proposal by Mr Peter Scougal, Seconded by Mr Thos Bain, That 15s. per day be paid and train fares, and a proposal by The chairman, Seconded by Mr John Ferguson, That 6s per day be paid and train fare as usual.

Messrs Robert Burnside and Andrew McGill gave a report of the proceedings of the Meetings attended by them of The Edinburgh and District Trades Council. The Report was accepted.

The Vice President gave a Report of the Meetings and Competitions of The Lothians Ambulance League, which was considered Most gratifying as The Elibank Shield and all the Badges had been Carried off by the teams from Mid & East Lothian.

It was decided that no reduction of the Weekly Contribution Could be Made to those Members who may be at light work and also in receipt of partial Compensation.

A Motion by Arniston Branch Delegate, Seconded by Mr Lewis Affleck, That a General Meeting be held in Dalkeith to Consider The Contracting System was disapproved of on the Motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr Thomas McNeill; but the Board considered That the Matter was so important to deserve full Consideration and That the attention of The National Union be directed to the question.²⁶

It was decided that intimation be Made to Branch Committees that All Members, either full or half-Members, were entitled to be Supplied with Badges.

Carberry Branch: It was agreed to grant the usual allowance to Mr Fitzpatrick of this Branch, as in similar Cases.

Loanhead Branch: It was agreed to pay the funeral claim upon the death of Mrs Kennedy of this Branch.

²⁶ The contracting system, long a source of grievance with many miners, was one 'where one man has a contract with the company and has a few or several men working under him. He draws all the wages from the company and pays the men who are working with him individually. The workmen never know what the contractor has earned or the rates paid by the company. The system itself creates suspicion as some of these contractors have made huge sums of money at the expense of their fellow workers, and in most cases have done very little work for it. We can say that many contractors are detested even more than some coal owners.' Arnot, *Scottish Miners*, 299. For examples of grievances arising in Midlothian pits from the contracting system, see MacDougall, *Mungo Mackay and the Green Table*, passim.



Three miners at the coal face at Roslin colliery, n.d. (Courtesy of Scottish Mining Museum, Newtowngrange.)

Ormiston Branch: It was left with the Secretaries and Local Committee to deal with Certain Cases at this Branch of breaches of The Working Policy.

Polton Branch: It was agreed on The Motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr Peter Scougal, That a grant of 30s. be made to the local fund of this Branch.

Prestongrange Branch: A Motion by Mr John Ferguson, Seconded by Mr Wm McNeill, That a grant of £2 be made to the local fund of this Branch was defeated on the Motion of Mr John Hamilton, Seconded by Mr Lewis Affleck.

Penston Branch: The question of disposing with an unused collecting Box at This Branch was left with The Local Committee to do the best they could in the Matter.

Roslin Branch: This Branch requested that the Board reconsider The question of payment to the Checkweighers who furnished the returns re. the output from the Collieries before and Since the beginning of the War. But on the Motion of Mr Andrew McGill, Seconded by Mr Wm Foster, The previous question was Carried.

Woodhall Branch: Two Men who were employed at this Branch and who had obtained employment at Ormiston Colliery and Worked one day, returned the following day to Work a day's Notice at Woodhall Colliery and were refused permission to do So, desired to know if they could claim a day's wage from Woodhall Coal Coy in lieu of notice. The Board considered that under Such Circumstances the claim could Not be Sustained.

It was decided that a person over Sixteen years of age who had been employed in the Pit for two years and had not Joined the Union Must pay the full Entrance Fee of 10s.

5th June 1915

The Board Met today. Present also: Jas Ormiston, Vice Chairman, Wm Falconer, Treasurer, Robert Burnside, John Hamilton, Andrew McGill, Robert Connor, Wm Foster, Lewis Affleck, Wm McNeill, John Kerr, John Ferguson, Thos McNeill, Colin Allan, Peter Scougal, Thos Bain, John Gordon, Wm Gordon, Alexr Wood, David Johnstone, David Barr, Alexr Cuthill, Wm Aitken. The Minute of Meeting of 8th May was adopted on the Motion of Mr Peter Scougal, Seconded by Mr Andrew McGill.

The reports from the Collieries regarding the question of Subscribing towards The Belgian Relief Fund were Such That, with a View to Secure uniformity throughout The Branches, The Board recommend that Special Meetings be held of all the Branches, and at those Collieries where the Men are Subscribing two pence per week to the Prince of Wales Relief Fund They be advised to agree to pay one penny to the Belgian Relief Fund and one penny to Prince of Wales Relief Fund; and at those Collieries where no Subscription was now being made to the Prince of Wales Relief Fund The Men be advised to pay

one penny per week to the Belgian Relief Fund. Intimation of the decision arrived at to be at once Sent to the Secretary.²⁷

The Secretary reported on The Wages question and intimated That a claim for an advance was before the Conciliation Board.²⁸

In response to a request by Alexr Paxton for Some assistance, The Board agreed to issue Subscription Sheets to the Branches.

It was agreed That the following four delegates represent The Association at a Conference to be held in Glasgow on Friday The 11th To deal with Complaints by The Political Organisers against the National Executive, Viz., Peter Scougal, Colin Allan, Wm Foster, & Thos McNeill.²⁹

Funeral claims: A claim on behalf of The representatives of George Watt, Killed at The War, was left with the Secretary to make enquiry into certain points arising in the Case.

The Board recommend That The Annual Summer Holidays this year only embrace The Friday and Saturday during The Edinburgh Trades Holidays week, Wages to be paid on Thursday and Work resumed on Monday.

The reports from the Branches gave a large Majority in favour of the Delegates being paid 7s.6d. each for attending a Board Meeting.

The following Motion was tabled by Bankpark Branch of which the Board did not approve: That arrangements be made for having the idle Saturday in Mid & East Lothian on the Same day, and that the Board Meetings be held on The

²⁷ Of several funds for the relief of Belgians, including refugees, the reference here may be to the Belgian Trade Unionists' Fund, for which an appeal had been issued in Oct. 1914 by the Trades Union Congress. Belgian union representatives had been received then by the MFGB as a result of the TUC appeal. The MFGB had granted £1,000 to the Fund, and all its affiliated districts were invited to send subscriptions. But the reference is more likely to be to the Belgian Refugee Fund, from which the NUSMW EC had received a deputation on 10 May. Next day the EC agreed to recommend its affiliated county unions to subscribe one penny per member per week to this Fund 'and towards the relief of the distress existing in Belgium proper'. *MFGB AR, 1914: EC Minutes, 27 and 28 October, NUSMW EC Minutes, 10 and 11 May 1915.*

²⁸ The Scots miners were claiming an increase of 50 per cent on the 1888 basis, equal to an increase of 2s. per day. *NUSMW EC Minutes, 1 June 1915.*

²⁹ Duncan Graham and William Watson (see above, p. 223, n. 30), the two political organisers of the NUSMW, had sought since at least the end of 1914 improvements in their wages and allowances. The EC had increased their wages from £2.11.0. per week to £2.18.0. in Jan. 1915, but declined to increase their allowance of £5 a year for office accommodation and 5s. per night when absent from home on Union business. Toward the end of Mar. the EC had conceded a reiterated request by the two organisers that their wages rise or fall in line with the wages of miners, but it again declined to increase their allowance for office accommodation or their overnight allowance, except to permit them to claim the additional amount charged if they had to put up for a night in a hotel. They were also forbidden to act as miners' union branch delegates (as Graham had recently been elected to do), but any application they made to attend NUSMW EC meetings or conferences was to be considered sympathetically. Early in Apr. the two men had again written to the EC to express dissatisfaction about their wages, allowances and the definition of their duties. It was agreed at the conference on 11 June that the wages of the two organisers be increased by 9d. per day, in line with a recent increase in miners' wages. Graham subsequently wrote to the EC that he did not wish further to pursue his differences with it. *NUSMW EC Minutes, 8 Dec. 1914 to 6 July 1915, passim.*

idle Saturday, and that East Lothian be requested to alter their day.

Niddrie Branch: It was agreed on The Motion of Mr Peter Scougal, Seconded by Mr Alexr Cuthill, Against an Amendment by Mr Thos McNeill, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan—That The balance of the entry money due by Gardiner Jack, who had enlisted prior to his having paid the full entry fee, be accepted to enable him to qualify for benefit.

Smeaton Branch: The Delegate from this Branch desired the opinion of the Board on accepting a person to Membership who had formerly been a Member but had lapsed for three years. The decision was that he must Join Subject to the Same conditions as New Members, Viz., an entrance fee of 10s. and benefits to accrue as per Rule. The Delegate from Newbattle Branch as instructed asked if two Sons of the person referred to and who were over 16 years of Age had been Admitted to Membership at Smeaton Branch under the Conditions applicable to Members' Sons under 16 years of Age, Viz., without paying an entrance fee. The Smeaton Delegate was instructed to enquire into that Matter and report.

Penston Branch: A Complaint regarding The Supply of Firecoal to Workmen at this Colliery was considered, When it was agreed that the general practice throughout the Counties was that Householders only were Supplied with Firecoal at Miners' rates, And that unmarried men who were at the head of the house, owing to the Father being dead or past working, were considered to be householders.

Saturday, 10th July 1915

The Board met today. The Minute of the Meeting held on 5th June was adopted on the Motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr Lewis Affleck.

Mr Peter Scougal gave a report of the Conference held at Glasgow on the 11th June which was accepted.

It was agreed that the allowance for attending a Conference at Glasgow should be the Same as for attending a Board Meeting.

The General Secretary gave a Report of the proceedings at the Conciliation Board in dealing with the claim for an advance of Wages of 50 per Cent on the 1888 basis, to the effect that Sir G. Askwith, The Neutral Chairman, had Awarded 31 $\frac{1}{4}$ per Cent on the 1888 basis and that The National Union Executive had instructed The President and himself to put forward a claim for an advance of 25 per Cent on the 1888 basis.³⁰

It was agreed That Funeral claims only Could be obtained by those Members who had Stopped work and were only paying 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per week.

Intimation having been made through Mr Tom Ashton, Secretary of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, That the Government invited representatives

³⁰ George Askwith, Baron Askwith (1861-1942), a barrister, Chief Industrial Commissioner, 1911-19, Board of Trade.

from all the Branches of The Miners' Unions in Great Britain, also Employers' Representatives, to Meet in London on Wednesday the 21st inst. to deal with the great Crisis in the Coal Trade owing to the War, And that travelling facilities would be provided by The Government and paid for, it was agreed that we be represented in Accordance with the request as part of The National Union of Scottish Mine Workers.³¹

It was agreed That we be represented at The British Trades Union Congress on Monday the 6th September and following days by Messrs Wm Gordon, Bankton, and David Johnstone, Smeaton.

The Board recommend that £2500 be invested in the War Loan at 4½ per Cent and that The decision of The Branches re. this recommendation be Sent to the General Secretary as Soon as possible. Money in Bank at date £4727 at 2 per Cent.

Medical Attendance on Workmen's Dependents: The Board dissented from the recommendation of the Executive of The National Union on this question and Cannot recommend the Members to increase the weekly payments by one halfpenny as proposed.

A letter sent by Mrs Lynch, Niddrie, was read regarding her two Sons who had enlisted, and The Secretary was instructed to write and inform her that neither of her Sons were Members at the time of their enlistment.

Smeaton Branch: It was decided That Mr John Noble at the time of his death was not a Member and that no funeral Allowance was payable.

Bankton Branch: A claim upon the death of Mr Wm Aithie, a Soldier, was left with the local Secretary to adjust, upon agreement being arrived at with the relatives of the deceased with whom he was living when he enlisted. Mr Michael Cassidy having claimed Funeral Allowance upon the death of his child, The claim was disallowed as he was not in benefit.

Carberry Branch: A claim to funeral Allowance upon the death of Mr George Muir, Soldier Member, by an unmarried Sister and also by the deceased's Father, Mr Thos Muir—The Secretary was instructed to ascertain upon what grounds The Sister based her claim in view of The Father being alive and next of Kin and who in his claim Stated that he had been ill and unable for work for the past

³¹ The national conference of representatives of the mining industry, postponed from 21 July, was attended by about 2,500 people when it took place on 29 July, with the Home Secretary, Sir John Simon, presiding. Robert Smillie, president, MFGB, and Lloyd George, Minister of Munitions, were among the speakers. Simon said that as a result of 250,000 miners joining the Forces there was a monthly shortage of three million tons of coal. After stating that the government could suspend by Order in Council the Mines Eight Hours Act, 1908, he appealed on behalf of the government for 'a readjustment or modification of miners' rules and practices, and he gave a pledge on behalf of the Government, Parliament and the country that there should be a complete restoration the moment the danger was past'. Smillie moved this resolution that was carried unanimously: 'That in the opinion of this meeting, representative of the coal mining industry of Great Britain, every effort should be made by owners and workmen alike to secure the greatest possible output of coal in the interest of the nation during the period of the war.' *Glasgow Herald*, 30 July 1915.

twelve weeks.

Newbattle Branch: A claim for Funeral Allowance upon the death of Mr George Thomson, Soldier Member, on the part of a brother and also by a Sister—it was agreed to remit the Matter to Newbattle Branch Committee to consider and report whether either of the claimants were dependants upon the deceased. It was agreed that the usual grant for Such Cases be made to Mr James Hutton and Mr Frank Orr's funeral claim be paid.

Ormiston Branch: A claim to funeral Allowance upon the death of a child having been Made on behalf of Mr Jas Mack, formerly Collector at this Branch, it was decided that no claim on his behalf could be dealt with until he came forward and Satisfied The Local Committee and the Board regarding Matters pertaining to his position as Collector prior to his enlistment.

Penston Branch: A Motion by this Branch Similar to the one Sent by Bankton Branch last Month was allowed to lie on the table.³²

Prestonlinks Branch: Complaints from this Branch were considered regarding The Manager permitting a number of Men to work on days when notice was posted by him that the Pit was to be idle, When it was agreed that upon any Similar occurrence arising in future The Agents upon being apprised would require to deal with it to ensure that all the Workmen got an equal Share of the work obtainable.

Smeaton Branch: The Delegate reported on the Matter referred to at last meeting to the effect That the Sons had been tentatively admitted to membership until the Board decided the position of the father, and that the decision being that he was not a Member The Sons had now to Join as per rule.

The following Subscriptions on behalf of Alexr Paxton were paid: Newbattle Branch £4.2.6., Loanhead Branch £6.3.9., Elphinstone £2.9.1., Wallyford £3.1.0., Polton £1.7.0., Bankton £3.5.3., Woodhall £2.15.6., Prestonlinks £5.2.10., Bankpark £2.11.6., Roslin £1.8.1.—[total] £32.6.6. Expenses incurred collecting—16s. Remitted to Mr Alexr Paxton £31.10.6. Subscriptions 10th Sept: From Carberry £3.8.10., Penston £2.1.0.—[total] £5.9.10. [Minus] Expenses—6s. Remitted to Paxton £5.3.0. Total £36.13.6.³³

Saturday, 14th August 1915

The Board met today. The Minute of Meeting of The 10th July was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr Lewis Affleck.

It was decided that two Delegates represent the Association at the Annual Conference of The National Union of Scottish Mine Workers at Glasgow on Monday the 16th inst. Messrs John Hamilton, Newbattle, and Alexander Cuthill,

³² This seems to refer to the motion about the idle Saturday proposed by Bankpark (not Bankton) branch. See above, p. 314.

³³ The total if these amounts are correct should be £36.14.4. Perhaps the second deduction for expenses should be 6s.10d., not 6s.

House of Muir, were chosen. They were instructed to support the Resolution for holding a Conference every three Months of the National Union, and to Support The reelection of the present Officials; Also that the usual representation to the various Congresses be agreed to. The decision to pay four days to Delegates to London was endorsed.

In view of the action of Several Employers and Workmen regarding the Working policy following The Conference held in London The following instruction was made on behalf of The National Union, Viz., That under no Circumstances Should the recognised Working policy observed hitherto by the various Districts of Scotland be departed from until a Joint Meeting of Coalowners and Miners' Representatives had been held to Consider whether any change was necessary or not and the men consulted on the Matter.

Messrs Robert Burnside and Andrew McGill gave a report of The proceedings of the Meetings of The Edinburgh and District Trades Council To the effect that The Council recommended the Various trades to accept the Union Card of The Members of any Union Upon them finding employment during the War at any other trade than that of which they were members. The Board upon Considering the recommendation decided that it was a question for The National Union and instructed The Representatives to the Annual Conference to raise the Matter there if afforded the opportunity.

It was agreed to pay the following Funeral Claims: £4 to Mr Andrew Selkirk Baird upon the death of his Father Andrew Baird, Soldier; £4 to Mr Thomas Muir upon the death of his Son Mr George Muir, Soldier; £4 to Messrs Henry and John Bridges upon the death of Mr Wm Aithie, Soldier. The Board approved of The decision of the Newbattle Branch Committee that in the Case of Mr George Thomson, Soldier, there were no dependants and that no claim could be paid. A claim to Funeral Allowance by Mr Thos Marr for the death of his child was disallowed as he was out of benefit.

The Assistant Secretary reported on Mr Thos Mansfield's claim to Compensation, and it was decided that no further proceedings be taken in View of the fact that no evidence of an accident could be obtained, and Mr Mansfield was not in Standing as a Member of The Association. The General Secretary Submitted a report of the negotiations regarding the claim to Compensation by The dependants of Mr John Holmes, who died after injury at Rosewell Colliery, and The Matter was left in his hands to decide the future Action in the Matter upon the advice of the Law Agent.

Bankpark Branch: A Resolution from this Branch Similar to the one Submitted by the Same Branch at the Meeting held on 5th June and rejected was allowed to lie on the table.

It was also decided that Resolutions from Branches Sent to the General Secretary Must in the first instance be Submitted to the Board before being put before the Branches.

Carberry Branch: The Delegate from this Branch raised the question of Branch Secretaries being Supplied with Notice Cards to notify Members of their position when in Arrears. It was agreed to consider that Matter at next Board Meeting.

The Delegate from Newbattle Branch Stated that Several complaints had been Made by Contractors and others that they were not being paid their wages each week in Accordance with Section 96, Clause 2, of the Mines Act, 1911, and he was instructed how to Act, Viz., That upon any Complaint being made to the Branch Officials that could not be adjusted by them a Branch Meeting Should be called at which the matter could be put before the Members for their Consideration, And upon the Branch being Satisfied there was a grievance The Branch Committee call upon the Agents to deal with the Matter.³⁴

Wallyford Branch: The Delegate from this Branch intimated that several of those who had been Compelled to Join the Union a Short time ago had again fallen out. The Matter was remitted to the Assistant Secretary and Local Committee to deal with.

18th September 1915

The Board met today: The Minute of 14th August was read and adopted on The Motion of Mr Peter Scougal, Seconded by Mr John Gordon.

National Union Conference: Mr John Hamilton gave a report of the proceedings at this Conference, Supplemented by The Secretary and Accepted and Mr Hamilton thanked. A report of The proceedings at the British Trades Union Congress by Mr Wm Gordon, Supplemented by Mr David Johnstone, was Submitted to the Board. The Report was accepted and the thanks of The Board tendered for the valuable information given.

The General Secretary reported to the Board the terms regarding The Working Policy during the War as Submitted for the approval of The Miners, and also put before the employers, Viz., That a uniform Working Policy of Eleven Days per Fortnight be observed throughout the whole of The Scottish Coalfield, providing that in the event of a Pit or Pits being cast idle on any day during the week (other than Saturday) to ensure as far as possible that Eleven Days per Fortnight be worked The Men would work on the Recognised Idle Saturday. The Board agreed unanimously to recommend the Men to endorse these proposals.

British Miners' Federation Annual Conference: It was agreed that Mr Robert Burnside, Provost Ormiston, Mr John Ferguson, and The Assistant Secretary Mr Joseph Young represent the Association at this Conference. The Agenda was considered and these Delegates instructed thereon.

³⁴ Clause 2 of section 96 provided that "The wages of all persons employed in or about any mine shall be paid weekly, if a majority of such persons so desire, and there shall be delivered to each such person a statement containing detailed particulars of how the amount paid to him is arrived at."

It was agreed to direct The attention of Local Secretaries to the following decision, Viz., That upon any Local Secretary having owing to any Cause to Vacate his position as Secretary to his Branch before the expiry of his term of appointment, Notice of Such Should be Sent to The General Secretary to enable him to make arrangements for an Audit being made before the books are handed over to his Successor.

Mr John Rennie obtained an interview with the Board anent The Saltcoats Miners' Homes, after which it was decided not to give any donation—On The Motion of Mr David Bain, Seconded by Mr Wm Foster, Against an Amendment by Mr David Johnstone, Seconded by Mr James Hogg.

Arniston Branch: The Delegate from this Branch put a question regarding the Contracting System, and was informed that the Matter required to be dealt with in a general way by The National Union.

Carberry Branch: The Delegate from this Branch questioned the Action of Several other Branches regarding the observance of the Idle Saturday, when the Representatives of the Collieries referred to gave explanations which cleared up the points raised.

Newbattle Branch: A letter from this Branch was read regarding the Payment of Delegates to the National Conference held in London on the 21st July under the Auspices of The Government, When it was explained that the Mid & East Lothian Delegates had been treated the Same as the Delegates from all other Districts in Scotland.

Ormiston Branch: Intimation was made that two Members of this Branch had only paid Half Contributions Since the increase of Contributions had been made, and it was decided that they now be treated as Non-Unionists.

Polton Branch: It was agreed to make a grant of 10s. to this Branch.

Prestonlinks Branch: A question having arisen at this Colliery regarding The Payment of the last Advance, The question of Explosives having been raised by the Manager, it was agreed to Submit the Matter to the Executive of The National Union.

Roslin Branch: The Delegate from this Branch desired that his Committee be empowered to fix a day for The Members exhibiting their Badges. Permission was given to the Committee to Act Accordingly.

Woodhall Branch: A letter was Submitted from Mr Robert Dickson by the Delegate to this Branch Soliciting Assistance from The Association on account of him being unable to work, When it was agreed to delay Consideration of the Matter until next Meeting pending enquiry.

23rd October 1915

The Board met today.

The Minute of Meeting of 18th September was read and adopted on The motion of Mr Peter Scougal, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan.

Messrs James Hogg and Lewis Affleck reported on The proceedings at The National Union Conference held in Glasgow on the 1st October, And The Vice President and Mr Robert Burnside reported on The Annual Conference of The Miners' Federation of Great Britain held the following Week. The reports were accepted.

The Chairman and Mr David Barr were appointed to attend The Labour Party Conference to be held at Bristol next January.

Messrs Andrew McGill and John Main were appointed to attend The first Quarterly Conference of The National Union, to be held during November.

It was agreed That an Official Audit of The Branch Books be made at the close of the year And The following Auditors were appointed: Messrs Robert Burnside, J. Gordon, C. Allan, P. Scougal, J. Hamilton, A. Wood, T. McNeill, W. Falconer, J. Main, A. McGill, J. Ferguson and J. Ormiston.

Several Cases of Compensation were reported on for which the Maximum amount under the Act had been Secured to the Dependants.

It was agreed that the Board take no Action towards Soliciting a Subscription on behalf of Mr Robert Dickson, Woodhall Colliery, also regarding Mr John Cooper, Newbattle Colliery—on the Motion of Mr A. McGill, against an Amendment by Mr J. Hogg.

The reports from The Branches were all in favour of The recommendation that Eleven Days per fortnight be recognised as The Working Policy during the War, and That upon a Pit or Pits being idle on any Day or Days during the two weeks The men by agreement May work on The Idle Saturday in order to obtain Eleven Days for The Two weeks. The Secretary was instructed to Send a Circular to each of The Colliery Managers in Similar terms.

It was agreed to make it known That all Surface Workers could be enrolled at an Entrance Fee of 2s.6d. and That half Contributions, Viz., 3d. per week, would entitle them to full protection as provided by The Rules and full Funeral Benefits and Half Strike Allowance when brought on Strike; And Females where employed on The Pit Bank May be enrolled as Members upon payment of 1s. as Entry Money and a Weekly Contribution of 2d. to Secure The Same benefits as other Surface Workers.

It was agreed That Branches be reminded That The Nominations for Office Bearers are due during November and December.

Arniston Branch: A Motion from this Branch re. Contracting was Accepted, to be put before The Executive of The National Union for Consideration. Two funeral claims from this Branch were considered—one on The death of Mr G. Brand was admitted and one on The death of Mr Andrew Sanderson refused.

Bankton Branch: A claim to Victimisation Money on behalf of Mr Archibald of This Branch was disallowed.

Newbattle Branch: This Branch requested that the Agenda of The Annual Conference of The Miners' Federation of Great Britain be Sent out to Branches

prior to the Conference taking place, and it was agreed That The Agendas of All Conferences to which representatives are Sent Should be So Sent out as far as practicable. This Branch also requested that Delegates attending Conferences be remunerated for the time lost, which The Board Unanimously endorsed.

Penston & Woodhall Branches: Motions by These two Branches were tabled Similar to the one by Newbattle at the last Board Meeting regarding The payment of Delegates to The London Conference, and they were referred to the reply to Newbattle Colliery as Contained in The Minute of last Meeting and Minute of 14th August, It being pointed out That Delegates referred to as having been paid Three Days' allowance for attending The London Conference could claim another day if They considered That the circumstances warranted them in doing so.

Prestonlinks Branch: Mr Young, Assistant Agent, intimated that the difference regarding the Rates to be paid for the last advance in a Section at This Branch had been Satisfactorily Settled. It was agreed on The Motion of Mr John Gordon, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, to make a grant of 30s. to the local fund of This Branch—against an Amendment by Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr Robert Connor, That no grant be made.

Rosewell Branch: A Funeral Claim on the Reported death of Mr John Hilton (Soldier) was delayed pending Confirmation of death.

Roslin Branch: A letter regarding Payment for Local Work from this Branch was read, When it was decided that the Payment referred to fell to be paid from The Local Fund. It was agreed to pay from The General Fund The Sum of 24s. expended by The Local Committee upon having a Badge Day.

A letter from The Daily News re. a Subscription towards Christmas Gifts to Soldiers at The Front was allowed to lie on The Table.³⁵

The Secretary intimated That a claim had been made for an advance of Wages to the extent of 18³/₄ per Cent on the 1888 basis and would come before The Conciliation Board for consideration on Monday The 25th inst.

Mr John Gordon Moved That The Board consider at Next Meeting The changing of The Meetings of the Board from Saturdays To Thursdays.

19th November 1915

The Board met today. The Minute of Meeting held on the 23rd October was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Robert Burnside, Seconded by Mr Peter Scougal.

Messrs McGill & Main reported from The Quarterly Conference of The National Union held on The 15th inst. The report was accepted.

A Conference of The Miners' Federation of Great Britain having been Called for the 26th inst. to consider the question of The Suspension of The Eight Hours

³⁵ The *Daily News* (1846-1930) merged with the *Daily Chronicle* in 1930 to form the *News Chronicle* (1930-1960).

Mines Act, 1908, to purely Clay Mines, it was decided that as The National Union was to be represented no Delegate be Sent on this occasion by The Association.

Complaint having been Made that The Working Policy of Eleven Days per Fortnight was not being observed at Prestonlinks Colliery by The Pit being open on the recognised idle Saturday and a Number of Men at work, and also upon days that The Management had posted Notice that the Pit would be Idle, it was agreed that the Working Policy be Maintained at all Costs, and The Secretary instructed to put the Matter before The National Union Executive, requesting that power be given to Stop The Colliery, failing a Satisfactory agreement being arrived at with the Management that the Working Policy would be observed in future. It was agreed to pay the expenses of three Members of The Local Committee incurred owing to the friction existing at the Colliery regarding the above question, The amount being £1.14.6.

It was agreed that Two Delegates attend the Conference on the Housing Question to be held in Glasgow on the 3rd and 4th January next, The President and Mr David Barr being chosen.³⁶

It was agreed to Submit to the Branches, the Members of Which are provided with Medicine under their Agreement with the Doctors, a request made by the Doctors that an increase of One Half Penny per week be made to the Flat rate of Twopence per week, and that the Men's decision be Sent to the General Secretary as soon as possible.

Mr Albert Smith's claim, Newbattle: It was agreed to Make a grant of 30s. to Mr Albert Smith on Account of one of his children having died during his internment.³⁷ Funeral claim re Wm Tracy's death: It was decided that as there were no dependants in this Case the claim could not be paid.

A claim to funeral allowance upon the death of David Taylor, Rosewell Branch, having been made The Matter was remitted to the Local Committee to make enquiry and to report to next Board Meeting.

It was agreed That Arrangements be made at The December Meeting for having a General Badge Day.

Woodhall Branch: A Motion from this Branch, Similar to one disposed off at the September Meeting, was ruled out of order.

Mr John Gordon Moved, Seconded by Mr Lewis Affleck, That The Board

³⁶ Some 362 trade unions, co-operative societies and guilds, and other organisations were represented by 786 delegates at this Scottish National Conference on Housing, organised by the Glasgow Labour Housing Committee. Among the speakers were the Medical Officer of Health for Glasgow, Dr A.K. Chalmers, and Councillor John Wheatley (1869-1930), later Minister of Health in the 1924 Labour government. Scots miners' leaders played a prominent part in the conference, a principal outcome of which was a decision to establish the Scottish National Labour Housing Association, whose 'object is to further the scheme by which the State should give grants of money, free of interest, to local authorities for the erecting of houses for the people'. *Glasgow Herald*, 4 and 5 Jan. 1916.

³⁷ No other information about Smith has been found. He may have been one of the Lithuanian or 'Polish' immigrants who worked in the pits at Newtongrange.

Meetings be held on Thursdays. Mr John Main Moved, Seconded by Mr William Foster, That no change be made. It was Carried to continue the Meetings on Saturdays as formerly.

Upon The Roll of Collieries being called regarding Nominations of Officials for the ensuing years The following eleven reported in favour of the reelection of The present Officials (The other Branches to report at the December Meeting): Arniston, Niddrie, Loanhead, Elphinstone, Penston, Ormiston, Prestongrange, Wallyford, Polton, Bankton, Prestonlinks.

The following arrangements were approved of for Carrying out The Annual Audit of Branch Books. 1. That all Local Accounts close on Saturday The 18th December or 25th December as Suits the collection of dues. 2. That upon New Pence Cards being issued to the Members Old Pence Cards as far as possible be Collected to be produced at the Audit. 3. That along with The Local Treasurers' and Secretaries' Ledgers all Collectors' Books Shall be produced at The Audit and Clearance Line Duplicates. 4. Branch Secretaries to intimate to the General Secretary when they can Meet The Auditors, giving a choice of more than one date, to permit of arrangements being made for the Audit being taken.

Branches and Auditors Appointed: Arniston, Rosewell & Roslin—Messrs Colin Allan & John Hamilton; Newbattle, Wallyford, Polton & Vogrie—Messrs Falconer & Burnside; Niddrie, Carberry & Smeaton—Messrs Scougal & T. McNeill; Loanhead, Bankton & Bankpark—Messrs McGill & Ferguson; Elphinstone, Prestongrange, Woodhall & House of Muir—Messrs J. Gordon & J. Main; Prestonlinks, Penston & Ormiston—Messrs J. Ormiston & A. Wood.

General Notice to Local Treasurers: It was agreed to instruct Local Treasurers as follows: That upon the death of a Member all arrears due at date of death to be deducted from The Funeral Money before being paid over. Note—This does not apply to Soldier Members, who are exempt from payment of Contributions during the War.

25 December 1915

The Board met today. The Minute of Meeting held on the 19th November was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Andrew McGill, Seconded by Mr John Main.

The Nominations from The Branches not having nominated at The November Meeting were all in favour of The present officials being reelected, Making The Nominations for reelection unanimous.

Medical Attendance on Dependents: The reports from Branches were all against complying with the request by The Doctors that the weekly payment Should be raised by one halfpenny at those Collieries where Medicine was provided by the Doctors.

It was decided that all The Branches Make the Necessary arrangements for having a Badge Day during The fourth week in January and to request that

facilities be given by the respective Managers at The Pit Banks to carry it out.

The Secretary was instructed to obtain as many Labour Year Books as to provide two to each Branch for the use of Delegates, Secretary and Committee.³⁸

A Communication regarding a change from Weekly to Fortnightly Pays during the War from the Chief Inspector of Mines, Mr R.A.S. Redmayne, was considered, when it was decided that in the opinion of The Board no Case had been Made out for any change.

New Year Holidays: It was agreed to endorse the recommendation by The Executive of The National Union That the Pits be closed on Saturday and Monday the 1st and 3rd January and to be reopened on Tuesday the 4th January.

A letter from Mr Wm Murray, Haddington, was read and allowed to lie on the table.

Another Claim to funeral Allowance having been made upon the death of Mr Wm Tracy, The decision of last Meeting was confirmed, Viz., That there was no proof of dependancy.

Mr George Flockhart (Deceased Soldier): It was decided that no funeral Allowance could be paid in this case, there being no dependants.

Mr James Ormiston gave a report of the work of the Ambulance League, and of a proposal to Start a Junior Competition. The Report was accepted.

The Chairman reported that the Fund on behalf of Mrs Archibald, Which he and the late Mr James Thomson were appointed to administer, was now closed, and that Mrs Archibald had expressed her warmest thanks for the great kindness Shown towards her.³⁹

The Board agreed to recommend to Branches to Continue to Subscribe towards The Prince of Wales Fund, but That Committees be appointed at each Branch into whose hands the Money would be paid as Collected at The Colliery Office, and disbursed as directed by the Members of The Branch to Such objects as were considered most deserving of assistance.

Woodhall: It was agreed that the Surface Workers at this Branch who were employed 2½ hours beyond the usual time on any Pay Saturday, when Such was made a Working Day by the Miners, were entitled to have proper remuneration for that work.

A question having been raised regarding the granting of Clearance Lines, it was decided that any Member who was not out of benefit was entitled to a Clearance Line Setting forth the date at which he was a clear Member.

Bankpark: A Motion re. Statutory Meetings being held was Submitted by

³⁸ The *Labour Year Book* (1916-32), published by the Trades Union Congress, the Labour Party, and the Fabian Research Department, then from 1924 by the first two only, contained information about the labour movement, labour and social legislation, etc. It was not published in 1917, 1918, 1920-3 and 1929. Harrison *et al.*, *Labour Periodicals*, 270.

³⁹ This appears to refer to the case of Peter Archibald: see above, p. 232. James Thomson had died in Nov. 1914: see above, p. 296.

this Branch but found no Support.

House of Muir: A request by this Branch to be permitted to have a Delegate in attendance at every Board Meeting was not complied with on Account of the Small Membership.

Niddrie Branch: It was agreed to pay The Funeral Claim upon the death of Mrs Anderson's child (Widow Member).

Prestongrange: It was agreed to Make a Grant of 36s. to the local Committee at this Branch for work done towards enrolling Non Unionists.

Chapter 5

MINUTES, 1916-1918

8th January 1916

A Special Board Meeting was held today. The Secretary explained That a conference representing The National Union of Scottish Mine Workers was to be held in Glasgow on Tuesday The 11th inst. to consider The Compulsion Bill of the Government and to instruct representatives to a Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain to be held on Thursday The 13th inst. in London to deal with that question. It was agreed That four delegates attend the National Union Conference, Viz., The Vice President, Mr John Ferguson, Prestongrange, Mr Robert Burnside, Arniston, and Mr David Johnstone, Smeaton, and that Two delegates and Assistant Secretary attend the British Miners' Federation Conference at London, Viz., Mr John Main, Ormiston, & Mr Andrew McGill, Niddrie.¹

Mr Robert Burnside Moved, Seconded by Mr John Hamilton, That we oppose The Compulsion Bill. Mr David Barr Moved as an amendment, Seconded by Mr John Main, That we Support The Measure. It was decided by 14 Votes to 7 to oppose and the delegates were instructed Accordingly.

5th February 1916

The Board Met today. The Minutes of Meetings held on 25th December 1915 and 8th January 1916 were read and adopted on the Motion of Messrs John Ferguson & John Gordon & John Main & Colin Allan.

The Secretary was instructed to Write The Managers of the Edinburgh Royal

¹ The government had introduced the Military Service (No. 2) Bill on 5 Jan. It proposed that between the ages of 18 and 41 unmarried men and widowers without children were to become liable to conscription for military service. Exceptions to that liability were to include those (presumably including miners) engaged in work in which it was the national interest to continue. The Bill passed speedily through parliament and was enacted on 27 Jan. A further Military Service Act passed on 25 May 1916 extended conscription to married men. At the MFGB special conference James Brown, Ayrshire Miners' Federal Union, who was a member of the NUSMW EC, reported that at the NUSMW conference two days earlier delegates representing 80,000 of the 90,000 miners in Scotland had instructed the NUSMW delegates to the MFGB conference to oppose the Bill; the other 10,000 Scots miners were in favour of the Bill. The MFGB special conference agreed 'That the reports given to the Conference showing a large majority against the Government Compulsion Bill be accepted', and it was also agreed to leave to the Executive Committee any decision to call a further conference if the Bill were enacted. *MFGBAP, 1916: Report of Special Conference, 13 January*, 10-17; A.J.P. Taylor, *English History, 1914-1945* (Oxford, 1965), 53-6; D. Hayes, *Conscription Conflict* (London, 1949), 194-224.

Infirmiry That It was desired by the Miners That representatives of The Working classes Should be on the Board of Management of that Institution, and that upon the request being acceded to The representatives could be nominated from the ranks of labour by and through The Edinburgh & District Trades Council as representative of the Workers of the District.

The President reported on The Housing Conference held in Glasgow on the 3rd & 4th January. Mr John Main reported on The British Miners' Federation Conference held in London on 13th January. The president reported on the British Miners' Federation Conference and The Labour Party Conference held at Bristol during the Week beginning 24th January. All Reports were accepted.

The Auditors appointed to Audit The Branch Books Submitted their reports, which in general were most Satisfactory, after which it was agreed that any remarks or recommendations the Auditors had to Submit to the Board would be dealt with at a Subsequent Meeting.

Circulars having been issued regarding a proposed Labour College for Scotland, after consideration it was agreed that no Action be taken on that question—on The Motion of Mr Wm Foster, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, Against an Amendment by Mr Robert Burnside, Seconded by Mr James Hogg, That the Matter be delayed for one Month only.² Prestongrange Case: It was agreed to pay The funeral claim to The Legal Representatives of Mr George Flockhart, Soldier Member, upon the claimant Satisfying the Board that no other party was entitled to put forward a claim.

It was agreed That Messrs Richard Scott, William McNeill, Robert Connor and the Vice President attend a Special Conference of the National Union to be held in Glasgow on Monday The 7 inst; and Mr James Hogg to represent The Association at the Conference of The Miners' Federation of Great Britain to be held at Lancaster on Tuesday the 8th inst. to consider The Military Service No. 2 Bill, and to urge that no action be taken regarding the Measure until the opinion of the Members had been obtained.³

² About 500 delegates from some 243 working class organisations throughout Scotland attended a conference in Glasgow on 12 Feb. on this question. The conference unanimously approved of the principle of establishing a Labour College for Scotland, and elected a provisional committee, chaired by Robert Smillie, to 'draft a definite and detailed scheme' to be submitted to the organisations represented. *Glasgow Herald*, 28 Jan. and 14 Feb. 1916.

³ At the MFGB special conference on 8 and 9 Feb. Robert Brown, secretary, Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association, and Joseph Young, its assistant secretary, expressed opposing views about the war and the Military Service (No. 2) Act passed on 27 Jan. Brown, a member of the MFGB EC, urged that 'all must go [to the Forces] who are required', and said: 'I do not think we ought to set up any agitation [against the Military Service Act], we may cause a split in our own ranks, not only in the ranks of this Federation but in the greater [Labour] Movement.' He urged miners to 'wholeheartedly support the Government to do their best to win the war'. Joseph Young, after expressing support for the repeal of the Act, declared: 'I am opposed to any resolution or any Bill or casting any vote to compel any young man to go into the trenches.' The special conference voted successively on four separate resolutions (including one from Yorkshire seeking immediate repeal of the Act), and at the third and final vote a motion from Northumberland, 'That this Conference expresses its opposition to the spirit of

It was agreed to press the claim to Compensation on behalf of the Representatives of Mr John McLeod (deceased), Prestonlinks Colliery.

Funeral Claims: It was agreed to pay The claim on the death of Mr Wm Tracey, Soldier Member, dependancy having been proved to the Satisfaction of the Board, as also to the Representatives of Mr David McLaren, Soldier, both of Newbattle Branch.

The Annual Report was Submitted, and the Secretary instructed to Supply Branches with the Necessary number of copies.

The President (Mr Andrew Clarke), Vice President (Mr James Ormiston), Treasurer (Mr William Falconer), Auditors (Messrs John Pryde and Robert Milne) were all reelected for the ensuing year. The President on behalf of the others and himself thanked the Members and the Board for the renewal of their Confidence. Messrs John Main & Thos McNeill were elected to the Executive Committee in room of Messrs John Gordon & Peter Scougal, retiring Members.

Arniston: The Delegate representing this Branch requested that a grant of 10s. per Member be Made to the Men in one of The Pits who had been put idle during the week beginning 24th January owing to a breakdown in the Shaft, When it was decided that no grant be given under Such Circumstances, on the Amendment of Mr William Foster, Seconded by Mr John Main, against the Motion of Mr John Hamilton, Seconded by Mr Robert Burnside.

Elphinstone: It was decided that a Motion put forward by this Branch be not proceeded with, It being out of order.

Niddrie: A change of Local Treasurer having taken place at this Branch The General Secretary was instructed to intimate to the retiring Treasurer that the balance of £42.7.9¹/₂. in his hands, Certified by the Auditors Messrs Peter Scougal and Thomas McNeill, be forwarded to him not later than Saturday the 12th February. Harry Byers, Checkweigher's case: Intimation was made that the Niddrie Coal Coy Ltd. had taken Action by requesting the Sheriff to remove Mr Harry Byers, Checkweigher, from the Pit Bank at their Woolmet Pit and that our Law Agents had been instructed to defend him in the Action.

The Meeting was adjourned, to be again convened by The President and Secretary when circumstances warranted.

16th February 1916⁴

An adjourned meeting of The Board was held today. Mr David Flockhart's

conscription, and determines to exercise a vigilant scrutiny of any proposed extension of the Military Service (No. 2) Act,' was passed by 368,000 votes against 349,000 for a motion from Durham, 'That this Conference adheres to the finding of the Labour Party [annual] conference held at Bristol [on 26-28 Jan.], namely, to offer no opposition to the Military Service Act, 1916.' In each of these three votes the 90,000 Scots miners' votes were cast for the Durham resolution. *MFGBAR, 1916: Report of Special Conference, 8 and 9 February, 4-60.*

⁴ From this date until the end of this volume of the manuscript minutes in Nov. 1918, a broken series of printed abstracts of the minutes is preserved in NLS, MSS Acc.4312.8.

Case, Niddrie Branch: The general Secretary intimated that Mr David Flockhart had called, and in order to avoid a criminal prosecution offered to pay an immediate instalment of Ten pounds of The £42.7.9½. due by him to the Association and to pay one pound per week until the whole Sum was paid. The Secretary was empowered to carry out this arrangement with Mr Flockhart in conjunction with The Legal Advisers to The Association, Messrs. Gray, Muirhead & Carmichael, S.S.C.

Mr James Ormiston reported on The proceedings at The National Union Conference held in Glasgow on the 7th inst., and Mr James Hogg reported on the finding of The British Miners' Federation Conference held in Lancaster on the 8th & 9th inst. The Reports were accepted and Circulars issued to the Delegates Containing the Resolution passed at Lancaster, to be Submitted to the men for approval or otherwise.

Following the Reports by the Auditors of the Branch Books The Board agreed unanimously to Strongly recommend that the Local Treasurers, especially of large Branches, Should in his own and The Secretary's names deposit the Contributions into the Bank upon being received from the Collectors and remit the Monthly Payments to the Board by Cheque. At all Branches at which The Members' Contributions are collected by Collectors The Local Treasurer Should give each Collector a proper receipt for each Sum of Money received and The Collector, upon having his book Scrutinised and Countersigned by the Branch Secretary, to put the receipts obtained from The Treasurer into the hands of The Secretary. Any Local Treasurer not having Receipt Books for that purpose upon applying to the General Secretary will be Supplied.

Badge Day: Upon reports being Submitted it was found that all The Branches except five had Carried out the instructions of the Board, and it was decided to request those Branches not having yet done so to Comply with the instruction as Soon as possible.

The President, Mr John Gordon, and The Treasurer were appointed to represent The Association at the Quarterly Conference of The National Union on the 1st of March at Glasgow.

Bankpark: It was agreed to grant 20s. towards the local fund of this Branch.

Colliery Recruiting Courts: The Secretary intimated that Recruiting Courts had been Set up to deal with all men employed in Coal Mines, The Court for The Lothians and Stirlingshire being His Majesty's Inspector of Mines, Mr James A. Hood and Robert Brown.⁵ All underground workers are barred and Such Surface workers as Winding Enginemen, pumpmen, Weighmen, electricians, fitters, and Mechanics—from which it would appear that the only cases to be considered by the Courts May be other Surface Workers than those barred. It was agreed that The Secretary include in The Minute The following clause in the instructions to Recruiting Courts: The Men employed at any Colliery Shall

⁵ For James A. Hood, see above, p. 81, n. 73.

be entitled to appoint a Representative to attend before the Court when applications in regard to that Colliery are being heard and Shall give notice of Such appointment forthwith to the Court.

9th March 1916

The Board met today. The Minute of Meeting of 5th February was adopted on The Motion of Mr Robert Burnside, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, and the Minute of Special Meeting held on The 16th February was read and adopted on The Motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr James Ormiston.

National Conference: The President and Mr John Gordon reported on the proceedings at this Conference. The report was accepted.

Mr David Flockhart, Ex Treasurer, Niddrie Branch: The general Secretary informed the Board that the terms of the agreement between the Association and Mr David Flockhart, as approved by The Board on The 16th February, had been Signed by Mr Flockhart and attested by Mr Wm Muirhead, Law Agent, and himself as Witnesses. The Board approved of what had been done and agreed to adhere to the conditions as Signed.

Prince of Wales Fund: Reports from the Branches regarding this Fund Showed that Several of The Collieries had adopted the recommendation of The Board to continue Subscribing but that the Monies be handed over to the Branch Committee for the relief of Local Distress, as instructed by the Workmen at the Colliery.

It was decided Not to Send any Representatives to The Scottish Trades Union Congress which falls to be held on The 27th, 28th & 29th April next—On the Motion of Mr Robert Burnside, Seconded by Mr Richard Scott, Against an Amendment Moved by Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr Wm McNeill, That Representatives be appointed.

The General Secretary intimated that a claim had been Made for an advance of Wages of $18\frac{3}{4}$ per Cent on the 1888 basis.

In Accordance with the recommendation of the Board of The 16th February It was agreed to open a Current Account in The Name of The Association, with The Commercial Bank, Dalkeith, into which Contributions from The Branches would be paid and the cheques upon which would be Signed by Mr William Falconer, Treasurer.

A claim to funeral Allowance by Mr Thos Conroy upon The death of Mr Patrick McLusky, Soldier, was delayed pending enquiry by the Secretary regarding the relatives alleged to be alive; and other two claims, Viz., one on behalf of Mr J. Livingstone's Mother and the other on behalf of Mr David Anderson, Soldier, were disallowed—Livingstone's claim not Valid and Anderson not in benefit when enlisted.

Several Delegates reported that a further Supply of Badges was required to provide each Member of their Branch with one, when it was agreed that both

colours Might Meantime be used until the Whole question regarding Badges was Considered.

It was agreed that unless the few Non Unionists employed at Rosewell Colliery at once became Members The Matter be put before The National Union to request permission to stop the Colliery until they Join.

Arniston Branch: The Delegate representing this Branch intimated that he had been instructed to protest against the Action of The Board refusing a grant of 10s. per member as requested on the 5th February last.

Bankton Branch: A question was put by this Branch, Viz., What entrance fee Should be charged from Mr Thos Wood—The answer That under The Circumstances Narrated 10s.

Ormiston Branch: A claim by Mr John McNeill of this Branch to have part Contributions refunded for the past year was disallowed, The lower Contributions only to be Accepted from the date of intimation being made That he only intended paying for funeral Allowance.

Penston Branch: Mr John Ross of this Branch having had to attend before the Medical Referee at Haddington, it was agreed to pay his day's Wage, he being employed at light work, upon it not being obtained from the Company.

Prestongrange Branch: A claim was put forward by this Branch with regard to Repairers' Wages and Women Workers on The Pit Bank and The Matter was left with the Agents to deal with. A Motion from this Branch re. Delegations was Not Seconded and was allowed to lie on the table.

Smeaton Branch: The Secretary of this Branch having had to travel to Musselburgh to attend to the Audit it was agreed to allow him the Sum of 5s.

Wallyford Branch: A claim to Victimisation by a Member of this Branch was delayed pending further enquiry.

Woodhall Branch: A Case regarding the Hewing Rate payable to a Member of this Branch was left with the Delegate and Secretary to deal with.

25 Frederick Street, Edinburgh, 27th March 1916⁶

The Wages Committee Met today, Mr Andrew Clarke, President, in the chair. Also present: James Ormiston (Vice President), Wm Falconer (Treasurer), Robert Burnside, Andrew McGill, John Main, Colin Allan, Thos McNeill and The two Secretaries.

The Secretary explained that The Secretary of The Mid & East Lothian Coalowners' Association had requested an interview between Their Executive Committee and The Miners' representatives to put before them their views regarding the payment of Wages once a fortnight during the war owing to the depletion of the office Staffs at the Collieries. The employers at the interview requested that The Miners would agree to accept their wages fortnightly on the grounds as narrated above; & upon The Wages Committee retiring and considering the

⁶ This was the office of James Walker, CA, secretary, Mid and East Lothian Coalowners' Association.

Coalowners' proposals it was agreed that the President report to the full Board at the first Meeting, which it was agreed Should be held on Thursday The 6th April, for Consideration of The delegates, without making any recommendation on the question.

Board Room, 6th April 1916

The Board Met today. The Minute of Meeting held on the 9th March was approved on The Motion of Mr John Gordon, Seconded by Mr Lewis Affleck. The Minute of a Wages Committee Meeting held on the 27th March was adopted on the Motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr Andrew McGill.

The chairman reported to the Board an interview between the Representatives of The Mid & East Lothian Coalowners' Association and The Executive that took place on the 27th March at which The Coalowners made a request that during the period of the War the workmen would agree to accept their wages Fortnightly as the Number of Office Clerks that had enlisted Made it difficult to prepare the Weekly Pay Sheets. After due Consideration it was agreed that in the opinion of The Board The circumstances were not Such as to warrant any departure from Weekly Pays—on the Motion of Mr R. Burnside, Seconded by Mr Jas Ormiston.

The General Secretary reported that the Conciliation Board had Met on Tuesday, The 4th inst. Under The Chairmanship of Mr Balfour Browne, K.C., on the claim for an advance of wages of 18³/₄ per Cent on the 1888 basis.⁷

The Secretary was instructed to obtain Two Dozen Reports of The proceedings of The Labour Party Conference held at Bristol.

The President directed the attention of The Board to the Minutes of The Executive of the National Union, but no question was put regarding them.

Newbattle Branch: A Motion by this Branch That the Board Meetings be confined to Saturdays was not approved of.

It was agreed to delay consideration of The Badge Question till a Subsequent Meeting.

It was agreed That The funeral Allowance upon the death of Mr G. Brown, Soldier Member, be paid.

It was decided that the Association Could not be responsible for the expenses of Representatives who may be appointed by Branches to attend The Colliery Recruiting Courts—on The Motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, against an Amendment by Mr Robert Burnside, Seconded by Mr Lewis Affleck, That the expenses be paid by the Association.

Newbattle Branch: The Delegate from this Branch put forward a request for

⁷ James Hutton Balfour-Browne (1845-1921), KC, unsuccessful Conservative parliamentary candidate for Dumfriesshire, 1906, and East Bradford, 1910. He awarded an increase in wages of 6¹/₄ per cent on the 1888 basis, equal to 3d. per day, payable from 4 Apr. The increase brought miners' wages in Scotland up to a nominal rate of 9s. per day. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 13 Apr. 1916; *Glasgow Herald*, 13 Apr. 1916.

a grant on behalf of a hundred Men who had been idle Six days. The request was refused, on The Amendment Moved by Mr William Foster, Seconded by Mr David Barr, against the Motion of Mr Walter Walker, Seconded by Mr Robert Burnside, That the request be granted by recommendation to the Branches.

Niddrie Branch: The Delegate for this Branch reported on the result of the Badge Day held, and The Assistant Secretary and Local Committee were empowered to deal with the Non Unionists discovered. It was left with The Local Committee to deal with the entrance fee to be paid by Mr John Arthur.

Ormiston Branch: The Members of this Branch desire that Consideration be given to The question of paying Funeral Benefit to Members' daughters above fourteen years of age until Married, with a View to its abolition and that Delegates be instructed on the Question at Next Board Meeting.

Prestongrange Branch: The Assistant Secretary reported of The Repairer question and Women Workers' Wages on the Pit Bank at this Colliery, After which it was agreed that a return be made to the next Meeting of the Board from the Branches, giving The Number of Women employed on the Pit Banks and the grades of work they are engaged at and Wages paid, as far as can be ascertained, and those in Union.

Prestonlinks Branch: The Assistant Secretary reported on a claim for Compensation by a Member of this Branch who had Contracted Nystagmus, and Owing to the experience in dealing with Such Cases under The Industrial Diseases Section of The Workmen's Compensation Act It was agreed to direct the attention of Members and Local Secretaries to the necessity of the Certificates required in Such Cases being correctly filled in by The Certifying Surgeon before being put into the hands of The Employers when lodging a Claim.

Wallyford Branch: It was agreed to grant 35s. to Mr Thomas Ross of this Branch as Victimisation Allowance.

13th May 1916

The Board met today. The Minute of the Meeting of 6th April was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr John Gordon, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan

The Chairman made a touching reference to the death of Mr Thomas Gibb, paying tribute to the good work he had done in the Trade Union and Labour Movement, and Moved that the Sympathy of the Board be recorded and forwarded to Mrs Gibb and her family in their bereavement, Which was approved of unanimously.⁸

Mr Russell Paton, Organising Secretary for the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, obtained an interview and put before the Board the position of that Institution and urged that an extra effort be put forth towards Mitigating the difficulties that

⁸ Gibb, a checkweigher at Cleland, Lanarkshire, and a member of the Independent Labour Party, had been Labour candidate, endorsed by the MFGB EC, in the South Lanark parliamentary by-election in Nov.-Dec. 1913, and was the first Labour candidate to stand in that constituency. *MFGB AP 1913: EC Minutes, 11 and 12 November*. See also above, p. 261, n. 52.

had to be met, arising from the War, owing to the lessened income and increased expenditure for fuel and food. The Board afterwards agreed unanimously to recommend to the workmen at the respective Collieries to agree to Subscribe One Penny per week per person during a period of Six Months, instead of The Penny per fortnight at present Subscribed, when The Matter would be again reviewed at the end of that period.

The Vice President reported on the Competition of The Ambulance League held on Saturday the 6th inst. at which The Teams from Mid & East Lothian were Most Successful.

Mr Lewis Affleck gave a report of the Conference of The Miners' Federation of Great Britain held to consider the Military Service Compulsion Bill and intimated that the following Resolution had been passed, on a Vote of 583,000 against 135,000, Viz., 'That this Conference expresses its opposition to The Spirit of Compulsion and determines to continue to exercise a Vigilant Scrutiny of any proposed extension of The Military Service Act.'⁹ He also informed the Board that a Joint Meeting between the Coalowners' Association of Great Britain and The Federation Executive was to be held to consider the question of an increased output of Coal, Several points being raised re. Absenteeism, Women and Boy Labour on Pit Banks, Etc. The report was accepted, and the action of The President and Secretaries in appointing a Delegate to the Conference Under the circumstances without calling a Board Meeting was endorsed.

The Minutes of Meetings of the Executive of The National Union held on the 4th and 20th April were passed without Comment and the following recommendation by the Executive at a Meeting held on the 2nd May was considered, When it was decided not to approve of the recommendation: 'The Executive, after Considering the various representations Made on behalf of The Red Cross and of the provision of Ambulance Convoys provided by The English Miners and Coalowners, agreed to the following recommendation, Viz., That as the Scottish Coalowners had already made a grant of £10,000 towards the Red Cross fund and had intimated that, upon The Scottish Miners agreeing to Subscribe towards providing Ambulance Convoys, Whatever Sum was Subscribed by the Miners they The Coalowners, would put up an equal Sum, The Mine Workers of Scotland are recommended to Subscribe 6d. per Man per week for twenty weeks towards the providing of Ambulance Convoys.'

The reports regarding the Numbers of Women employed on Pit Banks, with grades of employment and Wages paid, were held over to enable a More Complete return to being obtained.

⁹ The MFGB special conference on 9 and 10 May dealt with coal production, absenteeism and the Military Service Bill later enacted on 25 May. Robert Brown, Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association, spoke strongly in support of the Bill, but the NUSMW delegation voted for the resolution from Yorkshire reported in this minute, against the one from South Wales that received 135,000 votes and which opposed conscription and demanded the repeal of the legislation establishing it. *MFGB AP, 1916: Report of Special Conference, 9 and 10 May, passim.*

The question of granting a Clearance Line to a Member who had delayed requesting one at the Penston Branch was remitted to the Local Committee to act as they Considered best under The Circumstances.

Intimation was made by Mr J. Burnett Mackie, Secretary to the Colliery and Public Works Surgeons' Committee for Scotland, that The Attendance upon the Workmen's dependants for a flat rate of 1½d. per week without Medicine and 2d. per week with Medicine would Cease as at the 30th of June next, but that a new agreement Could be arrived at upon the Workmen agreeing to pay a flat rate of 3d. per week without Medicine. It was considered that The National Union Might in the first place deal with this question.

Intimation was made that all resolutions for The Agenda of The British Miners' Federation Annual Conference Must be in the hands of the Secretary on or before the 20th May.

The Motion by Ormiston Branch re. The Funeral Benefits paid to Members for Daughters over 14 years of Age was delayed pending the Funeral Benefits being Considered as a whole by the National Union.

Several Complaints were made regarding the recognised Working policy not being observed, and it was decided to Specially direct the attention of The Local Committees, and the Members also, that on no account ought work be permitted on the recognised Idle Saturday once a fortnight, unless under the agreement arrived at Nationally, Viz., That upon a day's work being lost during the previous two weeks work may be allowed on the Pay Saturday by consent of The Workmen upon being consulted. All members therefore are urgently requested to loyally abide by the National Policy arranged between the Employers and the Workmen's Representatives, otherwise other means will be adopted to deal with them.

Funeral claims: It was agreed that the funeral claim upon the death of Ben Smith's child, Polton Colliery, be paid.

27th May 1916

A Special Board Meeting was held today. The chairman explained that the Meeting had been convened to consider the Nomination of representatives to the Naval & Military War Pensions Committee for Edinburgh and Haddington Counties, and that intimation had been received that two representatives from The Association would be appointed. After considering The Method of Nomination Mr John Ferguson Moved, Seconded by Mr Robert Burnside, That the Board proceed to nominate; And Mr James Hogg Moved as an Amendment That the Matter be remitted to the Branches to Make the Nominations: For the Amendment 2 Votes, For The Motion 19 Votes. The following names were put forward for Mid Lothian: Robert Burnside, Andrew McGill, Lewis Affleck, Robert Connor and the general Secretary, out of which Mr Robert Burnside and The Secretary were chosen. East Lothian: The Names were Jas Ormiston,

John Gordon, John Main and James Hogg, and the two chosen were Mr James Ormiston & Mr John Gordon.

It was decided that two delegates attend the quarterly Conference of The National Union, Which fell to be held on Monday the 5th June, and Messrs Wm Foster and Tom McNeill were appointed from Rosewell and Wallyford respectively. On the Motion of Mr John Gordon It was agreed That The Agents raise the question at an Executive Meeting of the National Union regarding putting on the Agenda for The Annual Conference a Motion on Whether The National Union of Scottish Mine Workers Should Maintain or Sever its connection with the Scottish Trades Union Congress.¹⁰

In View of claims to funeral Allowance having been Made on behalf of Soldiers killed at the War but who had been enlisted prior to the outbreak of War and out of benefit as Members, It was decided that funeral allowance could only be paid upon the death of any Soldier who was in full benefit for Such prior to the outbreak of War and up to the date of enlistment.

17th June 1916

The Board met today. The Minutes of Meetings held on the 13th & 27th May were read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr Robert Burnside, and Mr John Gordon, Seconded by Mr David Barr.

Mr William Foster gave a report of the proceedings of The Quarterly Conference of the National Union held on the 6th inst.

The General Secretary reported on the Wages Question and intimated that the advance of 12½ per cent awarded by Lord Strathclyde as Neutral Chairman was payable from the 5th & 6th of June, according as the respective pays began.¹¹

It was decided that four Delegates, Viz., Messrs T. McNeill, Colin Allan, Joseph Colquhoun, and George Harkness represent the Association at a Conference of the National Union to be held at Glasgow on Tuesday the 20th inst., and that Two Delegates, Viz., Messrs John Hamilton and George Harkness, attend a conference of The Miners' Federation of Great Britain to be held in London on the 29th inst. and a British Trades Union Conference the following day. It was decided That the President, Messrs Joseph [Colquhoun] and Colin Allan attend as Representatives of the Association at the Annual Conference of The Miners' Federation of Great Britain at Buxton on the 11th July and following days.

The Board, on the Motion of Mr John Hamilton, Seconded by Mr Thomas McNeill, agreed to advise The Branches to accept the recommendation of the National Union Executive for dealing with Absenteeism as per Circular issued,

¹⁰ The NUSMW annual conference resolved to continue its affiliation to the STUC. *NUSMW Proceedings of 23rd Annual Conference, 10-12 August, 15.*

¹¹ Alexander Ure, Lord Strathclyde (1853-1928), Liberal MP for Linlithgowshire, 1895-1913, Solicitor-General for Scotland, 1905-9, Lord Advocate, 1909-13, Lord President of the Court of Session and Lord Justice-General for Scotland, 1913-20. The miners had sought an increase of 25 per cent on the 1888 basis, equal to 1s. per day. *NUSMW EC Minutes, 20 April and 5 June 1916.*

and that as Soon as possible intimation be made to the General Secretary of the decision of the Members—Against an Amendment Moved by Mr James Hogg, Seconded by Mr Joseph Colquhoun, That the recommendation be not accepted. Amendment 2 Votes, Motion 19.¹²

Women Workers on Pit Banks: The Secretary intimated that the Executive of the National Union were at present negotiating with the Employers' Representatives regarding the fixing of a Standard Wage for Women Workers and the hours and Conditions of their employment, and it was agreed that a Special effort be made to enrol all those Workers as Members of the Association, The Secretary to issue a Circular to be put into their hands for that purpose.

The Secretary reported on The Steps being taken by The National Union Executive re. the June and July Holidays, and the Board Strongly recommend that no holidays be taken during these two months in order to Secure the output of Coal so urgently required for Munition Works and Similar purposes.

It was agreed to Submit a Motion for the Agenda of the National Union Annual Conference requesting that the Executive of that body deal with the question of Contracting in the production of Coal with a view to its abolition.

The reports from the Branches were favourable to the recommendation by the Board, Viz., That for Six Months the Workmen Contribute one Penny per week to The Edinburgh Royal Infirmary Funds instead of one penny per fortnight as hitherto.

Medical Attendance of Workmen's Dependants: There was a Strong feeling displayed against complying with the demands made on behalf of the Doctors, Viz., That 3d. per man be paid per week for attendance on the Workmen's Dependants without Medicine, being an increase of one hundred per cent on the agreement come to during 1913 and fifty per cent increase over the rate prevailing prior to the coming into operation of the National Insurance Act plus the amount per insured person under that Act; and it was Meantime agreed to await the outcome of the Negotiations by The National Union on this question which, if unsatisfactory, The Board at once take up the Matter as a District.

The Minute of the Meeting of The National Executive held on 28th May was considered and passed without comment.

The Secretary was requested to issue a Circular instructing the Members regarding the payment of Income Tax under The recent Finance Act.

The reports from Collieries were against Subscribing towards providing Ambulance Convoys as recommended by The Executive of the National Union.

¹² Absenteeism was to be dealt with by the colliery manager giving the union branch committee 'a list of the names of those men who have been idle on days when the pits were open for work, and that workmen inform the Committees of instances in which they have presented themselves at the pit and were returned home; the local Committees meantime to approach the men whose names may be given, to ascertain the cause of their absence, and to acquaint the manager of the other complaints lodged by workmen'. *NUSMWE Minutes, 20 June 1916.*

Royal Blind Asylum: A Circular re. this Institution was read and allowed to lie on the table.

A Circular requesting donations towards a Memorial Fund in Memory of the late Keir Hardie was read, when it was agreed to await the action of the National Union on the Matter before arriving at any decision.

Funeral claim, Roslin: It was decided that the Step Daughter of a deceased Soldier (Member of this Branch) was entitled to the Funeral Allowance as his legal dependant.

A Motion by Prestongrange Branch regarding the revising of the Rules of the Association was considered, when it was thought necessary to await the adjustment by the National Union of the Rules pertaining to Funeral Claims, &c., before dealing with the question.

22nd July 1916

The Board met today. The Minute of Meeting held on the 17th June was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Andrew McGill, Seconded by Mr John Gordon.

The General Secretary reported on the Steps being taken to raise the wages of Female Workers on the Pit Banks and Stated that in a few days the result of the Negotiations would be available.

National Union Conference, Glasgow: Mr Colin Allan reported on the proceedings at this Conference. Miners' Federation Conference, London: Mr George Harkness reported on the proceedings at this conference. British Miners' Federation Conference, Buxton: The President gave a detailed report of the business transacted at the Conference during the four days' Sitting.

National Union Executive: The Minutes of Meetings held on the 5th, 6th, 20th and 26th of June were Considered and approved of.

The General Secretary intimated that a claim for an Advance of Wages of 25 per Cent had been made and that the first Meeting of the Conciliation Board for Consideration of the claim had been fixed for Monday the 24th inst.

The Board agreed to instruct Branch Treasurers to deduct The Local Money from the Contributions before remitting the Cash to the Treasurer at the Board Meeting in the Same Way as is done with Funeral Claims and Beat Knee Certificates, and instructed the Secretary to amend the Monthly Statement Form by adding 'Local retained'.

Intimation was made that Provost Ormiston and Councillor John Gordon, Tranent, had been appointed as the Miners' Representatives of The Labour Representation to the Naval and Military Pensions Act Committee for Haddingtonshire, and it was considered that in attending the Meetings of Such Committees the usual allowance for loss of Work and train fares be paid, with 3s. per day allowance, and that Such expense be borne by the Local Labour Fund.

After a Statement Made by the Secretary regarding the Suspension of the

Holidays it was decided unanimously to recommend that the Holidays be postponed indefinitely and that at any Branch at which arrangements had been made to take Holidays a Meeting Should be held as Soon as possible to urge upon the men to accept the recommendation.

The Agenda for the Annual Conference to be held in Edinburgh on the 10th, 11th & 12th August, was Considered and the following Six delegates appointed to attend and instructed on the Agenda: Vice President (Provost Ormiston), Tom McNeill, Wallyford, William Foster, Rosewell, Alexr Wood, Woodhall, John Gordon, Bankpark, Robert Connor, Loanhead, Wm McNeill, Elphinstone.¹³

It was agreed that two delegates attend the British Trades Union Congress to be held during September in Birmingham, Viz., Richard Scott, Bankton, and David Johnston, Smeaton.

The Secretary was instructed to get the front Wall of the Office repaired.

Doctors Question: This matter was reported on as being Still unsettled but that negotiations were Still going on.

It was agreed to pay the Funeral Claim put forward by Mr Tom Campbell, Newbattle Branch, upon the death of his wife, and a claim upon the death of his adopted child by Mr John Watson, Polton Branch.

Several Cases of Compensation were reported on and left in the hands of the Agents to deal with.

House of Muir: The Delegate representing this Branch put forward a claim to a grant on Account of the Members having been put idle for nine days owing to an inrush of Water into the Mine, when it was pointed out that there was no provision for assistance being given under Such Circumstances, and the request could not be complied with.

5th August 1916

A Special Board Meeting was held today. The general Secretary explained that the Board had been called together to consider the question at issue between the Doctors and the Workmen, Viz., The rate to be paid for Medical Attendance of the Workmen's dependants, and a recommendation by The National Union Executive Committee That the Pits throughout Scotland be kept open for work Six days per week. After the question re. the working policy had been discussed Mr John Ferguson Moved and Mr Richard Scott Seconded That as a Board we approve of The recommendation, and Mr James Hogg Moved, Seconded by Mr Andrew McGill, non approval. Vote for non approval 11, for approval 9. On the Motion of Mr Robert Burnside, Seconded by Mr Joseph Colquhoun, it was agreed to leave the Matter open for the Members to decide by ballot as arranged, and arrangements were then made for the taking of the ballot

¹³ Seven, not six, delegates are named here. In the event these seven and also Robert Brown, secretary, and Joseph Young, assistant secretary, were present at the NUSMW annual conference. *NUSMW Proceedings of 23rd Annual Conference, 10-12 August 1916*, 6.

as issued by the National Executive, with Circular Combined.

Doctors Question: It was decided That The question at issue was of Such importance that a ballot Should be taken on the three following questions—1. Are you in favour of any increase to the Doctors? 2. Are you in favour of paying 2½d. per week without Medicine and 3d. with Medicine? 3. Are you in favour of the question being Settled by an Arbiter? And the Secretary was instructed to arrange for the ballot papers being issued.

Saturday, 26th August 1916

The Board met today. The Minutes of Meetings held on The 22nd July and 5th August were read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr John Ferguson.

Doctors Question: The Ballot on this question gave the following result—For increase 964, against increase 1382. For Doctors' terms 547, against Doctors' terms 417. For Arbitration 1027, against 238. Analysis of Vote gives 1511 Votes in favour of increase and 1382 against; For Arbitration 1027, against Arbitration 238. The Ballot on this Question being nearly unanimous against granting the Doctors' Terms, Viz., 2½d. per week without Medicine and 3d. per week with Medicine, and the Doctors having intimated that unless their terms were Conceded They would Cease to attend the Workmen's Dependents under the old conditions after the 25th inst., The Board unanimously agreed to advise the Members to accept the Situation as it had emerged and Meantime to await further developments; and the Secretary was instructed to request The Colliery Owners to continue to make the deductions from the Workmen's wages hitherto paid to the Doctors and to retain the money in name of The Workmen pending further instructions being given on their behalf.

The Ballot on the question of keeping the Pits open Six days per week gave a Majority of 195 against the proposal.¹⁴

The report on the proceedings at the Annual Conference of the National Union by the Vice President was held as read.

The General Secretary reported on a claim to Compensation by Mr George Ritchie, Roslin Colliery, and it was agreed to advise that the terms arranged be accepted as there were no grounds for further procedure being taken and

¹⁴ The NUSMW EC on 24 July had agreed that 'upon satisfactory replies having been given by the Railway Companies regarding the supply of wagons and for dealing with increased output from the mines, the miners be recommended to agree to the pits being kept open six days per week, during such time as the Executive considered it justifiable'. The NUSMW annual conference on 10-12 Aug. had adopted 'with a few dissentients' a resolution, moved by the president, Robert Smillie, and seconded by the vice-president, John Robertson, 'That in view of the great urgency which exists for full supplies of coal being produced, this conference strongly recommends the members of the union to ballot in favour of the pits being kept open for production of coal six days per week during the present national crisis.' The outcome of the ballot throughout Scotland was: For six days per week—24,650; Against—34,516. *NUSMW EC Minutes, 24 July and 28 August 1916; NUSMW Proceedings of 23rd Annual Conference, 10-12 August, 1916, 12.*

would not be taken.

Mr David Anderson's Case, Roslin Colliery: The Secretary was instructed to write the Secretary of the Roslin Branch for a Statement of the Entrance fee and Contributions paid by the deceased Mr David Anderson during the time he had paid contributions to the collector of the Branch, to be Submitted to the Board at Next Meeting.

It was agreed that the expense of taking the Ballot on the question of Working Policy Should be borne by each District paying its own.

Funeral Claim, Arniston Branch: It was decided that as there was no dependancy in the case of Mr Wm Horsburgh, deceased Soldier Member, No Funeral allowance could be paid. Niddrie Branch: It was agreed to pay the Funeral Claim on the death of Mr Alexr Brand's Son.

Bankpark: This Branch desired that a change in the day of meeting be made and an alteration of Delegates' Fees. The proposal found no Support.

Newbattle: This Branch requests the Board to consider as to whether Some arrangement could be arrived at, and how to make Some provision, for members when put out of work for a period owing to inrush of Water in the Mines, or breakdown of Machinery, &c. Agreed to consider the matter at Next Meeting. A claim for Funeral allowance upon the death of Mr John Gray, Soldier Member, was disallowed, he having joined the Army before the outbreak of War.

Prestongrange: A request by this Branch that a District Meeting be held at Prestongrange to deal with nonunionism was not Complied with on the grounds that Non Unionists can be more effectively dealt with Where they are known to exist by other means but, upon the Committees of The Branches in the locality desiring to have a District Meeting on Matters pertaining to the interests of the Members, upon Such being arranged The Agents will be at their Service. It was decided that upon no evidence being adduced of The deceased Soldier Member, Mr Martin Condron, having left any dependants, No Funeral Allowance could be paid, and that the Secretary inform the Branch Committee, through the secretary, of this decision.

Saturday, 30th September 1916

The Board met today. The Minute of Meeting held on 26th August was approved on The Motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr Andrew McGill.

British Trades Union Congress: Mr David Johnstone gave a report of the proceedings at this Congress and the report [was] accepted.

The Minutes of The National Union Executive Meetings, up to and including 16th September, were considered and accepted.

Scottish Farm Servants Union: A letter from Mr Joseph Duncan, Secretary to the above Union, was read to which the Secretary was instructed to reply, informing Mr Duncan that upon enquiry made and explanation given to the Board regarding the incident referred to The Board were Satisfied that a wrong

Construction had been put upon the Action of the Members referred to, and had it been as alleged The Board would at once have repudiated any Such action on the part of any of the Members of the Association.¹⁵

The Board being Satisfied that The Deceased David Anderson had not been employed in or about The Mines decided that the Sum of 24s.6d. accepted as dues on his behalf Should be returned to his father, Mr D. Anderson, Sr.

Funeral Claim, Prestongrange: Mr John Ferguson explained the relationship between Mrs Corrie and the deceased Soldier Mr Martin Condron, after which it was agreed to rescind the resolution of last Meeting regarding the claim and to admit it.

A letter on behalf of The Limestone Workers and Drawers of Cousland Limeworks was read requesting that assistance be given to raise their wages in accordance with the Wages of Miners and Drawers in the Coal Mines, and the Matter was left with the Agents to consider and report.

Edinburgh & District Trades Council: Mr Andrew McGill gave a report of the proceedings of this body and the report was accepted.

Compensation Cases: It was decided that no further proceedure be taken in Mr John Livingstone's case of Vogrie Branch; and in the case of Mr Matthew Wilson deceased, who was killed in Carberry Pit under Circumstances that precludes any Compensation being obtained for his Wife and children, it was agreed that a special effort be put forth by appealing to the Members to raise by Subscription a Sum of Money on behalf of Mrs Wilson and her five children.

The Secretary was instructed to write Mr James Walker, Secretary to the Mid & East Lothian Coalowners' Association, to request that the Coalmasters would arrange that upon payment of The Workmen's wages The Workmen would be enabled to retain the Pay Line or a duplicate thereof.

The Board desire to direct the attention of Branch Committees and also the general body of the Members That the working Policy recognised by The Scottish National Union and accepted by The employers is Eleven days per Fort-night; That on no Account Should this be departed from on the recognised Pay Saturday unless the Pit has been idle a day or days during the two weeks before Such Pay Saturday; and to note particularly that it is the Members who Should decide whether work be done on the Pay Saturday under Such Circumstances or not and not the Manager either by verbal notice or otherwise to dictate or decide.

Penston: A report was given of a Case of Contracting at this Branch and the Action taken approved of, and it was agreed That the time lost by the Members of Committee acting with the Agents in this Case be paid for amounting to 21s.

In View of The Doctors having decided Not to attend the Dependants of the

¹⁵ No information about the incident has been found in the archives of the miners' or farm servants' union. The Scottish Farm Servants' Union, founded in 1912, merged in 1933 into the Transport & General Workers' Union. Joseph F. Duncan (1879-1964) was general secretary, SFSU, 1914-45.

Workmen unless a flat rate of 2½d. per week without Medicine was paid and 3d. per week with Medicine, and the Ballot vote of The Members having been against Such an increase, it was agreed to Strongly advise the Members to accept The Situation now existing of the visits requiring to be Made to any Dependants of the Workmen, Such visit or visits to be paid for in Accordance with the usual Medical practice. It was further agreed to advise the Members of The respective Branches to consent to the money that has been Subscribed from the 25th of August, and at present being retained on the Workmen's behalf, to be uplifted and put into a Common fund in order to pay the Accounts incurred Since the 25th of August for Medical Attendance upon any of the Dependants of those from whose wages deductions have been Made for Medical Attendance. The Board, Solely in the interest of The Members and their families, recommend the Whole of the Workmen at every Colliery in the two Counties to agree to the establishment of a Fund into which a weekly Contribution would be paid in the Same Manner as has been done in the past for Medical Attendance, with this difference that the Money So Contributed will belong to the Workmen and be disbursed on their behalf in paying accounts incurred for Medical Attendance on their Dependants. By Accepting this recommendation it will enable the Workman in the first place to choose any Doctor he prefers, and secondly it will clearly establish what in a collective way Such Medical Attendance really costs and Solve the problem of Whether the Doctors have hitherto been paid too little or whether the Workmen have paid too much. The Board believe that the Members have no other desire than to pay fairly and willingly for Medical attendance for their Wives and children, and it is only by having Such a Fund that will enable them to know whether proper payment is being made or not by having an opportunity of knowing the visits required and the money paid out for Such Services. Upon the principle being affirmed details will be further gone into and put before the Members. Delegates are requested to obtain the opinion of their Branches on these questions before Saturday the 14th October and to as far as possible get from those workmen who have required Medical attendance for their families from The 25th August to the 7th inst. The Accounts paid by or rendered to them for such Attendance.

12th October 1916

A Special Meeting of The Board was held today. The Secretary intimated that invitations had been received from The Miners' Federation of Great Britain for a delegate from each Colliery to attend a Conference at London on Wednesday The 25th Under The Auspices of the Government, To be addressed by The Prime Minister and The Home Secretary on the question of Absenteeism bearing on the output of Coal; and on The Motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr Joseph Colquhoun, it was agreed that all the Members of The Board attend

the Conference.¹⁶

Medical Question: The reports from Branches Showed That all were in favour of the recommendation of The Board except Wallyford; Prestongrange and House of Muir. It was then agreed that the Secretary request the Managers at the respective Collieries to remit to him The Money deducted from the Workmen's wages from the 25th August to the 7th October for the Medical fund as desired, and that Such Money be used to pay all legitimate accounts paid by any workman from whose wages a deduction had been made, or of Accounts rendered for payment for Medical attendances and Medicine for their dependants, between the dates Mentioned, viz., 25th August to 7th October. It was agreed that instructions be given to local Secretaries to get the accounts from the Workmen and forward them to the Secretary.

4th November 1916

A Meeting of The Board Was held today. The Minutes of Meetings held on The 30th September and 12th October were read and approved on The Motion of Mr John Ferguson, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, and Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr James Hogg.

The Minutes of The National Union Executive up to and including the 12th October were passed.

Medical Question: A Statement regarding this question was Submitted and the Matter was continued in the hands of The Executive Committee.

A detailed Statement of The Law Agent's Account for the past year was Submitted and passed.

The Vice President gave a report of the Quarterly Conference of The National Union held at Glasgow on the 30th October and the report was accepted.

In Connection with the Subscription for Mrs Wilson and family a letter from Prestongrange Branch was read requesting that a donation from The funds of the Association be given, which found No Support—Several Branches having taken a Drawing on her behalf and others having had arrangements Made for taking it up.

¹⁶ The conference, attended by 3,000 representatives of the mining industry, was chaired by the Home Secretary, Herbert Samuel, and addressed by H.H. Asquith, Prime Minister. Asquith said there had been a steady decline in output of coal since the beginning of the war. One of the most urgent needs, he said, was reduction in absenteeism which averaged 10 per cent over all the coal mines in the United Kingdom. Half of that was avoidable absenteeism and its elimination 'would practically make good the deficiency in the output'. Robert Smillie, president, MFGB, moved, and Adam Nimmo, president, Mining Association of Great Britain, seconded a resolution that was adopted unanimously, pledging all present to do everything in their power 'by co-operation between employers and workmen to secure an increase in the output of coal'. Smillie and Nimmo 'cordially supported the plea for more regular attendance of the miners', but Smillie pointed out 'That while the colliery managers in general endeavoured to maintain the output of coal to the highest level, there were several instances where the output was curtailed owing to men having to return home after attending at the pit when, by proper arrangements, arrangements could have been made to permit of them getting work and producing coal'. *NUSMW EC Minutes, 6 November 1916; Glasgow Herald, 26 Oct. 1916.*

Consideration was given to the renewal of Badges, after which it was agreed to delay the question in the Meantime.

It was decided that Funeral Allowance be paid on the death of Thos Stewart, Soldier Member, and to pay a gratuity to Mr Richardson upon the death of his Son.

War Pensions Committee, Haddingtonshire: It was agreed that Mr John Gordon continue to be the representative of the Association on this Committee.

Compensation Cases: A Statement by the Law Agent regarding the fatal Accident to Mr James McLean was read and the Matter was left with the Secretary to Consult the Father of the deceased upon the points raised in the Case.

It was agreed that each Delegate make arrangements with the local Committee of his Branch, in Consultation with the Checkweigher or Checkweighers, regarding the best Means of ascertaining and dealing with persons employed at their respective Collieries who were not Members of The Union.

North British Station Hotel, Edinburgh, 17th November 1916

An Executive Meeting was held today in Order to Meet The Coalowners' representatives to consider The question of Absenteeism, Ambulance Convoys, and The request Made on behalf of The Workmen That they the Employers would deduct The weekly Contribution that may be agreed to by the Workmen from their wages to create a fund to pay The Medical accounts rendered for Medical attendance upon their dependants.

Absenteeism: It was agreed that this question be put before The full Board of Representatives of both Sides, with a View to having Committees Set up at each Colliery representative of both Sides to deal with the Matter in order to reduce it to the lowest limit possible.

Ambulance Convoys: At the urgent request of The Coalowners' representatives The Executive undertook to put this matter before the full Board for reconsideration In view of all The Districts within The National Union of Scottish Mine Workers, except Mid & East Lothian, having agreed to Subscribe 6d. per man per week for 20 weeks against which The Coalowners were to put up an equal Sum to whatever The Workmen raised.

Medical Question: After some discussion regarding this question The employers' representatives agreed to at once pay over The Money collected for the Medical Relief Fund, for the Six Weeks following The last payment Made to the Doctors, to The Treasurer of the Association; After which it was mutually agreed That upon the representatives of The Mid and East Lothian Doctors agreeing to a Joint Meeting between The employers and themselves and The Miners' representatives that The Executive would attend without prejudice to hear what proposals if any the Doctors' representatives may have to make regarding a Continuance of The old System of a flat rate.

It was agreed That two Delegates be deputed to attend a Conference of the

Miners' Federation of Great Britain at Southport on The 22nd & 23 inst, to deal with the following questions: 1. Absenteeism. 2. Increased output of Coal. 3. Soldiers' Invalidity Pensions. 4. Parliamentary Labour Fund. 5. Income Tax—Mr Robert Burnside and the assistant Secretary being chosen.

[Board Room,] Monday, 20th November 1916¹⁷

A Special Meeting of the Board was held to-day.

Absenteeism: Two Circulars, one from the Home Office, the other from the Chief Inspector of Mines, were read regarding the urgent need for an increased output of Coal; and the Board resolved unanimously to recommend the Branch Committees to co-operate with the Management in dealing with Absenteeism, on the following understanding—That the Management, in supplying a list or lists of the Names of Workmen alleged to have been absent from work to the Workmen's Committee, shall in turn receive from the Workmen's representatives Statements of cases in which men, having presented themselves for work, were rendered idle from fault of management. The Workmen's representative to ascertain the correctness or otherwise of the lists given out by the Manager, after which a Joint Meeting be held to decide (upon investigations being made) and to define the real cases of Absenteeism—the results of their efforts to be reported to the Board. It was further decided that the Secretary apprise the Managers of the Board's desire, and to request their co-operation in carrying out the work.

The question of Ambulance Convoys was considered, during which it was stated that throughout England the Miners and Coalmasters had through what is called the Denis Bailey Fund, under the Red Cross, jointly provided a large number of Motor Ambulances, which had been most beneficial in preventing suffering and in saving many lives of our fellows at the front. It was also pointed out that all the Districts in the National Union of Scottish Mine Workers had agreed to subscribe 6d. per man per week for 20 weeks, on the understanding and pledge of the Coalowners, that whatever sum was raised by the Scottish Mine Workers, they, the Coalowners, would provide an equal sum. The Board therefore recommend—That the Miners of Mid and East Lothian, as representing a District that has given the highest percentage of men to the colours from their class throughout Great Britain, give this matter their best consideration, and to fall in line with the other Scottish Districts, viz., Lanarkshire, Fife and Kinross, Ayrshire, Stirling, West Lothian, and Clackmannan and not to stand aloof on such an important question.

It was decided that two Delegates attend a Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain at Southport, on the 22nd and 23rd inst., to deal with the Increased Cost of Living, Absenteeism, Soldiers' Pensions, Parliamentary Labour fund, etc., preparatory to a Conference to be held on the 7th December in

¹⁷ This is a printed report bound into the minute book. No place of meeting is given, but a report in the *Haddingtonshire Courier*, 24 Nov. 1916, shows that it took place at the Board Room, Eskbank, Dalkeith.

London of Trades Unions, Co-operative Societies, Trades Councils, Local Labour Parties, Socialist Societies, and Women's Industrial Organisations. It was also agreed that the Association be represented by three Delegates at the London Conference on the 7th December.

North British Station Hotel, Edinburgh, 1st December 1916

A Meeting of The Executive Committee was held today.

Absenteeism: The general Secretary reported from the Conference of Miners' Federation of Great Britain held at Southport on 22nd and 23rd ult. That a recommendation was Sent out to the Districts That in the Setting up of Committees to deal with the question of Absenteeism The Federation Should have prepared a Copy of rules uniform to all the Districts, and that The Committees would under the rules have power to impose fines in cases where Such Action was Considered Necessary but to apply to Managers equally as well as Workmen. It was agreed to deal with the question at the full Board Meeting to be held the following day.¹⁸

As requested by the Coalmasters a Joint Meeting of The Coalmasters, Doctors' representatives, and The Executive was held and after an exchange of opinions from all Sides The Meeting was adjourned to enable the Doctors to consult their Members, on the question of whether Their terms of 2½d. per week without Medicine and 3d. per week with Medicine could be reduced to enable the System of a flat rate as formerly to be again resorted to; and upon The Doctors agreeing to a Flat rate of 2d. per week That The Executive would put the same before the full Board and, if approved of, Submit the proposed terms to the Men.

Board Room, 2nd December 1916

The Board Met today. The Minute of Meeting held on 4th Novr was

¹⁸ The MFGB special conference at Southport had carried on a show of hands a resolution, 'That this Conference recommends the districts to adopt the principle of Local Joint Committees being set up to govern each colliery, such Committees to have the power to inflict fines under rules to be agreed upon by this Federation; this suggestion to be put before the men in each district as a recommendation, and that the delegates appointed to attend the National Labour Conference to be held in London on December 7th attend a Special Conference of this Federation to be held on December 6th, with final instructions to vote on the matter. Fines or penalties applicable to the men under the above resolution to be also applicable to the colliery officials where they are proved to be at fault.' Robert Brown, Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association, had told the Southport special conference that such committees had already been established at every colliery in Scotland 'though we have no rules yet, nor penalties', but 'in many instances' local colliery managers 'did not co-operate with the Committees that had been appointed by the men.' Moreover, he said, the miners on the committees 'cannot understand men being troubled at all about being idle' because 'throughout many of the districts in Scotland the men are only getting about half work ... the pit is idle so many days in a fortnight.' Most Scots coal districts exported coal and, he said, the fall in exports might be the cause of this under-employment. At the MFGB special conference on 6 Dec. the Southport resolution was carried by 456-278 votes, the NUSMW's 90 votes being cast in favour of it. *MFGBAR, 1916: Report of Special Conference, 22 and 23 November, 18-21, 39, 84; and of Special Conference, 6 December, 3-5.*

Approved on the Motion of Mr Lewis Affleck, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, and the Minute of The 20th November was approved on the Motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr Robert Burnside. The Minute of a Meeting of The Executive committee held on The 1st December was approved on the Motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr Aw McGill.¹⁹

Mr Robert Burnside reported from the Southport Conference, after which the Board approved of the recommendation by the Conference, Viz., That Committees be Set up to deal with Absenteeism be empowered to inflict fines.

The President reported regarding an interview between Representatives of the Coalowners, The Doctors and the Executive, and the Board agreed unanimously to the attitude taken up by the Executive on the Medical Attendance question.

Ambulance Convoys: The following Branches reported in favour of the recommendation of The Board on this question, Viz., Arniston, Niddrie, Rosewell, Carberry, Polton and Bankton. Against the recommendation: House of Muir, and Bankpark. The other Branches have not yet decided the question.

Nomination of Officials: No Nominations were made and it was agreed that Such Should be done at next Meeting.

The following were appointed to audit the Branch Books at the close of the year's accounts: Mr R. Burnside, Mr Wm Falconer, Mr R. Bennet, Mr Peter Mulligan, Mr John Main, Mr Wm McNeill, Mr Lewis Affleck, Mr Joe Colquhoun, Mr A. McGill, Mr John Ferguson, Mr Colin Allan, Mr Wm Foster.

It was decided that Branch Secretaries must close their Branch Accounts upon the last Saturday of December up to and including which of The two dates, Viz., 23rd or 30th, their contributions are taken.

New Year Holidays: It was agreed to defer Making any recommendation on this question but to advise the Members to abide by the recommendation that would be made by the National Union.

It was agreed that the President (Mr Andrew Clarke), The Assistant Secretary (Mr Joseph Young) and Mr Lewis Affleck be appointed to Act as Trustees in Connection with the Subscription raised for Mrs Wilson's benefit, The Sum being £198.5.2.

Miners Returning From the Army to the Mines: A letter from the Home Office on this question was read, and the General Secretary was instructed to comply with the request made with regard to the Method to be adopted in obtaining their discharge from the Army to return to the Mines.

The Minutes of The Executive Committee of the National Union up to the 6th November were approved.

The Vice President reported regarding The Ambulance League and intimated that only half fees would be called up for the ensuing year and that the Committee

¹⁹ Approval of the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on 17 Nov. 1916 is not minuted in these minutes or in those of 20 Nov. or 1 Dec.

had decided that Junior Teams Should be encouraged as much as possible.

It was agreed to pay the Funeral Allowance upon the death of Mr Peter Cross, and to pay a gratuity of 30s. to Mr John Vickers.

It was agreed that the Secretary ask for a reply from the Coalowners regarding the request That Duplicate Pay Lines be Supplied to the Workmen.

Prestongrange: A Motion and protest by this Branch were read but found no Support.

It was agreed that the Secretaries be paid the Same Allowance as Delegates for Executive and Special Meetings.

Labour Party Conference: It was agreed that the President and Mr Wm Aitken attend this Conference on the 23rd of January 1917 at Manchester.

16th December 1916

The Executive Committee met today.

The question of New Year holidays was considered and it was agreed to approve of The recommendation of The National Executive, Viz., That Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, The first three days of the year, be observed as holidays, and that upon the workmen at any Colliery Agreeing to work on The idle Saturday preceding the New Year they may do So.

The general Secretary was instructed to request The Local Secretaries to obtain all Accounts for Medical attendance and Medicine incurred by the Members up to and including the 16th December, intimation having [been] made That all negotiations with the Doctors had terminated, They having refused a weekly flat rate of 2d. per week exclusive of Medicine.

North British Station Hotel, Edinburgh, 26th December 1916

The Executive met today. After discussing with the employers The terms under which they would undertake to Make the deductions from The Workmen's Wages for Medical attendance on their Dependants It was agreed to accept the following: 1. That the Deductions for Medical Attendance on Dependants of Mine Workers be at the rate of 2d. per week, except at Collieries at which other arrangements are at present in existence. 2. That the amounts of the Deductions be paid over Monthly to the Treasurer of The Workmen's Central Medical Fund, except in the following Cases, namely, The Colliery Officials, Managers, Clerks, Under Managers, Oversmen and Foreman Mechanics, and Enginemen & Boiler Firemen. 3. That Statements of Receipts and Payments relative to each Colliery Pay Office be made up and Sent in to that office Monthly.

The Coal Trade and Pooling of Wagons: At the Meeting with the employers The Chairman, Mr Jas A. Hood, Stated that an Order in Council had been made to pool all Traders' Wagons, and the Coalowners Suggested that The Miners' Representatives Might cooperate with them towards Securing if possible That the Wagons owned by the Coalowners in Mid & East Lothian be when pooled

Confined to that area, or failing Such that an effort be made to Secure a fair Share of the trade with the other Districts of Scotland. It was agreed that upon the employers Submitting Their Suggestions and the means to be adopted to carry them out That the Men's representatives would give them favourable Consideration.

Board Room, 6th January 1917

The Board Met today. The Minute of The Meeting of 2nd December was adopted on the Motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr David Barr. The Minutes of the Executive Meetings held on the 16th and 26th December were approved of.

The roll of Branches was called for Nominations for the position of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Auditors, and all with one exception desired no change. The Board then decided that the election of Mr Andrew Clarke as President, Provost Ormiston as Vice President, Mr William Falconer, J.P., as Treasurer, and Messrs John Pryde and Robert Milne as Auditors would be formally adopted at the February meeting of the Board.

Daylight Savings Bill: A Circular Soliciting opinions regarding the advantages or otherwise of the operation of this Measure was Considered and the Consensus of opinion, as it affected the Mining Community, was adverse to the change.²⁰

Award re. Surface Workers' Wages: The Secretary Submitted the award of Sir G. Askwith on this question and the Delegates were instructed to report regarding any case or cases in Which The proper Advance had not been paid.²¹

Mr John Gordon having resigned the position as representative of the Association on the Haddington County War Pensions Committee Mr John Main was appointed in his place, and the Secretary instructed to intimate the wish of the Board to The Clerk of The Haddington Shire War Pensions Committee.

Newbattle: A claim to Funeral Allowance by Mr Thomas Lennie upon the death of a child was refused.

Carberry Branch: It was Agreed to pay two days' wages to Mr Thomas Ferguson in lieu of two days' work lost regarding a dispute about payment of deficiency.

Elphinstone: It was agreed that the Funeral Claim be paid for a Still born child of the deceased John Tyrie.

The Vice President gave a report of the Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain and of the Labour Conference held in London on the 6th

²⁰ The Summer Time Act (6 & 7 Geo.V, c. 14) had been passed on 17 May 1916 and provided that from 21 May to 1 Oct. 'the time for general purposes in Great Britain shall be 1 hour in advance of Greenwich Mean Time.'

²¹ Sir George Askwith had awarded on 25 Dec. an increase in wages of 8d. per day to those surface workers earning over 3s.6d. per day, and 4d. per day to those earning 3s.6d. or less. *Glasgow Herald*, 26 Dec. 1916.

and 7th December on the question of the high Cost of living.²²

A Motion was Moved by the Prestongrange representative to rescind the decision of the Executive at the Meeting of 2nd December regarding the expenses to the Secretaries. The previous question was Carried by 17 Votes to 3. A Motion regarding the paying of the Executive for two Meetings was also Submitted but found no Support.

In View of Several claims being made for Funeral Allowance by Widows, both of Soldiers and ordinary deceased Members, Who have failed to enrol as Members after the death of their husband, Secretaries are requested to look up any Such Cases that are on their books and notify them that unless they enrol as from the date of Funeral Allowance paid for their husband, no further claim can be admitted.

8th February 1917

The Executive Committee Met today. All Members present.

Adam Robertson's Case: The Secretary read a letter from the Law Agents intimating that a Sum of £3.10.0. had been offered to Robertson as Compensation for the three and a half weeks he was off Work arising from an alleged accident he Met with on the 27th July last but that he refused to Sign a final discharge, and that it was only on Condition that he did So that the Money would be paid. The Law Agents having Stated that there might be a difficulty in proving an Accident, The Executive agreed that he Should Accept the £3.10s. under the Conditions attached.

The Executive Agreed to recommend to the Board That a Sum of £5,000 be invested in the five per Cent War Loan in Name of the Association.

Dispute, Woodhall Colliery: The Assistant Secretary intimated that a Section of Men had been idle at this colliery owing to a reduction of the hewing rate but that this afternoon, At an interview with the Manager and the men affected, a Settlement had been arrived at and the work would be resumed as usual.

²² The MFGB special conference on 6 Dec. had denounced wartime profiteering and had unanimously agreed to support this resolution that was adopted next day by the national Labour conference: 'That this conference, representative of National Labour organised on both its wage-earning and consuming sides, declares that whilst regretting the long delay of the Government in taking action to prevent food prices rising as they have steadily done during the past two years, welcomes the steps that have now been taken, but is of opinion that they are inadequate, and that no policy will give public confidence unless it includes (a) the purchase of all imported essential foodstuffs by the Government; (b) the commandeering or controlling of home products such as meat, wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, and milk; (c) the commandeering of ships and the controlling of freights and freight rates; (d) the placing on the retail markets of all supplies so obtained and controlled at prices which will secure the full benefit of Government action to the consumer; (e) the organisation and supervision of production so as to use home resources to the utmost, especially as regards agriculture, which in the opinion of the conference can be dealt with most effectively by fixing a guaranteed price to the producers on condition that satisfactory minimum rates of wages are also paid; further ... the supply of coal and other necessities of life should be dealt with by the Government on lines similar to those indicated above.' *MFGB AP, 1916: Report of Special Conference, 6 December, 6-18; Glasgow Herald, 7 Dec. 1916.*

Prestongrange: There was read a letter from the Secretary of this Branch, intimating that at a Meeting held on Sunday the 28th January it had been decided Not to remit The last fortnight's Contributions of the Members to the Treasurer until the Executive Committee refunded the Money paid them for the Meeting held in Edinburgh at Which the Medical Question for the Workmen's dependants was dealt with. Mr Corrie having requested to be advised regarding the Contemplated Action by his Branch The Secretary was instructed to write him as follows: That all monies taken in the name of the Association must be remitted to the Treasurer of the Association, and further that upon any Member or Branch intimating his or their withdrawal from the Association—Which the Stopping payments Amounts to—the 12 weeks cannot apply re members being out of benefit, and If the Branch has a grievance against the Board of Management Rule 23 May be applied to Settle the Matter.

10th February 1917

The Board Met today. The Minute of Meeting of 6th January was adopted on the Motion of Mr Lewis Affleck, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, And The Minute of Executive Meeting held on 8th February was approved of on the Motion of Mr John Ferguson, Seconded by Mr John Main.

Mr Andrew Clarke, President, was reelected on the Motion of Mr Robert Burnside, Seconded by Mr Lewis Affleck. Mr James Ormiston was reelected as Vice President on the Motion of The President and Seconded by Mr John Ferguson. Mr William Falconer was reelected Treasurer on the Motion of Mr Lewis Affleck, Seconded by Mr William Foster, And Messrs John Pryde & Robert Milne reappointed as Auditors.

Executive Committee: Mr Wm McNeill, Elphinstone Branch, and Mr Lewis Affleck were elected to this committee in room of Messrs Colin Allan and John Ferguson, retiring Members.

The Auditors reported regarding the auditing of the Branch Books to the effect that the Books were well kept and all Accounts in order, and Stated that the Branches had the following Sums as balances in their local funds: Arniston £66.0.6., Newbattle, £63.13.0., Niddrie £27.11.0., Loanhead £10.18.0¹/₂., Rosewell £9.4.11., Carberry £11.16.4., Elphinstone £4.5.0., Penston £1.15.0., Ormiston £12.14.9., Prestongrange £16.10.11., Wallyford £21.6.10., Polton £4.4.7., House of Muir £1.10.0., Bankton £1.5.5., Woodhall £1.2.11., Prestonlinks £14.17.0., Smeaton [blank], Bankpark £0.0.6¹/₂., Roslin £0.17.11., Vogrie £5.1.0.

It was agreed to unanimously on the Motion of Mr Robert Connor, Seconded by Mr Alexander Anderson, to invest £5,000 in the 5 per Cent War Loan, and the Trustees and Secretary instructed to Carry out the transaction.

The Secretary Submitted the Annual Report as Signed by the Auditors and he was instructed to have it printed and issued to the Members.

Prestongrange: The letter from this Branch referred to in the Minute of Executive Meeting of the 8th inst. was read and the Action of the Executive thereanent upheld.

Compensation Case, W.H. Brown: This Case was left in the hands of the Secretary to consult with Mr Brown and report.

The Secretary reported regarding the recent claim for an advance of Wages in which Lord Strathclyde as Neutral Chairman had decided that no change in Wages be Made from his award last September when Wages were advanced by 12½ per Cent as from the 22nd August.²³

The Minutes of the Executive Committee Meetings of the National Union up to the end of December were passed.

Absenteeism: The report upon this question Showed that Absentee Committees had been Set up at every Branch And it was agreed to recommend that the Members be paid 1s. for each Meeting from the Central fund, and the Maximum Number for the largest Branches Should Not exceed five, and unless in Cases of urgency Meetings Should only be held Fortnightly.

The reports from the Branches regarding the recommendation by the Board to Subscribe towards the providing of Ambulance Convoys for the Red Cross Showed that the following Collieries had begun to pay 6d. per week: Newbattle, Loanhead, Rosewell, Carberry, Wallyford, Polton, Prestonlinks and Roslin; Arniston and Niddrie were in favour but had not yet begun to collect; The Collieries against being Elphinstone, Ormiston, Bankton, Woodhall, Bankpark and House of Muir; Those undecided being Penston, Smeaton, Vogrie and Prestongrange. It was agreed to leave each Colliery, upon agreeing to fall into line with the other Districts of the National Union, to intimate the decision to the Management.

Arniston: A complaint regarding the quality of firecoal delivered to the Workmen at this Branch was Made, and also that the proper advance had not been paid to the Surface Workers, under Sir George Askwith's Award, and the Secretary was instructed to deal with both complaints.

Funeral claim: Newbattle—It was agreed to give a gratuity of 30s. to Mr Charles Turnbull upon the death of his child. Niddrie—A claim to funeral allowance by Mrs Aitken upon the death of a child was disallowed, and a claim by Mr Walter Clarkson to Funeral Allowance upon the death of his Son was ruled out of order.

It was agreed to grant £2 to the Local fund of the Bankpark Branch, and a Similar amount to Mr Andrew Watterston of Rosewell Branch, for loss of two weeks' work.

10th March 1917

A Meeting of the Board was held today. The Minute of Meeting of 10th

²³ The miners had sought an increase of 1s. per day, equal to 25 per cent on the 1888 basis rates. *NUSMWE C Minutes, 30 January, 9 February 1917.*

February was adopted on the Motion of Mr Robert Burnside, Seconded by Mr Wm Foster, after it being agreed to refer to the Motion from Prestongrange in The Minute of this Meeting.

It was agreed That Messrs John Main, Ormiston Colliery, and Mr Andrew McGill, Niddrie Colliery, be deputed to represent The Association at a Conference of The Miners' Federation of Great Britain to be held in London on Monday the 19th inst. and a conference of The Labour and Trades Union Party on the 20th to Consider the question of Electoral Reform as Suggested by the Speaker's Conference. It was agreed That The President & Vice President attend a Conference to be held in Edinburgh on Saturday 31st inst. at 3 p.m. on the question of Land Nationalisation.

A letter was read Sent on behalf of the Shale Miners' Association requesting that upon any Member or Members of that body leaving that District and being admitted to membership of The Mid & East Lothian Miners' Association by clearance Card That he would be entitled to all the benefits of The Association, including funeral benefits, and that the Same principle would apply to any Member or Members of the Mid & East Lothian Association upon transferring to the Shale Miners' Union. It was agreed to Comply with the request and that the Secretary inform Mr Robert Simpson, Secretary to the Shale Miners' Union, of the decision, The terms being That enrolment as a Member in the Books of the Branch at which The transferred Member Starts work and has been accepted by clearance Card Must have taken place before any claim to funeral allowance can be entertained.

Mr W.H. Brown's Case: The Law Agents having advised that the Sum of 50s. offered in this case Should be accepted The Board Agreed to Act upon the Advice given, and instructed The Secretary to inform Mr Brown of the decision.

Complaints having been Made that at Elphinstone and Ormiston Collieries The Surface Workers had not been paid the proper advance as awarded by Sir George Askwith, It was decided that unless the Matter was adjusted at once Steps would be taken to bring the Workmen on Strike to enforce payment.

There was read a letter from Lady Elphinstone requesting that Consideration be given to the question of paying the Medical Fees for attendance upon the dependants of the Miners Serving in the Army, and The Secretary was instructed to inform her Ladyship that throughout Lanarkshire, Stirlingshire, and West Lothian The Doctors were attending The Wives and children of Soldiers free of charge; and that while the Representatives of the Miners would take part in any general Movement in the interests of Soldiers' dependants, They Could not advise that any fund be raised for the payment of Doctors' Fees.²⁴

The Minutes of The Executive Committee Meetings of The National Union up to and including 16th Feby were passed.

²⁴ Lady Mary Bowes-Lyon (1883-1961), married, 1910, the 16th Lord Elphinstone, and lived at Carberry Tower, near Musselburgh.

The Secretary reported that after Negotiations with the Manager of The Portland Cement Works at Cousland 1¹/₄d. per hour advance had been obtained for the Drawers as from the 2nd March.

Motions by Branches: This question having been raised it was decided that the Board reserve the power to decide what Should be Sent out to Branches.

Compensation Case: Mr John Young of Penston Colliery having obtained a Certificate of disablement for Beat Knee Which was being appealed against to the Medical Referee, it was agreed to await the decision which, if adverse to Beat Knee, to then consider whether a claim for Accident could be established.

Mrs Janet Marshall of Cambusnethan having made a claim to £4 upon the death of her brother Mr Thos Fraser, a Soldier Member, it was decided that there was no dependancy whatever on the deceased and that no Funeral Allowance could be paid to her in Such a case. It was agreed that Mrs Eaton was entitled to funeral Allowance upon the death of her husband, killed at the front. Newbattle Branch: It was agreed that Miss Mulvey was dependant on her brother Mr Thos Mulvey, Soldier Member Killed, and that She receive the funeral allowance of £4.

Bankton: Intimation was made that 6d. per week was being deducted from the workmen at this Branch for Ambulance Convoys, While at a Meeting they had decided against paying; and it was agreed that the matter be enquired into to ensure that no deduction be made from Workmen's Wages without their consent.

Niddrie: A claim having been made for Victimisation Allowance on behalf of Mr John Heron of this Branch it was decided that a claim to Victimisation had not been made out. A charge having been preferred against Mr Henry Robertson by the Niddrie Coal Company on the ground that he refused to leave the Cage when requested to do So by the Oversman, he Mr Robertson having left off work early owing to illness and desired to get up, It was agreed that our Law Agent take the Matter in hand as a Serious assault had been made upon Mr Robertson by the Oversman in removing him from the Cage by force.

A Motion from Prestongrange Branch that 2s. per Meeting be paid from the Central fund to Absentee Committees found no support, The other Branches all being in favour of 1s. per Meeting as recommended by the Board. It was decided not to adopt a Suggestion put forward by this Branch, Viz., to circularize Members in Arrears, Such a Method having been in operation formerly and advice given that it Should not be continued.

7th April 1917

An Executive Meeting was held today.

Compensation Cases: The Secretary intimated that he had an offer of £3.3.4. to Settle The claim of Mr Archibald Rutherford against The Edinburgh Collieries and it was agreed That he be advised to accept the offer made.

W.H. Brown's Case: The Secretary intimated that he had received a letter from Mr W.H. Brown requesting him to send the Correspondence to him in Connection with his case, and a further letter requesting to be informed of the date of the next Board meeting and if he could have an interview with the Board. The Secretary was instructed to intimate to him That his letters referred to of The 13th ult. and 2nd inst. would be put before the Board at the first meeting for Consideration and that he would be apprised of the decision in due course.

James McRitchie & Jas Munro: It was agreed to put a claim by Mr James McRitchie & [James] Munro for £20.15s. against The Niddrie Coal Coy in the hands of the Law Agents to consider whether The claim was good to be taken to Court, McRitchie claiming that he had a hewing rate and the Manager Maintaining that he was making Them and their men up to wages.

14th April 1917

The Board met today. The Minute of Meeting held on 10th March was approved on the Motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr John Hamilton, and the Minute of a Meeting of the Executive Committee held on the 7th April was adopted on the Motion of Mr Robert Connor, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan.

Two letters from Mr W.H. Brown regarding his Compensation claim were considered in which he requested that all the Correspondence in Connection with his Case be handed over to him and that he be granted an interview by the Board. It was agreed on the Motion of Mr Robert Burnside, That the request made be not complied with, against an Amendment by Mr John Main that the Correspondence be handed to Mr Brown.

The Vice President and Messrs John Ferguson and Alexander Anderson were appointed to attend a Conference of the National Union at Glasgow on Monday the 16th inst. to Consider the question of an increase of the Contributions (with instructions to oppose the proposed increase), and the Agenda of the Scottish Trades Union Congress, as also the question of recruiting from the Mines for the Army; and Mr Lewis Affleck and Mr Peter Mulligan were deputed to attend a Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain in London on Thursday the 19th April. The Assistant Secretary with Messrs John Hamilton and George Harkness, were appointed to attend the Scottish Trades Union Congress at Falkirk on the 25th inst. and three following days.

The Minutes of the National Union Executive Committee Meetings up to 2nd March were approved of.

The President reported from the Conference he and the Vice President had attended regarding Land Nationalisation, And Mr Andrew McGill and Mr John Main reported regarding the Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, and the Conference of the Labour Party regarding Electoral Reform

attended by them.²⁵

Summer time Act: In View of the Coming into operation of this Measure on the 7th inst. and Several Complaints being made by Members, Branches at which the workmen feel that the hour of Starting constitutes a hardship and desire that arrangements be made to meet the change of time are requested to consider the question in all its aspects, both regarding Back Shift, Train Services, and Wagon Supply, and instruct their delegate regarding their desire for next Board Meeting.

A Motion from Prestongrange Branch that the Resolution to pay 1s. per Member for each Meeting he attended of an Absentee Committee Meeting be rescinded and that 2s. per meeting be paid was considered, as also a Motion by Bankpark Branch that no payment Whatever be paid, When the previous question was carried.

The Agents were instructed to request the Executive of the National Union to consider the question of granting financial assistance to the Labour Representation Committee for the County of Haddington and to render all assistance possible otherwise towards Carrying on the work undertaken by them in promoting the Labour Movement.

Arniston Branch: It was agreed to pay the usual funeral allowance to Mrs Cavanagh upon the death of her husband, killed at the front.

Newbattle: It was decided, upon a question from this Branch, that any Member who had left the Mines to follow any other occupation and continued to pay for funeral benefits only Could not upon enlisting be relieved from payment of his Contributions, as had been granted to Clear Members at work in the

²⁵ The conference in Edinburgh on 31 Mar. 'for the discussion of land, food, and timber supply, and home colonisation by discharged soldiers and sailors', was organised by the Land Nationalisation Society, Edinburgh Trades Council, and St Cuthbert's Co-operative Association. The conference passed a resolution advocating 'state ownership of the land, a standard wage for all workers, and a guarantee to soldiers and sailors of the use of part of their native land on good terms after the war if they desired it'. The national conference on electoral reform held by the Trades Union Congress, the Labour Party, and women's industrial organisations, in London on 20 Mar. was attended by 436 delegates representing 2.2 million members. The issue of electoral reform had been passed in 1916 by H.H. Asquith, Prime Minister, to a conference presided over by the Speaker of the House of Commons. At that period women and around two million men did not have the right to vote. The Speaker's conference had unanimously recommended a six month's residence qualification, instead of occupancy, and one plural vote only. A majority had also recommended votes for women on the old occupancy basis, at a higher age than for men. The labour conference on 20 Mar. passed a resolution, 'while adhering to the repeated demands for complete adult suffrage', welcoming the work of the Speaker's conference and urging the Parliamentary Labour Party to support its proposals as a minimum, 'provided that the enfranchisement of women, including women wage earners and widows, is agreed to ... on the broadest possible basis, and especially to ensure that the bulk of the wage-earning women are not excluded from any franchise measure'. An amendment calling for a Bill based on complete adult suffrage was defeated by 2,662,000 votes to 88,000; and another amendment by Robert Smillie, president, MFGB, that women should be enfranchised on the same basis as men, was defeated by 1,662,000 votes to 931,000. *Report of Proceedings at the 49th Annual Trades Union Congress, 1917*, 137-8; Taylor, *English History*, 93; *Glasgow Herald*, 21 Mar. and 2 Apr. 1917.

Mines at the outbreak of the present War.

Penston: Mr Edmund Shiels, Checkweigher at this Branch, having been Summoned to appear before the Sheriff at Haddington at the instance of the Udston Coal Coy, requesting that he be removed from the position as Checkweigher on the plea that he had obstructed the work at the Mine, The General Secretary instructed the Law Agent for the Association to appear on Mr Shiels' behalf. The Board unanimously approved of the Action taken. Intimation was made that The Sheriff had decided that Mr Shiels Should be removed.²⁶

Vogrie: Intimation was made that the Surface workers at this Colliery had now been paid the advance under Sir George Askwith's Award.

Wallyford: The following Motion from this Branch was Considered and the principle accepted. All Motions be Submitted to Collieries before they become law.

Free Gardeners' Institute, Picardy Place, Edinburgh, 21st April 1917

A Meeting of the Board was held here today. The general Secretary on the invitation of The chairman informed the delegates That at a Joint Meeting between the Coalowners, The Doctors and the Sub Committee, held on Monday the 16th inst. in the North British Station Hotel, After the whole question of Medical attendance had been discussed The Doctors offered to attend The dependants of the Workmen of the Mid & East Lothian Collieries for a flat rate of 2 1/4d. per week; and at Collieries where arrangements had been Come to between the Doctor or Doctors and the Workmen, Whereby attendance and Medicine would be given for 3d. per week, that Such arrangements Continue upon the Workmen desiring it.

After Several questions had been put and answered It was agreed to unanimously to recommend the offer made for Acceptance by the Workmen, and that Meetings be held at all the Branches to Submit the proposal to the Men And the decision Sent to the Secretary as Soon as possible.

It was also agreed that each delegate may intimate to the meeting to be held That any one who had an Account rendered for Medical Attendance for his

²⁶ The company alleged that Shiels or Shields, checkweigher at its Riggonhead and St Germain's colliery, had on 5 Mar., when the weather was stormy, inspired and supported a demand for pay and a half by pithead women and boys working as hutch-runners. After the latter had stopped work when their demand was refused and had left the pit, Shields had cursed and sworn at men told by the manager to do the work of the women and boys, and had called them blacklegs. When the manager himself tried to take part in running the hutches, Shields had again interfered and cursed and swore at him, too. The result had been loss of 150 tons of output. Shields said he had complained both to the men workers set on to work the hutches and to the manager that the miners' output was being prejudiced through hutches bumping and that they were suffering loss of wages through some of their pins or tallies not being taken out of the hutches. Shields denied he had in any way acted contrary to the management or outside the scope of his duties under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887. The application by the company for Shields' removal as checkweigher was said to be the first ever heard by Haddington Sheriff Court. *Haddingtonshire Courier*, 6 and 13 Apr. 1917.

dependants Since the 3rd of April That Such Account be held in abeyance Meantime, and any one having paid an Account for attendance from the 3rd ult. to keep the receipt pending a Settlement of the Medical Question Should Such take place.

Board Room, 12th May 1917

The Board met today. The Minute of Meeting held on the 14th April was adopted on the Motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr John Hamilton, And the Minute of Meeting held on the 21st April in the Free Gardeners' Institute, Picardy Place, Edinburgh, was adopted on the Motion of Mr Lewis Affleck, Seconded by Mr Alexr Anderson.

Messrs John Ferguson and Alexr Anderson reported from the Conference of The National Union held at Glasgow on the 16th April, And Mr John Hamilton reported from The Scottish Trades Congress, While Lewis Affleck gave a report of the Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain held at London on the 19th and 20th April.²⁷

It was decided that Mr John Early was entitled to Funeral Allowance on the death of his Mother.

Soldier Members: It was decided that Local Secretaries be instructed to as far as possible Make it known to any Soldier Members returning to Civil Life That exemption from payment of the Contributions to the Association Ceased upon their leaving the Army, Thereby putting them in the same position as they were before enlisting, and that they come under the Rule as other Members with regard to Funeral or other benefits, Viz., upon being twelve weeks in Arrears no Such claim Can be allowed.

Messrs Colin Allan and Joe Colquhoun were appointed to attend a Conference of The Miners' Federation of Great Britain to be held on Thursday the 17th inst. in London on the question of Compulsory Rationing and Recruiting from the Mines.

The Secretary reported that the Sheriff had decided that Mr Richard Armstrong Dickson, Son of Mr Peter Dickson, had been Killed while doing what did not arise in the Course of his employment and that no Compensation was payable, When it was agreed that the Secretary enquire at the Law Agents as to whether the decision Can be appealed against.

The Secretary was instructed to intimate to Mr Robert Simpson, Secretary

²⁷ The MFGB special conference, called to consider the recruitment of miners to the army, unanimously resolved 'That having agreed to advise the Government that the men required for military service should be taken from those who have gone to work at the mines since August 1914, we now remit the question to the Executive Committee to consider the best means and most equitable method of securing the men for the Army in the event of the required number of men not being obtained from those who have gone into the mines since August 1914, and that the suggestions of the Executive Committee be submitted to a further Conference.' Robert Brown told the conference that Mid and East Lothian 'has the highest percentage of men [from the mines] enlisted in Scotland'. *MFGB AP, 1917: Report of Special Conference, 19 and 20 April*, 43-4, 61.

to the Shale Miners' Association, That upon a Member of The Shale Miners' Association obtaining work in the Coal Mines of Mid and East Lothian and producing a clearance line from The Shale Miners' Union and, being enrolled as a Member of the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association, he would be entitled to all the benefits of the Association; and that the Same would apply to any Member of the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association who found work in the Shale Mines and Complied with the above terms as applying to Shale Miners, and that from the 1st of June 1917 The agreement to become operative.

The Secretary was instructed to order 50 Copies of The Labour Party Conference Reports of the Conference held at Manchester last January.

The Minutes of The National Union Executive Committee Meetings up to 26th April were considered and passed.

It was agreed to recommend that a Sum of £5 be granted to the Labour Representation Committee of Haddington County from the Labour Fund to assist that body in forwarding the Cause of Labour throughout the County.

Summer time Act: The reports regarding this Measure Showed that 15 Branches were in favour and 5 against. It was therefore decided that no action be taken.

Bankton: Messrs Wm McNeill and John Main reported on the Audit of the Books of this Branch upon the change of Secretary having been made. It was agreed that a grant of 30s. be made to Mr Dan Ross upon the death of his child. The Representative from this Branch, in reporting that only three days per week were being got, Stated that a number of Men were attending the Pit on the idle days and the Workmen were desirous that a fair distribution of the work Should be made. It was agreed that the Local Committee in Conjunction with the Assistant Secretary take up that Matter. It was also put forward by this Branch that only half Dues Should be paid to the Association owing to idle time and Rule 20 was referred to as dealing with that Matter. The question of Half Offtakes was also Considered and while that point was held to be of importance upon the idle time Continuing, The Board advised that at Branches where only half time was being got The Committee Should Seriously Consider the question of Members applying for relief from the Prince of Wales Fund which was primarily raised for the purpose of relieving those losing their income owing to the War and that the Miners had during the Whole period Subscribed liberally towards it.

Polton: A Motion from this Branch proposing to abolish the Absentee Committees was Considered, after which in the View of the Short time at present being worked The Board was of opinion fewer Meetings of these Committees would be required and Consequently less expense incurred but that they Should Continue in Existence to deal with any Case or Cases that may arise to ensure that the Members charged as Absentees had a fair opportunity to State their Case.

The Chairman reported that at a Joint Meeting of the Executive Committee and a Committee representing the Doctors of Mid & East Lothian held on the 8th inst. it was agreed, in Accordance with the decision of the Workmen as reported from the Branches, That a Flat rate be resorted to for the payment for Medical attendance upon the Workmen's dependants and that the payment be 2½d. per week without Medicine, and Where any Arrangement had been made to give Medicine alone with Medical Attendance the payment to be 3d. per week. The following recommendation was unanimously approved to be put before the Constituents of both parties: In View of the fact that it required nine weeks at 2d. per week (equal to 1s. 6d. per person) paying from the 3rd of April onwards in order to Meet the Medical Accounts rendered up to that date, The Same rate of 2d. per week would Continue for Six weeks and a levy of Sixpence taken at the last payment to clear off all Accounts up to 3rd April; And that the Doctors for Six weeks from the 3rd of April would not render any Account for Medical Attendance, and upon any Account having been rendered after that date it would be taken back (or if any Such Account has been paid the Money would be refunded by the Doctor receiving it) and the new rate of payment for the Doctors to begin on the Seventh week from the 3rd April.

The Board unanimously recommend acceptance of the Above recommendation by the Men and offer the Suggestion, upon its acceptance, That when the levy of 6d. is being made the 6d. per man at present being paid for the Red Cross Ambulance Convoys be Suspended during that week, and that the proposed levy take its place at those Collieries where the Red Cross Ambulance Convoys are being Subscribed for.

Mr Robert Burnside gave Notice of Motion, Viz., To propose That the Board Meet once every four weeks and on a day other than Saturday.

24th May 1917

A Meeting of The Executive Committee was held today.

Resolutions for Miners' Federation of Great Britain Agenda: Bankton—A Motion by this Branch that a claim be put forward for a bonus owing to the high Cost of living was Considered and it was agreed to put it in the hands of the Agents to be dealt with by the Executive of The National Union. Another resolution by the Bankton Branch re. The Manner of Selecting parliamentary Candidates was Considered and held not to be a matter for the Miners' Federation of Great Britain Agenda but that it could be dealt with in the first place by The Board of this Association; and a Similar decision was arrived at with regard to a resolution regarding any Action being taken upon the question of peace.

Wallyford: A resolution [was submitted] by this Branch, Viz., That in future Paid Agents of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain Shall only be paid their expenses for attending Conferences at which the business is Solely in the interest of the above Federation. The Executive after Consideration of the above

were unanimously of opinion that we could not interfere with the payment by other Districts of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, but further that they were not aware of any payment having been made for other than work done in the interest of The Federation as a whole.

The Secretary intimated that a Joint Meeting of Employers, Doctors, and Workmen's representatives had been arranged to be held on Thursday the 30th inst. and it was agreed that in Addition to the Executive Committee Messrs Jas Hogg and John Hamilton be invited as they had taken part hitherto in these proceedings.

North British Station Hotel, Edinburgh, 31st May [1917]

The Executive Committee met today. Arrangements were Made for the Joint Meeting between The Employers' & Doctors' Representatives regarding the Medical question. After the interviews at which the terms of Settlement were adjusted, Viz., That for nine weeks from the 3rd April The Money Collected at 2d. per man be remitted to the Secretary and on the 10th week a levy of 6d. be made added to 3d. as the weekly Contribution, Next week 3d., next week 2d., next 3d. & three weeks 2d.

Board Room, 16th June 1917

The Board Met today. The Minute of 12th May was adopted on the Motion of Mr John Ferguson, Seconded by Mr James Hogg. The Minutes of Executive Committee held on 24th and 31st May were adopted on the Motion of Mr Robert Burnside, Seconded by Mr Lewis Affleck.

The chairman Moved Suspension of the Standing Orders in order that the Board Consider the Action of the Seamen and Firemen's Union in preventing Messrs Ramsay McDonald and Jowett getting to Petrograd. This was Seconded by Mr Robert Burnside. Mr John Main Moved That the Standing Orders be not Suspended; and upon the vote being taken eleven votes were given for each question and the chairman gave his casting vote in favour of Suspension. The chairman Moved, Seconded by Mr Robert Burnside, That this Board expresses disapproval of the Action of the Sailors and Firemen's Union at preventing Messrs Ramsay McDonald and Fred Jowett getting to Petrograd, and Mr John Main Moved, Seconded by Mr Michael McGowan, That we do not disapprove of the Action, When there voted for the Amendment 12 and for the Motion 8.²⁸

²⁸ James Ramsay MacDonald (1866-1937), a leader of the Independent Labour Party from its formation in 1893, secretary, 1900-11, and leader, 1911-14 and 1922-31, Labour Party; MP for Leicester, 1906-18, Aberavon, 1922-9, and Seaham, 1929-35; Prime Minister, 1924 and 1929-35, Foreign Secretary, 1924, Lord President of the Council, 1935-7, leader, 1931-5, 'National' Labour Party. Fred W. Jowett (1864-1944), a leading figure in the Independent Labour Party from 1893, MP for Bradford, 1906-18, 1922-4, 1929-31, First Commissioner of Works, 1924. MacDonald and Jowett were appointed by the Independent Labour Party as its representatives, on the invitation of the Petrograd Workers' and Soldiers' Council, supported by the Russian Provisional Government, to discuss with the Council how international action could be taken to end the war by means of a 'People's Peace'. An

It was decided that the Funeral Claim upon the death of Patrick McArthy, Soldier Member, be paid to his Father.

The Treasurer and Mr Tom McNeill were appointed to attend a Conference in London of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain and the Triple Alliance on the 20th and 21st inst.²⁹

Belgian Relief Fund: Intimation was Made that the Elphinstone Branch had decided to discontinue the weekly Subscription to this fund.³⁰

The reports were favourable to the recommendation of the Board to Make a grant of £5 to the funds of the Haddingtonshire County Local Representation Committee³¹ and the Treasurer was instructed to forward the Same to the Secretary and Treasurer of that body.

It was agreed that upon a nominee from the Miners being requested as a Member of the South Eastern District of Scotland Disablement Pension Committee The name of Mr James Hoggan be put forward.

Two Resolutions of Bankpark Colliery, one by Penston, and one by Wallyford having been Considered by the Executive Committee, (Who decided that the Bankpark and Penston Motions Could not under the Circumstances be put on the Agenda of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain but that the one regarding the Selection of Parliamentary Candidates Might be dealt with at the Conference of the National Union, And that the Motion by Wallyford only Suggests to be done what the Executive Considered was at present being done) The Board unanimously endorsed the Views of the Executive.

Messrs Colin Allan and Joe Colquhoun gave a report of the Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain attended by them on the 17th May and the Report was Accepted.³²

The question of Holidays during July was held over pending the opinion

attempt by some Conservative MPs to prevent MacDonald and Jowett travelling on their mission to Russia by withdrawing their passports failed. But 'Captain' Edward Tupper, a henchman of J. Havelock Wilson (1858-1929), the strongly pro-war president of the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union, persuaded seamen at Aberdeen on 10 June to refuse to allow the two men on board the ship that was to take them to Russia. D. Marquand, *Ramsay MacDonald* (London, 1977), 208-15; F. Brockway, *Socialism over Sixty years: the Life of Jowett of Bradford* (London, 1946), 154-7.

²⁹ See above, p. 218, n. 25. The conference of the Triple Industrial Alliance on 21 June was called to ratify its constitution. The conference agreed to call a special conference to consider taking industrial action to prevent any attempt by the government to introduce industrial conscription. *MFGB AP*, 1917: *EC Minutes*, 5 and 6 June; *Glasgow Herald*, 22 June 1917.

³⁰ See above, p. 314, n. 27.

³¹ 'Local' should be Labour. See above, p. 361.

³² The special conference, called to consider 'the grave shortage of food and the need for compulsory rationing', agreed to instruct the Executive Committee to meet the prime minister and 'point out to him the absolute necessity for the Government taking entire control of the food supplies and fixing prices so as to secure equitable distribution of the same among all classes of people, and at the same time putting a stop to the shameful profiteering which is taking place in the country.' *MFGB AP*, 1917: *Report of Special Conference*, 17 May, 39.

[of] the Branches being obtained on that question in view of So much idle time prevailing.

The Chairman gave a report of a Meeting with the Employers' and Doctors' Representatives held on 31st May at which a final Settlement of the Medical Question was arrived at on the terms that had been Submitted to the Members and approved by them, and that now a flat rate would be paid through the Colliery Offices as formerly to the Doctors.

Mr Robert Burnside withdrew his Notice of Motion Made at the Meeting of 12th May With regard to changing the day of meeting of the Board.

Free Gardeners' Institute, Picardy Place, Edinburgh, 6th July 1917

A Meeting of the Executive Committee was held here today.

The general Secretary gave a report regarding The Medical Fund Stating that at present there was an apparent balance of from thirty three to thirty four pounds after all claims had been met. It was then agreed to close the fund and to recommend to the Board That the Sum of £15 be allocated as per list to the local officials who had Carried out the work, and that the general Secretary get a grant of ten pounds, and that any balance be left over for future Consideration.

Nationalisation Society: It was agreed not [to] comply with a request by the above Society for a donation.³³

The Secretary intimated that the Annual reports of The Edinburgh Trades Council were to be charged for at 9d. per dozen this year and he was instructed to order four dozen.

A Memorial by Mr Burnet Mackie, Secretary to The Medical Practitioners' Association, was Considered in Which it is proposed to Set up a Committee to deal with the Money Subscribed by the Workmen for the Doctors at the Colliery offices, Acting in Conjunction with the Doctors and employers, and it was agreed to recommend to the Board That no action be taken in that matter.

The Secretary reported that The Coal Control Board³⁴ had recommended that The July Holidays Should begin on Friday the 13th inst. and The Pits to be open on Thursday the 19th, and the Executive decided That, in view of the Special Circumstances at present prevailing throughout Mid and East Lothian owing to Slackness of work and that Several Collieries had made their own arrangements, no recommendation be made.

³³ The Land Nationalisation Society, which wrote also to Edinburgh Trades Council that month. Edinburgh Trades Council Minutes, 17 July 1917.

³⁴ State control of the coal industry was established in Mar. 1917, with a Coal Controller heading a single department within the Board of Trade. An Advisory Board to the Controller formed at the same time consisted of equal numbers of representatives of the MFGB and the Mining Association of Great Britain (the coalowners' association). Control was in effect limited to output and distribution. Arnot, *Years of Struggle*, 170-1; B. Supple, *The History of the British Coal Industry*, vol. iv: 1913-1946 (Oxford, 1987), 80-1.

Board Room, 14th July 1917

The Board Met today. The Minute of the Meeting of 16th June was Amended to read that the Amendment with regard to the action of The Seamen and Firemen [should be] That we take no Action. Newbattle Branch, Prestongrange Branch and Bankpark Branch forwarded resolutions disapproving of the decision of the Board with regard to the action of the Seamen and Firemen's Union towards Messrs McDonald & Jowett, and Prestonlinks Branch had forwarded a resolution in favour of the Board's attitude.

The Minute of an Executive Meeting held on the 6th July was approved and the recommendations made regarding holidays, it being explained that notice of The Coal Control Board's desire regarding the time to take holidays was not known till the 29th of June and before the Executive met Most of the Branches had already made their arrangements, hence no recommendation could be made. The Medical Fund report and the decision Not to make any Donation to the Land Nationalisation Society were approved.

It was [agreed] to Send two representatives, Viz., Messrs Robert Burnside and David Johnstone, to a Conference of the National Union to be held on the 23rd inst. to consider the Agenda of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain Conference to begin the following day, and the Agenda was considered and the delegates instructed thereon.

Labour Party: It was agreed that Messrs W. McNeill and John Douglas attend a Conference of the Scottish Advisory Committee in Edinburgh on the 28th July.

Messrs W. Foster, A. Wood, and J. Hoggan were appointed to attend the Annual Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain at Glasgow on the 24th July & following days. Messrs R. Connor, W. McNeill, J. Douglas and D. Johnstone were appointed to attend the Annual Conference of the National Union during August. Messrs R. Burnside and Thos Boyd were deputed to attend the British Trades Union Congress to be held at Blackpool during September.

A letter from Mr W. Wood, Wallyford, was read requesting assistance, when it was considered that under the Circumstances no financial help could be given.

The Minutes of the National Executive Meetings for 25th May and 8th June were passed.

Arniston: Upon a request by this Branch it was remitted to the Executive Committee to Consider and frame a Scale of deductions That may be claimed by the Workmen from their Wages, upon being assessed for Income Tax of the items for Which Allowance is made, with a View to uniformity and the protection of the Workmen, and to Submit the Same to the Board for approval and ultimately to the Members.

Bankpark Branch: It was agreed that the opinion of the Law Agents be obtained regarding a claim to Compensation on behalf of Robert Bennett.

Bankton: The representative of this Branch Made a request for a grant to the Members owing to the Short time worked, when it was decided that no Such grant Could be made.

The following Resolution from Newbattle Branch was Sent to the Board with a request that it be embodied in the Minute (Which the Board agreed to do but explained that the question of The increasing Cost of living as also profiteering is at present being pressed upon the government on behalf of the Whole Labour and Trade Union Movement and especially by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain as instructed by Special Conference): That the Agents ascertain the opinion of other Unions regarding the increasing Cost of Commodities and to arrange for Special Meetings being held to deal with the question with the object of bringing pressure to bear upon the Government to reduce the Same.

This Branch also requested that an increase of Wages or a War Bonus be pressed for on behalf of the Workmen, Which the Board endorsed, and informed the Representative that that matter was before the Executive of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain and as a National question was being Considered by that body at present.

Wallyford: The question of relief from the Prince of Wales Fund was raised by the Representative of this Branch, When it was decided that Such was a question for the Local Committee for that Fund at Musselburgh. It was decided that a Funeral Claim of £4 paid to Mr Peter Thomson Must be refunded.

Prestongrange Branch: The question of Repairers' Wages at this Colliery was raised by the Delegate and the Matter was left in the hands of the Assistant Secretary, who had already been dealing with it.

1st August 1917

The Board met today. Compensation Case, Robert Bennett: The Law Agents having written to State that in their opinion a claim to Compensation under The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, or under The Employers' Liability Act or at Common Law Could not Succeed, It was agreed on the Motion of Mr William Foster, Seconded by Mr Alexander Anderson, That in view of The Law Agent's opinion no Action be taken.

It was agreed on the Motion of Mr Robert Burnside, Seconded by Mr Robert Connor, That we be not represented as an Association at a Meeting of The Labour Party on the 10th August in London.³⁵

³⁵ The conference was called to decide whether the Labour Party should be represented at a projected international socialist conference at Stockholm whose object was to draw up peace terms that workers' organisations (including those in the countries at war) would then force their respective governments to accept. The Labour Party conference resolved by 1,846,000 votes to 550,000 to be represented at Stockholm but on condition the conference was consultative and not mandatory. The British government refused passports to British delegates, and there were several other reasons too why the Stockholm project proved abortive. G.D.H. Cole, *A History of the Labour Party from 1914* (London, 1948), 33-8.

The Circular agreed upon between the Military Authorities And the Coal Control Board regarding the Method of obtaining the Number of Men from the Mines required by the Military Authorities was considered, and on the Motion of John Douglas, Seconded by Mr Lewis Affleck, it was agreed to Comply with the proposal to Set up Committees at each Branch to Carry out the arrangements.³⁶

Bankton Branch: The Secretary was instructed to write Mr John McCran, Who had been called up for Military Service and who had been Acting as Treasurer to the Bankton Branch, requesting him to give instructions for permitting the Books to be audited in view of another Treasurer having to be appointed.

4th August 1917

An Executive Committee Meeting was held tonight.

After due deliberation it was agreed to recommend That the abatement from the Workmen's Wages before Income tax was chargeable Should be as follows: 1st. Light per Quarter £1.0.0., 2. Tools upkeep & Sharpening 13s.3d., 3. Checkweighers' dues 3s.3d., 4. Funeral benefit 1s.8d., Total £1.18.2. That Sum to be a Minimum, and at Small Collieries, where the Checkweighers' dues exceeded 3d. per week, Such Workman to put in the increased rate. It was further agreed that the Agents approach The Income Tax Assessor in order to ascertain if he would accept the above as a uniform Minimum abatement, leaving the question of explosives and other insurances for benefit at death to be dealt with by the individual Member.

A Circular from Mr Burnet Mackie, Secy to the Medical Practitioners' Union, was read requesting that reconsideration be given to the question of Meeting the Doctors regarding Setting up a Joint Committee to deal with the Contributions to the Doctors, and it was agreed to recommend to the Board that we comply with the request to meet the Doctors to ascertain their views on the matter.

Dressmakers' Appeal: Agree to recommend a donation of ten pounds.³⁷

³⁶ At its meeting on 7 and 8 Aug. the MFGB EC, after hearing reports from its members, resolved that on account of 'the active opposition and resentment aroused amongst the rank and file of the miners to the present scheme of recruiting' its implementation should be delayed a further month, the whole question remitted to the districts, and a special conference of the Federation held to consider their responses and to take decisions. At a consequent special conference on 7 Sept. a motion that the MFGB 'take no part in assisting in the recruitment of miners for the Army' (for which only Scotland and three other districts voted) was defeated by 485 votes to 245. A resolution was then carried almost unanimously, 'That the suggested new scheme be not put into operation until all persons of military age who have entered the mines since August 1914 have been combed out who were not *bona fide* miners prior to 4 August 1914.' *MFGBAR, 1917: EC Minutes, 7 and 8 August; Report of Special Conference, 7 September, 8, 15.*

³⁷ A strike over wages by 500 dressmakers and milliners employed mainly in the five largest firms in Edinburgh, including Jenner's, Patrick Thomson and J. & R. Allan, had begun on 29 May. The shop assistants' union claimed that the firms were seeking to smash the union. The dressmakers attracted

Thursday, 16th August 1917

The Board Met today. The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 14th July and 1st August were approved and a Minute of Executive Committee Meeting of the 4th August.

The Doctors having requested that the question of Meeting them to Consider their proposals for dealing with the whole relationship between parties regarding the Paying out of Money Collected for the Doctors, the Selection of Doctors, etc., [be considered], The Executive Committee recommended that a Meeting with the Doctors be held and the Board approved of the recommendation.

An Appeal on behalf of the Edinburgh Dressmakers recently on Strike having been Considered by the Executive They agreed to recommend that a grant of £10 be made, and the Board agreed to Submit the recommendation to the Branches for Consideration, The Matter to be reported on at Next meeting.

The Executive Submitted proposals regarding a Uniform Sum being claimed as Abatement from Wages before payment of Income Tax for Light, Tools Sharpening and upkeep, Checkweighers' Dues, and funeral Money, Which the Board approved and left it with the Executive to ascertain if the Assessor of Income Tax approved of the proposals—if So, the Matter in all its details would be put before the Members.

Mr Robert Burnside reported from The National Union Conference held on the 23rd July. Mr Wm McNeill reported on the Labour Conference re. the Boundary Commissioner's recommendations,³⁸ and Mr Jas Hoggan reported on the proceedings at the Annual Conference of the British Miners' Federation. The reports were accepted.

It was agreed that Messrs James Hoggan, Wm Foster and Tom McNeill attend a Conference of the National Union at Glasgow on Friday the 17th inst. to consider the questions Submitted from the Labour Party Conference held in London on the 10th inst. and to be dealt with at the adjourned Conference on the 21st inst., and it was decided to Support the recommendation of the Labour Party Executive with regard to the Stockholm Conference and the Memorandum issued by that body. It was agreed that three delegates, Viz., The Vice President, Assistant Agent and Mr M. McGowan attend the Labour Party Conference on the 21st inst. at London at which the whole matter referred to will be dealt with.

widespread support from other unions, and after the intervention was secured of Sir George Askwith, Chief Industrial Commissioner, Board of Trade (see above, p. 315, n. 30), a settlement of the dispute was reached on 3 July on the basis largely of wage scales originally proposed by the union. But a few firms refused to accept the terms of settlement and on 9 July between 30 and 40 of the dressmakers were still on strike. Edinburgh Trades Council Minutes, 29 May, 12, 20 and 26 June, 3 and 9 July 1917.

³⁸ These were part of the background to the passing on 6 Feb. 1918 of the Representation of the People Act, which established virtual universal manhood suffrage and for the first time enfranchised many, but not all, women.

It was agreed to Submit the new proposals regarding the Recruitment from Mines to the Branches and that the opinion of the Members thereon be Sent to the General Secretary by the 23rd inst.

An Appeal for financial help on behalf of the League for the Blind was considered and it was agreed to defer Coming to a decision pending the Matter being dealt with by the National Union.

The Minutes of The National Executive Meetings of 15th and 29th June were approved.

The following Motion proposing to amend Rule 20 was Submitted by Arniston and Niddrie Branches: Present Rule—Any Member who may have been out of employment for the period of nine days previous to the day on which Members' Contributions are due if it was through Causes over which they have no control Shall only require to pay half-contributions until work is resumed. Members off work owing to Sickness or accident to retain their benefits must pay half Contributions. Proposed Amendment—Should the Members of a Pit or branch only obtain Six days' work during a fortnight ending when dues are payable owing to any Cause over which they have no control only half-contributions for that fortnight Shall be paid.

Elphinstone: A letter from this Branch requesting that the Agents attend and address a Meeting of the Men was Considered and upon it being understood that a District Meeting would be preferred it was remitted to the Committees of the District to Consider that Matter and Make arrangements with the Agents for their attendance.

Newbattle: A Resolution from this Branch dealing with Conscription of Life and Conscription of the Means of Production and Exchange was read, and in View of the matter referred to being an accepted principle by the National Union and The Miners' Federation of Great Britain it was not considered necessary to put it before the National Union again.

Niddrie: A request by this Branch to be relieved of payment of two weeks' dues owing to idle time was Considered and it was agreed to adhere to the Rules dealing with that matter.

Prestongrange Branch: It was agreed to pay the funeral claim upon the death of Mr George Dudgeon.

Wallyford: This Branch having Sent forward a protest against Lanarkshire Miners having taken an idle day in order to demonstrate their disapproval of Profiteering and the increasing Price of Food, and of the Mid and East Lothian Officials having taken part in Such Demonstration, The Board decided to put on record its approval of the Action of the Lanarkshire Miners, and of the Agents in taking part in that Movement.³⁹

³⁹ Twelve protest meetings were held by Lanarkshire Miners' County Union simultaneously at midday on Thursday, 2 Aug., in various centres in the county, including Hamilton, Bellshill, Blantyre, Cambuslang, Larkhall and Motherwell, as part of the idle day resolved on. Robert Smillie, president, MFGB, was among the speakers who addressed the meetings. Each meeting passed this resolution: 'We,

25 George Street, Edinburgh, 30th August 1917⁴⁰

The Executive Met today.

It was agreed to hear what the Doctors had to Suggest with regard to the Setting up of a Joint Committee to deal with the contributions by the Workmen for Medical Attendance. The Executive then took part in the Meeting with the Doctors' Representatives, Doctor Thomson, Musselburgh, occupying the chair. He and Mr I. Burnet Mackie explained what they considered to be the advantages both to the Workmen and the Doctors by having a Joint Committee Set up as Suggested, and after an informal discussion and Several questions being put and answered The President Mr Clarke Stated that full Consideration would be given to what had been advanced by the Doctors and that The full Board of The Miners' representatives would require to be consulted on the question and that their decision would be Sent to Mr Mackie in due course. The Meeting then terminated with a Vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Board Room, 8th September 1917

The Executive Committee Met today. Medical Question: It was agreed to recommend to the Board to agree to the principle of a Joint Committee being Set up, provided agreement Could be arrived at between parties regarding the details Such as expenses and other Matters.

The General Secretary Submitted a letter from the Income Tax Assessor approving of the abatement Suggested by the Executive and endorsed by the Board, Viz., 1. Light per Quarter £1., 2. Tools upkeep 10s., 3. Tools Sharpening 3s.3d., 4. Checkweighers 3s.3d., 5. Society Funeral Fund 1s.8d.: Total £1.18s.2d.—With the proviso that at any Colliery at which the Checkweighers' dues exceed 3d. per week The workmen at Such Collieries to put in the Actual charge for that item. It was agreed that proper notice be made to the Members of the Arrangement.

The Secretary Submitted a Resolution passed at a Combined Meeting of East Lothian Branches⁴¹ requesting that September 19th be observed as a holiday throughout Mid & East Lothian as a protest Against profiteering and the increased Cost of living and that a Series of Meetings be held at Suitable Centres

the miners of Lanarkshire, in public meeting assembled, hereby express our strongest protest against profiteering which has caused the wages earned by the working classes to be insufficient to meet the increased cost of living, and we call upon the Government to take strong and immediate steps to bring the cost of the necessities of life down to their normal level.' *Glasgow Herald*, 30 July and 3 Aug. 1917.

⁴⁰ This was the office of the Colliery and Public Works Surgeons' Committee for Scotland. *Edinburgh and Leith Post Office Directory, 1917-18* (Edinburgh, 1917), 554.

⁴¹ No press or other report of this meeting has been found. The National Union of Scottish Mine Workers EC, in response to a request from the Lanarkshire Miners EC that 'joint action throughout Scotland be taken to protest against the increasing cost of food', decided on 10 Sept. 'that it would not be in the interest of the miners to take an idle day to demonstrate against the high cost of living at the present time, when a claim for an increase of wages was pending'. *NUSMWEC Minutes, 10 September 1917*.

to be addressed by National Agents dealing with that Subject. It was agreed to Submit the matter to the full Board next Saturday.

Mr Thos Bain having written that his Case be reviewed in order to try to obtain an increase of his partial Compensation It was agreed that the General Secretary have an interview with Mr Bain on the question to Consider what Action if any could be taken.

Cousland Lime Workers: A Case was reported regarding the wage paid to a boy 15 years of Age at these works who, along with his Father and the other workmen, had been transferred from the Limestone Mine to the Limestone Quarry and was being paid 4s. per day, which was held by his Father not to be Value for his labour. The Executive in View of all the Circumstances were of opinion That the Case did not warrant a Stoppage of Work to enforce a higher wage if Such could not be got by negotiation.

An appeal for financial help having been Made by the Edinburgh Branch of the Saddlers and General Leather Workers It was remitted to The two representatives on The Edinburgh Trades Council to Make Some enquiry into the case and to report.⁴²

15th September 1917

A Meeting of The Board was held today. The Minute of the Meeting of 16th August was adopted on the Motion of Mr Robert Burnside, Seconded by Mr Alexander Anderson, And the Minute of Executive Meetings of 30th August and 8th September were adopted on the Motion of Mr James Ormiston, Seconded by Mr Lewis Affleck.

Mr James Hoggan reported on the Conference of the National Union held on the 17th August, Mr M. McGowan reported from the Conferences of the British Miners' Federation and the Labour Party held on the 21st and 22nd August, and Mr Robert Burnside reported from The British Trades Union Congress held during the first week in September at Blackpool. The reports were accepted.

After The President had reported upon an interview between the Doctors and The Executive regarding The appointment of a Committee representing The Doctors, The Employers and the Workmen being set up to deal with the Money paid for Medical attendance, The choice of Doctor and the general relationship between the respective parties in Carrying out the Agreement recently arrived at, The Board on the Motion of Mr Wm Foster, Seconded by Mr Alexander Anderson, [agreed] to recommend the Members to [accept] the appointment of Such a Committee.

Messrs Alexander Wood and John Herd were appointed to attend a Conference of the National Union to be held in Glasgow on Monday the 17th September.

⁴² No information about this appeal has been found in the minutes of Edinburgh Trades Council or other sources.

The Scale of Income Tax abatement as Contained in a former Minute was approved of and The Secretary instructed to issue Copies of the terms to the Branches for the guidance of the Members.

Prestonlinks: It was decided that a Funeral Claim for 30s. paid to Mr Allan Moffat Must be refunded.

Compensation, Mr Joseph Wright: It was agreed that the Secretary take up this Case and to report to the Board before Legal Steps be taken, Should Such be required. Mr Thomas Bain, Woodhall Colliery, intimated that he had as advised put his claim for increased partial Compensation in the hand of a Law Agent on his own Account, and thanked the General Secretary for the kind and Considerate attention he had paid to his Case while in his hands.

A Resolution from a Combined Meeting of the East Lothian District requesting that a General Holiday be observed throughout Mid and East Lothian on the 19th September and that Meetings be held at Convenient Centres, to be addressed by the Agents of the National Union, to protest against the increasing Cost of Living and Profiteering was considered, and it was agreed to Submit the Matter to the Branches for Consideration but to defer fixing a date pending a decision of The National Union of Mine Workers and The Miners' Federation of Great Britain, who were considering whether general Action Should be taken regarding that Matter.

The recommendation to grant £10 to the Edinburgh Dressmakers on the Appeal of the Edinburgh Trades Council was approved by a large Majority of the Branches, and the Treasurer was instructed to forward that Sum to the Representatives of that Body.

National Executive's Minutes: These were passed up to and including 27th August.

The Branches by a large Majority approved of the Amendment of Rule 20 as proposed by the Arniston and Niddrie Branches.

Arniston: This Branch protested against The Delegates and Secretaries being Supplied With Copies of The Annual Reports of The Labour Party Conference.

Newbattle: This Branch protested against the fee of 7s.6d. paid to the two Delegates who attended The Labour Party Conference at Edinburgh on the 28th July last.

Polton: The Members at this Branch having desired that they be Supported in their request to have their Wages paid on the Usual Pay Days upon Ceasing work, as is done at other Collieries, instead of the present practice of not being paid before five oclock, was considered and The Board was unanimously of opinion that the change desired was urgently required and instructed the General Secretary to write the General Manager to request that the grievance be remedied.

Woodhall Branch: A Complaint regarding the Wages paid to boys employed on the Surface at this Colliery having been made it was left with the Agents to

deal with and to report.

Workmen's Compensation: The Secretary intimated that from the 1st Sept. all those in receipt of full Compensation were entitled to an increase of 25 per Cent on the Compensation they were paid before that date.

Free Gardeners' Institute, Edinburgh, 22nd September 1917

A Special Board Meeting was held today. The chairman explained that it had been considered necessary to convene a Special Meeting to Consider a Communication from the Miners' Federation of Great Britain regarding the Wages question. The Delegates Signified their approval of the Meeting being called and the Secretary read The Circular issued by the Executive of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain Setting forth That The Coal Controller had offered an advance of Wages of 1s.3d. per day to all Workers over 16 years of age other than those who had already obtained an advance by Agreement through their Association, and that The proposed advance would be payable for days upon which Men were idle owing to want of Trade or Similar Causes. It was then unanimously agreed to that the advance offered, Viz., 1s.3d. per day, be not accepted in View of the claim for an advance of 2s.6d. per day having been made on the ground that it was fully warranted to Meet the increased Cost of living.

It was agreed that four delegates attend a Conference of the National Union at Glasgow on Monday the 24th on the Wages question and that they Support the decision of the Board as recorded.

It was agreed that Three Delegates attend a Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain to be held on Wednesday the 26th inst. in London on the Same question, Viz., Alexander Anderson, John Main & Joseph Young, Agent.

Board Room, Saturday, 13th October 1917

The Board Met today. The Minute of 15th September was adopted on The Motion of Mr James Hogg, Seconded by Mr Colin Allan, and The Minute of 22nd September was adopted on the Motion of Mr John Herd, Seconded by Mr Alexr Anderson.

Mr John Herd reported from a Conference of the National Union held at Glasgow on the 17th September, Mr Colin Allan reported from a Conference held at Glasgow on the 24th September, and Mr John Main reported from The British Miners' Federation Conference held in London on the 26th September. The reports were accepted.

The Secretary was instructed to order two dozen Copies of The Labour Year Book for the Branches and Secretaries.

The Secretary explained the terms of the War Wage Agreement as defined by the British Miners' Federation Executive, and in view of the reports from Branches, Viz., that the employers were acting differently, it was agreed to advise that no Stoppage Should take place about the payment of the increase as it was

understood that the British Miners' Federation Executive were to meet the Coal Controller during the Next week in order to adjust any differences that had arisen in the interpretation of Agreement.⁴³

Recruiting Committees: It was agreed to pay the Committees who had been Acting at the rate of 1s. per Member per Meeting.

The Minutes of Meetings of the National Executive up to and including 10th September were approved.

It was agreed that Rule 20 as amended under the Motions by Niddrie and Arniston Branches read as follows: Any Member who may have been out of employment for Six days during the Fortnight ending when dues are payable owing to Causes over which he has no control Shall only require to pay half contributions. Members off work owing to Sickness or accident to retain their benefits must pay 1½d. per week, one fourth Contribution. The local Committees in all Cases Must consider whether a claim to pay reduced Contributions can be admitted and remit the claim to the Board for consideration before being acted on.

Bankpark: As requested a grant of £2 was made to the local fund of this Branch.

Newbattle: The Delegate from this Branch asked if a Miner's Son who was over 16 years of age could be admitted to Membership at less than 10s., and the reply was in the Negative. The Board declined to pay the Hall rent for a Meeting held by this Branch on the ground that it was a Meeting Similar to those held by other Branches, who paid the rent of halls as Branches.

Niddrie Branch: A claim to Funeral Allowance on the death of Stewart Paterson was refused.

Penston: This Branch Submitted a Motion requesting that Consideration be given to the establishment of a fund to provide Some allowance to the Members upon being idle owing to a breakdown of Machinery or bad trade, etc., and the Matter was remitted to the Executive to consider and report.

Prestongrange: There was read a letter from this Branch requesting a Donation towards the funds of a Local Labour Representation Committee, after which the Board decided that as there was a Labour Representation Committee for the County, with headquarters at Tranent, all local Committees Should be connected with the Central Committee; and upon any grant being given towards assisting in Carrying on the Labour Movement in the County, either for Parliamentary or Local Representation, it Should be to the Central Authority. This Branch also Sent forward a request with regard to the Secretaries, which was held not to be in Order as it was not in Compliance with the Rules of the National Union.

It was agreed to Submit a Complaint on behalf of the workmen in the Beggar

⁴³ A war bonus of 1s.6d. per day (9d. per day for those under age 16) had been conceded the previous month by the government in response to the miners' demands. Arnot, *Years of Struggle*, 171.

Seam Section to The Coal Controller regarding there having attended the Pit day by day for one week and no work provided for them on Account of a fall having occurred in the roadway underground.

Rosewell: This Branch desired that Wages be paid at two oclock on the Friday instead of five oclock, and the Secretary was instructed to write the Company requesting that the desire be Complied with.

Woodhall Branch: It was agreed that the Agents have power to Stop work at Woodhall Colliery failing a Satisfactory Settlement of the Hewing Rate in a Section in which the wages were under the Standard.

Mr James Hoggan intimated his withdrawal from the Pensions Disablements Committee for The South Eastern District of Scotland and it was agreed to Submit the name of Mr Andrew McGill, Niddrie Colliery, for the position.

Nine Branches voted against having a Committee to deal with the Contributions paid for Medical Attendance and eight in favour, while three had no report; and it was agreed to allow the Matter to drop in the Meantime.

Ten branches voted against having an idle day to protest against the increased cost of living and Profiteering and four in favour—The others no report; and it was agreed to allow the Matter to drop Meantime.

It was agreed that Messrs Robert Burnside and Andrew McGill continue to be the Representatives to the Ordinary Meetings of the Edinburgh and District Trades Council.

25th October 1917

The Executive Committee met today.

The remit regarding the establishment of a fund to Make provision for a Weekly payment to Members upon being put idle owing to Causes over which they had no Control was considered in all its aspects, after which The conclusion arrived at was that the present Contribution of 6d. per Member per week to the Association was inadequate to meet the liability of Such a Scheme and that at the present time it would not be possible to Secure any increase Such as would be required to meet Such a liability.

The Secretary intimated that a further abatement of one pound per quarter for Pit Boots and clothing was to be allowed to all underground workers, and it was agreed to amend the Notices issued Making the Members aware of the concession.

The Secretary intimated that a Supply of Rules was required, and he was instructed to have a number printed and to embody the Several alterations and Amendments that have been approved of from time to time Since the last issue was printed.

It was decided that a Special Board Meeting be held to consider the Agenda of the National Union [Annual] Conference That had been postponed from the 22nd August and was now to be held beginning on the 6th Novr, and to instruct

the delegates thereon.

It was agreed to recommend that upon any Case of Victimisation being established The Member or Members Victimised be paid during the time they were off work (owing to that Cause) The full wage ruling at the time.

Free Gardeners' Institute, Picardy Place, Edinburgh, 1st November 1917

A Special Board Meeting was held today. The chairman explained that as The Annual Conference of The National Union That has been postponed was now to be held beginning the 6th November It was necessary that a Meeting Should be held to consider and instruct the delegates on the Agenda. The Meeting approved of the Action of the Executive in calling the Meeting and proceeded to consider the Agenda. It was agreed that the following resolutions be Supported: No. 1 Housing Reform, No. 5 Profiteering, No. 6 Insured Dependents, No. 7 Upkeep and loss of tools, No. 8 Amendment to Mines Act, No. 9 Workmen's Artificial Limbs, No. 10 Abolish Coal Contracting, No. 11 Compensation, No. 12 Compensation, No. 13 Bathing at Mines, No. 14 Checkweighers' and Officials' Rights, 15. Compensation, 16. Nationalisation of Mines, 17. Firemen to be paid by the State, 18. Checkweighers' dues, 20. Political Fund, 21 Alteration of Rule 11—left with Delegates to Conference.

It was agreed that the following be [opposed?]: No. 2 Wages demand, No. 3 Strike Pay, No. 4 Entrance fee and Arrears, No. 19 Deduction of Union dues through the Office.

It was agreed to Support the reelection of all the Officials and to nominate Mr Joseph Young, Agent, as a Member of the Executive and leave the delegates who were to attend the Conference to nominate one of their Number as an Auditor and one as a Doorkeeper.

Several questions were put with regard to the terms under Which the War Wage was to be paid which were answered by the Chairman and Secretary and intimation Made that any disputed point between the employers and workmen was to be referred to Sir Guy Calthrop, the Coal Controller, who would define the Clause in dispute.⁴⁴

Board Room, 10th November 1917

The Board Met today. The Minutes of 13th October and 1st November were read and adopted. The Minute of Executive Meeting held on the 25th October was approved and the recommendations made were agreed to, Viz., That the present Contributions Could not provide Funds to meet the liability of paying out of work Allowance to the Members, and that the present was not an opportune time to consider an increase of payment for that purpose.

It was agreed to recommend upon any Member or Members being held to

⁴⁴ Guy Calthrop (1870-1919), knighted 1918, general manager from 1914, London & North Western Railway, Coal Controller, 1917-19. See also above, p. 365, n. 34.

have been victimised That, during the time he or they may be idle arising from that Cause, full wages be paid at the rate ruling at the time.

The Vice President gave a report of the proceedings at the Annual Conference of the National Union of Scottish Mine Workers. The report was accepted.

Intimation having been made by the British Miners' Federation that five Labour Candidates from the Scottish Miners' National Union would be financed by that body, The Executive of the National Union recommended That two be allocated to Lanarkshire, one to Fife, one to Ayrshire and one to Mid & East Lothian, and that the Candidates who had been chosen by the respective Districts and approved by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain and adopted by the Labour Party, Viz., Messrs Wm Adamson, M.P., Robert Smillie, John Robertson, James Brown, and Robert Brown, be put forward by the respective Districts at the Conferences to be held to Select Candidates for the Several Constituencies Under the Representation of The People's Bill (Redistribution of Seats). The Board approved of the recommendation and appointed the President (Mr Andrew Clarke), Mr Robert Burnside, Mr John Herd, Mr Andrew McGill and Mr James Hoggan to represent the Association at the Conference to be held to Consider the two Divisions of Midlothian and to Submit the Name of the Secretary as Candidate for the Southern Division.

A Circular having been issued by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain requesting a return of all enlistments from the Mines since 1st January 1917 It was agreed that the Secretary request the respective Managers at the Collieries to furnish the Local Committees With Such information, to be Supplemented by local knowledge obtained from the Branch Books or otherwise—Local Secretaries to fill in the Sheets Sent and forward them when completed to the General Secretary.

The Secretary was instructed to make enquiry into the Method of paying the War Wage in two Cases at Niddrie and Loanhead.

Carberry: A Complaint was made by this Branch that upon a Notice having been posted on the Pit Bank intimating that a Drawing would be taken on a behalf of a Member who had been off work for a considerable time, One of the Underground Managers Wrote on the Notice: 'Others have been off longer.' This was considered by the Members of the Branch to be prejudicial to the Success of the Drawing and was an unwarranted interference, and it was agreed that he be requested to apologise for his Action, failing which the Secretary be instructed to report the Matter to the Managing Director of the Company.

Loanhead: the question of the Entrance Fee to be paid by a Number of Firemen was left with this Branch to deal with.

Prestongrange Branch: It was agreed to admit to Membership those employed at the Brickworks at this Colliery.

Prestonlinks: This Branch having requested that a claim be Made for the War Wage to be paid to Men on full Compensation it was decided that the War Wage

Could only be paid to those who were at work, but that every effort was being made to Secure an increase to those Men Under the Workmen's Compensation Act. A proposal by the Same Branch regarding the election of Agents was held not to be in order; And a claim to Funeral Allowance upon the death of Mr Thos Forbes, Soldier Member, was allowed.

Several Complaints having been made of Men being requested by Managers to leave their own place to do Oncost or Surface work and not paid the wage they would have earned at their own employment, while it had been accepted by the Conciliation Board that in Such Cases the proper wage would be paid, it was agreed to inform the employers that the Members were being advised to refuse to leave their own place to take up any other kind of work unless they were guaranteed at least the Standard County Wage.

The following were appointed to Audit the Branch Books at the end of the financial year: Messrs R. Burnside, Wm Falconer, J. Hamilton, Andrew McGill, Colin Allan, Wm McNeill, Jas Hoggan, Lewis Affleck, Thos Boyd, Wm Foster, John Herd, Joe Colquhoun.

The Minutes of Meetings of the National Union Executive up to and including 2nd October were approved.

It was agreed that Messrs Burnside and McGill, The Representatives to the Edinburgh Trades Council, attend a Conference to Consider Labour Representation for the Central Division of Edinburgh on the 15th December.

Free Gardeners' Institute, Picardy Place, Edinburgh, 24th November 1917

The Executive Committee Met today.

Copies of the Rules as amended from time to time were put into the hands of each Member of Committee, and after all the agreed upon alterations had been Compared with the original rule amended It was agreed to recommend to the Board to Authorize that a Supply as amended be printed for the guidance of the Members.

Medical Fund: The Secretary Submitted a report of the Medical Fund, Showing that the income from The beginning of September 1916 to the 6th of May 1917 had been £2737.18.2. and the Expenditure £2737.5.7., leaving a balance of twelve Shillings and Sevenpence, The total expenses for the period amounting to £64.5.6., equal to 5½d. per pound or under 2½ per Cent. The report was accepted and it was agreed to Submit it to the full Board for final adoption if approved of.

The Secretary produced a Statement of the enlistment from the Mines in the District Since the 1st of January this year, which Showed a big per Centage of those employed.

Memorial of Freedom & Peace: The Parliamentary Committee and the National Executive of the Labour Party having issued a Joint Circular with a view to Compiling a Memorial of all Trades Unionists who had enlisted Since

1st August 1914 up to 30th Sept 1917, and those killed or died of wounds—or incapacitated permanently or partly, It was agreed to recommend to the Board to approve of the information being obtained as far as it was possible to do so.⁴⁵

A letter was read from Mr Alexander Smith, Secretary to the Edinburgh and District Trades Council, Suggesting that the Secretary would agree to be put forward as the representative to the Royal Infirmary Board from the Trades Council for the ensuing year pending the Amending of the Charter (Which it has been agreed to have done to permit of More labour representatives being on the Board), and it was left with the Secretary to arrange with Mr Smith regarding the Matter after giving Consideration to the whole Matter.

Provost Brown, Secretary of the Mid & East Lothian Miners' Association, Also Secretary of The National Union of Scottish Mine Workers, died on 20th December 1917, 69 years of age. Provost Brown had a long and Successful Career, rising from pit boy at Cowdenfoot to Labour Candidate for Mid-Lothian.

Joe Young, Colleague, 29th Dec. 1917.

*Dalkeith, 8th Dec. 1917*⁴⁶

The Board met today. The Minute of Meeting held on 10th November was approved, and also the Minute of an Executive Committee Meeting held on the 24th November.

The Secretary was instructed to obtain a Supply of Copies of the Rules for the use of the Members, and to have embodied in them the Amendments that have been approved of from time to time by the Members since the last issue, and the Board further agreed that the Rules of the National Union of Mine Workers of Scotland be included.

It was agreed that the President and Mr Andrew McGill, Niddrie, represent the Association at the Labour Party Conference to be held at Nottingham on the 23rd January next.

A proposal for a Memorial of Peace, put forward by the Trades Congress Parliamentary Committee and the Executive of the Labour Party, was held over to be dealt with when the Agenda of the Labour Party Conference was being

⁴⁵ The National Labour Memorial of Freedom and Peace was to take the form of a national labour institute in London, 'to be the headquarters of British Organised Labour, with Conference Hall, Committee Rooms, Reference Library, Reading Room, and Hotel and Restaurant accommodation for Trade Union and Labour Delegates on Labour business.' Several trade union head offices were expected to be housed in the building. Any balance left from the funds raised was to be used to found scholarships or meet boarding school or university fees 'or other educational assistance' for the children of members of unions and labour organisations killed or maimed in the war. The fund sought was £300,000. By the end of 1920 only £15,808 had been raised, all but £150 of it from unions. A suggestion at the Labour Party annual conference in June 1921 (by which time the miners' lock-out that year and the onset of mass unemployment had set the memorial scheme back even further) that the fund be wound up was ruled out of order. No further mention of the scheme in Labour Party annual reports has been found. *Report of Annual Conference of the Labour Party, June 1918*, 90-1; *June 1921*, 62-3, 149-50.

⁴⁶ This minute is in the handwriting of Joseph Young, assistant secretary.

considered.

Tranent and District Labour Representation Committee: A request for a Grant having been made by this Committee, it was decided to delay coming to a decision on the question, and to instruct the Secretary to request that a Statement of the Income and Outlays of that body, and a general outline of the work done in the interest of the Labour movement, be given, to be Submitted to the Board at its next Meeting.

The Secretary Submitted the Correspondence regarding a claim to Compensation by Mr David Wales, and the case was continued in his hands to make further enquiry into the matter.

The Minutes of the National [Union] Executive Committee Meetings for the 12th and 22nd October were Approved.

It was decided that the Branch Books be closed for Audit at the date of the last Collection for the month, Viz., those Branches having their last Contributions taken up to Saturday, the 22nd inst., will close at that date, and those Branches having their last Contributions on the 29th inst. will close on that date. The following are the Auditors for the respective Branches to whom Local Secretaries should intimate when they are ready for this Audit: Newbattle, Loanhead, Wallyford—Wm Falconer, 28 Victoria St, Gorebridge, and Robert Burnside, Main St, Gorebridge; Arniston, Rosewell, Vogrie—John Hamilton, 25 Sixth St, Newtongrange, and Colin Allan, Polton St, Bonnyrigg; Carberry, Elphinstone, Prestongrange—Andrew McGill, Second Avenue, Newcraighall, Musselburgh, and Joe Colquhoun, 44 Crown Square, Prestonpans; Penston, Ormiston, Woodhall, House O' Muir—James Hoggan, Loch Road, Tranent, and William McNeill, 25 Loch Road, Tranent; Bankton, Prestonlinks, Smeaton, Bankpark—Thomas Boyd, 152 Summerlee St, Prestonpans, and Lewis Affleck, Cowpits, Musselburgh; Niddrie, Polton, Roslin—John Herd, 50 High Street, Loanhead, and William Foster, Gorton Cottage, Lasswade.

The Vice-President Submitted a report from the Annual Meeting of the Lothians Ambulance League which was accepted.

The Newbattle Branch Representative stated that complaint was made by Surface Workers of not being paid the War Wage, and he was advised to furnish the Secretary with any case complained of, giving the particulars, and it would be attended to.

Bankton: It was agreed that a grant of 30s. be made to a Member of this Branch upon the death of one of his children.

Niddrie: It was agreed that the Local official of this Branch institute proceedings for the prosecution of a Local Collector who had failed to pay to the Local Treasurer the Contributions of the Members collected by him.

Penston: It was agreed to issue the following Resolution by this Branch with the Minutes, in order to obtain the opinion of the Members thereon—"This Branch Strongly objects to the disfranchisement of the Conscientious Objectors

and urges the Officials of the Mid & East Lothian Miners' Association to take Steps to have the Clause disfranchising them deleted from the Bill at present before the House of Commons'.⁴⁷

Polton: The question of the payment of the wages at this and Rosewell Branch on the Pay Friday week was again considered, and the Secretary was instructed to request the Company to make a beginning with the payment of wages at these two Collieries at the same time as at other Collieries, not later than Friday, the 28th inst.

Smeaton: It was remitted to the Agents to deal with a Complaint by the workmen at this Branch of delay in getting out of the mine at the termination of their Shift.

The following Accounts for Recruiting Committee Meetings were paid: Elphinstone 24s., Prestonlinks 9s., Penston 15s., Loanhead 15s., Newbattle 10s., and Polton 6s. In all 79s.

The Vice President Submitted a report from the Annual Meeting of the Lothians Ambulance League which was accepted.

Free Gardeners' Institute, 14 Picardy Place, Edinburgh, 22nd December 1917

A Special Meeting of the Board was held. Mr Andrew Clarke, President, presided and opened the Meeting in stating reasons for the Meeting being Called, referring to the sad event which had occurred Since the Board last met. The Calling of the Meeting was endorsed on the Motion of Robert Burnside, Seconded by James Hogg. The Chairman then made Some touching remarks on the death of the Secretary Provost Brown, who had passed away on Thursday, 20th inst. He said the Miners' Association had lost a Friend and a Leader, and the absence of Provost Brown from the Board Meetings would be a great loss indeed as he seemed to carry them through all their difficulties. The Delegates then rose to their feet in respect to the memory of their fallen Comrade. It was agreed that a Wreath be forwarded to Dalkeith in the name of the Executive and that Mr Young, Agent, Convey to Mrs Brown and Family the Sympathy of the Executive on the sad loss they had Sustained. It was also Agreed that all the members of the Board attend the Funeral of Provost Brown the following day (Sunday) and that they meet with the Delegates attending the funeral from other Districts in the Cross Keys Hotel after the Funeral.⁴⁸ It was agreed on the

⁴⁷ Sir George Younger (1851-1929), viscount from 1923, Unionist MP for Ayr Burghs, 1906-22, chairman, Unionist Party, 1916-23, and chairman, George Younger & Son Ltd., proposed the inclusion of a clause in the Representation of the People Bill, 1918, that disfranchised conscientious objectors in parliamentary and local government elections for five years after the war, and his amendment was passed by 206 votes to 171. *Glasgow Herald*, 21 and 22 Nov. 1917; Taylor, *English History*, 116.

⁴⁸ Brown, elected the previous month provost of Dalkeith for the third successive time, had caught a chill while attending a meeting at Glasgow on 10 Dec. of the National Union of Scottish Mine Workers and it had developed into pneumonia. His funeral at Newbattle cemetery was 'probably the largest ever witnessed in Dalkeith'. The procession, nearly half a mile long, was headed 'by a deputation of the local Police Force, followed by the members and officials of the Dalkeith Town Council, School

suggestion of the Chairman that the Vice President, Provost Ormiston, be appointed temporary to assist the Agent, Mr Young. The meeting then terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman. It was agreed that the Board meeting of 5th Jan. 1918 be held in the Free Gardeners' Institute, Picardy Place, Edinburgh, at 10 O'clock.

5th January 1918

The Board met today. The Minutes of Meetings held on 8th and 22nd December were read and adopted on the motion of Mr Robert Burnside, Seconded by Mr James Hoggan.

From the Board to the Members re. the death of The Late Provost Brown: It is with regret the Board have to announce to the Members the Sad loss the Association has Sustained in the passing away of our Secretary Provost Brown. The death of our Secretary will not only be felt in our own District, but throughout the Miners' movement in Great Britain as a whole, as he was so well-known as an active Trades Unionist.

A letter was read from Mrs Brown and family in which they wished their thanks to be conveyed to the Members of the Association for their letter of Sympathy in their Sad bereavement.

A letter was also read from the Tranent and District Labour Representation Committee in which a Statement of Income and Expenditure was given. The Statement was procured on the request of the Board at the 8th of December Meeting as this Body was appealing for a Grant of money to assist them in their work. On the Board hearing the Statement it was agreed to recommend a Grant of £5.

National Union: The Minutes of Executive Meetings held on 30th Oct. and 7, 8 and 19th November were adopted. As a Conference was to be held in Glasgow on 14th Jan. to instruct the Miners' Delegates to the Nottingham Conference convened by the Labour Party It was agreed to be represented, on the motion of Mr James Hoggan, Seconded by Mr William McNeil, and Messrs Andrew Clark, John Main and Andrew McGill were appointed to attend. Labour Party Agenda: It was agreed to Support the New Constitution of the Labour Party and to Support the following Resolutions on the Agenda—Labour members to withdraw from official positions in the government, Food Supplies and Profiteering, Abolition of the House of Lords, Electoral Reform, Soldiers'

Board and Parish Council. Behind these came a large number of Freemasons, wearing the regalia of their Order. Brethren attended from Lodge Newbattle St Mary No. 1063 and Lodge Dalkeith Kilwinning No. 10, and a strong contingent of the Lothian Lodge, Independent United Order of Scottish Mechanics. All these preceded the hearse, which in turn was followed by the relatives of the deceased and a great concourse of general mourners, including over fifty miners' officials and secretaries from the British Miners' Federation, from the Durham Union, from the Northumberland Association, and from the National Union and Lothian Miners' Association. Among numerous messages of condolence was one from the earl of Rosebery. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 27 Dec. 1917.

Charter, The Conscription of Wealth, War Finance and Taxation, Ministry of Health, Education, Conscription, Conscientious Objectors, Restoration of Trade Union Conditions,⁴⁹ Nationalisation, State Control of Industry and Prices, Housing, Local Government Elections, Labour Representatives on Public Bodies, Magisterial Expenses, Payment of Expenses of Labour Representatives, Conditions of Soldiers' and Sailors' Dependants, Fair Rent Courts, Workmen's Compensation Act, Abolition of Fines or Deductions, Home Rule for India, Mothers' Pensions, The Blind, Working Hours, Old Age Pensions, Extension of Trade Boards Act, International Language, After the War, Solidarity. It was also agreed to Support A National Labour Memorial of Freedom and Peace.

It was agreed that Nomination of Officials be left open until the next Meeting of the Board.

Newbattle: There was a complaint from this Branch that the War Wage was not being paid to Surface Workers under certain Circumstances. The Agent reported that the Manager was making enquiry as to the complaint.

Loanhead: It was agreed not to admit a Funeral Claim from this Branch as the Member had not been Six Calendar Months in the Union.

Penston: The Resolution Submitted from this Branch to the last Board Meeting and referred to Branches—The Branches Agreed to Support the Resolution.

Woodhall: A Miner having left this Branch and gone to work as a Miner in a District where there was no Miners' Union, and had returned to Woodhall Pit after being absent more than twelve weeks, The Delegate inquired if the man should rejoin or pay his arrears to the Union. It was agreed that he conform with Rule 14.

It was Agreed that the Agent, Mr Young, act as Secretary meantime and that a Special Board Meeting be held in Edinburgh on Wednesday, 16th January, at 10 O'clock in order to consider the vacancy of the late Secretary and the Miners' Office and Board Room accommodation at Dalkeith.

Parliamentary Labour Candidate for Midlothian & Peebles: As the death of Provost Brown had caused a vacancy in the Labour interest it was agreed that in the vacancy being filled the Branches be allowed to select the Candidate.

The meeting then terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

16th January 1918

A Special Meeting of the Board was held.

The Chairman gave a report of a National Union Conference which was held in Glasgow on 14th inst., Pointing out that the Government Suggested the

⁴⁹ The Restoration of Pre-War Practices Act was passed in 1919 'to oblige employers to accept the return, for a time at least, of the trade practices which had been put aside' by the Treasury Agreement of 1915 or by the Munitions Acts of 1915 and 1916. The MFGB had not been a party to the Treasury Agreement as it was unwilling to accept compulsory arbitration, and it was opposed to the industrial conscription and prohibition of strikes embodied in the Munitions Acts. H. Pelling, *A History of British Trade Unionism* (2nd edn., London, 1972), 160; Arnot, *Years of Struggle*, 166.

recruiting to the Army of 50,000 Men from the mines, and that a Conference was to be held in Glasgow on 28th inst. to receive reports from the Districts with regard to the Military demands and to instruct the Delegates from the Scottish Section as to how they Should act at a British Miners' Conference that was to be held in London on 31st January.

It was agreed that the Military Scheme for more men from the Mines be Submitted to the Branches with a recommendation not to Support the Scheme and that the Branches forward their Reports to Mr Young, Agent, by 26 inst.

It was Agreed to be represented at the Scottish and British Miners' Conferences and James Hogg and David Barr were appointed to attend the Scottish Conference to be held in Glasgow on 28th inst, and James Hogg and Lewis Affleck were appointed to attend the British Miners' Conference to be held in London on 31st January.

It was Agreed that Nominations for Agent be Confined to the members of the Mid & East Lothian Miners' Association and that Nominations be Submitted to the first Board Meeting.

Miners' House & Offices: It was agreed to retain the offices at Dalkeith in the meantime.

It was Agreed that the Salary of Secretary be £20 a year and that no appointment be made at present.

It was agreed that the War Wage of 1s.6d. be paid to any Delegate who may lose working time while engaged in Association business.

As the death of the late Secretary had created a vacancy in the Midlothian Pensions Committee It was agreed that the name of the President, Mr Clarke, be Submitted to fill the vacancy.

A Circular was Submitted from Mr H.G. Lindsay, a government Agent, and Mr Thomas Ashton to appoint workmen to visit the War Front in France. It was Agreed to postpone the request in the meantime.

9th February 1918

The Board met today. The Minutes of Meetings held on 5th and 16th January were approved on the motion of Mr James Hoggan and Seconded by Mr Alex Anderson. Also the National Executive Minute of 10th December was adopted on the Motion of Mr Lewis Affleck and Seconded by Mr Joseph Colquhoun.

Mr Lewis Affleck reported from the Conference of the Scottish Co-operative and Labour Council, and Scottish Labour School Board Members' Committee, held in Glasgow on 12th January. Mr Andrew McGill reported from the British Miners' Conference held in Nottingham on 21st & 22nd January, and also from the Labour Party Conference held in Nottingham on 23rd, 24th and 25th January, and Mr James Hogg gave a report from the National Union Conference held in Glasgow on the 28th January. He also gave a report of the Business transacted at a British Miners' Conference held in London on the 31st

January. The reports were all accepted and approved of.

Mr Andrew Clarke was reelected President, also Mr James Ormiston Vice President and Mr William Falconer Treasurer. Messrs John Pryde and Robert Milne were also reelected Auditors. All the Branches Supported reelection of Officials bar Wallyford, which nominated Mr Hugh Adams as President, and Bankpark which Nominated Mr James Hoggan as Vice-President.

Wages Committee: Messrs William Foster, Rosewell Branch, and James Hoggan, Bankpark Branch, were elected to this Committee in place of Messrs Robert Burnside and Andrew McGill, retiring Members.

The Auditors, 12 in number, gave a report of the Audit of Branch Books, Stating the Balances left on hand in each Branch as to Association Account and Local Fund. They also commented on the Satisfactory way in which the Branch Secretaries kept their Books and Accounts. The reports were adopted and the Auditors thanked for Services rendered.

As the Board at a former meeting had Agreed to the New Constitution of the Labour Party It was Agreed to refer the matter to the Branches for Consideration.

Midlothian Parliamentary Vacancy: It was Agreed that the Branches be requested to nominate a Candidate to Contest this Seat in the Labour interest, and that it was to be understood that Nominees must be Members of the Miners' Federation as the Federation would be called upon to meet the expenses of a Federation Candidate, and that the Names of Nominees be Submitted to next Board Meeting.

Nominations for Agent: The following Candidates were nominated—Messrs Robert Burnside and Peter O'Toole of Arniston, Mr Robert White of Newbattle, Mr Andrew Clarke of Niddrie, Mr James Kerr of Carberry, Mr John McLachlan of Polton, and Mr Peter Chambers of Woodhall. It was Agreed that the Candidates visit Branch Meetings on receiving an invitation and that it be left with Branch Secretaries to communicate direct with the Candidates on giving an invitation. It was also Agreed that the Candidates meet their own expenses meantime.

A late member of the Ormiston Branch complained through a letter that Sir George Askwith's Award of 20th Dec. 1916, granting 8d. and 4d. to Surface workers, had not been fully paid at Ormiston. As a Similar Complaint was in the hands of the late Secretary re. Ormiston Surface Workers, it was referred to the Agents to enquire as to reason why the full increase was not advanced.

Irish Drapers' Assistants' Association: A letter and Resolution was Submitted from this Association, and the Secretary was instructed to write and Say that the Board endorsed their Resolution of Condemnation of Messrs Robinson & Cleaver, Belfast, in the low wages they paid their Workers.⁵⁰

⁵⁰ Members of this Association appear to have been on strike since the summer of 1917. One means they followed of raising funds was by the sale of copies of songs composed by one of the strikers. Edinburgh Trades Council Minutes, 23 Oct. 1917.

The Committee of Contributors to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, forwarded their Report in which it showed the high regard held by this Committee of the late Secretary Provost Brown.

Man Power and Recruiting from Mines: The Board Agreed to reaffirm their former recommendation that no Support Should be given by the Branches to the proposed Scheme of recruiting.

Memorial of Peace and Liberty for those who had fallen in the War was referred to Branches for their Consideration.

Arniston Branch Submitted a Resolution in reference to the New Education Bill, That we herewith record our emphatic disapproval of that part of the Scottish Education Bill which provides for the administration of Education through the Town and County Councils, and further that we are of opinion that a maintenance grant should be made available for each child over 13 years of age. It was Agreed to support the Resolution.⁵¹ Arniston Branch Submitted another Resolution in reference to an invitation from the Government to send the names of Delegates to visit France and the war zone and to come back and report. The Resolution was as follows: That we are of opinion that an absolute refusal Should be given to the invitation of the Government to send Miners' Delegates to the Continent to view the Scene of Military operations, Such delegations being, we believe, a needless waste of public money. As Newbattle Branch had a Resolution on Similar lines it was agreed to Submit it to the Branches in the name of both Branches. Niddrie Branch also Submitted a Resolution That a mass Meeting of the Miners of Mid & East Lothian be convened to protest against the unfair distribution of Food Supplies. It was agreed to send it out to the Branches for Consideration.

Vogrie Delegate, Mr Alex Anderson, and the Vice President, Mr James Ormiston, were appointed to attend a Conference Convened by the Land Nationalisation Society, to be held in Edinburgh on 16th Feb. Mr Robert Burnside, Arniston Delegate, and Mr Alex Murray, Prestongrange Delegate, were appointed to attend a National Union Conference to be held in Glasgow on 22nd Feb. and Mr John Hamilton, Newbattle Delegate, and Mr George Harkness, House O' Muir Delegate, were appointed to attend a meeting of the British Miners to be held in London on 25th and 27th Feb. They were also instructed to attend a Conference of the Labour Party to be held in London on the 26th Feb.

Owing to the high cost of living, it was Agreed that the Branches, on the recommendation of the Board, be requested to Consider an increase of the delegation fees of allowance by 3s. to those on delegation and staying away from home.

⁵¹ The almost 1,000 separately elected school boards responsible from 1872 to 1918 for running public education in Scotland were abolished by the 1918 Education (Scotland) Act and replaced by elected education authorities, one for each of the 35 county councils and joint county councils, the four main cities and Leith. J.G. Kellas, *Modern Scotland* (2nd edn., London, 1980), 116; W. Ferguson, *Scotland: 1689 to the Present* (Edinburgh, 1968), 357.

Newbattle: This Branch Submitted Resolutions in reference to the appointment about to be made of a new Agent and the Board considered the Resolutions not to be in order. The Delegate also asked a question as to payment of the War Wage. The Secretary reported that many of the Collieries throughout Scotland had worked on the Idle Saturday previous to the New Year's Holidays and fully expected to receive the War Wage for Six days, in view of it being the five days' week, and he had been informed that some Collieries had paid for six days but the Coal Controller had decided that Holidays were not to be paid for. This Branch also submitted a Claim that had been lodged by a member claiming that he had paid 3d. a week for funeral benefit when he should only have paid 1½d. a week. It was remitted back to the Branch to make further enquiry as to the member's position before a refund of overpaid dues could be considered.

It was agreed to adjourn the meeting to Wednesday 13th Feb. The Board met on 13th Feb. and proceeded to deal with the business left over.

Loanhead: A Complaint was Submitted from this Branch with regard to the dismissal of a lad who had changed his work to better himself and was dismissed for doing so. It was Agreed that the Agents make enquiry as to the lad's dismissal and also as to a Complaint regarding the payment of the War Wage.

Elphinstone: As the Local Fund of this Branch was depleted It was Agreed to give a grant of £20.

Prestongrange: A grant was requested by this Branch for Local work done in organising the Brick Workers. As it was reported by a former Delegate from this Branch that he was instructed to Appeal to the Board to allow the Brickworkers to join the Miners' Union and as the Local Fund of the Branch could meet any extra expense that may have been incurred, It was agreed not to concede a grant.⁵²

Wallyford: A Resolution was Submitted by this Branch, That all Conferences where Delegates are Appointed to attend, When giving their report that their report be inserted in the Minutes. It was Agreed to be impracticable.

Polton: A complaint re. payment of War Wage was submitted from this Branch. It was Agreed to remit [it] to the Agents to deal with.

Woodhall: As a Workman at this Branch was being charged full Market value for fire Coal It was agreed to remit to the Agents to make enquiry.

Vogrie: On the men of this Branch being idle for one week through a fire at the Colliery They made a request for assistance. It was Agreed that nothing could be done as no Fund was in existence to meet Such Cases.

9th March 1918

The Executive Committee met today.

As a Conference of British Miners' Representatives was held in London on 27th Feb. to Consider the taking from the Mines 50,000 men for Military Service,

⁵² As at Prestongrange, brick-making works at the pithead were sometimes part of a colliery's undertakings.

and as it was agreed at the Conference that a Ballot be taken of the Miners, The Executive Committee Agreed that the Ballot papers be issued to the Branches and that each Branch count its own Ballot and Send the result of the vote to the Secy by Friday morning 15th inst.

Compensation Cases: The Secy reported that he had failed to gather evidence to prove that Mr Walter Rutherford of St Germain's Colliery had met with an accident on 27th Oct. The Executive on hearing the report Agreed to recommend to the Board that no further action be taken in the Case. The Executive also Agreed to recommend to the Board that no further action be taken in the case of Mr Charles Dickson, Bankton Colliery, as no evidence could be found to establish his Claim for Compensation for an Accident on 10th January.

The Secy was instructed to invite Mr Graham and Mr Watson to attend the first Board Meeting with the view of giving the Delegates a chance to have a word with the Political organisers regarding the South Midlothian Constituency and Labour representation.⁵³

16th March 1918

The Board met today. The Minute of Meeting held on 9th Feb. was read and adopted on the motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr Lewis Affleck. The Minute of an Executive Meeting held on 9th March was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr William Foster and Seconded by Mr John Main.

National Union: The Minutes of the National Executive of Meetings held on 24th Dec., 7th and 28th Jan. were accepted.

The Board agreed to the recommendation of the Executive that no further action be taken in the cases of Mr Walter Rutherford of Penston Branch and Mr Charles Dickson of Bankton Branch, as no evidence could be procured to substantiate their claims.

Messrs Robert Burnside and Alexander Murray reported from a Conference held in Glasgow on 22nd February, Mr John Hamilton gave a report of the British Miners' Conference held on 25th and the Labour Party Conference on 26th and British Miners' Conference held on 27th and 28th February. Mr Alex Anderson reported from the Conference of the National Union held in Glasgow on 15th March. All the reports were accepted.

The result of the vote ascertained by ballot—1st. Shall the Miners' Federation of Great Britain agree to the withdrawal of 50,000 from the Mines for Military Service? There voted, For 2529, Against 3311. 2nd. If so, Shall the Federation machinery be used for the purpose of finding the required number? There voted, For 1809, Against 2010. It was agreed that Branch Expenses incurred in taking the above Ballot be met from the General Fund of the Association And that Branches forward a Statement of their Expenses to next Board Meeting.

⁵³ See above, p. 223, n. 30.

Ballot of Candidates for Agency: It was Agreed that the names of the Six Candidates (Jas Kerr having withdrawn) go on the Ballot Paper and that only one vote be allowed, and that the Branches forward the result of the ballot to the Secretary.

Mr Joseph Colquhoun and Mr Colin Allan were Appointed along with one of the Agents to attend a British Miners' Conference to be held in London on 20th March, and Mr Thomas McNeill and Mr William Foster were Appointed to attend the Scottish Trades Union Congress to be held in Ayr from the 24th to 27th April. Land Nationalisation Society: Mr David Johnstone and Mr John Douglas were appointed to attend a meeting convened by the above Society, to be held in Edinburgh on 6th April.

Labour Representation, South Midlothian: As the Branches had nominated Mr James Gold and Mr James McDougall as Candidates to Contest this Seat, it was agreed to Submit the two names to the Branches for their verdict as to the one to be Selected, and that the Branch Secretaries Send on the result of their Branch's Selection to the Secretary.⁵⁴

Heriot-Watt College: A letter was Submitted from the College re. the training of Miners who had been disabled in the War and unfit to resume their usual employments. It was agreed to refer the matter to the National Union, as various proposals were being advanced.

Labour College, Glasgow: As an attempt is being made to Set up a College for the educating of working men and women in Social questions, and as a Conference had been held to Consider the question, it was agreed to wait and See what steps the National Union were going to take on the matter.⁵⁵

A letter was Submitted from the Colliery Medical Practitioners requesting that the miners consider the Setting up of a Committee to act with them in seeing to the welfare of both parties. It was agreed to meet the Doctors, and Messrs A. McGill, Jas Hoggan, Thos McNeill, John Hamilton, John Herd, Andrew Clarke and the Secretary were Appointed to attend a meeting if Called and hear what the Doctors had to say and report.

⁵⁴ James Gold, Glasgow, was secretary of the Scottish Miners' Friendly Insurance Society. It is almost certain that McDougall was James D. MacDougall (1890-1963), a bank clerk, 'the best orator in Scotland', and right-hand man of the Clydeside revolutionary John Maclean. MacDougall, imprisoned for a year in 1916 for sedition, had a nervous breakdown in prison and after his release in Feb. 1917 he worked in the pits at Blantyre. Shortly after he had twice spoken at miners' demonstrations in favour of peace, MacDougall was dismissed from his job on the pithead for 'incompetence', but the threat of a strike by the miners resulted in his restoration to his employment. He was active in the miners' reform movement from 1917 and in the agitation that culminated in the idle day on 2 Aug. 1917 (see above, p. 370, n. 39), when Lanarkshire miners protested against the increase in the cost of living. *Dalkeith Advertiser*, 3 Oct. 1918; N. Milton, *John Maclean* (London, 1973), 127, 142-5.

⁵⁵ A conference held that day, 16 Mar., in Glasgow was attended by 417 delegates representing 271 organisations, and agreed on a constitution for the Scottish Labour College. An executive committee and office-bearers were also elected, and John Maclean was appointed a paid tutor of the College. Milton, *John Maclean*, 163. No reference to the College has been found in the minutes of the National Union of Scottish Mine Workers for 1918.

Mr Duncan Graham, the Scottish Miners' Political Organiser, on invitation attended the Board Meeting and gave a very interesting outline of the mode of procedure in the nomination, Selection and adoption of a Labour Candidate. Mr Graham received the thanks of the Meeting for the clear and lucid way he had dealt with his Subject.

The following Resolutions Submitted to the Branches from the last Board Meeting were approved of: Education—That we herewith record our emphatic disapproval of that part of the Scottish Education Bill which provides for the administration of Education through the Town and County Councils, and further that we are of opinion that a maintenance grant should be made available for each child over 13 years of Age. Delegates to France—That we are of opinion that an absolute refusal should be given to the invitation of the Government to send Miners' Delegates to the Continent to view the Scene of Military operations, Such delegations being, we believe, a needless waste of public money. Food Supplies—That a mass Meeting of the Miners of Mid & East Lothian be convened to protest against the unfair distribution of food Supplies.

Newbattle: It was agreed that a member of this Branch who was only entitled to Funeral benefit and who had Subscribed 3d. per week for a considerable time be refunded 1½d. a week as from 13th Oct. 1917, the date on which it was agreed that only 1½d. a week be contributed For funeral benefit.

Lothian Coal Co.: The Secretary was instructed to request the Insurance Company to pay Compensation Claims to the Workmen of this Company through the Colliery office.

Niddrie: As a member of this Branch was employed as a Boiler-fireman on 20th Dec. 1916, the date on which Sir George Askwith awarded to the Surface workers (exclusive of female workers) an increase of 8d. on all wages over 3s.6d. and 4d. on all wages under 3s.6d. per day, He Continued to work as a Boiler-fireman until July 1917 and left the Colliery. The Engine Keeper and Boiler firemen's Association had been agitating for this increase and were granted it in about the end of July or August and the increase was to date from 20th Dec. 1916. This member hearing of the award lodged his claim for the increase from the 20th December until the day he left the employment. The Claim was ignored. The Secretary was requested to lodge a claim on the member's behalf. It was agreed that this member ought to have received the increase at the Same time as Surface Workers.

Carberry: This Branch requested the Board to take up the question of the Starting hour under the Daylight Saving Act, This request being that the hour for starting work be 7 O'clock instead of 6 and the quitting time to be 3 O'Clock instead of 2, The Saturday time to be from 7 O'clock to 2. It was agreed to remit the request to the Agents.

Elphinstone: It was remitted to the Agents to enquire as to a Complaint from this Branch on men going to work and finding their places not fully cut by the

Machine, resulting in delay and causing the men to work under the Standard wage.

Polton: This Branch lodged a complaint as to the wages paid to Female Workers, considering that 3s.10d. to 4s.7d. a day did not compare favourably with other Collieries. It was agreed to remit the complaint to the Agents for inquiry.

Prestonlinks: As one of the Members of this Branch was Subjected to three days' enforced idleness through a dispute he was involved in through no fault of his own, It was agreed that a claim for three days' wages be made on the Company by the Agents.

Smeaton: This Branch appealed for a grant to assist in carrying on the Local work of the Branch. It was agreed that, seeing that a Committee was now established at this Branch, a grant of £2 be made.

Vogrie: A Resolution with the view of creating a Relief Fund was submitted from this Branch. As this question has been before the Branches on Several occasions It was Agreed not to proceed further with it.

Haddington Pensions Committee: Mr John Main of Ormiston Branch gave notice that he wished to retire as a member of the Pensions Committee. His resignation was accepted and Mr James Hogg of Penston Branch was appointed to take the place of Mr Main.

3rd April 1918

The Executive Committee met today.

Remit from Board—That a Mass Meeting of the Miners of Mid & East Lothian be Convened to protest against the unfair distribution of food Supplies. The Executive Agreed that as a vast change had taken place in the distribution of food Supplies since the Resolution was adopted by the Branches [and] in view of this change having practically removed the Complaint in the Resolution recommend that no further Steps be taken.

50,000 Men from the Mines: It was agreed that, as some of the Branches are desirous of Setting up Committees and as the National Executive had left each district to decide whether Colliery Committees Should be set up or not, [the Executive] recommend that Branches be left to form Committees if they so desire, and that a Circular be sent to the Branches Conveying this decision.

Niddrie Compensation Case: The Secretary Submitted a letter and Medical Report from the Law Agents regarding Mr Jas Adams's Case. It was agreed that a recommendation be made to the Board to contest this case for full Compensation on the ground of total incapacity.

George Street, Edinburgh, 5th April 1918

A meeting of Doctors and Miners' representatives was held on the above date. Dr Thomson presided and thanked the miners for sending Delegates to meet them. Mr Mackie, the Doctors' Secy, gave a historical account of all that

had been done by the Doctors in trying to have their Association Conducted on business lines and hoped that the miners would agree to set up a Committee with them to see to the welfare of those who were contributing to the Doctors at the Collieries. He Showed a Scheme that he thought would work Satisfactory to everybody. Mr Clark briefly replied, stating that the proposals Submitted would be stated to the Miners' Board.

Free Gardeners' Institute, Picardy Place, Edinburgh, 13th April 1918

The Board met today. The Minute of Meeting held on 16th March was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Alex Anderson, Seconded by Mr Alex Murray. The Minute of an Executive Meeting held on 3rd April was Approved of on the Motion of Mr Colin Allan, Seconded by Mr Alex Anderson.

The Minutes of National Executive Meetings held on 11th and 22nd February and 4th March were adopted.

Mass Meeting: As a change had taken place from the time the Resolution re. the protest against the Unfair Distribution of Food Supplies was agreed to by the Branches, it was resolved to recommend to the Branches that Such a Meeting Should not be held in the meantime.

Re. 50,000 from the Mines: As nearly all the Branches had Set up Committees to Safeguard the interests of their Members in reference to the quotas to be taken from the mines, it was agreed that the Agents interview the National Service Director in Edinburgh as to the mode of procedure in recruiting the quotas.

It was agreed that the Law Agents be instructed to lodge a Claim for full Compensation on behalf of Mr James Adams of Niddrie Branch.

The President and Mr John Hamilton reported from a Meeting which was held in Edinburgh on 5th April with the Doctors with a view to Setting up a Medical Committee on Similar lines as to that of Lanarkshire. It was agreed, without any recommendation, to remit to the Branches as to whether a Medical Committee Should be Set up or not.

Mr Colin Allan reported from the British Miners' Conference that was held in London on 20th March, and Mr David Johnstone reported from the Conference on Land Nationalisation held in Edinburgh on 6th April. The reports were accepted.

May Day and Marx Centenary Demonstration: It was Agreed to take part in the May Day Demonstration and Mr William McNeill and Mr John Herd were appointed to attend a Meeting to be held in Edinburgh on 21st April regarding the Demonstration.⁵⁶

⁵⁶ The demonstration, on Sunday, 5 May, was 'the largest held for a number of years', with 28 organisations taking part, including trade unions, socialist societies, and women's organisations. The procession marched from St Andrew Square to the Meadows, where speeches were made from five platforms. 'A general resolution was proposed proclaiming determination to end the system of exploitation and tyranny known as capitalism and to substitute for it a system of justice and brotherhood known as international socialism. The resolution further stated that they recognised

Royal Blind Assylum, Edinburgh: As an Appeal was made from this Institution for a donation it was agreed to recommend to the Branches that a grant of £10 be made.

As a Sub Committee had been Set up in Edinburgh to See to the Supplementary meat rations to heavy industrial workers, a request was made to the miners to be represented. It was agreed to appoint Mr Andrew McGill to this Committee.

A letter was submitted from a member in regard to the taking of the ballot for Agent at one of the Branches. Mr James Ormiston and Mr William McNeill were appointed to make enquiry as to the complaint.

Result of vote for Agency: R. Burnside 346, P. Chambers 1449, A. Clarke 2971, J. McLachlan 311, P. O'Toole 836, R. White 335. It was agreed that Messrs Chambers and Clarke be remitted to the members for another vote. It was agreed that the Candidates for Agency be requested to forward an account of their travelling expenses to the Secretary.

Mr James Gold was Selected as Candidate for South Midlothian.

As the Edinburgh Labour Party were desirous that the miners of Mid & East Lothian join with the Edinburgh Branch, it was agreed to remit to the Secretary to make further enquiry.

It was agreed to purchase 2 Dozen Copies of the Edinburgh Trades Council Annual Report.

It was agreed that the following Resolutions be Submitted to the Branches: Arniston Branch—That immediate Steps be taken, through the British Miners' Association, to utilise the weight and influence of the Trade Union and Labour Movement throughout the Country to bring about such amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act as will guarantee to the disabled civilian workman and his dependants the Same opportunity of treatment, training and maintenance as is now provided for the disabled Soldier and those who may be dependent on him. Believing as we do that the Community Should have the Same Measure of responsibility in respect of every disabled citizen we wish to remedy the present inequitable state of affairs. Bankton Branch—1. In view of the recognised equality of Sacrifice in the National Crisis, this Branch disapproves of the Government's methods of making allowances to Soldiers' widows, especially in granting to Lady Maude £25,000 as compared with 15s. per week granted to the widow of a private.⁵⁷ 2. Owing to the large increase in the Cost of

their great indebtedness to Karl Marx ... and rededicated themselves to the work of achieving peace and international brotherhood. The resolution also urged the recognition of the first day of May as a general holiday to celebrate the international solidarity of labour.' *Glasgow Herald*, 6 May 1918; Edinburgh Trades Council Minutes, 21 May 1918.

⁵⁷ Lieutenant-General Sir Stanley Maude, KCB, DSO, commander of HM Forces in Mesopotamia and conqueror of Baghdad, had died of cholera in that city in Nov. 1917. On 28 Feb. 1918 a message from the king to the House of Commons recommended that, 'being desirous of confirming some signal mark of favour on his widow, Lady Maude', the House should enable him to grant her £25,000. Amid cheers and on the motion of the Prime Minister the recommendation was

living, we call upon the Executive Committee to put forward a claim for an advance of 100 per Cent in wages on pre war rate, irrespective of any agreements, as war circumstances have altered all conditions. Bankpark Branch—The men of this Branch believe the time has come when Contractors Should not be allowed to be on this Board, seeing that the Annual Conference pass resolutions every year to do away with this system, and ask this Rule to be remitted to the Branches for consideration. It was decided that the Board recommend the Branches not to entertain this Resolution.

Arniston: This Branch lodged a Complaint as to the War Wage not being paid to men on having to leave their work through Sickness, and of lads being called up by the Military authorities for medical examination being not only docked of the War Wage for that day but deprived of the War Wage for the Idle Saturday. The Secretary was instructed to make enquiry as to the Complaint.

Niddrie: As a complaint was lodged by this Branch as to a member being charged double pins This Complaint was remitted to the Agents to be dealt with.⁵⁸

Elphinstone: As a Complaint was Submitted from this Branch as to the wages paid Surface Workers, The Claim being that the full increase of 8d. and 4d. under the Sir George Askwith Award in December 1916 [was not being paid?], It was agreed to remit the Case to the Agents to be dealt with.

Prestongrange: As this Branch had approached the Management in order to have Duplicate Pay Sheets issued and had failed, the Agents were requested to enquire as to the reason why the Company refused to grant what was common to all the Collieries in the Lothians.

Polton: As a Complaint was Submitted last month from this Branch as to the low wages paid to Female Workers, and as the Agents had interviewed the Manager on the Complaint, it was agreed to remit to the Agents full powers to adopt drastic measures if necessary.

Woodhall: A Complaint was made from this Branch as to the treatment meted out to a Machineman in regard to his work. The Complaint was remitted to the Agents to be dealt with.

Prestonlinks: As the Manager refused to agree that Mr Little was entitled to receive payment of three Shifts from the Company as they were in no way to blame for Mr Little being idle, the Branch made a Claim for Victimisation. It was agreed not to admit Victimisation and that the Agents press for payment by the Company.

referred to the Committee of Supply. *Glasgow Herald*, 1 Mar. 1918; A.J. Barker, *The Neglected War: Mesopotamia, 1914-1918* (London, 1967), 375, 431-3.

⁵⁸ Double pins was a method miners used to catch a thief in the pits. If the thief tried to claim a hutch as his by removing the pin or tally (usually hammered into the wooden part of the hutch), that identified the miner whose output it was to the checkweigher on the surface, then the theft might be discovered by the presence of a second pin placed on, e.g., the axle of the hutch. Niddrie branch seems to have considered that the member concerned had been wrongly charged with falling foul of double pinning. Information from Tommy Kerr, veteran Lothians miner, Gorebridge.

Smeaton: This Branch submitted a Resolution which was agreed to be out of order.

Executive Committee: As Mr James Hoggan of Bankpark Branch has ceased to be a member of the Board, and as he was a member of this Committee, it was agreed to appoint Mr John Herd of Loanhead Branch to take the place of Mr Hoggan on the Executive.

11th May 1918

The Board met today. The Minute of Meeting held on 13th April was read and adopted on the motion of Mr John Herd, Seconded by Mr Lewis Affleck.

The Minutes of the National Executive Committee Meetings for 15th and 25th March were approved of, with the exception that the Board Considered that the National Executive Representatives to Conferences Should be reduced from 9 to 3, and the Agents were instructed to put forward this point of view at the first Meeting of the National Executive.

Mr Richard Scott reported from the National Union Conference held in Glasgow on 23rd April and Mr William Foster reported from the Scottish Trades Congress held in Ayr from 24th to 27th April. The reports were accepted.

Compensation: It was agreed to Submit the Case of Mr Joseph McKinlay of Prestonlinks Branch to the Law Agents.

As the Branches had agreed to the setting up of a Medical Committee in conjunction with Colliery Doctors of Mid & East Lothian, The Secy was instructed to communicate the decision to the Secy of the Doctors' Association.

As Arniston Colliery was idle owing to trouble arising through an Oversman and the men under his charge, it was agreed to Support the men in their action, and that the National Executive be requested to take on the dispute. (After 3 days' Strike the Oversman, James Russell, left the employment and the Men returned to work).

Royal Blind Asylum, Edinburgh: The Branches agreed to grant £10 to this Institution.

Resolutions Submitted to the last Board meeting from Arniston and Bankton Branches, and which were remitted to Branches for decision, were agreed upon.

It was Agreed to appoint Mr Alex Wood and Mr Richard Scott to attend a British Miners' Conference to be held in London on 15th May, and Mr John Herd and Mr William McNeill to attend a Labour Party Conference in London on 26th June.

Labour Party Annual Report: It was agreed to purchase 25 Copies of this Report.

Result of vote for Agency: Peter Chambers 3055, Andrew Clarke 3411—Majority for Clarke 356. Letters from Mr Chambers and J. Lindsay were submitted protesting against the hurried way in which the Ballot was taken at Niddrie Collieries, and that a reballot be taken at Niddrie, and that all the ballot papers be

forwarded from the Branches to the Secy with the view of having a recount. On the complaints and the demands having due Consideration it was agreed to appoint Mr Clarke as Agent by a vote of 13 against 5. Mr Clarke was invited to begin his duties on 13th May. Mr Ormiston, Vice President, was thanked for his Services rendered in Assisting Mr Young Since the death of the late Secy Provost Brown.

Messrs William McNeill and James Ormiston gave a report as to their investigation on a complaint that was remitted to them from last Branch Meeting as to the taking of the ballot at Ormiston Colliery, and it was agreed that no genuine complaint was found.

It was agreed that in the event of a Labour Candidate being adopted for East Lothian Constituency the Miners' National Executive be requested to give Financial Assistance as a very large number of the electors were miners.⁵⁹ It was also agreed that as a Conference was to be held at Kelso with a view of propagating Labour Representation in Parliament that Messrs Ormiston and Clarke attend as representatives of the Miners of Mid & East Lothian. It was agreed that the Agents attend a Conference which is to be held at Bonnyrigg on 1st June to promote Parliamentary Representation in the Labour interest in South Midlothian.

As the President Mr Clarke had been appointed Agent it was agreed that Mr Ormiston, Vice-President, take on the duties of Interim Chairman and Mr Burnside to act as Interim Vice Chairman (Ormiston 11 votes, Burnside 6).

As prices for light and other things common to the miner had been increased it was agreed to remit to the Executive the drawing out of a new Scale of Abatements, with the view to Submitting them to the Income Tax Assessor for consideration.

Arniston Branch: It was agreed to Submit to the Branches the following Resolution in National Rule 10, to be inserted on the Agenda for Scottish Miners' Annual Conference—All Agents to be elected or reelected every three years by the Members in their respective Districts. New nominations for the position of Agent must be supported by one third of the Members in the District before a ballot is taken.

Bankton: This Branch Submitted that a girl had been dismissed wrongly. It was agreed to remit the Case to the Agents for enquiry.

Carberry: A Resolution from this Branch that Candidates for Agency Should not be paid travelling expenses from the General Fund found no Support. A Complaint was also lodged as to the Management Sending a third man into a

⁵⁹ At its meeting on 10 June, the NUSMW EC rejected an appeal from the East Lothian and Berwickshire Labour Representation Committee for assistance in running a Labour candidate at the next election, 'as it might involve the Scottish miners in more cases than they might be able to face.' The EC suggested that assistance 'might be more properly done by the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association, whose members the miners in the Constituency were.' *NUSMW EC Minutes, 10 June 1918.*

place where there was only work for two. It was remitted to the Agents to make enquiries.

Elphinstone: This Branch Complained of five lads who were Called up in mistake for Military Service and returned home, and as they had been deprived of the War Wage the Agents were instructed to make enquiry.

Loanhead: As this Branch requested that Hall Rents be met from the General Fund for Meetings convened to hear Candidates for Agency, it was agreed that each Branch meet its own expenses for Such Meetings.

Prestongrange: As this Branch requested that the expenses incurred by the Military Quota Committee be met from the General Fund, it was agreed that 2s. per member per Meeting be met from the General Fund to the extent of five members per Committee, and this finding to apply to all the Branches.

Prestonlinks: This Branch Submitted a Complaint as to the way a Contractor named Richardson was being treated by the Management. It was agreed to remit the case to the Agents for enquiry. A Resolution was also Submitted and declared out of order.

Roslin: A Complaint was Submitted from this Branch as to men being kept in the pit bottom when they could not work in their places owing to the ventilation being bad.

Wallyford: A Funeral Claim was Submitted from this Branch in the name of Mr Alexander Gillon. As Mr Gillon was 13 weeks in Arrears it was agreed that the Claim be disallowed.

22nd May 1918

The Executive met today, Provost Ormiston, President, in the chair.

Income Tax: On a remit from the Board regarding a new Scale of Abatements It was agreed that the Agents Submit to the Assessor the following Scale of Abatements—Light 30s. (10s.), Upkeep of Tools 30s. (10s.), Pick Sharpening 3s.3d., Checkweigher 6s.6d. (3s.3d.), Funeral fund 1s.8d., Pit Boots 30s. (10s.). This means an increased Quarterly Abatement of 33s.3d.—91s.5d. instead of 58s.2d.

Messrs Robertson & Wallace Submitted a letter on behalf of Mr Peter Chambers, requesting that his Complaint re the Niddrie Ballot be Submitted to Arbitration. It was Agreed to recommend to the Board that Arbitration be not granted.

As a British Miners' Conference was to be held in London on 5th June to consider an increase in wages, The Secy was instructed to invite the Bankton & Smeaton Delegates to attend as they were the first on the list to attend a Special Conference.

It was agreed to recommend to the Board that an Agent be Stationed in Dalkeith, And that Messrs Ormiston and Falconer interview Mrs Brown as to the vacating of tenancy of the House. The rent of the House to be £26 a year, this leaving the Board Room at a yearly rent value of £14.

It was agreed to recommend to the Board That it be remitted to the Executive to Consider along with the National Executive the raising of a memorial for the late Secy, Provost Brown.

15th June 1918

The Board met today. The Minute of Meeting held on 11th May was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr Andrew McGill and Seconded by Mr Alexander Anderson. An Executive Minute of a Meeting held on 22nd May was also read and adopted on the Motion of Mr John Herd and Seconded by Mr John Main.

The Minutes of Meetings of the National Union Executive for 1st, 11th, 15th and 23rd April were Accepted.

Income Tax: The Executive, on a remit from the last Board Meeting to draw out a New Scale of Abatements, Reported that the Assessor had agreed to give a further Abatement on Light of 10s. and Upkeep of Tools 5s. The Agents were instructed to press for a further increase of 5s. for Upkeep of Tools.

It was agreed to recommend to the Branches Consideration of a Memorial to the late Secretary, and to submit, if agreed upon, Suggestions as to the form the Memorial Should take. As Mr Ormiston and Mr Falconer had been appointed by the Executive to interview Mrs Brown with regards to the House and offices, with the view of her vacating her tenancy of the House, They reported thereon. It was agreed that one of the Agents reside at Eskbank and that Mrs Brown when convenient vacate the House between now and May next, and that Mr Young be appointed Secretary.

As the Branches had agreed to set up a Medical Committee in Conjunction with the Colliery Doctors it was agreed to Appoint Messrs John Hamilton, Alex Murray, Alex Anderson, James Ormiston, and Lewis Affleck to act on behalf of the Workmen.

Messrs Wood and Scott reported from the British Miners' Conference held in London on 15th May, and Mr Johnstone reported from a British Miners' Conference held in London on 5th June. It was agreed to accept the Reports.

The Secretary reported that the returns from the Branches Showed that a Majority of Branches was against taking a ballot on a working policy of 12 days a fortnight.

A letter from Messrs Robertson & Wallace, S.S.C., on behalf of Mr Chambers, suggesting arbitration on the point as to the way the Ballot for Agent was taken at Niddrie Branch: The Board after due Consideration agreed to refuse Arbitration.

Edinburgh and District May Day Committee: It was agreed to be represented on this Committee and Messrs Lewis Affleck and Alex Murray were appointed to represent the Association with the view of having a general holiday established on the First day of May each year. It was also agreed to recommend

a grant of £1 to help to meet the deficit in payment of a Band at last May Day Demonstration.

Deaf & Dumb Institute, Henderson Row, Edinburgh: An Appeal from this Institution for financial Aid—It was agreed to recommend to the Branches a Grant of £10.

Tranent Labour Party: As a Candidate had been nominated to contest East Lothian & Berwickshire Constituency in the Labour interests, an Appeal for financial help was submitted. It was agreed to recommend to the Branches a Grant of £25.⁶⁰

Arniston Resolution (see last Minute) was Agreed to.

It was agreed to recommend to the Branches that the Glasgow Fair Holidays from 12th to 22nd July be observed as the Holidays for Mid & East Lothian.

Volunteer Force: The Coal Controller requested that men and boys Should not respond to the Call for Volunteers for Two Months' Services, as their duty is to Stay at the Pits and produce Coal.

Messrs Wood & Foster were appointed to attend a Labour Party Conference in Glasgow on 29th June and Messrs Burnside & Murray to attend the British Miners' Annual Meeting along with the Agents at Southport on 9th July.

Arniston: It was agreed to submit a Resolution from this Branch, That the Branches observe the Working Policy of 11 days per Fortnight. A Claim was also made for 3 Days' Strike Pay. It was agreed to abide by Rule 22.

Newbattle: A Resolution was Submitted from this Branch as to the Ballot for Agent at the Niddrie Branch. It was agreed that no further action be taken as no real complaint did exist as to the Niddrie Ballot. A Funeral Claim was also submitted and it was remitted back to the Branch to be dealt with.

Niddrie: A Funeral Claim was Submitted from this Branch as to the death of a Member's Mother. It was agreed to meet the Claim, as the Member had resided with and Supported his Mother since 1895.

Carberry: This Branch Submitted the following Resolution—That the Board take immediate Steps to deal with those Collieries where Non unionists are employed.

Elphinstone: War Wage and Men Called for Medical Examination—A Complaint as to payment of War Wage. The Secy informed the Delegate That the Coal Controller had agreed that the War Wage Should be paid for the idle Saturday but not for the day of medical examination. The Agents also reported as to the steps taken with regard to Surface Wages.

Ormiston: This Branch Submitted That two Hours be taken off the Working Day and that 100% be got on Pre-war Wages, And that a Mass Meeting of the Mid & East Lothian Miners be held on Musselburgh Links on an early date. It

⁶⁰ The Labour candidate was Robert G. Foulis, a left-wing ironmoulder, who received 4,783 votes in the election in Dec., coming second after the Coalition candidate (8,584) but before the Liberal (2,567). *Report of the Nineteenth Annual Conference of The Labour Party, 1918*, 190, 195; *Haddingtonshire Courier*, 22 Nov. 1918 to 3 Jan. 1919, passim; *Glasgow Herald*, 30 Dec. 1918.

was Agreed that everything in the Motions had been or was being dealt with.

Prestongrange: This Branch Submitted that a Claim be lodged for a Substantial increase in the Wages of employees engaged at the Brickworks. It was Agreed to remit the Claim to the Agents to be dealt with, and they were also instructed to deal with a few non unionists at this Branch.

Prestonlinks: The Agents were instructed to Submit the case of Mr Little to a General Meeting of the Branch, before further Steps be taken in the Claim for Payment of Three Shifts. A report was also given by the Agents as to an interview with the Manager regarding Mr Richardson's claim for Payment of 24 Shifts lost.

Polton: The Agents reported on the Dispute at this Branch re. Ton Rates, and Female Wages. The Delegate Submitted other matters which were remitted to the Agents.

Wallyford: A Resolution was Submitted from this Branch That we protest against the Action of the Authorities for the imprisonment of John McLean, and that we take action along with other Trade Unions to try to get him released.⁶¹

Woodhall: This Branch Submitted a Resolution That this Meeting of Woodhall Miners protest against the manner in which the Niddrie Ballot was taken, and Call upon the Board to have another Ballot of the Niddrie men taken at once. It was agreed that no further Action be taken As the Niddrie Ballot was in order.

South Midlothian Constituency: It was agreed to Submit the name of Mr James Gold as the Miners' Nominee, at a Conference to be held at Bonnyrigg on 27th July.

3rd July 1918

The Executive Committee met today.

The Secretary read a letter from the Coal Controller in which a Strong appeal was made to the Miners to curtail their Holidays to four days. It was agreed not to interfere with the recommendation Submitted by the Board to the Branches.

Income Tax: On a remit from the Board that the Agents try and Secure a

⁶¹ John Maclean had been convicted in the High Court at Edinburgh on 9 May of breaches of the Defence of the Realm Acts, and was sentenced to five years' penal servitude. He was indicted on eleven charges concerning speeches he had made at meetings between 20 Jan. and 4 Apr., and was accused of making statements 'likely to prejudice the recruiting, training, and discipline of H.M.'s Forces, by which he further attempted to cause mutiny, sedition and disaffection among the civilian population and to impede, delay and restrict production and transport of war material and other work necessary for the prosecution of the war.' The NUSMW EC decided on 13 May 'not to take any action meantime' to try to secure the release of Maclean. But the annual conference of the NUSMW in mid-Aug. carried almost unanimously the resolution from Wallyford, moved by Joseph Young, seconded by Andrew Clarke, both of Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association. *NUSMW EC Minutes*, 13 May 1918; *NUSMW Proceedings of Annual Conference, 14-17 August, 1918*, 17; Milton, *John Maclean*, 164-75; *Glasgow Herald*, 10 May 1918.

further increase on the Abatement for upkeep of Tools, The Agents reported that the Assessor now stated definitely that no further alteration would be made. On this report it was agreed and the Secy instructed to issue bills to the Branches Showing the New Scale of Abatements and that they be posted on the Pitheads.

Compensation Case: A letter was Submitted from Mr W.S. Campbell in which he Complained that John Judge of Whitehill Colliery had received £8 and Signed a final discharge and that Judge now denied the transaction and objected to the Agreement being recorded. It was agreed to leave the case open in the meantime. On a Statement made by the Agents regarding Mr Little's case, it was agreed to recommend to the Board that no further action be taken.

20th July 1918

The Board met today. All members present except House O' Muir [delegate]. The Minute of Board Meeting held on 15th June was read and adopted on the motion of Mr Lewis Affleck, Seconded by Mr Alex Anderson.⁶² The National Executive Minutes of 13th, 20th and 27th May were also adopted on the motion of Mr John Main, Seconded by Mr John Herd.

War Wage: The Secretary reported that the Coal Controller had agreed to the demand by the British Miners' Federation that Wages be increased by 1s.6d. per day to all the Members of the Federation over 16 years of Age and 9d. a day for those under 16 years of Age employed in and about the Mines—the increase to take effect on and after 30th June.

Income Tax: In view of no further Concessions being made by the Assessor the New Scale of Abatements had been Sent out to the Branches, Viz., Light £1.10s., Tools upkeep 15s., Tools Sharpening 3s.3d., Checkweighers' Dues 3s.3d., Union Funeral Dues 1s.8d., Pit Boots and Clothes £1: Total £3.13.2. per Quarter.

The Branches Agreed to grant £10 to the Deaf & Dumb Institution, Henderson Row, Edinburgh, and £25 to the Tranent & District Labour Party.

Resolutions: The Branches Agreed by 10 votes to 9 against That a memorial to the late Secretary be Considered; and it was decided that the Branches observe the Working Policy of 11 Days a Fortnight.

As the Sheriff had given a decision terminating Partial Compensation to Mr Robert Sharp of Carberry Branch it was decided that the Secretary be requested to see if anything further could be done with the Case. In reference to the Case of Mr John Judge, Rosewell, who had granted a final discharge, it was agreed that the Secretary take no further action.

A Circular letter was Submitted from the Scottish Trades' Union Congress requesting that Support be given to a Testimonial to the late Secretary Mr George Carson who had resigned after many years' Service. It was resolved to take no action.

It was also agreed that no financial help could be given the Scottish Coast

⁶² Approval of the Executive Committee minutes of meeting on 3 July 1918 is not mentioned.

Mission. The Socialist Labour Party also requested assistance in order to reestablish their printing press which had been destroyed by the Authorities. It was agreed to leave the matter to the Branches as they were being circulated by the Secretary of the S.L.P.⁶³

Mr Colin Allan reported from the Miners' Conference held in Glasgow on 24th June, and Mr William Foster reported from a Labour & Co-operative Conference held in Glasgow on 29th June. Mr Andrew Clarke gave a report of the Labour Party Conference held in London on 26th June and Mr Robert Burnside reported from the British Miners' Annual Conference held in Southport on 9th July.

The Agents were instructed to attend the Selection Conference to be held at Bonnyrigg on 27th July and to propose Mr James Gold as the Miners' Nominee for South Midlothian. North Midlothian—Messrs Thomas McNeill and Andrew McGill were appointed to attend a Meeting to be held in Edinburgh on 3rd August, with a view to stimulating divisional and local organisations in accordance with the Constitution of the National Labour Party.

It was agreed that the Roslin, Vogrie, Ormiston and Niddrie Delegates attend the Scottish Miners' Annual Conference to be held in Edinburgh on 14th August.

Holidays and Delegates' Fees: It was agreed by the vote of 12 to 6 against that all the Delegates attending the Board Meeting receive a Day's wage, and that it be remitted to the Executive to formulate a Scheme that will be uniform in its application to all Board Meetings.

The Delegates appointed to attend the National Annual Meeting were instructed to Support R. Smillie, President, A. Clarke, Vice President, W. Adamson, Treasurer, and Jas Brown, Secy, and the Agents for the Executive Committee.

Newbattle Branch: A Funeral Claim was Submitted, and it was agreed to remit it back to the Branch to be dealt with. A motion was also Submitted in the way of a protest against the Board in appointing the Secretary without Consulting the Branches. The protest was accepted by the Board and their former decision adhered to.

⁶³ George Carson (1848-1921), a leader for many years of the Scottish Tin-Plate and Sheet Metal Workers' Society, secretary, 1902-9, Scottish Workers' Parliamentary Elections Committee, and 1902-12, Glasgow Trades Council, was general secretary, 1901-18, of the Scottish Trades Union Congress. The Socialist Labour Party, a breakaway in 1903 from the Social Democratic Federation, and which strongly advocated industrial unionism, had an important section of its membership in the central belt of Scotland. The Party had published from 1902 its official organ *The Socialist* first in Edinburgh then from 1912 in Glasgow. In his memoirs Tom Bell, a leading member of the Party, describes how it had also during or before the war printed radical or revolutionary papers for other groups, including *The Suffragette*, *The Irish Worker* (for James Connolly, the Irish socialist), and *The Worker* (for the Clyde Workers' Committee). Special Branch officers, who had 'kept harassing' the Party press, had secured a warrant to dismantle its printing machine, but the parts they removed were promptly replaced by Party members. The police had, however, returned and removed the ink rollers and other vital parts, which brought the press to a halt. T. Bell, *Pioneering Days* (London, 1941), 175; Marwick, *Labour in Scotland*, 84.

Niddrie: As some of the Female Workers at this Branch were Compelled to subscribe to the National Insurance Unemployment Scheme, it was agreed to remit to the Agents to make enquiry with the view of trying to get those affected clear of the Scheme.

Loanhead: A request was made from this Branch that the Board assist them to Secure the double War Wage in the event of this Colliery working on an idle Saturday. The Management refused to consider the double wage. The Secretary was instructed to write and Say that the Board could render no assistance and that they Should abide by the Working Policy of the Association.

Penston: This Branch Submitted a Resolution against the proposed Coal Rationing Scheme by the Government. As the Scheme did not apply to Miners it was agreed to let the matter drop.⁶⁴

Prestongrange: The Delegate from this Branch reported on the death of Mr Michael Corrie, the Branch Secretary, and the Secretary was instructed to forward to Mrs Corrie and Family the Board's Sympathy in the loss they had Sustained.

Prestonlinks: Complaints were Submitted from this Branch re. Surface Workers and double War Wage for the idle Saturday on which the pit was working, and also of men being kept unduly long in the pit bottom. It was agreed to remit the complaints to the Agents. It was also agreed on the recommendation of the Executive not to proceed further with Mr Little's case.

Bankpark: It was agreed to Submit the following resolution to the Branches, That the Executive of the National Union of Scottish Mine Workers be called upon to bring pressure on the Government to release all Conscientious Objectors who are miners and allow them to work in the mines owing to the great dearth of Coal in the Country.⁶⁵

12th August 1918

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held today.

As it was remitted from last Board Meeting to the Executive to consider and report as to fixing a flat Delegation fee for all Board Meetings, It was agreed to recommend to the Board a flat Rate of 15s. per Delegate per Board Meeting, and that the Board Meetings be equally distributed as far as the idle Saturdays are concerned between Mid & East Lothian.

⁶⁴ Rationing of domestic coal supplies had been introduced for London in the summer of 1917 and for the rest of Britain a year later. The rationing scheme was based on the number of rooms in each house. *Glasgow Herald*, 5 June 1918; Supple, *British Coal Industry*, 83, 92, 96.

⁶⁵ The annual conference of the NUSMW in mid-Aug. carried unanimously a motion by John Robertson, Lanarkshire, vice-president of the Union, seconded by James Tonner, Lanarkshire, and supported by Andrew Clarke, Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association, 'That this Conference protests against the imprisonment of Conscientious Objectors and asks for their immediate release to enable them to return to their various occupations in view of the urgent national necessity to increase production.' *NUSMW Proceedings of 25th Annual Conference, 14-17 August 1918*, 19.

Late Secretary's Memorial: It was agreed to leave consideration of the Memorial to a future date.

It was agreed to Support the British Miners' Executive Committee's proposals as to conditions and wages of the permanent officials to be appointed and Mr James Hogg and Mr Lewis Affleck were appointed to attend a Conference to be held at Southport on 21st August to deal with the Proposals.

The National Union Annual Conference: It was agreed to Support all the Resolutions on the Agenda except the one regarding the deduction of union dues through the Colliery office, and the one re. Working Policy.⁶⁶

Trades Union Congress: As the names of the Delegates who were to attend the Trades Congress at Derby on 2nd Sept. Should be forwarded at once to Mr Ashton, It was agreed to Send on the names of Mr John Hamilton and Mr George Harkness as the Delegates to represent Mid & East Lothian.

Mr James Ormiston reported that a meeting had been held of the Medical Committee and that the Doctors had Submitted a draft copy of rules which the Workmen's representatives refused to discuss as they had not considered them. It was agreed to appoint Mr Ormiston Convener and that the five Workmen representatives Consider the Rules and report to the Board Meeting.

24th August 1918

The Board met today, All members present. The Minute of Meeting held on 20th July was read and adopted on the Motion of Mr A. McGill, Seconded by Mr Alex Anderson.⁶⁷

The Minutes of Meetings of the National Union Executive for 10th, 24th June and 4th July were agreed to.

On the recommendation of the Executive it was agreed that a Flat Fee of 15s. be paid for attendance at all Board Meetings, and that the Board Meetings be equally distributed as far as the idle Saturdays are concerned between Mid & East Lothian.

Mr Andrew Clarke reported from the National Union Conference held in Glasgow on 30th July and also gave a report of the Scottish Miners' Annual Meeting held in Edinburgh from 14th to 17th August. Messrs James Hogg and Lewis Affleck reported from the British Miners' Federation Conference held at Southport on 21st August.

As it was agreed at the British Miners' Annual Meeting that the President and Secretary of the Federation be appointed permanently and to give their whole time to the work, It was agreed to recommend to the Branches that Mr Robert Smillie be nominated for the position of President.

⁶⁶ A resolution from the Fife miners' union was carried with only eight votes against it at the annual conference of the NUSMW in mid-Aug., 'That a ballot vote be taken all over the Scottish coalfield on the advisability of adopting the policy of five days per week and a six hours' working day.' *NUSMW Proceedings of 25th Annual Conference, 14-17 August 1918*, 6-7.

⁶⁷ Approval of the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on 12 Aug. 1918 is not mentioned.

Mr John Hamilton and Mr George Harkness were Appointed to attend the British Miners' Meeting to be held on 31st August and also to attend the Trades Congress, Both Meetings to be held in Derby. It was also Agreed that one of the Agents attend all Conferences along with the Delegates.

Scottish Labour Party Advisory Committee: It was agreed to be represented at the Annual Meeting of this Committee to be held in Glasgow on 21st Sept.

It was agreed after due Consideration to leave the question in abeyance for further information and to Consider the setting up of Joint Pit Committees at next Meeting.⁶⁸

Polton Female Workers' Wages: The Secretary reported that the Coal Controller recommended 4d. per day of an increase on Female wages and that the increase date from 4th June. It was agreed to advise acceptance of the Award.

The Secretary reported that he had been in Communication with the Managers of Niddrie and Arniston Collieries re. the War Wage for the idle Saturday on 13th July. The reply from both was They had been notified that the Miners would Stop work on Friday 12th July for holidays, and that the War Wage was not paid for holidays. It was agreed to press the claim no further.

Medical Committee: Mr James Ormiston reported that a draft copy of Rules had been Submitted by the Doctors. It was agreed not to accept the Rules Submitted, but to accept the adoption of the Rules of the Lanarkshire Medical Committee.

It was agreed to recommend to the Branches a Grant of £10 to assist the Socialist Labour Party to reestablish their printing press that had been destroyed by the Authorities.

Funeral Claims: It was resolved to pay gratuities to Mr James Clapperton, Prestongrange—30s., Mr Thomas Cannon, Loanhead—30s., and Mr James Reilly, Niddrie—30s.

Roslin: A Complaint as to men working on the idle Saturday was Submitted and it was agreed that the defaulters be advised to abide by the Working Policy of the Association or drastic Steps would follow.

Bankpark: A Complaint was made from this Branch regarding men violating the Eight Hours Act. It was agreed to advise the defaulters that the Act had not been Suspended and that they were liable to prosecution.

Wallyford: A question was Submitted from this Branch as to the Contribution to be paid to the Union in the event of a Member being off work. The reply is Members off work owing to Sickness or accidents pay 1½d. a week. Mem-

⁶⁸ An appeal issued by the MFGB EC to all members of the Federation on 12 Aug. 'to assist in every way to maintain and if possible increase the output of coal', had said that the EC was attempting 'to establish within the next few weeks Joint Committees at all the collieries to lessen as far as possible unnecessary absenteeism.' The work of these Joint Committees, composed of representatives of management and workmen, would include investigating 'whether it is through the fault of the workmen or the management' when loss of output occurred. *MFGB AP, 1918; NUSMW EC Minutes, 27 August 1918, 4.*

bers out of work through no fault of their own and idle 6 days during the fortnight ending when dues are payable, require to pay 3d. a week.

Prestongrange: The Secretary reported that he was trying to fix up a Meeting with the General Manager in reference to Brick workers' wages and also duplicate Pay Sheets.

Rosewell: A Dispute had arisen at this Colliery owing to a workman being taken from his own work to do oncost work and was paid 9s. a Shift. He demanded the Standard wage and was flung idle for 2 days. Mr Clarke was called and had the man reinstated. It was agreed to pay the two Shifts lost by the workman, Patrick Smith, and that the Agent be granted full powers to deal with the System of payment under Such circumstances.

Loanhead: A Complaint was made from this Branch as to Miners' Graith going amissing after it had been left in the Care of the Company and as a workman had lost a Shift owing to his graith not being found for him to start work, The Secy was instructed to make enquiry and to try and get a day's wage to the man.⁶⁹

Newbattle: It was Submitted that Steps be taken to have time and half paid to Surface Workers for Overtime. Mr Clarke, Agent, reported on a demand that was being made for an increase of wages to men employed by Contractors, and as he had been in touch with the Manager on the question it was agreed to leave the matter with him to be further dealt with. It was also reported of 8 men who were idle owing to the Contractor having left the place. The 8 men were willing to continue work in the place But it was Stopped. The Secy of the Branch having lost a Shift in trying to get the men started to work it was agreed to pay him for the Shift lost.

Arniston: Mr Clarke reported that he was to have the decision of the Manager next week as to the increase demanded by the Brushers.⁷⁰

28th September 1918

The Board met today, All Members present. The Minute of Meeting held on 24th August was read and adopted on the motion of Mr John Herd and Seconded by Mr John Barr.

The National Union Executive Minutes of Meetings held on 22nd and 30th July and 5th August were adopted.

Stanrigg Colliery Disaster: As a Relief Fund had been inaugurated for the benefit of the dependants of those who had lost their lives in Stanrigg Pit, and as an appeal for a donation was Submitted, it was agreed to leave the matter over to next meeting pending enquiry with the view of having Such Relief Funds made

⁶⁹ Graith: the personal tools, including picks, shovels, borers, wedges, stemmers, mashes, mash-axes, etc., used by the miner in his daily work.

⁷⁰ Brushers: those employed in removing part of the roof or pavement of a coal working in order to heighten the roadway.

national.⁷¹

The Royal Blind Asylum, Edinburgh: On an Appeal for a donation to this Institution, it was agreed that in view of £10 being granted in May last, nothing be done in the meantime.

Land Nationalization Society: On an invitation from this Society to attend a meeting to be held in Edinburgh on 5th Oct. with the view of setting up a Council and Executive Committee for Edinburgh and the East of Scotland, it was agreed not to take part in the meeting.

Compensation Cases: It was agreed to remit to the Law Agents the Cases of Alfred Lowe, Niddrie, James Lubie, Penston, and William McGuire, Prestongrange.

Output Committees: It was agreed to defer setting up Pit Committees pending the National Union decision as to procedure to be adopted between the Management and the Workmen.

The Clyde District Propaganda Defence Committee: An Appeal for help from this Committee was Submitted, and as more than likely the Branches will be appealed to direct it was resolved to leave the matter over until next meeting.⁷²

Central Edinburgh Labour Candidate's Expenses: An Appeal was made for financial help. It was agreed that no assistance could be rendered in view of two Constituencies being contested in the Counties of Mid & East Lothian by Labour Candidates.⁷³

The Secretary reported that the Coal Controller had agreed that the War Wage be paid to oncost workers in the event of their being called upon to work a double Shift, that is 3s. for each Shift.

The following Resolution was Submitted from a District Meeting held in Tranent on 18th September: That this Meeting of East Lothian Miners pledge itself to take one idle day each week for two weeks as a protest against the quantity

⁷¹ An inrush of moss and water cost the lives of 19 men and boys on 9 July at Stanrigg colliery, near Airdrie. About 50 other miners at work in the pit at the time succeeded in escaping to safety. Seven of the 19 entombed were aged between 14 and 18. The pit was situated 'in a desolate region in the hills amongst the moors.' *MFGBA, 1918: Report of Annual Conference, 9-12 July, 92; Glasgow Herald, 10 July 1918.*

⁷² It is not clear whether this Committee, which provided protection for working class propagandists and was particularly concerned with arranging financial support for the dependants of John Maclean and agitating for his release, was the same organisation under a slightly different name as the Clyde Workers' Defence and Maintenance Fund set up in 1916 to maintain the shop stewards deported then by the government, as well as their dependants and those, including Maclean and James D. MacDougall, imprisoned for their political activities. A financial statement for the Fund for 1917-18 survives in the Highton papers in the University of Glasgow Archives. See Milton, *John Maclean*, 175-6; I. McLean, *The Legend of Red Clydeside* (Edinburgh, 1983), 90.

⁷³ The Labour candidate in the Edinburgh Central constituency in the Dec. 1918 election was William Graham (1887-1932), who won the seat then, held it until 1931, and was President of the Board of Trade in the second Labour government, 1929-31. Knox (ed.), *Scottish Labour Leaders*, 128-32; *Glasgow Herald*, 30 Dec. 1918.

and quality of the food supplied to the miners and their families in this District; at the end of two weeks if the quantity and quality is no better than at present then we pledge ourselves to take two idle days each week until such time as our demands have been complied with. As Niddrie and Prestongrange also sent Resolutions on the quality and scarcity of food, It was agreed that the District Food Controller, Colonel Rose, Edinburgh, be interviewed and that the President, Vice-President, Agent and Secretary be appointed to meet with him.⁷⁴

Medical Committee: Mr James Ormiston reported that the Committee had agreed on the Suggestion of the Board that the Lanarkshire Rules be adopted.

Mr John Hamilton reported from the Trades Union Congress held at Derby from 2nd to 7th September. It was agreed to accept the report.

It was agreed by the Branches to grant £10 to the Socialist Labour Party, Glasgow, who had their printing press destroyed by the Authorities.

Arniston: On a Resolution from the Branch, it was agreed to rescind a decision of the Board re. the payment of the War Wage for the Idle Saturday, 13th July. The Management claim that it was included in the Summer holidays. The Secretary was instructed to Submit the question to the Coal Controller. It was also reported that the Brushers' Dispute re. an increase of wages was satisfactorily settled. The firemen are also demanding an increase of wages. The Secretary reported that Firemen's wages and Conditions were being dealt with by the National Executive and the matter was to be Submitted to the Coal Controller.

Bankpark: The following Resolution was Submitted—That the East Lothian Collieries alter their Idle Saturday to the same day as Midlothian and that the Board Meetings be held every month on the idle Saturday.

Carberry & Wallyford: A Complaint was Submitted as to the increased prices being Charged by the Company in Carting the miners' Coal, the price being increased from 1s.3d. to 3s. As the Agent was dealing with the Complaint it was left with him to be further dealt with.

Elphinstone: On a Complaint as to men being sent out of the pit and docked of the War Wage, the Secretary was instructed to make enquiry.

Loanhead: On a Complaint as to Miners' Graith going amissing after it had been left in the Care of the Company, the Secretary was instructed to enquire as to the responsibility devolving on the Company for loss sustained by a workman.

Newbattle: Mr Clarke, Agent, reported that in reference to the demand for an increase of wages to men employed by Contractors, a Section had been put on ton rates, eliminating the Contractor, and the change was working satisfactorily.

⁷⁴ The Tranent meeting appears to have gone unreported in the press. Sir H. Arthur Rose (1875-1937), knighted 1919, baronet 1935, director of various companies, educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, commanded the 15th battalion, Royal Scots, 1914-17; Divisional Food Commissioner, East of Scotland, 1917-18, Food Commissioner for Scotland, 1919-20, chairman, General Board of Control for Scotland, 1922-36, Commissioner for Scotland, Special Areas (Development and Improvement) Act, 1934-6.

It was hoped to extend the alteration to other Sections which were worked by Contractors.

Niddrie: The following Resolution was submitted—That we of Niddrie Branch move that the Vice-President shall be a Delegate representing a Colliery, and that he shall be elected by the Board and shall preside at all Meetings of the Board in the Absence of the President.

Polton: A Claim was Submitted for two days' wages for a man considered to be victimised who had to leave the Colliery owing to a dispute as to mineral filled. The Claim was not entertained. The Secretary was instructed to try and have the privilege granted to the Checkweighman to accompany Deputations to the Colliery Office.

Prestongrange: The Secretary reported that he had two letters from Mr Mowat, both letters stating that he would meet him at an early date to discuss the Brick Workers' Wages. It was agreed that the Secy now send an ultimatum.

Prestonlinks: A request was made from this Branch that in the event of a few men failing to Join the Union to-day that a Picket be Sent from the Board to deal with them on Monday morning. In view of the Case being heard for the first time by the Agents it was agreed to leave the matter with them to be dealt with.

Rosewell: The Agent reported that the Dispute which had arisen at this Colliery had been Settled by the Company agreeing that a miner taken to do Oncost work will be paid not less than 10s. a Shift and a Drawer shall be paid the wage he is earning up to 10s. a Shift.

Woodhall: A question was Submitted—If a Fireman works 11 days is he entitled to claim the War Wage for 12 days? If the Customary working time is 11 days a fortnight—Yes. If the Customary working time is 12 days a fortnight—No.

2nd November 1918

The Board met today, All Members present. The Minute of Meeting held on 28th Sept. was read and adopted on the motion of Mr William McNeill, Seconded by Mr John Herd.

The National Executive Minutes of Meetings held on 27th August and 12th and 16th Sept. were agreed to.

Haddington & Berwickshire Divisional Labour Party: An Appeal was Submitted from this body for help to Carry on their Election Campaign. It was agreed to recommend to the Branches a grant of £20.

Haddington County Food Control Committee: On a request that the Miners' Association nominate Two representatives to this Committee, it was agreed to nominate Messrs R. Scott and J. Colquhoun.

Election of Permanent Officials—Miners' Federation of Great Britain: The Secretary was instructed to see to the arrangements of the Ballot, and to have it

carried through in due course.⁷⁵

The Penston Branch requested the Board to protest against the Haddington County Council's proposed Scheme to erect houses and their proposal to lease them to the Coal owners in the Tranent district. The Secretary was instructed to write the County Authorities protesting against Such leasing.

As a resolution was adopted at the Scottish Miners' Annual Conference demanding an increase of 50 per Cent on Standard Wages and had been Submitted to the British Miners' Federation Executive to be dealt with, and as many of the Branches were making enquiry as to the demand, it was agreed that the Agents press the matter at the National Executive.⁷⁶

Food Control: The President, Agent and Secretary reported on the interview they had with Col. Rose as to the Supplies of food. The Secretary was instructed to inform Colonel Rose that unless a fuller Supply of foods in general was distributed to the Mid & East Lothian Miners drastic Steps would be taken which meant idle time.

District Meeting: A letter was Submitted from a Mass Meeting of Miners held at Musselburgh on 27th Oct., in which it Stated that the Meeting pledged its Support to the National demand for a 5s. increase all round in the Mining industry, and 30s. weekly for a Soldier's Wife, with 10s. a week for each child. It was Agreed that district Meetings Should only be held on the Consent and mutual arrangements by the Branch Committees in the district where the meeting is to take place, and as far as practicable the Board should be Consulted. As another Meeting was to be held at Musselburgh on 10th Nov., and as the Agents were invited, it was agreed they be requested to attend.⁷⁷

The President reported from the Miners' Conference re. Soldiers' & Sailors' dependants held in Glasgow on 10th Oct. The Agent reported from the British Miners' Federation Conference held in London on 7th Nov., Stating that it was agreed that from 5th Dec., the Surface Workers cease work after 8½ hours including meal times, and that a Conference is to be held at Southport on 26th Nov. to hear reports from Districts.

Mr James Ormiston and Mr Joe Colquhoun were appointed to attend a Conference in London on 7th Nov. re. Pay of Soldiers and Sailors, Separation Allowances, Pensions, Etc. Messrs Colin Allan and Thos McNeill were appointed to attend a Labour Party Conference in London on 14th Nov. Messrs William Foster and Alex Wood were appointed to attend a British Miners' Federation

⁷⁵ Robert Smillie was elected permanent full-time president of the MFGB, and Frank Hodges likewise secretary, both by very large majorities in the ballot. *MFGB AP, 1918: EC Minutes, 19 December.*

⁷⁶ On 19 Dec. the MFGB EC resolved 'That application be made at once for a substantial increase in wages.' At its special conference on 14 Jan. 1919 at Southport the MFGB resolved to demand a 30 per cent increase in wages, a six hours' working day, and the nationalisation of the mines. *MFGB AP, 1918: EC Minutes, 19 December, Arnot, Years of Struggle, 184.*

⁷⁷ The meetings at Musselburgh went unreported in the press.

Conference at Southport on 26th Nov. Messrs John Barr and James Hogg were requested to attend a Labour & Cooperative Conference in Glasgow on 16th Nov.⁷⁸

Funeral Claims: It was agreed to remit back to Arniston (J. Spark) & Elphinston (Jas Hogg) Branches two claims re. adopted children for payment and that the rule be enforced as to T. Bellamy & John Taylor's Cases, Prestonlinks.

Compensation Cases: It was decided to Submit to the Law Agents the Cases of Messrs James Fairgrieve, Elphinstone, J. Mullaney, Bankton, and J. Watt, Penston. The Secy reported that the cases of J. Adams, Niddrie, and J. McKinley, Prestonlinks, had been won in court.

Gratuities: It was agreed to grant Messrs Hoods, Thomson & Wilkie 30s. each.

On a Complaint from Tranent District as to Medical requirements it was resolved to remit it to the Medical Committee.

It was agreed to make payment of 7s.6d. each to the Miners' Delegates who attended a meeting with the Agent at Wallyford regarding the increased Cartage Charges at the Edinburgh Collieries.

On Soldier and Sailor Members being discharged from the Service, if they desire to continue in touch with the benefits of the Miners' Union they must resume payment of 1¹/₂d. a week if unfit to work, and upon resuming work the usual Contribution of 6d. a week.

Nominations of Office-Bearers to be submitted to the first Board Meeting.

The following Resolutions, as Submitted to the Branches, were adopted: That the East Lothian Collieries alter their Idle Saturday to the same day as Midlothian, and that the Board Meetings be held every Month on the Idle Saturday. That the Vice-President shall be a Delegate representing a Colliery and that he shall be elected by the Board, and shall preside at all meetings of the Board in the absence of the President.

It was Agreed to adjourn the Meeting until 12th Nov. On 12th Nov. the President opened the adjourned Meeting by making reference to the Armistice that had been signed, and the appreciation they all felt that hostilities were ended.

Surface Workers' Wages & Conditions: The Secy reported on this matter as detailed in a Circular presented by Fife. It was agreed to remit the Circular to the Branches for Consideration and to report.

It was reported that the Polton men were idle as a protest against the Management refusing to pay the War Wage to a Section of men who had gone home after working until breakfast time on hutches. The Board endorsed the Action of the men, and as the Agent had the matter in hand he was granted full powers to deal with the case.

Carberry: It was reported that a fireman (Ross) who was discharged was

⁷⁸ A note in the margin of the minutes says that Andrew Clarke attended both conferences in London, and was to attend the one in Glasgow.

reinstated at the instigation of the Agent, but further trouble had arisen with him. The Agent was requested to make enquiry.

Loanhead: The Secretary was instructed to Consult the Law Agents as to the responsibility of the management for the loss of a miner's graith that had been put in their Charge.

Newbattle: A Motion was presented from this Branch Giving Support to the Resolution that the Vice-President be elected by the Board and that he be one of its members, And they move that this Should be also applicable to the President and Treasurer. It was Agreed not to proceed further with this motion. A Complaint was also made as to the trouble men had in changing from one Job to another. The Agent reported he had been dealing with this matter, and the Manager had agreed that, in future, on a man giving a day's notice he would be granted a line allowing him to go to a new Job.

Smeaton: A Motion was Submitted that the Board resume its meetings at the Board Room, Eskbank. It was agreed to consider this at the next Board Meeting.

Evictions (Lothian Coal Co.): The Secy reported that he had Submitted to the Law Agents the Case of W. Thomson who was ordered out of his house. The Secy's Action was endorsed. The Case was before the Sheriff and Thomson was ordered to leave the house. A Similar Case was reported from Jas Young—The Secy to Consult Law Agents regarding it.

Chapter 6

NOTES TO MINUTES, 1894-1918

Ballot: Parliamentary Representation¹

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>
House of Muir	27	1
Ormiston	16	16
Penston	61	15
Arniston	217	123
Newbattle	340	207
Niddrie	382	65
Loanhead	134	87
Rosewell	45	68
Carberry		
Tranent	57	51
Elphingston	53	42
Glenesk	18	14
Polton	164	24
Wallyford	132	18
Prestongrange	152	43
Penicuik	<u>16</u>	<u>20</u>
	814	794

¹ See above, p. 105, n. 106.

5th April: Result of ballot on boys entering the Mines²

	Ages	Ages
	13	14
Collieries		
Ormiston	23	53
Elphingstone	49	20
Penstone	27	71
Northfield	6	7
House of Muir	6	11
Newbattle	175	360
Prestongrange	84	91
Niddrie	71	231
Wallyford	10	35
Oxenford	20	21
Tranent	110	48
Arniston		
Loanhead	34	81
Carberry		74
Polton		

Result of Meetings for Gala day³

April 10th	Rosewell	unanimously in favour
April 11	Oxenford	" in favour
April 12	Ormiston	abide by Board's decision
April 12	Penstone	No definite decision come to
April 12	Northfield	in favour
April 12	Wallyford	in favour
April 12	Carberry	in favour
April 17	Elphingstone	in favour
April 18	Niddrie	in favour
April 19	Not	decided
April 20	Newbattle	in favour
	Arniston	in favour

² See above, p. 95, n. 92.³ See above, p. 87, n. 83, pp. 94, 95.

Returns at end of 1899 to Board of Trade

1.	Branches	15
2.	Members	2,750

Returns for 1900

Branches		18
Members		3,250
Members	1901	3,260
"	1902	3,300
"	1903	3,350
"	1904	3,400

Data from 1888⁴

22nd November 1888	advance of	10%
14th February 1889	" "	10%
1st October 1889	" "	10%
7th November 1889	" "	10%
22nd January 1890	" "	10%
7th May 1892	Reduction of	10%
9th November 1892	" "	10%
18th March 1893	" "	10%
23rd August 1893	Advance of	10%
21st October 1893	" "	10%
6th December 1893	" "	10%
6th June 1894	Reduction of	20%
20th April 1895	" "	10%
25th March 1896	" "	10%
1st January 1897	Advance of	5%
31st March 1897	" "	5%
25th April 1898	" "	20%
24 August 1898	" "	10%
1st April 1899	" "	6 ¹ / ₄ % or 3d. per day
1st February 1900	" "	18 ³ / ₄ %
1 August 1900	" "	25%
5 March 1901	Reduction of	25%
5 June 1901	" "	12 ¹ / ₂ %
5 Sept 1901	" "	12 ¹ / ₂ %

⁴ This is a list of increases and reductions in wages after the institution of the 1888 basis rates, which established coal hewers' wages in Scotland at about 4s. per day.

Rates in Mid & East Lothian at End of each year from 1871,

+ = increase - = decrease

	71	+ 22.22
	72	+ 88.88
	73	+ 88.88
	74	+ 22.22
4s.	75	Standard
4s.2d	76	+ 4.50
3s.6d	77	- 10
2s.9d	78	- 30
3s.9d	79	+ 25
4s.3d	80	+ 10
4s.3d	81	+ 10
5	82	+ 20
5s.6d	83	+ 30
4s.3d	84	+ 5
4s.3d	85	+ 5
4s.3d	86	- 5
4s.3d	87	- 5
4s.6d	88	+ 10
5s.6d	89	+ 40
6	90	+ 50
6	91	+ 50
5s.3d	92	+ 30
6	93	+ 50
5s.3d	94	+ 30
4s.10d	95	+ 20
4s.3d	96	+ 10
4s.10d	97	+ 20
6	98	+ 50
6s.3d	99	+ 56.25
8	1900	+ 100
6s.3d	1901	- 56 $\frac{1}{2}$
5s.9d	1902	- 43 $\frac{3}{4}$
5s.6d	1903	- 37 $\frac{1}{2}$
5s.6d	1904	+ 37 $\frac{1}{2}$

5th September 1898

Statement average wage to Board of trade 31s.3d

2/3	Arniston	7s. ⁵
	Newbattle	14s.
	Niddrie	4s.
	Vogrie	7s.
	Carberry	5s.
	Loanhead	7s.
	Tranent	5s.6d
	Elphingstone	5s.6d
	Penstone	5s.6d
	Ormiston	5s.6d
	Prestongrange	5s.6d
	Wallyford	5s.
	Polton	4s.
	House o Muir	7s.
	Rosewell	7s.
	Penicuik	5s.6d
	President	<u>5s.6d</u>
		£5.5s.6d
	Hall	<u>2s.</u>
		£5.7s.6d

John Philip
Camp View

John Hilton
24 High St
Bonnyrigg

Rosewell:
James Stewart
Carnethie Street

Carberry Delegate:
John Murray
6 Deantown⁶

⁵ The amounts set against branches are probably expenses paid to their delegates attending Mid and East Lothian Association Board meetings.

⁶ These miscellaneous jottings appear to be of names and addresses of delegates to the Board.

17th October 1896⁷

		Local
Arniston	£25. 0.0	£2.10.0
Newbattle	45.10.0	4.11.0
Niddrie	10. 9.6	1. 1.0
Loanhead	10. 0.0	1. 0.0
Rosewell	11. 0.0	1. 2.0
Carberry	6.15.0	13.6
Tranent	3. 0.0	6.0
Elphinstone	7.0.0	14.0
House o Muir	2.10.0	5.0
Ormiston	4.15.0	9.6
Penston	6. 5.0	12.6
Prestongrange	3.10.0	7.0
Wallyford	4. 0.0	8.0
Polton	5.10.0	11.0
Vogrie	3. 0.0	6.0
Penicuik	<u>7. 0.0</u>	<u>14.0</u>
	<u>£155. 4.6</u>	<u>£15.10.6</u>

⁷ The amounts in the left column are the contributions paid the Association by its respective branches on 17 Oct. 1896; those in the right column are the sums retained by the branches in their respective local funds. See above, p. 73.

Special Conferences

1. President—2nd October 1911, Southport, Scottish Miners' Conference, 1913, August;
2. Ormiston—2 October 1911, Southport, Scottish Miners' Conference, 1913, August;
3. Niddrie—16th Novr 1911, London, British Trades Union Congress, 1913, Sept, Manchester;
4. Penston—16th Novr 1911, London, British Miners' Federation Annual Conference, 1913;
5. Carberry—20th Decr 1911, London, British Miners' Federation Annual Con. 1913, October;
6. Newbattle—20th Decr 1911, Conference, (Scarborough), 9th, 10th & 11th December 1913;
7. House of Muir—18th Jany 1912, Birmingham, Labour Party Conference, 27th Jany 1914;
8. Prestonlinks—18th Jany 1912, Birmingham;
9. Polton—24th Jany 1911, Birmingham;
10. Treasurer [Blank];
11. Wallyford—24th Jan. 1911, Birmingham;
12. Rosewell—Annual Conference, Scottish Miners' Federation, 1912;
13. Woodhall—Annual Conference, Scottish Miners' Federation, 1912;
14. Bankpark—Annual Conference, Scottish Miners' Federation, 1912;
15. Loanhead—Annual Conference, British Miners' Federation, 1912, Swansea;
16. Elphinstone—Annual Conference, British Miners' Federation, 1912, Swansea;
17. Bankton—3rd Jany 1913, London;
18. Smeaton—27, 28, 29 Jan. 1913, London;
19. Arniston—27th March 1913, London;
20. Prestongrange—Scottish Trades Union Congress, 1913;
21. Vice President—Scottish Miners' Federation Annual, 1913;
22. Assistant Secretary—Scottish Miners' Federation Annual, 1913.

Ordinary Conferences

1. Vice President—8 Mar 1911;
2. Prestongrange—16 Decr 1911;
3. Arniston—16th Decr 1911;
4. Smeaton—25th Septr 1912;
5. Bankton—9th Decr 1912;
6. Elphinstone—25th Jany 1913;
7. Loanhead—25th March 1913;
8. Bankpark—28th April 1913;
9. Treasurer [Blank];
10. Woodhall—28th April 1913;
11. Rosewell—28th April 1913;
12. Wallyford—9th Septr 1913;
13. Polton,
14. Prestonlinks,
15. House of Muir,
16. Newbattle,
17. Carberry, [all Blank]
18. Penston,
19. Niddrie,
20. Ormiston,
21. President;
22. Assistant Secretary—28th April 1913.

Representation at Conferences—Special Conferences:

1. President—Scottish Annual 1913, Novr 11th 1910, London Conference, Osborne Judgement;
2. Ormiston—Novr 11th 1910, John Main, London Conference, Osborne Judgement;
3. Niddrie—Annual Conference, Ayr, Decr 1910;
4. Penston—Annual Conference, Ayr, Decr 1910;
5. Carberry—Annual Conference, Ayr, Decr 1910;
6. Newbattle—Annual Conference, Ayr, Decr 1910;
7. House of Muir—Annual Conference, Ayr, Conference 18th Jany 1912;
8. Prestonlinks—Annual Conference, Ayr, Conference 18th Jany 1912;
9. Polton—Annual Conference, Ayr, Conference 18th Jany 1912;
10. Treasurer—Conference, London, Jany 23, 24, 25, 26;
11. Wallyford—Conference, London, Jany 23, 24, 25, 26;
12. Rosewell—Scottish Trades Union Congress, Dundee, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th April 1911;
13. Woodhall—Scottish Trades Union Congress, Dundee, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th April 1911;
14. Bankpark—Conference, London, Welsh Strike, 25, 26, 27 April 1911;
15. Loanhead—Conference, London, 13th June, Welsh Strike, 1911;
16. Elphinstone—Conference, London, 13th June, Welsh Strike, 1911;
17. Bankton—Annual Conference;
18. Smeaton—Annual Conference;
19. Arniston—Annual Conference;
20. Prestongrange—Annual Conference;
21. Vice President—Annual Conference, Ayr, Decr 1910;
22. Assistant Secretary—International Conference, 24th July 1911;
Annual Conference, British Miners' Federation Two to go:
Ormiston & President.

Representation at Conferences—Ordinary conferences:

1. Vice President—31st Octr 1910 at Conference Glasgow, 8 Novr 1911 Conference;
2. Prestongrange—31st October 1910 at Conference Glasgow, 16th Decr 1911;
3. Tranent—13th January 1911, Conference, Glasgow;
4. Arniston—13th January 1911, Conference, Glasgow; 16th Decr 1911;
5. Smeaton—17th February, Conference, N.E. Lanark, 25th Sepr 1913;
6. Bankton—17th February, Conference N.E. Lanark, 9th Decr 1912;
7. Elphinstone—27th Feby 1913, Conference, Glasgow, Enginemen case;
8. Loanhead—27th March 1913; 28th April 1913;
9. Bankpark—27th March Conference, Glasgow, Mines Bill;
10. Treasurer—[Blank]
11. Woodhall—27th March, 28th April 1913, Glasgow, Mines Bill;
12. Rosewell—24th April, 28th April 1913, Glasgow, Mines Bill;
13. Wallyford—24th April, 28th April 1913, Glasgow, Mines Bill;
14. Polton—8th June, Conference, Glasgow;
15. Prestonlinks—8th June, Conference, Glasgow;
16. House of Muir—8th June, Conference, Glasgow;
17. Newbattle—19th and 28th September, Conferences;
18. Carberry—19th and 28th September Conferences;
19. Penston—12th October, Conference;
20. Niddrie—12th October, Conference;
21. Ormiston—8 November, Conference, 1911;
22. President—8th June, Conference, Glasgow;
23. Assistant Secretary—8th June, Conference, Glasgow.

Branch delegates and office-bearers, Mid and East Lothian Miners' Board, 1918:

Arniston	-	Robert Burnside
Newbattle	-	John Hamilton
Niddrie	-	Andrew McGill
Loanhead	-	John Herd
Rosewell	-	William Foster
Carberry	-	Lewis Affleck
Elphinstone	-	William McNeill
Penston	-	James Hogg
Ormiston	-	John Main,
Prestongrange	-	Alex Murray
Wallyford	-	Thomas McNeill
Polton	-	Colin Allan
House o' Muir	-	George Harkness
Bankton	-	John Douglas
Woodhall	-	Alex Wood
Prestonlinks	-	Joe Colquhoun
Smeaton	-	David Johnstone
Bankpark	-	Richard Scott
Roslin	-	David Barr
Vogrie	-	Alex Anderson (from 28th Sept. Will Aitken)
President	-	James Ormiston
Vice "	-	Robert Burnside
Treasurer	-	William Falconer
Miners' Agent	-	Andrew Clarke
Secretary	-	Joseph Young

APPENDIX A**Rules of the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association,
1889**

NAME.

1. This Association shall be called "THE MID AND EAST LOTHIAN MINERS' ASSOCIATION."

OBJECTS.

2. (a) The objects of the Association shall be to obtain legislative enactments for the more efficient management of mines, whereby the lives and health of miners may be preserved; (b) to reduce working day to a maximum of eight hours; (c) to secure the prices and wages the members may at all times contract for; (d) to secure the true weight of the miners' material at the pit bank, thus giving to employers and employed their legitimate due; (e) to prevent illegal stopages [sic] of wages of Members at the pay office; and (f) to assist all similar Associations that have the same object in view.

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

3. That this Association be governed by a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and one Delegate from each Colliery, to form a Central Board, whose duty it shall be to conduct the affairs of the Association—eight to form a quorum. Each Delegate to have votes according to the number of his members.

OFFICER'S DUTY.

4. The President shall preside at all Board and General Meetings, to explain the objects, and conduct the business with propriety. He shall have a deliberative and casting vote. In his absence the Vice-President shall have the same power and privileges.

SECRETARY'S DUTIES.

5. The Secretary shall keep a Roll of the Members, with their payments and debts, an account of the attendance of the Committee, a check on the Treasurer's receipts and disbursements, a general record of the Association's transactions, particularly all resolutions passed at General Meetings, and manage the Association's correspondence; and at General Meetings state what Members

have been admitted, total Members, and read Minutes of Committee.

TREASURER'S DUTIES.

6. The Treasurer shall attend all meetings, receive and pay all monies belonging to the Association, but shall under no circumstances pay, lend or appropriate the Association's funds to any Member, cause or purpose whatever, except the same be in accordance with the rules, resolutions, or minutes of the Association, and in all cases must be sanctioned by the Council or Committee. He shall give such security as the Council shall require for all monies entrusted to his cares.

COLLIERY COMMITTEE.

7. Each Colliery shall appoint a President, Secretary, and Treasurer, with as many of a Committee as may be thought necessary. It shall be the duty of the Colliery Committee to collect all monies, and make all local arrangement; but for all general purposes they shall co-operate together. Each colliery shall pay all its own private expenses.

ENTRY MONEY.

8. Each person joining this Association shall pay such entry money as the Board may from time to time direct. Members to pay for Association purposes one penny per week, boys under 16 years of age to pay one halfpenny per week.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

9. Members' contributions must be paid regularly every week or every fortnight, and forwarded to the Board Meeting every two months with the number of financial Members. No Member of this Association who is eight weeks in arrears shall have any claim on the funds, or be entitled to any protection from the Association, should any dispute take place between him and his employers. When a member becomes eight weeks in arrears to the Association he shall be notified of the same by the Colliery Secretary, and if he fails to pay his arrears within fourteen days, his name shall be erased from the books, and he shall cease to be a Member of the Association.

LEVIES.

10. In the event of the penny per week proving insufficient to meet the expenses of the Central Board, the Board shall have power to appoint a levy to be made in the different Collieries; or in the event of any dispute or any work requiring support, the Board shall direct what contributions shall be made for their support. Each Colliery shall contribute according to its membership.

CLEARANCE CARD.

11. Each Member coming from a District already associated shall produce a

clear card from the Secretary of the District he leaves, otherwise he will be treated as a new member.

RETIRING FROM TRADE.

12. Any Member wishing to leave the trade, and still retain the privilege of membership, must pay all claims of the Association up till the date of his intimation to do so; he will then, on application to the Central Board, receive a Clearance Card, signed by the President, Secretary, and Treasurer, which Card shall free him from all further payments till he resumes work at the trade again.¹

WORKING HOURS.

13. Every Member joining this Association shall be held as pledging himself to work no more than eight hours per day. One day's warning to be given or taken, and no fortnightly contracts to be entered into.

ARBITRATION.

14. Any dispute rising between any Colliery and the Central Board shall be referred to arbitration, each party to choose a referee, who must be a member of some associated trade, the referees to choose an umpire; their decision shall be final. The losing party to pay all expenses. Should the Colliery refuse to abide by the decision of the umpire, it shall not receive the privileges or benefits of the Association until it comply with the decision of the umpire.

CENTRAL BOARD MEETINGS.

15. The Central Board shall meet on the last Saturday of every second month for the transaction of business. Should any business of an urgent nature require an earlier meeting of the Board, the Secretary shall summon such a meeting by Post Card or otherwise, as shall be most convenient.

GRIEVANCES.

16. In the event of anything occurring in any Colliery which the Members of that Colliery may consider hurtful, the Colliery Secretary shall immediately intimate the same to the Central Secretary, who on receipt of such intimation, shall call a special meeting of the Board to consider what course such Colliery shall pursue.

DEMANDS OF WAGES.

17. All demands for a rise in the rate of wages shall be made in name of and by the Central Board. Should the demand not be complied with, the Board may obtain any lawful means it thinks best to obtain it.

¹ Struck through in pencil, and marked 'Cancelled'.

ELECTIONS.

18. The Board Officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, which is to be held on the last Saturday of July. If through ill-health, death, or resignation, any of the offices become vacant, the Board shall have the power to fill the vacancy till the next election.

AUDITORS.

19. Two Auditors to be elected annually for the purpose of examining the books and accounts of the Association, and report thereon at General Meeting. Auditors must be Members of this Association.

COPY OF RULES.

20. Every Member shall provide himself with a copy of the Rules of this Association at his own expense, so that in no case will Members be at liberty to plead ignorance as to the Rules.

SUSPENSION.

21. This Association cannot be dissolved; but in the event of the Membership becoming few, the executive shall have power to suspend payment till a future period.

ALTERATION OF RULES.

22. Any of the foregoing Rules can be altered, amended, or rescinded, by a majority of Members clear on the books, or when the Executive Board may deem it necessary for the more efficient working of the principles of the Association.

WILLIAM SHAW, *President.*

GEORGE YOUNG, *Vice-President.*

WILLIAM FALCONER, *Treasurer.*

RICHARD SCOTT, *Secretary.*

DAVID LOWE, *Delegate.*

ROBERT GRANT, *Delegate.*

P. M'NEILL, PRINTER, TRANENT.

APPENDIX B

Coal Mines Checkweighers Bill, 1897

The Bill drafted by R. B. Haldane, MP for Haddingtonshire (East Lothian) as a result of the meeting in Edinburgh on 17 April 1897 between the Scottish Miners' Federation Executive Committee and him,² concerning amending the checkweighing clauses of the Mines Regulation Act, 1887, is contained in the SMF EC minutes for that date as follows:

An Act to amend the Provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, with respect to checkweighers. Be it enacted—

1. This Act may be cited as the Coal Mines Checkweighers Act, 1897, and the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887 (in this Act referred to as the principal Act) and this [sic] Act shall be read and construed together.

2. The persons who are entitled to appoint a checkweigher and from whom he is entitled under section 14 of the principal Act to recover his wages or recompense shall include not only the persons in charge of the working places but also all holers, fillers, trammers, brushers and other persons who are paid according to weight of mineral gotten, whether they are paid by contract or day's wages.

)2([sic] Where there are persons employed in a mine who are employed by a contractor who is himself paid according to weight of material gotten, such persons, if they are either in charge of the working places or are holers, fillers, trammers or brushers shall, notwithstanding that they are paid by the contractor and otherwise than in accordance with the weight of mineral gotten, be included among those entitled to appoint a checkweigher and in respect of whom he is entitled as aforesaid to recover his wages or recompense, provided that the proportion of such wages or recompense recoverable in respect of such persons shall be paid by the contractor who employs them and recoverable by the checkweigher from him alone.

3. This Act and the Coal Mines Regulation Acts, 1887 to 1894, may be cited as the Coal Mines Regulation Acts, 1887 to 1897.

² See above, p. 80 and n. 71.

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SCOTTISH HISTORY SOCIETY

112th ANNUAL REPORT

*Presented to the Annual General Meeting
by the Council, 12 December 1998*

No volumes were published during 1998, largely because of a delay with George Buchanan, *The Political Poetry*, edited by Arthur Williamson and Paul McGinnis. Work has now resumed on this, and it should be published early in 1999. It is reasonably certain that two further volumes will be published in 1999, probably in the summer: *Clan Campbell, 1550-1583*, edited by Jane Dawson; and *Minutes of the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association, 1894-1918*, edited by Ian MacDougall. These will become the notional 1995, 1997 and 1998 volumes (that for 1996 has already been published).

Four further volumes are in an advanced state, and it is possible that one of them may be published during 1999: *The Black Book of Coldingham, 1298-1430*, edited by Joseph Donnelly; *Scotland and the Americas, c.1680-1939*, edited by Allan Macinnes, Linda Fryer and Marjory Harper; *Religious Controversy in Scotland, 1625-1639*, edited by David Mullan; and *Miscellany XIII*.

The following volumes are also in preparation: *The Scots and the French Army, 1548-1559*, edited by Elizabeth Bonner; *The Diaries of General Patrick Gordon of Auchleuchries, 1635-1699*, edited by Paul Dukes and Graeme Herd; *The Duke of Montrose's Buchanan Estate, Stirlingshire, 1680-1787*, edited by Alexander Gibson; *Letters of Sir Donald MacDonald of Sleat, c.1665-1718*, edited by Donald William Stewart; *Scottish Planned Villages, 1740-1914*, edited by Douglas Lockhart; and *Fifteenth-Century Aberdeen Guild Records*, edited by Elizabeth Gemmill.

Fiona Watson demitted office as publication secretary during the year. Council has appointed two new publication secretaries, John Finlay and Ulrike Morét, to work alongside Julian Goodare who continues in office.

The Society's financial position remains satisfactory and it has been possible to hold the subscription at £15 (£18 for joint members) for another year.

The members of Council to retire by rotation are Dr Dauvit Broun, Dr John Tuckwell and Miss Marion Stewart. To replace them Council recommends the election by the Annual General Meeting of Dr Ewen Cameron and Dr Martin MacGregor.

The membership of the Society stands at 447 individual and 179 institutional members.

SCOTTISH HISTORY SOCIETY
REGISTERED SCOTTISH CHARITY NO. 005043

INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 1998

1997		1998
£		£
7935.97	Subscriptions	8378.66
400.00	Income Tax on Covenants (estimated)	400.00
700.25	Sales of Past Publications	219.00
-95.00	Less: Insurance	-95.00
-150.00	Honorarium	-150.00
2610.93	Interest on Bank Premier Account	3821.25
166.28	Interest on Bank Current Account	330.05
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11568.43	NET INCOME	12903.96
	Costs of Year's Publication	-69.89
-0.00	Printing	0.00
-606.00	Typing & Photocopying	-0.00
-46.00	Literary Editor's Expenses	-69.89
-0.00	Postage and Packing	0.00
-305.50	AGM Expenses	-335.63
-0.00	Postage and Stationery from January 1996 to date	-182.75
-0.00	Photocopying from January 1996 to date	-881.25
-71.75	Other expenses	-0.00
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10539.18	CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS	11434.44
0.00	Bequests & Donations	0.00
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10539.18	NET SURPLUS FOR YEAR	11434.44

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 1998

1997		1998
£		£
1.00	Stocks of Unsold Publications	1.00
1800.00	Income Tax Recoverable (estimate)	1760.00
303.65	Other Debtors (receipts after date)	909.00
58743.51	Bank—Premier Account	69064.76
2154.88	Bank—Current Account	2702.72
-150.00	Creditors (payments after date)	-150.00
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62853.04	NET CURRENT ASSETS	74287.48
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CAPITAL ACCOUNT

52313.86	Balance at 1st October 1997	62853.04
10539.18	Surplus for Year	11434.44
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62853.04	Balance at 30th September 1998	74287.48

Blackford, 17th November 1998

I have audited the above financial statements in accordance with approved Auditing Standards and it is my opinion that the financial statements which have been prepared under the historical cost convention give a true and fair view of the state of the society's funds at 30th September 1998 and of the income and expenditure in the year to that date.

Hugh Peebles

SCOTTISH HISTORY SOCIETY
REGISTERED SCOTTISH CHARITY NO. 005043

ABSTRACT ACCOUNT OF CHARGE AND DISCHARGE OF THE
INTROMISSIONS OF THE HONORARY TREASURER
from 1st October 1997 to 30th September 1998

CHARGE		£
1	Cash in Bank at 1st October 1997	
	a) Sum at credit of Premier Account with Bank of Scotland	58743.51
	b) Sum at credit of Current (Treasurer's) Account with Bank of Scotland	<u>2154.88</u>
		60898.39
2	Subscriptions received	7745.66
3	Donations received	0.00
4	Past publications sold	363.65
5	Interest on Premier Account	3821.25
6	Interest on Current (Treasurer's) Account	330.05
7	Tax Recovered on Covenants	440.00
8	Sums drawn from Bank Premier Account	0.00
9	Sums drawn from Bank Current Account	<u>8331.52</u>
		<u>73599.00</u>

DISCHARGE

1	Subscriptions refunded	117.00	
2	Cost of publications during year	0.00	
3	Literary editor's expenses	69.89	
4	Stockholder's Honorarium	150.00	
5	Costs of insuring stock of unsold books	95.00	
6	Costs of AGM	335.63	
7	Costs of photocopying, postage etc since January 1996	1064.00	
8	Office bearers' expenses	0.00	
9	Sums lodged in Bank Premier Account	10321.25	
	Sums lodged in Bank Current Account	8879.36	
			<hr/>
			1831.52
10	Funds at close of this account	71767.48	
a)	Sum at credit of Premier Account with Bank of Scotland	69064.76	
b)	Sum at credit of current (Treasurer's) Account with Bank of Scotland	2702.72	
			<hr/>
			73599.00

Blackford, 17th November 1998

I have audited the Account of the Honorary Treasurer of the Scottish History Society and certify that I am satisfied that proper records appear to have been kept and that the above Account is a correct statement of the transactions recorded during the year.

Hugh Peebles



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