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| <p>Why confrontation?</p> <p>Motive</p> <p>The Samuel Commission</p> <p>1. March 1926</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>Movement</p> <p>Unions</p> <p>Government</p> | <p>The General Strike May 4th - 12th 1926</p> <p>The Samuel report Proposed coal mines ought To be subsidised no longer; No time on the day, But cuts in pay To make them in the market, stronger; Smaller mines by weight To amalgamate, Along with national wage agreements; But both sides complained Of more lost than gained With considerable vehemence...</p> <p><i>"Not a penny off the pay! Not a second on the day"</i> <i>Or it's down with the picks and shovels: The coal would stay wherever it lay To compound the owners' troubles. Who then by delay, let strikes decay, Till the miners looked to future struggles, When for pennies on the pay And minutes off the day, They'd forever be blowing bubbles.</i></p> <p>The T.U.C.-led strategy Combined with the Triple Alliance: For Power, Road, Rail, on a national scale To co-ordinate defiance. They'd face Government powers contrived to arouse Armed forces and the middle classes, Working in docks to unload stocks, Patrol streets and drive the buses.</p> | <p>Compare with other outbreaks of conflict & the degree of success of each side seeking advantage.</p> <p>* Miners v. 1 & 2.</p> <p>* Owners v. 3 & 4.</p> <p>* The slogan</p> <p>* Trades Union Congress agreed on joint action with the Triple Alliance: the Miners' Federation of Great Britain; the National Union of Railwaymen and the Transport and General Workers' Union.</p> <p>* Government established contingency plans with an arrangement with Armed Forces & middle class organisations...</p> |
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| <p>Momentum</p> <p>May 1st</p> <p>2nd</p> <p>3rd</p> <p>Moment</p> <p>4th</p> <p>12th</p> <p>Oct. '26</p> <p>How much change...?</p> | <p><i>"Not a penny off the pay! Not a second on the day"</i> <i>Was the fighting miners' slogan ~ With agreements with the 3 and the T.U.C.</i> <i>To get what they thought was owed them.</i> <i>They'd no reason to think, if it came to the brink,</i> <i>There was anything that might erode them,</i> <i>Or that bubbles they blew for what they were due</i> <i>Would be burst as soon as they'd blown them</i></p> <p>The Government announced, like its cheque had bounced, And the Owners locked the coal mines; So calls to Strike put support of the fight Of the Miners high on pole-signs. But the Government planned to keep well in hand Manufactures, Power and Distribution; And won a war of words, when Churchill averred They were Striking at the Constitution.</p> <p><i>"Not a penny off the pay! Not a second on the day!"</i> <i>Was their cause encapsulated: After seven days, there was general malaise, As the strike evaporated. The miners stayed out, but with not enough clout, Their resolution dissipated, And had to call it a day with cuts in pay, Poorer, angry and bubbles deflated.</i></p> | <p>* The subsidy due to the coal mining industry on May 1st was cancelled and the miners locked out.</p> <p>* The next two days were spent justifying positions by both sides</p> <p>* The government made ready to call up the armed forces and volunteers to keep the country working</p> <p>* Churchill warming up for 1940...</p> <p><i>"Distress was the cause, but humiliation the effect of the agitation" adapted from Thomas Attwood.</i></p> |
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