Workers and Employers

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Trade Unions and Society: The Struggle for Acceptance, 1850–1880 (1973)

Workers and Employers

Documents on Trade Unions and Industrial Relations in Britain
Since the Eighteenth Century

Edited by

J. T. WARD

and

W. HAMISH FRASER

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To
KAY and HELEN

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Abbreviations

AEU	Amalgamated Engineering Union
ASCJ	Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners
ASE	Amalgamated Society of Engineers
ASLEF	Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen
ASRS	Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants
ASCJ	Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners
ASW	Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers
AUEFW	Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundry Workers
AUEW	Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers
CBI	Confederation of British Industries
DATA	Draughtsmen and Allied Trades' Association
ETU	Electrical Trades' Union
FBI	Federation of British Industries
GRWU	General Railway Workers' Union
ICI	Imperial Chemical Industries
IRLR	Industrial Relations Law Reports
IRSF	Inland Revenue Staff Federation
ISKTC	Iron, Steel and Kindred Trades' Confederation
LTC	London Trades Council
MFGB	Miners' Federation of Great Britain
NAFTA	National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades' Association
NALGO	National Association of Local Government Officers
NAPSS	National Association for the Promotion of Social Science
NASDS	National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers' Society
NATSOPA	National Society of Operative Printers and Assistants
NEDC	National Economic Development Council
NIRC	National Industrial Relations Court
NUGMW	National Union of General and Municipal Workers
NUJ	National Union of Journalists
NUM	National Union of Mineworkers
NUPE	National Union of Public Employees
NUR	National Union of Railwaymen

<i>Parl. Debs</i>	Hansard Parliamentary Debates
<i>PP</i>	British Parliamentary Papers
RC	Royal Commission
RCA	Railway Clerks' Association
SC	Select Committee
TA	Typographical Association
TUC	Trades Union Congress
TGWU	Transport and General Workers' Union
WEA	Workers' Educational Association

Introduction

The study of labour history has developed rapidly in recent years. Learned societies debate the subject; learned journals are devoted to it; University and other classes attempt to study it. A plethora of studies, ranging from the superb to the trivial and from the academically argued to the polemically contrived, has been published. A serious and important branch of Clio's craft has come of age.

However, despite the development of wide interest in the history of labour and industrial relations, teachers and students alike have long complained about the dearth of accessible documentary tools for their trade. Certainly, some collections of material have appeared from time to time. But we believe that a comprehensive collection may now be of value.

In selecting extracts from a wide range of published and other material we have observed some self-imposed rules. From the start, we determined that we would not present an annotated general history of British industrial relations; instead, editorial comment has been kept to a minimum, to allow the documents to 'speak for themselves'. Secondly, we have intentionally avoided broadening our theme to comprehend what some writers have called 'the working-class movement'. We have generally eschewed politics, except where it inevitably impinged on our central theme.

Of course, any selection rests upon personal choice. In preparing this book, we have reluctantly (and sometimes even sadly) decided to delete or abbreviate long-cherished and carefully transcribed documents. Our aim has been to produce a fair and balanced collection of material which may be useful as a source book to everyone interested in a theme which fascinates us.

While the editorial decisions inevitably remain our responsibility, we have to thank very many people, too numerous to mention individually by name, who have given us generous help over the years. To some of our colleagues in the University of Strathclyde, to many officials and members of trade unions and trades councils, to many managers, industrialists, teachers and lecturers, to many other friends and not least to our students we owe sincere thanks for helpful advice and suggestions which have helped to contour our approach to the subject. We hope that they may understand our inability to acknowledge the kindness of each and every one of them.

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J. T. W.
W. H. F.

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