

The 'Nine Days' – the facts

Tuesday, 4 May

- Excellent support for Strike.
- The Communist Party began to print the Workers' Bulletin.
- The government took control of the BBC.
- The government said 'Everything quiet Food supplies normal Volunteering good'
- J H Thomas, the Trade Union leader (who was also an MP) said: 'God help us unless the government wins'

Wednesday, 5 May

- The government began to print the British Gazette. The TUC began to print the British Worker.
- 226,000 Special policemen were recruited.
- A warship was sent to Newcastle.
- The police made baton-charges on crowds in Glasgow and London.
- Four per cent of railway services were running.
- People volunteered to work the docks and the railways.

Thursday, 6 May

- Only 40 of London's 4,400 buses ran. Strike-breaking buses were stopped by pickets. Some were stoned or set on fire.
- The government promised to defend blacklegs (strike-breakers)
- The Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin, said that the Strike was an attempt to destroy the government.
- Violent fights between police and crowds of strikers in London (Old Kent Road), Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Friday, 7 May

- All electrical stations were on strike, but they were being run by strike-breakers.
- Troops called to London.
- The All-Russia TUC gave 2 million roubles to the strikers.
- The government took all paper. The British Worker was reduced to four pages.
- Fights between strikers and police in Liverpool, Hull and London.
- The TUC stopped letting lorries carry food. The British Gazette said it was: 'An attempt to starve the people'.

Saturday, 8 May

- Armoured cars escorted a convoy of 100 food lorries from the London docks.
- Dutch trade unionists sent £1,000 to the strikers.
- Riots in Glasgow, Hull and Middlesbrough.
- Communist leaders were arrested.
- J H Thomas had secret meetings with coal-owners and members of the government. No miners were present.

Sunday, 9 May

- Winston Churchill sent Specials driving round London to try to stir up a feeling of danger. Most people just waved.
- Cardinal Bourne, the Roman Catholic Archbishop, declared the strike 'a sin' and urged Catholics to go back to work.

- J H Thomas gave a speech in London, in which he said, 'I never favoured the principle of a general Strike'.

Monday, 10 May

- Strikers derailed the train *The Flying Scotsman* near Morpeth in Northumberland. One man was injured.
- Three people were killed in Edinburgh when a passenger train driven by a volunteer ran into a goods train.
- The General Council issued a statement – 'All's Well'
- The All India TUC sent £500. The TUC returned the money from the Russian trade unionists.
- At Plymouth, the police played the strikers at football. The strikers won, 2–1.

Tuesday, 11 May

- Nearly 1,000 buses ran in London.
- The government announced that all 'vital services' were now being carried out without difficulty.
- The High Court declared a General Strike illegal.
- The TUC (led by J H Thomas) called off the General Strike. The miners – who wanted to continue the strike – were ignored. *The British Worker* carried the headline: '**Miners Ensured a Square Deal**'