



# Strike Album

Price 1/-

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# WHAT MAGIC IS THIS ?

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that gives you a Free Ticket to a Front Seat at the EMPIRE, ORPHEUM or GRAND THEATRES in order to introduce :: ::

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AND

## WHITEHALL

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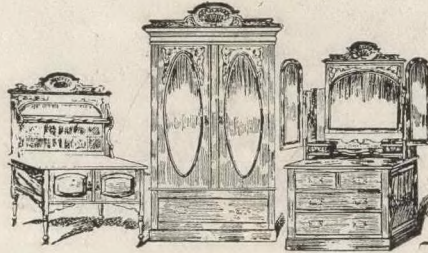
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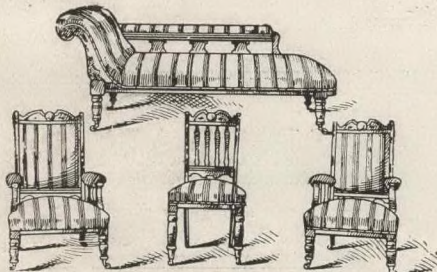
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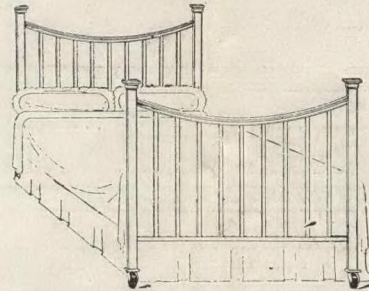
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**Four Hundred Million**

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Chairman, Charles Bathurst, M.P.  
Chairman of Executive Committee,  
Lord Camoys.

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**MAZAWATTEE TEA.**

Vide "Daily Telegraph,"  
London, January 28, 1913.

ALWAYS WEAR  
**Pantic Rubber Heels**  
AND SO  
**MAKE LIFE'S WALK EASY**

Insist on their being fixed  
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Look for the Name "PANTIC" as without  
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**RESERVE YOUR VERDICT**

AS TO WHICH IS THE FINEST COCOA  
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PER TIN.



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IF YOU DO NOT ALREADY  
USE IT

**BUY A TIN TO-DAY.**

# STRIKE ALBUM



*Photo by]*

THE RUSH FOR THE "NEWS."

*[Fusslein.*

## JOHANNESBURG, JULY, 1913.



CUTHBERT'S BUILDINGS AND CENTRAL STORE, JOHANNESBURG.

# W. M. CUTHBERT & Co., Ltd.

(Incorporated in Cape Colony).

## THE Big Shoe Concern of South Africa.

BRANCHES EVERYWHERE.

Extract from "Transvaal Leader," of May 28, 1913, of a speech by Mr. A. McDowell, President, Shop Assistants' Association :—

"He did not want to condemn all employers; there were good and there were bad. In one case the salaries paid to the employees were a credit to Johannesburg. (applause.) He referred to Messrs. Cuthberts, Ltd., the boot people, one of the whitest employing stores in Johannesburg." (applause.)

Proprietors of the "C KING" miner and "RAINBOW" brand of Reliable Working Boots.

Sole Agents for the "SAXONE" Shoe for men and the "SOROSIS" Shoe for ladies.

# The Story of the Strike.

The great strike, which, after dragging along for a month, was to spread like wildfire along the Reef and to culminate in scenes of destruction and bloodshed, had a small beginning. Compared with the evils that followed in its path, the original dispute appears ridiculously insignificant. More than once in the annals of industrial warfare it is recorded that the more slender the issue at stake, the more bitter has been the conflict between masters and men, and now this phenomenon finds another illustration.

The strike at the New Kleinfontein arose through the proposal of the management to make an alteration in the hours of five underground mechanics. These men formerly worked from 7 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. from Monday to Friday, and from 7 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on Saturday. Under the new arrangement they were asked to work the same hours as the miners, namely, from 7.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. every week-day, including Saturday.

It was on the day after the new management took over that Mr. Whitehead, the underground manager, called the underground mechanics together and explained to them the manner in which he proposed to divide the mine into sections and work it generally. The men protested against the loss of Saturday afternoon, on the ground that they were mechanics, not miners, and Mr. White-

head promised to interview the manager, Mr. E. H. Bulman, on the point, draw up the hours to be worked in future, and let the men have them "in black and white" the following day.

## Strained Relations.

The following morning the men affected met and decided to reject the hours indicated by Mr. Whitehead. A deputation, consisting of Messrs. Allen Muir and E. J. Brown, asked Mr. Whitehead if the new hours were final. He replied in the affirmative. Mr. Whitehead proceeded to where the men were assembled, and asked each man in turn if he was willing to work 48 hours per week. Each man replied in the affirmative, but said he would not work Saturday afternoons. As a result of the conversation that ensued, during which the relations between Mr. Whitehead and the men were not cordial, two men remained and accepted the new conditions, while the following five were told to "get their time":—Hutchens (fitter), J. Wilson (rigger), Wylie (fitter), A. Muir (boilermaker), and E. J. Brown (rigger). Half-an-hour afterwards the men received formal notice of dismissal. That day the trades unions to which the dismissed men belonged, were informed, and organisers came out on the Monday following: Messrs. Kendall and Brown (T.M.A.) waited on Mr. Bulman and were courteously received. He agreed to receive a deputation from the dismissed men the following day, when, at the request of Mr. Brown, Mr. Whitehead was present. Mr. Bulman declared that had they come to him in the first instance the trouble would have been avoided. After a friendly talk, the men asked for permission to meet the directors,

who were in the building. Mr. Bulman acquiesced. Later the men met Col. Dalrymple and other members of the directorate. Col. Dalrymple said he understood the men had had a little trouble. "I did not think," said Mr. E. J. Brown, in an interview, "in view of what had transpired between the manager and ourselves, that we were to be permanently dismissed, and told Col. Dalrymple we did not regard it as serious. All we wanted was an expression of opinion from the directors with regard to the principle of underground mechanics working on Saturday afternoons. Col. Dalrymple said that they as a board had no desire to deprive the underground mechanics of their Saturday afternoon holiday. They (the directors) realised the necessity for the men in question getting as much fresh air as possible."

## Strike Proclaimed.

At a subsequent meeting in the manager's office, Mr. Bulman said that for that week he would allow every possible underground mechanic away from the mine on Saturday afternoon, but he desired a week to rearrange hours, and said that possibly an extra half-hour during the other five days would have to be worked. At the end of the week the organisers again saw Mr. Bulman with regard to the new arrangement of hours. They were told that the management was going to abide by its previous decision, namely, that the underground mechanics should work on Saturday afternoons.

It was on May 20 that the management finally decided to make this change. The workmen decided on Sunday, May 25, to hold a ballot early on

the following day on the question of striking. The ballot resulted in favour of a strike, of which fact the secretary of the Strike Committee, which had in the meantime come into existence, informed the management in terms of the following letter:—

Strike Committee Rooms,  
Grand Theatre, Benoni,  
May 26, 1913.

Manager,

— Bulman,

Kleinfontein Gold Mine.

Dear Sir,—I am instructed by the above Committee to inform you that, acting on instructions from the men employed on the Kleinfontein Mine, a strike has been declared until such times as the following conditions are acceded to, viz:

1. Reinstatement of all men concerned.
2. No Saturday afternoon work.
3. Working hours underground to be from 7 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., and from 7 a.m. to 12.30 noon on Saturdays.

Awaiting the favour of your reply,—I am,  
Sir, yours, etc.,

(Signed) J. T. BAIN,  
Secretary, Strike Committee.

As Mr. Bain was not an employee of the New Kleinfontein Company, no reply was sent to this letter.

### Notice Withdrawn.

The Board of the Company, however, reconsidered the alteration in the hours of the five underground mechanics, and, being advised that conceivably the method in which the alteration had been made might be in conflict with the Industrial Disputes Prevention Act, a notice withdrawing the alteration and giving one month's notice, in terms of that Act, of such alteration was posted the day the strike was declared.

On May 27, the Chairman of the Company (Col. Dalrymple) had an interview with the Benoni Town Council, at the instance of the latter, which was in communication with the Strike Committee. At this interview he stated that he would always

be pleased to meet representatives of employees to see whether an amicable settlement could not be arrived at, but he could only meet actual employees of the company. He also gave the assurance that there would be no victimisation of any men on account of the strike.

On further consideration of the position, the Board of the New Kleinfontein Company, in a letter to the Deputy-Mayor of Benoni, dated May 28, withdrew the notice of May 26, and agreed to revert to the hours in force on April 30, stating that if this offer were accepted it would be prepared to reinstate all its employees. The offer to meet a committee of employees was also repeated, as well as the assurance that no victimisation would take place.

The first news of this letter to the Benoni Municipality came to the Strike Committee through the press reports. Shortly after the receipt of the news, two Government officials, Messrs. Blundell and Steyn, sought an interview with the Strike Committee. A deputation of the latter was appointed to meet them. The officials, who came with instructions from the Government, asked the deputation if they were prepared to accept Col. Dalrymple's offer. The reply was in the negative, whereupon the officials warned the deputation that the law was being broken and that they were liable to certain penalties. The deputation indicated that they were prepared to take all the risk, and the interview ended.

The Apex Mines (Gold Section) is under the same control as the New Kleinfontein Company, and on May 31 the strikers induced the men working on this mine to cease work. The men employed there were keeping the mine clear of water, and had it not been possible to keep the pumps going a large amount of valuable machinery would have been destroyed.

On Tuesday, June 2, the Chairman of the New Kleinfontein Company met Mr. Murchie, who was an employee of the company, and also a member of the Strike Committee, at that gentleman's request. Unfortunately, the meeting proved

abortive, because this gentleman, while suggesting that the company should meet a committee of its employees, insisted that Mr. Bain should accompany them.

### Offer of Re-instatement.

As the offer made by the company in the letter to the Deputy-Mayor of Benoni, a copy of which was also posted at the mine, did not induce the employees to return to work, the company took other steps to resume operations. As, however, it desired to give its old employees another opportunity of returning to work, a notice was posted at the mine on June 6, reading as follows: New Kleinfontein Company, Limited.

1. The Board of the New Kleinfontein Company repeats the offer made in the letter dated May 28, addressed by the Chairman to the Deputy-Mayor of Benoni, and also posted on the mine, and has instructed the management:

- (a) To reinstate every man who came out on strike or was discharged in connection with the dispute.
- (b) To withdraw the notice posted on the 26th ultimo, and revert to the hours for underground mechanics in force on April 30.

2. There will be no objection, should the majority of the miners prefer it, to starting and concluding the Saturday shift somewhat earlier than at present, on the distinct understanding that the full shift of eight hours at the face must be worked.

3. The Board is prepared at all times to meet a committee composed of the employees of the company, and repeats the assurance already given that there will be no victimisation either of the members of such committee or of any other employees on strike or discharged in connection with the dispute.

4. The company will pay off at their offices on the mine all men on strike on Monday next, June 9, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

5. The above offer of reinstatement will only apply to those men who return to work on or





SCENE ON LOWER MARKET SQUARE ON FRIDAY WHEN THE PROCLAMATION PROHIBITING THE MEETING WAS BEING READ.

before Wednesday, June 11, 1913, at the usual hours.

By order of the Board,  
E. H. BULMAN,  
Manager.

June 6, 1913.

This notice went even further than the letter to the Deputy-Mayor of Benoni in the attempt to satisfy the strikers.

Two days prior to the date by which the men were required to return to work in terms of the above notice an interview took place between the Chairman of the Company, accompanied by Sir George Farrar, and representatives of all the employees of the company. This interview did not result in any understanding being arrived at.

Immediately after June 11, the company began to make preparations for the resumption of work, and to engage men to replace those on strike. Within a week 100 stamps were working.

### Position of Strike-Breakers.

On June 17 Col. Dalrymple met a deputation of ex-employees of the company representing various departments. The deputation agreed to accept the terms as offered in the notice of June 6, but insisted upon the unconditional reinstatement of every man out on strike. Between June 11 and June 17, however, the company had engaged some 50 men to replace strikers, and the Chairman pointed out that the demand for unconditional reinstatement was therefore impossible of fulfilment, as the company was pledged and in honour bound to stand by these men. He offered, however, to re-employ every man he possibly could, and further proposed that where any vacancies occurred in the future these vacancies should be filled as far as possible from a list of former employees of the company, and offered to try to obtain employment on other mines for those who could not be re-employed by the New Kleinfontein Company. This offer was submitted by the depu-

tation to the strikers, who rejected it on a ballot by 235 votes to one.

On June 19, certain of the strikers and members of the Strike Committee went to the mine of the Van Ryn Estates before the shift went down in the morning, and a ballot was taken on the question of the men on that mine going on strike. The result was that 127 voted against and 80 in favour of striking. In spite of this result, the Van Ryn men were persuaded into going out on strike by Mr. Bain, who in a vehement speech declared that the New Kleinfontein men were being brought to their knees.

On June 20 certain strike leaders were arrested. This was the first occasion on which proceedings were taken under the Industrial Disputes Prevention Act.

On Saturday, June 21, the New Modderfontein mine was visited by the strikers, and its employees were induced to come out.

On June 22 General Smuts paid a visit to Benoni to enquire into the strike.

### Strike-Breaker Assaulted.

On June 23 a mob attacked a strike-breaker, an electrician employed at the Apex Mine. The police charged, and made two arrests, but were subsequently forced to release their prisoners. The following day the mob at Benoni attempted to destroy a motor-car belonging to the New Kleinfontein Company; threats were used of dynamiting an hotel; a consignment of mattresses *en route* to the New Kleinfontein were burned. The police authorities now began to take a serious view of the situation, and the Benoni police were strongly reinforced from all quarters.

On June 20, the Government published a notice to the effect that in terms of Law 6, of 1894 (Transvaal), Section 9, assemblies in squares and streets of more than six persons within the Municipality of Benoni were prohibited. Nevertheless, on Sunday, June 29, a mass meeting was allowed to be held in Benoni, and special trains were run by the railway to take sympathisers from other parts of the Reef to the meeting. The strikers were jubilant. It is worthy of note that a circular

was spread broadcast along the Reef inviting men to come to this meeting armed, and an advertisement in the same terms was also published in a section of the local press. At this meeting, at which several thousand persons were present, two resolutions were moved, and eventually declared carried unanimously. They were:—

That this meeting demands the recognition of the right of free speech and public meeting, and condemns the action of the Government in attempting to curtail and interfere with the liberties of the people.

Further, that this meeting is in favour of the calling of a general strike in the interests of the workers, believing that general betterment of the working conditions can be secured.

After the meeting the crowd made a hostile demonstration at the New Kleinfontein, but dispersed without resorting to violence. From that afternoon, however, the strike assumed a much graver aspect.

## “Pulling out” the Mines.

### Market Square Meeting.

Though the Benoni demonstration was unaccompanied by violence, it was only the earnest warnings of some of the strike leaders that averted an attack on the New Kleinfontein mine, and it was quite apparent that the temper of the strikers had become sharper. During the next few days a strange tension was noticeable in Benoni. There was serious talk of making the strike general, and incitements to violence were heard on every side. Police poured into the town from all over the country. A half-battalion of Royal Scots Fusiliers arrived, fully armed. On the Monday morning a crowd of over 700 assembled and then marched on Brakpan and adjoining mines, urging a general strike. On the following days the crusaders struck out in



THE POLICE STOPPING FRIDAY'S MEETING.

*Photo. by Goldstein.*

other directions. The result was that by Thursday half the industry was paralysed. The process of "pulling out" represented an entirely new phase of labour tactics. The issue of the ballot in no way altered the sequel. The strikers assembled outside the main gates were in every case determined that the workers on the mine they visited should join their ranks. If the ballot was unfavourable, persuasive methods were attempted. If these failed intimidation was resorted to. On the other hand, many workers showed a disinclination to strike at the first request, because they knew that in the last resort they would be compelled to go out, and then appearances would be more in their favour. Whatever the factors contributing to the success of the "pulling out" tactics, the industrial paralysis it occasioned was viewed with the greatest concern throughout the country.

Moreover, the destruction of property became a common occurrence. The Cason mine was stormed, and a portion of the iron fence torn down. Germiston was taken by surprise by the mob. A gang of men engaged in road work were forced to "down" their tools. On the Wednesday night the police and troops at Benoni were attacked, and an effort was made to rush the gates of the New Kleinfontein mine. Several strike-breakers were badly mauled and a load of furniture was captured and burnt.

At dusk on Thursday, July 3, practically all the mines had stopped working, and in sympathy with the miners the Amalgamated Society of Engineers decided on a strike, and it was announced that ballots would be taken in the course of a few days by other trade unions to determine whether the strike should be supported by them. The whole of the Rand was in a ferment of excitement, and when it was announced that the Government had prohibited a meeting which the strikers proposed to hold the following day on the Johannesburg Market Square it was felt the storm was about to burst.

## A Black Friday.

### Police Charge on Market Square.

The wave of anarchy which swept Johannesburg began on the afternoon of Friday, July 4, on the Market-square. A grand demonstration had been advertised to take place at 2 o'clock to celebrate the accomplishment of a general strike of all workers. A vast crowd flowed over the open space and then stood expectant. A strong force of armed men was in position. They comprised police, both foot and mounted, a detachment of the S.A.M.R., and two squadrons of the 1st Royal Dragoons. The cavalymen were armed with carbines and swords, and the mounted police with pickhandles. The leading representatives of law and order were General O'Brien, Mr. T. G. Truter (the Commissioner of Police), and Mr. H. O. Buckle (the Chief Magistrate). For the first quarter of an hour the crowd moved restlessly about; many of the spectators feared that they might have to go away disappointed, and a number of "hooligans" waited for someone to give them the lead, while a large body of strikers determined that at all costs a meeting should be held. What rankled in their minds was the arbitrary curtailment of the liberty of speech. Early in the proceedings many exclamations were heard, such as: "And this is a British country!" or "Are we in Russia?" The throng was densest in front of the mounted police, who seemed to have an irritating effect. There was a good deal of booing, and occasionally a wild speech was greeted with ringing cheers.

Mr. W. H. Morgan, the T.M.A. organiser for the Central Witwatersrand, was the first to suggest to the crowd that the wisest course was to disperse. Somewhat discomfited by the way in which his remarks were received, he made his way to Mr. Truter, who was standing near the Dragoons at the bottom of the Square. He asked Mr. Truter what his orders were. The Commissioner said that no meetings or processions could be held. Mr.

Morgan said that, now he knew what Mr. Truter's instructions were, he thought that if he could speak a few words to the crowd from a spot where a large number could hear him, the strikers would take his advice and go home. "Very good," observed the Commissioner promptly; "I'll go with you."

An improvised platform was found in the form of a trolley at the corner of President-street and Fraser-street. Mr. Morgan ascended the trolley, followed by Mr. Truter. A little later, Mr. Buckle and Major Douglass climbed up. Then a few Labour leaders, including Mr. J. A. Clark, Mr. Tom Mathews and Mr. J. T. Bain got a footing. Soon the frail platform was covered by swarming strikers on every side.

### The Commissioner's Advice.

Addressing the crowd, which at this time could hardly have numbered less than 5,000, Mr. Truter said: "I just have to tell you that the Government has prohibited these meetings. It is, therefore, no good your hanging about here; so I advise you all to go off quietly." These remarks were followed by a chorus of hisses and groans. Mr. W. H. Morgan spoke to the same effect. "A certain amount of discipline," Mr. Morgan went on to say, "must be maintained, and Colonel Truter here is desirous, as representing the Government, that you should disperse." A scene of utter confusion ensued. Out of the babel of cries fierce shouts which were distinguishable occasionally arose. One heard: "Tell him to put down the pickhandles." "Why did they challenge us to fight them?" "Come along to the Trades Hall!"—all to the accompaniment of boos, incoherent cries and questions, but no cheers.

Mr. Clark, of the Boilermakers' Society, followed Mr. Morgan, and warned his hearers against violence—"because our opponents are stronger than we are"—but he urged them to remain and hold the meeting, and put up others to take the place of any speakers who might be arrested. He insisted on an absolute right of free speech, and told the crowd to exercise that right, in spite of soldiers and police.



*Photo. by Goldstein.*

POLICE CHARGING ON THE MARKET SQUARE.

The crowd had now got its way. It was a Market-square meeting after all; a prohibited one, too, and, despite the Government and law and order, going strong.

Mr. J. T. Bain, the next speaker, struck this note. "We are here," he exclaimed, "to exercise the highest function that can devolve upon us and all citizens—the preservation of the right of free speech. We will hold our meeting in spite of the law, and, if one man's blood be shed"—the remainder of the sentence was lost in a tempest of applause. When something like quiet was restored, Mr. Bain concluded by stating, apparently in reference to the employment of the military, "that they should do as the Boers did of old"—a remark which was met with rapturous cheers. Shortly after Mr. Morgan's speech, Mr. Truter, Major Douglass and Mr. Buckle jumped down from the trolley, and proceeded to the corner of the Square, where the foot police were posted. A movement from that quarter was at once apparent. Orders had evidently been given to disperse the crowd round the trolley, and to remove that crazy vehicle.

### Stone Throwing Begins.

The foot police in a double row tackled the crowd with the greatest energy and good humour. Their object was to force the people on one side into the Square, and on the other into Fraser-street, and so clear a road to the trolley. But their numbers were too few, wrestle as they might for a footing, and the mounted police from the Post Office end of the Square were sent for. They came up briskly, pickhandles in hand, and swept the crowd out of the Square, past the trolley and down Fraser-street. Half-a-dozen constables now seized the shafts of the trolley and took it down the Square at the trot, where it remained under the shelter of the cavalry. It was now that the stone-throwing began. The fusillade was particularly constant and well-aimed from the roof of

Pietersen's chemist shop at the corner of President and Fraser streets. Here a number of youths pelted the mounted and foot police, who were still striving to force the people down Fraser-street. Several police were struck. A flimsy barricade of barrels and boxes had been erected across the mouth of the street.

It was decided to let the police charge down Fraser-street. The foot police in a moment whisked the boxes and barrels out of the road to give a passage to horsemen. Then, with the foot police running in front, empty-handed as they were, the mounted broke through and past them, and pursued the flying crowd to Pritchard-street and out of sight. They were soon, however, recalled. The foot police, who had stayed behind, were getting a bit restive under the nerve-racking showers of stones and bricks which flew trickily from the shop and roof and from the side-walk.

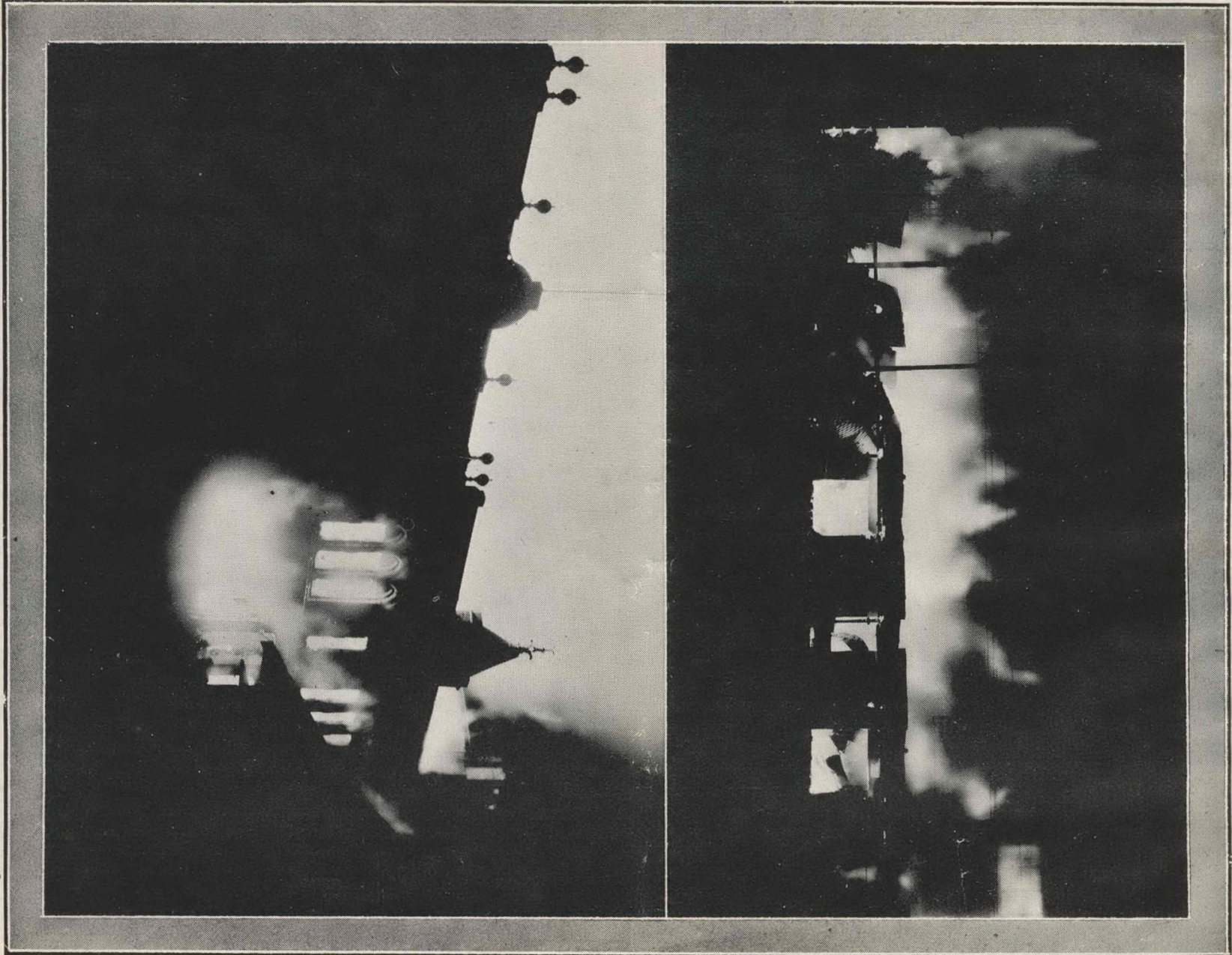
### Scattering the Crowd.

Until now no blood had been shed. But the galling stone-throwing never slackened. Mr. Truter and Mr. Buckle advanced towards Fraser-street. When the mounted police moved up to support the foot, the cavalry had been dismounted, and stood carbines in hand. A sharp order brought them into their saddles, and swords were drawn. General O'Brien had ridden along with Mr. Truter and Mr. Buckle to Fraser-street. As the stones fell fast, Mr. Truter turned to the General, the General turned his head to the trumpeter and said, "Sound the alarm!" This was at seven minutes to three. The silvery notes thrilled the crowd visibly, but the cavalry stood fast. Following the warning, Mr. Truter and Mr. Buckle fell back towards the Dragoons. The Chief Magistrate was struck by a ricocheting half-brick on the leg. The crowd followed them in a straggling line across the Square. It seemed that the excitement was fizzing out, and that the crowd would disperse. There was a sort

of unspoken suggestion of leaving the forces of law and order in command of the situation. But a surprising thing happened. Presently the mounted police swept out of the corner of the Square next Lewis and Marks' Building at the gallop. They were holding their pickhandles poised to strike. The crowd, such as it was, flew in all directions, and how few in numbers they were was shown by the fact that only two men and one woman were struck down.

The mounted men wheeled when they came to the cavalry corner, and went back. Then the foot police ran out and picked up the wounded. Throughout the afternoon the cavalry charged but once. That was more in the nature of a demonstration. With drawn swords they cantered up to the old Market House and back. One man, who could not scramble out of the way in time, was buffeted, but got into Market Street without injury. One of the most seriously injured was Sergeant Jack, of the police, who dashed into the crowd with an officer to arrest a man whose missiles were particularly well-aimed. On returning in the direction of his comrades, Sergeant Jack was hit in the mouth by a bottle thrown from the crowd.

About 4 o'clock a large number of people in the crowd turned their attention to the tramcars, which they held up, a woman being especially conspicuous in this connection. The strikers rode down to the Power Station on the captured trams. The rabble had already made their way thither, and for a few minutes they had complete command of the place, swarming even into the engine-room. They did not stay long, and the strikers themselves discountenanced the attack. However, engines were stopped, and all work ceased, and the mob left, believing that the city would be in darkness. As soon as they had left, strong military protection was requisitioned, and the station was again put in working order. Had the city been plunged in darkness that Friday night, it is inconceivable what an inferno it might have become.



THE RAILWAY OFFICES (ABOVE) AND 'STAR' PREMISES (BELOW) ON FIRE.

*Photo. by Gannon.*

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**Collection Name: Hilda and Rusty BERNSTEIN Papers, 1931-2006**

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:* **Historical Papers Research Archive**

*Collection Funder:* **Bernstein family**

*Location:* **Johannesburg**

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