

TRENTHAM 1939 - Political Rallies

EVENING SENTINEL, FRIDAY, JULY 7, 1939

COL. WEDGWOOD URGES ALL-PARTY CABINET



Colonel Josiah C. Wedgwood, M.P., Mrs. B. Stross, Dr. B. Stross and the Rev. T. Horwood in the centre of a group at a Labour Rally at Trentham last evening.

"BRING IN CHURCHILL, EDEN AND SINCLAIR"

LABOUR RALLY AT TRENTHAM

Colonel Josiah C. Wedgwood, the Member for Newcastle, in a speech last night, urged that the Labour Party should be represented in the Cabinet, together with Mr. Churchill, Mr. Eden and Sir Archibald Sinclair.

He was speaking at a rally and dance attended by nearly 2,000 people, representative of Labour Parties in all the North Staffordshire Parliamentary Divisions at Trentham Gardens Ballroom.

The function was the first of its kind organised by the Labour Party in North Staffordshire. It was arranged at the suggestion of Dr. B. Stross, the Prospective Candidate for Hanley, and, after the preliminary arrangements had been made, it was decided to invite other divisions to join in the effort.

SPECIAL BUSES

Over 1,400 people arrived at the gardens by special buses, and the others made the journey by ordinary buses. The main feature of the rally was the dance, but in an interval speeches were made by Colonel Josiah C. Wedgwood, M.P. for Newcastle, Mr. H. Davies, Prospective Candidate for Leek, Mr. Stephen Swingle, Prospective Candidate for Stafford, and Dr. Stross.

Among others present were the Rev. T. Horwood, who presided, Alderman G. H. Barber, Mr. G. H. Meir, Mr. M. C. Dunn, Mr. W. Simcock (Prospective Candidate for Stone) and Mr. G. Parton.

The Divisions represented were those of Hanley, Stoke, Burslem and Tunstall, Newcastle, Leek, Stone and Stafford. An apology was received from Mr. Ellis Smith, M.P. for Stoke.

NEED FOR ALLIANCE

Colonel Wedgwood said the dance reminded him of the ball on the eve of Waterloo when the soldiers left to look after cannon balls. To-day we were on the eve of desperate risks. Mr. Chamberlain, in a moment of sanity, decided to stop Hitler, and guaranteed Poland without first getting Russia to back the guarantee. It was impossible for us to defend Poland without the help of Russia, and Mr. Chamberlain had wasted two months while we had been drifting nearer and nearer to war, while he persuaded himself to speak politely to Russia. Until we had an alliance with Russia as firm as that with France we could not check Hitler and defend democracy, and we were in the greatest danger. Every day, when he opened his paper, he was afraid to see that Russia had gone in with Germany, and that they had decided to divide Poland between them. In that case we ourselves would be divided later on.

The situation was extremely grave, continued Colonel Wedgwood. Mr. Chamberlain had left England to carry the baby, and the danger grew ever greater. It would only be lessened by Mr. Chamberlain going, and by getting into the Cabinet men who were prepared to defend both England and liberty.

"If we cannot get the Labour Party in, let us get Churchill, Eden and Sinclair," said Colonel Wedgwood.

MOVEMENT IN NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE

Mr. Harold Davies said they had the nucleus of a magnificent Labour movement for the whole of North Staffordshire, judging from the large attendance at the dance. Politics to-day must appeal to youth, and to the lighter side of youth. They must put into power a young virile Labour movement to work for the peace and happiness of the workers of the world.

Mr. Swingle said he understood a similar function was to be arranged in September. He hoped that Stafford would be notified in good time, for he was certain that hundreds of people could be brought from there to the rally.

HANLEY CAMPAIGN

Dr. Stross said that as the representative of the political future of Hanley, he had a message. Firstly, they were going to fight for peace for themselves, peace for the Empire and peace for world. They were not going to fight for peace through humiliation as the National Government had fought by betraying every friend we had, but they were going to fight for peace through strength and honesty. They were going to struggle for social progress at home. They were not satisfied with many things they had to put up with for so long. They demanded better housing conditions, decent conditions for elderly people, and better wages.

The Rev. T. Horwood thanked Mr. Parton for the work he had done in the organisation of the rally.

Music for dancing was provided by Norman Jones and his band.

Mrs. Copeland on Peace Through Strength

'NO REASON WHY WAR SHOULD COME'

CONSCRIPTION BILL SUPPORTED

STOKE WOMEN UNIONISTS

I believe that if we are strong, well armed by sea, land and air, we shall accomplish what we have set out to do—keep the peace of Europe and of the world.

Mrs. Ronald Copeland (Prospective National Conservative candidate) expressed this view when addressing members of the Women's Branch of the Stoke Division Conservative and Unionist Association at Fenton Town Hall last night. The meeting was largely attended and was followed by a social.

After expressing thanks to officials and members of the Association for their work and support, Mrs. Copeland reviewed the international situation and emphasised the need for giving wholehearted support to the Government as a step towards keeping the peace of the world.

There were many people in Europe, she said, who were like us and did not want war. Unfortunately, there was one very great country that seemed to have put all its energy, all its brains and its culture into the war machine. That country seemed to have taken the idea that might was right. Because of that, this country must be prepared to stop any further aggression.

HITLER'S SPEECH

After paying a tribute to Mr. Chamberlain, she said that last week they were worried about what Hitler would say. Personally, she did not think it mattered, because all Hitler wanted was to impress the German people with his own greatness and with all the wonderful things he was going to do.

In this country, she continued, we had got to be strong. The Government had taken the very advanced step of introducing conscription. She had two sons, one just the right age and the other just under. They were delighted, and said that conscription was the best thing possible. We had got to be ready for any eventuality.

In her annual report, Mrs. Redfern stated that the membership of 900 showed a slight decrease, which was principally due to removals to new housing sites. She outlined the activities of the branch, referring to the success of the American tea and garden fete at Trentham, and expressed appreciation of the services rendered by Mrs. Copeland and other officials. She added that the branch was pledged to do its utmost to return Mrs. Copeland to Westminster at the next election.

The treasurer's report showed an increase of £10 in the balance in hand. Reports were adopted on the proposition of Mrs. H. Leason, seconded by Mrs. Tyrrell.

The Duchess of Sutherland was unanimously re-elected President and the Countess of Srewsbury Vice-President. Other appointments were: Chairman, Mrs. Ronald Copeland; Vice-Chairmen, Mrs. L. H. Jones, Mrs. H. Leason and Miss A. Roberts; Treasurer, Mrs. H. Dudley; and Secretary, Mrs. F. Redfern. The Committee was re-elected en bloc.

A social followed and prizes for a whist drive, bridge drive and games were distributed by Mrs. Copeland.

Mrs. Copeland was thanked on the proposition of Miss Roberts, seconded by Mrs. H. Leason.



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Dame Christabel Pankhurst visited Trentham yesterday to open the annual fete held by the Women's section of the Stoke Divisional Conservative and Unionist Association.

Above - Dame Christabel is seen at the hoop-la stall with Mrs Ronald Copeland

Right - Mrs Copeland trying her hand at darts.



Visit of Dame Christabel Pankhurst