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Trade Unionism in the United Kingdom and their Role in Improving Work Conditions during the Victorian Era

**Dissertation submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for a Master Degree
in Literature and Civilization**

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Dedication

First of all, I would like to dedicate this work to my lovely mother and father whose sacrifices, whole attention, and passionate devotion inspired me with will and self-confidence.

A special feeling of gratitude goes to my wife whose words of encouragement and push for tenacity and persistence still ring in my ears. I have no words to thank her for the moral support and the non-stop company she gave and continues to give me.

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Abdelhadi

Dedication

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To my brothers and my sister Amira.

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Abdelkrim

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Abstract

This study tackles the general conditions of the British working class during the Victorian Era and mainly how trade unionism contributes to improving these conditions. The research returned to the very beginning when Trade Unionism appeared in the UK going through its historical evolution besides the obstacles which encountered its progress and deployment in the kingdom. The work is divided into three chapters. Chapter One presents a historical background of the topic, After that, there is an analytical view which is presented in Chapter Two, mainly about the situation of the working class at that period. Finally, Chapter Three is a critical study of the dissertation that discusses and evaluates the contributions of Trade Unionism to improve the working-class conditions. In the end, the study reaches findings of the success of Trade Unionism to obtain considerable rights of the workers, besides ensuring a balance to the dominated capitalism at that period by being powerful support for the workers.

Keywords: Trade Unionism, Victorian Era, Working Class, Work Conditions.

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General Introduction

1. Background of the Study

This paper is about the role of Trade Unionism in the United Kingdom in improving the conditions of the working class during the Victorian Era. This topic is tackled by going through the different historical developments of the early trade unions up till the Victorian Era, where important events took place. These events strongly marked their significant role in shaping the future of the working class.

The work is built through collecting relevant data regarding the topic using references, resources, and books of writers and researchers who expounded on parts of the subject in their earlier works. This topic was dealt with either by focusing on the historical aspect alone, and/or speaking about the economic and social impacts of these movements on the working class; while other works mentioned the achievements of these unions.

The history of the British trade unions is so rich that it cannot be covered by one study, that is why our focus here is mainly on their achievements and how they benefited the working class. Nowadays, achievements and the different rights obtained justify what has been done.

Indeed, the trade unions were a pillar of the working class architecture by being a solid support to the working class in the United Kingdom.

2. Aims of the Study

This research paper's aims is to evaluate the trade unionism's role in the United Kingdom as whether or not they really had helped and improved the working conditions of workers. Also, it attempts to accentuate this role to find out how they helped workers to gain their rights. Last, it tries to show the different fields of their contribution and state these fields if existed.

3. Research Questions

This research attempts answering these questions:

- a.** How did trade unions develop during the Victorian Era?
- b.** What was the role of trade unions in improving work conditions during the Victorian Era?
- c.** To which extent did trade unions help the working class gain their rights?
- d.** What were the different fields of trade unions' contributions?

4. Research Hypothesis

In the light of the questions cited above, we hypothesize that trade unions in the United Kingdom had a significant role in improving the work conditions during the Victorian era in terms of social conditions and political gains.

5. Research Methodology

The study belongs to the historical method of research as the topic is purely historical. Therefore, this pattern helps in going through the different stages of the subject; hence, following the chronological evolution of the sequences of its progress as well as the problems faced and challenges encountered.

6. Structure of the Dissertation

The dissertation in hands is structured into three (03) chapters. Chapter One presents a historical overview on trade unionism in the United Kingdom before and during the Victorian Era. Chapter Two discusses the overall situation of the British working class in that era. Chapter Three directly tackles the role and contributions of trade unionism in improving the working-class conditions in that period of time.

7. Significance of the Research

As the work is about trade unionism, we believe it would enlighten the hidden parts of the topic by providing details of the different historical struggles taken, and to show that the nowadays rights of the working class came from a long journey of struggle and sacrifice made by the working class and supported by workers' unions in that era.

8. Problems and Limitations of the Study

In this research, we encountered several difficulties, some of which are:

- ☒ Nature of the theme itself.
- ☒ Severe lack of books and references.
- ☒ No past dissertations tackled this topic, so we could not benefit from their experiences.
- ☒ The research was done during the COVID-19 where physical meetings were suspended and the overall atmosphere is generally unfavourable.

Chapter One:

Background of Trade Unionism in the United Kingdom before and during the Victorian Era

Chapter One: Background of Trade Unionism in the United Kingdom before and during the Victorian Era

Introduction

By the end of the 18th and mid-19th centuries Britain had moved from a rural/agriculture society to a totally different one where richness was based on production and people lived in fast growing towns. Their wealth had been built on industrial production.

In 1815, the government of the Tory decided to crush its protests, because of fears of the French revolution and its impact on the UK (1789). Moreover, political radicalism spread and was seen in demonstrations, revolts, rebellions and a number of political events and newspapers in defiance of the imposing knowledge tax (the stamp duties of 1819). The aristocrats were holding political power and thus a major campaigning issue was the parliamentary reform. The Reform Act of 1832 extended the rights of workers to the industries; the hopes of the workers declined, mainly in 1832, after the Grand Betrayal.

In 1824, the Combination Acts were abolished, according to Congress (2020). While the combination law of 1825 restricted the activity of the unions, they rapidly grew, especially in textile factories where women played an important role in such unions.

In addition to the trade practice, numerous trials had taken place to reform these workers' unions. For example, William Benbow (Lancashire shoemaker), Robert Owen and several others were searching for a new concept of trade unionism which was not to be regarded as a means to safeguard and improve labor standards, rather than as a means to politically and economically transforming society (Congress, 2020).

1. Trade Union Beginnings (First Period)

1.1. Labour Conditions in the Eighteenth Century

In the last years of the 18th century, Osborne (n.d.) stated that England's entire industrial face was shifted by applying the machines for industrial arts which gave the trade and manufacturing industry a new impetus and enabled the country to deliver its products to all of the world's commercial destinations.

Burns (1959) said that being the first country to develop, England provided coal and iron, with sufficient capital to develop its capital markets system, enabling it to ratio capital to investment.

It may here be noted that individual craftsmen in relatively small workshops carried out the industry in the country, while the bulk of products for remote markets, mainly textiles, were manufactured under the domestic system in the local working-class homes; the distribution required was affected by traveling intermediaries. In iron production, mining, and other similar jobs, however, factory conditions began, while in the Western of England, unlike their fellow workers in the North, woollen industry workers had become dependent employees.

The so called state of golds appeared later, and as a result of a decrease in the organization of salaries during the 18th century. The uprising level of the industrialized organization and the speed of changes in the industry could be shown to be some causes behind such changes. When masters and workers performed together the golding system was working reasonably and pleasantly, and the travellers were able to offer both their own raw materials and tools. But some facts led to an increasing division of workers' and master's interests in the 18th century. The rapid growth in trade, improved communications, development of expertise and mechanization in certain industries were some of these facts. On the one hand, a lot of capital was needed for the traveler to match

his master, but it was not always achieved, given that he had fewer chances to save some of his own pay (Pilling, 1976).

Moreover it has created the right atmosphere to succeed in the distinguishing between employers and employed people and the emergence of constant income classes, which are closely related. The incomes are dangerously low, and due to these long working days very little time was left for food and rest. As the domestic type of the industry has declined, it has been replaced by manufactured products. This led to a major social change. Long families could not live and work under the same roof as before. Not only so, but also in the life of homes a disorder occurred. It was because both men and women and even children worked too much in all places they had the opportunity. Their independence was therefore lost and their simple, comfortable lifestyles disappeared (Trades Unions Congress, 1947).

1.2. Early Workers' Organizations

The majority of trade clubs and workers' temporary trade unions which started in or even before the XVIII century were rather small and local. Their underdeveloped state of existence prevented communication and support between these combinations. They only appeared as competent craftsmen of cities like London and some neighboring cities. For example, because of the growing population as well as trade, the increasing power of tailors and printers has been. Furthermore the wool industry in the west and the coal industry in the Nordost are various industries in manufacture. Both were controlled by the employers of capitalism.

Deane (1979) stated to support this idea that the rising size of the workforce was different from the workers' interests. The former then began to seek associations with other employees in similar positions with whose interests they were able to exchange. These small workers' associations formed the origins of the trade unions. Unlike some historians, they were simply a reaction to the newest working conditions in the economy. Because of

the existence of any genuine associations of incoming people who try to maintain and improve the working conditions of these men almost no evidence was available by the 18th century. The House of Commons' Journals received a number of significant complaints from both employers' associations as well as travelers from the mid-18th century forward however. Trade unions and clubs have therefore tried to see wherever the workforce ceased to grow. The skilled workers and artisans established the vast majority in the period 1750-1850 of the combinations available of working class men. These mixtures were intended to safeguard workers' rights. They must protect them from exploitation, maintain their customary living conditions, maintain the value of their skills and provide some sort of shared unemployment and health insurance. The strength of these associations was shown in their diverse aims. Though in the initial 25 years of the 19th century the trade union's industrial objectives were legally unacceptable, their role as friendly communities ensured that their existing members could help fight unemployment, disease and other disasters. Then a local club of benefits was very rare, since there was no obvious difference between a payment strike and another social benefits for their own personal funds, planning the existing participants in a business argument. These poorly qualified employees had no resources or training to help them set up trade law associations; however they had been totally helpless at the end of the 18th and early 19th centuries, given the lack of an effective police force. They were only called collective bargaining disturbances, which were the usual feature of these early phases of the industrial revolution and which were usually very frequently used in comparison with machinery against the requirements of employers like finished foods, raw materials and buildings (Deane, 1979).

1.3. Legal Position of the First Unions

Although the parliament had removed workers' legal protection, any trial of employees to collect for their own protection was considered as a major evil. In many acts which

evaluated wages and often set working times for some trades, any associations that tried to change their incomes or even the number of working hours were considered a serious crime.

Fraser (1999) said that employees and employers, as well as the parliament, had sheltered themselves in the courts in search of their objectives in the 18th century. From 1305 to 1799 James Moher found approximately 30 laws in which twenty only were issued from 1720 to 1799. Among certain staff groups, they all banned associations. He also pointed out to Fraser that in 1720 and 1721 the European Parliament had been encouraged to bann all types of combinations between traveling people and tailors in London following a long argument by the London tailors. Westminster has been trying to fix wage rates and working hours. Another law in 1725, which especially prohibited collections of wool fighters and weavers, was issued.

Although the convicted workers were severely punished, trials were widespread for breaching the law by hidden groups that often led to aggressive attacks when lockouts and strikes took place. By 1800, trade unionism gained authority in various sectors of the industry and in many associations with a permanent position.

1.4. The Industrial Revolution

In the late 18th century the Industrial Revolution changed Britain's economy dramatically, although the word itself was not used previously (Burns, 1959). The Industrial Revolution refers to the set of changes that transformed British society from a poor agricultural to a rich, rural society, dominated by industry and machinery. In the beginning of the 18th century, this very process began in Britain, from which it grew all over the world.

To sum up, we can say that the radical change from a domestic manufactured product to a machine was a long time. In summary of the first period of trade unions. However the

first 25 years of the nineteenth century saw the worst impact on employees' lives, especially as a result of the long war and its serious consequences with France. The industry was then concentrated in the areas of coal used in the new power generation. The conditions of life were also very promising. Men, women and even children worked in poor condition and killing illnesses for long hours day and night. In the meantime, their masters could gain wealth and played an important role in building industrial Britain's supremacy.

2. Repeal of the Combination Acts (Second Period)

The second phase of the trade union history was marked by the cancellation in 1824 of the Acts of Combination, which prevented the presence of a trade union itself. For example the Evangelist Thomson Chalmers qualified it as an installment of a wise liberal policy for informed economic code reforms, and Mark (2004) explained that contemporary people understood repeal in this context. The propagandist David Robinson, condemned this as part of what is known as the new Free Trade system. Like other adversaries, Robinson attributed its adoption to the impact of the political economists, that is, the Ricardians. The political economist J. In addition. R. McCulloch had made the case for allowing the workers to combine the most comprehensive statement. The significance of his arguments, however was probably to justify Ministers' support for repeal rather than to influence their decision to do so.

Osborne (n.d.) pointed out that after this Act was passed, the workers were set on foot for a formidable upheaval and that a governmental inquiry was asked and granted when this Parliament met in the following year. The proof, however, was that the workers were granted more freedom than the act of the previous year. The creation of two new crimes, molestations and obstruction, later formed the basis of numerous prosecutions, and the prosecution of conspiracy in combination with members of Trade Unions remained liable.

Joseph Hume guaranteed the abolition and Francis Place, the radical leader, believed in the powers of the groups to persuade the employers to develop their working circumstances. The metal workers, shipwrights, carpenters, and miners also created new associations. Other communities already secretly there now had the courage to open up. With the removal of main legislative impairments which had controlled syndicates for very longer, the first major stage in the conflict was over. Company credited them, and they then started a long campaign for freedom to achieve their desired goals (Trades Unions Congress, 1947).

2.1. The Victorian Era

Historians agree that Shaffer was deeply affected by the Queen Victoria of the XIXth century (2020). He added that during the reign of Victoria, there were several events both in England and in the rest of the world. After her were named several areas under British control. The Victorian Era or the Victorian Age were no only this but also the 19th century itself. Queen Victoria also changed the way the UK functioned and handled the monarchy concept. During the reign of Victoria, Britain was seen as the world's most advanced country. England has then been transformed into a totally different urban society from a rural nation. During Victoria's rule, not one single war was lost. Moreover, she encouraged writers to write about human rights and to talk about the rescue of the poor. As it has often been called Europe's Grandmother, Queen Victoria profoundly influenced the rest of Europe. In 1851, the Golden Jubilee and the Diamond Jubilee, she started the Great Exhibition to praise how Britain was evolved in those days. In 1837, when Victoria became a queen, Britain re-born again, British Queen's public opinion was evil. England needed the monarch of a people. The Queen Victoria, therefore was led in political affairs and government by Lord Melbourne. When Prince Albert died in 1861, he was mourned and isolated for a decade by the Queen Victoria. British society, therefore, lamented her.

Queen Victoria was wearing black clothes for a very long time, and she kept this habit. She reigned 63 years as the longest time ever to be a British monarch. Originally from British society, Victoria's ideals came. Her ideals were puritanic in nature. This meant she had a profound faith in the strictness and order of Christianity. The queen with her standing proudly can be seen in several paintings. She also had confidence in disciplinary matters, because it was a part of the Victorian ideology because she complained of her man's death for a very long time. The Great Exhibition of 1851 was an enormous illustration of the principles of Queen Victoria. It was held in Crystal Palace, an architecturally modern courtyard made of crystal. For the purposes of the same Eiffel French Tower, the Crystal Palace was established. The reason was to praise the building's architecture and the Great Crystal Palace Exhibition. The Golden Jubilee of 1887 and the Diamond Jubilee of 1897 were two further examples of Queen Victoria's expositions. Shaffer (2020) said Queen Victoria did not only affect Britain, but also Europe. She was called Grandma of Europe. Having taken spouses of members of the other royal families of Europe, Kaiser Willhelm II and Czar Nicolas II who ruled the Russian regime were two of her grandsons.

In spite of her excellent success, Queen Victoria was not considered to be the true reason why it was very remarkable in England's history. Some critics suggest that she should be accredited by her very competent Prime Ministers. Benjamin Disraeli and Lord Melbourne were among the most popular ones. Besides Prince Albert, who provided effective leadership. Nevertheless, we believe that the huge influence she had on both Britain and the rest of the world is not underestimated. Many places in the world have her name, for example. Take for instance, Lake Victoria Africa where the River Nile starts was named for her. Furthermore, Dr. Livingstone named Victoria Falls (a Scottish explorer). Victoria is also a state named for the famous queen in Australia. Victoria is also a city that

has received its name in British Columbia, Canada. For the well-known queen are named several other major states and cities around the globe.

2.2. The Grand National

In the 1820s and 1830s, joined communities with employee groups were expanded in order to adapt to the rapidly rising prices, even though certain predictions were not found to be a substitute for the improvement of capitalist regime. These unionists tried to respond by organizing their united work and the whole project received a great deal of attention across the country. Then the Grand National Consolidated Trades Union was given a seminar in February 1834 in London. This was expected as an alliance with individual trading sections of current combinations. Their main strength was among the tailors who included female tailors, shoe makers and cap-makers in London and although communication was made in North England with unions in the pots and Scotland, the high impact of the Grand National was the excellent example of an appeal for the arrest and sentencing of six farmers in Tolpud in London, in April 1834. The six men were in the Friendly Society of Farmworkers, set up long before the Grand National was founded (Fraser, 1999).

Both contemporaries, the Webbs and other also saw the 1830s as a possible pioneer. The shoemaker William Benbow made a call for a great national festivity that in contrast to the capitalist regime, was a general strike. The Owenite and Millennialist media required claims that might lead to a social revolution. The competitive environment has been very generally disappointed. However the proof of the act is that some unionists had high aspirations and ambitions for the Owenite missionaries and had much narrower goals for themselves. While they sympathize with the Owenism symbols, the newspaper of the Glasgow unionists had another realistic outlook and argued that the combination of

metaphysics and everyday ambitions is dangerous. This was an opinion that many workers unionists accepted.

In fact, the little master was not in control of this was a popular way in business. The new Grand National participant, Owen, and after the Dorchester trial, he agreed to hold the office presidency, but he was unable to hold the Union tightly together with the remaining funding being mostly discharged from the treasurers at the final days of the year. At about the same time, the Builders Union disappeared. The Dorchester workers were offered free forgiveness in 1836. They also paved their way back to British Columbia little by little, but the contradiction was thought to arise as a result of the move of the Home secretary and the Whig authority's greater reliance on radical Commons support than any other super parliamentary stress. With their high expectations of the general partnership and of joined manufacturing and the deteriorating trade conditions in 1837 collapsed. The skilled artisans came back to where they could rely, in or outside the premises at the Grand National, on neighboring clubs and craft communities. Therefore, little can be heard of cooperative production or the industrial union of all other trade and even known oaths and rituals a great lesson has been gained from their failure (Pelling, 1987). Following the Grand National, the Chartist period discussed below, was a power during the revolutionary Chartism era.

2.3. Chartism: The New Reconstruction of British Society under Political Means (1838-1857)

At first glance, it might seem unusual to have been the continued development of the unionism city by city and craft by craft over the two decades after General Unionism had faded, because these too were the many years of chartism. It was the first political action to emerge from the protest against the injustice of the new industrial and political regime in the UK for the nation's scope and the working class in character. In fact, while Chartism

gradually retreated from the deaths of the industrial changes of that era. Commercial unionism improved both among craftsmen who were somewhat influenced by these radical changes. The prompt contacts between the unions and the Chart movement have therefore been extremely anxious, for example, those men who work in the London service business or even among other workers who had gained profit from these changes. In 1838, several communities and clubs in Manchester received banners from the Chartist's demonstration. After 04 years, we know that union members are present at a chartist meeting. However the "Plug Plot" rebels seem to have had minimum effort to do with Chartism when the plugs have been removed from the cotton boiler factory and are therefore driven to stop working. Some unregulated unions governed the political debate, and one community, at least in Lancashire, declared that not one member could receive a disadvantage because they participated in a political or popular participation. Several unionists realized forcefully that their actions were disturbed by chartism. The Tory Home Secretary Sir James Graham, nominated for office in 1841 was beyond the evidence he presented when he tried, on the basis of the view that the core of evil was due to a blow struck against this confederacy, to persecute the Manchester Conference on Trade. On the other hand, since Chartism tried both word and deed violations, it gradually remained separate from the syndicate as such (Pelling, 1987).

Some people saw some hope from the Chartist movement, and all efforts demonstrated their commitment to Chartism by the trade unionists. In May 1842 a poor relief came to at least one million of the 16 million English people and businesses collapsed. In Stockport, for example, it has been believed that more than half the chief fabricator has long since 1836 been abandoned. The unrest was caused by that long and unusually warm summer. Despite the deplorable economy in Cumberland, the Midlands, and Glasgow in June, there were many workers' strikes. A month later, after a pay cuts, coal miners in Staffordshire

hit. Therefore by unplugging the steam kettles used to pump water, they exit the vast majority of the pits. They also demanded a nine-hour day including an hour for food, coal supplies and cash payments for a day. Weavers in 03 companies were, meanwhile in danger of a 25 percent decrease in Stalybridge and Ashton. The presence of cartoonists and some profound activities by Lancashire employers against the Corn Laws did not counter the strike of agitation in order to stop the authority. They all instead added to the increase of what appeared in Midland and Lancashire as a general strike (Fraser, 1999).

At the end of the Chart movement, the Unions returned to their industrial policies followed by a great re-emergence of trade unions. The political expertise has shown them that it was unwise to restrict their Unions to specific districts. It allowed members of their trade and Union men in strikes to use them while preventing any genuinely effective protest against cruel legal persecution or concerted effort to get the law amended (Osborne, n.b.).

3. The Trade Unions from 1850 to 1900 (Third Period)

3.1. The New Model

During the 1st half of the century, the social turmoil was obvious and the stress of creating an excellent system of industry arose from monetary depression. In 1850 it became the world's richest and greatest industry and trade power, and the United Kingdom began work under full pressure. The features of joint stock companies and banking and increased domestic savings have alleviated the shortage of capital which had previously adversely affected wages. It followed the "Golden Age" which for the country was a long period of prosperity. Despite the difficult conflicts in higher earnings and better conditions for positive sections of the organized workers the salaries of workers were examined during this time. It became a scene in which better needs could be met without a revolution and the syndicates decided not to overthrow the system. They aimed, however to increase

their part of their products. Unions have chosen larger, quicker, logical goals. They had a more business-like technique (Trades Unions Congress, 1947, p.14).

In the 1850s, the cotton unionism became the biggest problem of the past two years, the death of manual wovings and the struggle between the manual mule and mechanical mullet spin, and the gigantic new factory industry was resolved to ensure the most extensive non-handicraft industrialisation. Mules were built during the 1850s and 1860s and the Operative Spinner's Twiners and Amalgamated Membership changed in 1870. In 1870. The amalgamation stimulus benefited the monetary sector, which stepped up to negotiate for the operators. However more powerful cooperative work was required to disseminate parliamentary political needs. The main part of these mixtures was the various functions of localized negotiations in the last industrialisation period. Most importantly, the Amalgamated Spinners Union, which emphasized fighting 3 skills in traditional working relations that would contain extra income differences and the fame of mullet spinners (Penn, 1983).

3.2. The Trades Councils

At the same time, permanent trade councils were set up to organize paintings and advertising. They helped expand the movement together. The London Trades Council was set up in 1861 through a committee strike and was a meeting point for changing trade union delegates for several years. Other cities such as Glasgow, Sheffield and Liverpool were considered by other councils. The Congress of Trades Unions was first celebrated in 1868 under the name of the Manchester Trades Council. Starting in 1871, the Congress held annual meetings and a central agency was granted to the Trade Union worldwide thanks to supplies of the Government Committee. The Labor Laws reform, a measure which legalized peaceful picketing in 1859, was one of the popular aims which the Unions decided to acquire. In 1867, a Royal Commission on Trade Unions was established in the

wave of an endemic and aggression in relation to a conflict in Sheffield and a chain of trail selections that reappeared in the legal condition of the unions (Trades Unions Congress, 1947).

A major part of this work was to show how assistance for placing people could correctly be provided to the trade councils in the 1850s and 1860s, and how few of these councils flourished out of first steps. Take for example a printing strike at the town of Sheffield, a building worker strike in London and a few lockers disputed in 1866 in Birmingham (Fraser, 1999).

Trade unions have always disagreed with these unemployed men because they regularly see these men in painting as a source of danger after they had stopped paying their debts and then replaced unions that had lower obligations. The excitement for planning unemployment disturbances usually came from the left hand. The social democratic federation actually opened the door at the main protests at Trafalgar Square in 1886 and 1887. It must be noted that in 1874 in the House of Commons the leading union substitute served (Trades Unions Congress, 1947).

3.3. The New Unionism

The previous syndicates included workers and craftsmen paying extra contributions and receiving very well alternatives and satisfactory benefits. The new unionism became the mass power of preferred labor unions, whose members had little to gain and very little to lose.

The 1889 London Dock Strike initially showed a division of the paths and launched a new Unionism that served as a lever for the alternative unionism of the previous course. There was a shift in the influence of the new unions. In 1890, the TUC implemented socialist resolutions and the eight-hour day was necessary. Congress has responded for a short time to this growing policy, but then the direct membership of Trade Councils which

provided the militants with the details has ended. In 1899, however a socialist majority once again existed. As a result, the excellent unionism in the London region in 1889 and the coming years were of course the biggest era of the new unionism. This was hoped for outside the metropolitan region. In London, among other females' groups of workers, a small but significant prebinger had changed to the 1888 strike (Pilling, 1976).

Despite the new survival of the Unionist regime, it succeeded, because of unqualified artisans who had a genuine license to offer them a shortage fee as well as bargaining power. In some situations many of the objectives of their unions had to be stopped. Undoubtedly, some of the new unions relied on workers in certain wide combinations and on a friendly or minimally union-like way of thinking. In the early 1890s, thus the origin of the former form of unionism had already improved. The renowned objectives were far away and hard to implement. The pioneers, however were so different from the vintage unions. For one factor, they were a whole phase younger repeatedly and in addition to achievements in their early fighting, their youthfulness made them violent and militant. Furthermore the Socialists were profoundly affected, helping their planned images in the first floor and helping them expose various subjects. Initially, several of them were Socialists themselves (Pilling, 1976).

Conclusion

In the British trade unionism the 19th century came to an end with strong feelings of some sort of problem that brought their very legal rights close to security. Then there was little time for those emotions and the clear tension that helped to deal politically with state affairs, probably only very few months from the 20th century. The trade in the Taff Vale House of Lords case in July 1901 became a completely different matter, which had a much greater impact on syndicalism.

Chapter Two:

The Situation of the Working Class in the United Kingdom before and during the Victorian Era

Chapter Two: The Situation of the Working Class in the United Kingdom before and during the Victorian Era

Introduction

A distressed by Salford clergyman complained about the bad development of the industry which had drawn together the most heterogeneous population, consisting of the unsettled, the discontented and the deprived citizens; so as to make our trading districts, the moral sewers of the community a confluence of the scum and the off-scouring of society. This man's concern reflects the disorienting pace of change of the first decades of the nineteenth century. The British population increased and the cities stretched and strained to accommodate new residents. Industrialization brought upheaval in the workplace and affected its organization. These transformations created new social conditions both in cities and towns, with growing and affluent commercial and industrial elite alongside the widespread misery and discontent. Decades of war with France helped forge Britain into a nation; however, it was a nation divided by religious distinctness, regional identities and resentments, and fears about the social conditions and political power.

August (2007) argued that every chronological break imposed by historians is arbitrary and is open to debate. Regarding this caveat; however, a number of elements in British society made 1870 a reasonable choice. Despite the development of urbanization, the progress of core working-class districts in major cities that slowed in the last decades of the century, as more stable working-class communities settled in, and urban growth concentrated in outlying districts. Economic conditions had shifted in the early 1870s, as decreasing prices and profits led many observers to object to the great depression. New entertainment patterns developed during this period as well, with the development of mass newspapers, professional football, and the growth of syndicates in the music hall business.

Images of the empire and the monarchy pervaded these new media means and contributed to a changed in the political view in the wake of the 1867 Reform Act. This act enfranchised a lot of working-class men, and the parties started competing in earnest for working-class votes.

1. Working Class in the United Kingdom (1832-1870)

1.1. Forming the Urban Working Class

In the mid-19th century, a growing urban population characterized working-class life. The commercial life changes and the fashion capriciousness kept a wider army of working men moving sometimes from the south to the west and sometimes from the east to the north. This experience has escaped only a few men. However most settled in towns or cities, with subsidies joining those who worked in towns for the working class in the middle of victoria (August, 2007)

1.1.1. Migration

The mid-nineteenth-century British working population was considered as a mobile one. One study stipulated that about 52 per cent of urban inhabitants in 1851 were not living in their birthplace. However, this includes a large number of young children and three-quarters of sixty-five to seventy-four-year-olds who were living at a distance from their birthplaces. Some towns were particularly concentrated with migrants. In Bradford, 70 percent of adults were migrants. Many travelled from a rural area to an urban town. In Preston, 70 percent of migrants originated within 48 km of the original city. Some migrants moved from town to town, and those with valued skills were particularly likely to move for long distances. Large numbers of Irish men and women moved to different British towns, and the Irish born comprised as much as a fifth of the populations of towns like Dundee and Liverpool.

According to Deane (1979), he claimed that in the 1830s there was a long distance migration when in short contracts between the countries of Southern Lancashire, new poor law commissioners transferred entire families, but most of them migrated locally. An examination of the 1851 census showed that most immigration, for example, came from Lancashire, Ireland or Cheshire to Liverpool, Bolton and Manchester, and most migrants came from Yorkshire to Leeds, Bradford and Sheffield.

In particular, migration from Ireland to England was important. In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, Ireland experienced at least as high an increasing population rate as England, although this was more based on the enormous food productivity of potatoes than on other economic developments in any wider sense of the term. In Ireland, there was no system of poor law relief. Thus the poor Irish have had no alternative to starve or migrate, as the recurring harvest crises have hit. Many immigrated in Lancashire and the workforce reserve in textile cities swelled in Glasgow.

Lastly, as Irish home goods succeeded in the competition of the high technological British products, the Irish loom weavers swelled the doomed ranks of English workers in the face of the inevitable competition of electricity looming. The Irish migrants made it possible for a large construction effort to be completed in a short time from 1846 to 1847, when the catastrophic famines coincided with an English railway boom, without hungering for the rest of workplace economy (Deane, 1979).

1.1.2. Urbanization

The Industrial Revolution has led to various social changes, in particular in the development of urban development and new forms of labor. The urban areas of England, mainly London and the industrial northern towns, grew astonishingly and Britain was the first large nation by the middle of the 19th century to own a large majority of its population in the city. Thousands of people gave way to a new, machinery-and-the-clock, and iron

rules of the factory's owners, everyday and seasonal rhythms. Workers were forced to work for long hours in harsh and dangerous conditions, and the state to be engaged to prevent workers from organising to improve condition, paid the lowest wages that they could get away with. Children were also working at a very young age to exhaust physical work. New cities were thus overcrowded, with shoddy, fast-moving homes, and waste disposal for the working population, depicted Burns (1959).

1.1.3. Housing and Sanitation

As migration and population growth increased, it filled crowded cities more. Workers struggled to look for adequate housing for their families. By maximizing the number of houses on their land as well as the number of tenants in their corresponding houses. Landlords divided the former homes of the wealthy people into houses for workers, many of whom were rented as single rooms; while new houses that were built intentionally for working-class tenants filled open spaces. The highest priorities while developing working-class housing were cheapness and the efficient use of space. Working-class houses varied from being the worst lodging houses and cellars to two up two down terraces; however, they nearly shared two key characteristics. First, the organizations of workers housing left limited privacy as most of them were built around courts and they shared nearly universal facilities. Second, working-class housing was located in particular areas of cities, close to employment opportunities, and was abandoned by the wealthy.

August (2007) pointed out that lodging houses provided temporary accommodation for immigrants or transient workers; however, they were a refuge to many impoverished families for extended periods. Where they offered dormitory-style rooms, with shared beds and no privacy. Some middle-class observers were surprised by the unsanitary conditions in these overcrowded lodgings, and even more by the mixing of children and adults of both sexes.

1.1.4. The family and community

In the different crowded and unhealthy districts, families grew, neighbours assembled and communities developed. Everyone lived in family groups, which functioned as the basic economic units in these communities. In the actual insecure conditions of working-class existence, people relied mainly on their families to help them during tough times. The family, as being an important element in ensuring relationships between mothers and children, also provided the emotional core of working-class life. On the other hand, conflict and inequality interrupted working-class family life, as both husbands and wives struggled for their distinct roles and unequal access to resources. Despite the disruption of migration, the challenges of the new urban environment, and the pressures exerted by economic insecurity, the working-class family remained strong, if not always harmonious August (2007).

The relationship among families began with working-class couples meetings on the streets or through mutual acquaintances. Freedom was found sometimes through daily contact of working-class men and women where they could make their own mates.

In the end, Despite the fact that these relationships, in many instances, were subject to parental or community restrictions, agreements that were established by families and neighbours had shaped courtship patterns.

1.2. Labour in the Factory Age

1.2.1. Hours of Labour

Referring to present standards, most workers in mid-Victorian Britain worked excessively long days. For example, a seven-year-old Charles Shaw began working as a "mould runner" in the Potteries in 1839. He said, "I had to work from between five and six o'clock in the morning and work on till six, seven or eight o'clock at night". Though longer hours were common, a twelve-hour workday appears to have been accepted as the norm in

many trades. More than sixty hours of work in one week would not have seemed unusual to mid-Victorian working men and women, and many workers extended their hours during busy seasons to earn more money (MORRIS, 1979, p. 104)

In 1818, when a bill was put before Parliament to make nine as the minimum working age, and ten hours a day the maximum limit for working day, the House of Lords limited its scope and increased the hours of labour to twelve. As a result, it took fourteen years more to pass a very companionate Factory Act restricting the employment of children who are between nine and thirteen to half time, and over thirteen to sixty-nine hours a week (Osborne, n.d.).

1.2.2. Scale and Technology

The change in focus focused on the 'fight for ideals' that subsequently produced the 'viable class society' of the 1850s. This focus ignored the eventual changes of the relations of economics and power between the current classes by developing the conflicts between trade unions and employers, by changing the role of the police and the military, the impact of religious and educational activities as well as by the creation of an 1844 banking system and the exchange for financial capital. The importance of the increasing scale of human organization has resulted in population increases, the increase of cities and places of work. However the changed position in the market and the development of new approaches to the disciplines of work have been distracted. More seriously, the real link between the creation of the ideals and the changing social relations of the industrial revolution was not examined (MORRIS, 1979, p. 14).

To sum up, new factories concentrated on technologies for the potential to transform work and the economy. In other industries, competition drove intense rivalries in acquiring new methods and new machines.

1.3. Leisure and the Urban Worker

1.3.1. Popular Leisure in the Early Nineteenth Century

The vibrant popular cultural entertainment of the late 18th and early 19th centuries marked the leisure of the working class in the mid 19th century. The festivals around Weihnachts, Easter, the sun and the summer seasons of fairs and waves saw leisure throughout the year. It offers celebrations and pleasure opportunities. Popular entertainment was often rude, violent and frequently competitive in other cases. Moments for street football games at Derby, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. Groups of men and children were trying to bring a ball to one side of the city's objectives. During the games, violent brawling resulted in heavy drinking.

With a view to self-amélioration, the middle classes had adopted the ideology of rational recreation. Peter Bailey stated that at the beginning of the century, the middle class confronted what he referred to as the "process of developing a new culture within the unique matrix of a maturing urban industrial society," (Strong, 2014, p. 21).

Lastly, during the middle of the Victorian period the leisure was considered an economic treasure that matched the proliferation and fun time of new goods and services. This tension was linked by moralists to a rational recreational ideology, a concept and practice that combined labor and leisure.

1.3.2. Early and Mid-Victorian Working-class Leisure

Despite the hostility practiced by radicals and many religious activists, drinking places remained preferred places of popular relaxation outside the home. According to one study in 1853, it estimated that seventy per cent of working men spent their evenings in pubs. As pubs offered comfort, sociability, and a range of services from gambling to labour exchanges, in order to make participation in pub culture natural for working-class men. Pub owners started to invest in larger premises with attractive lights, mirrors and plate

glass, and elaborate new decorations. Growing more frequent and increasingly commercialized, the corner pub preserved its established place in popular leisure (August, 2007).

Finally, the study of various lifestyles and leisure activities for CLARKSON (1990) is one of the most fruitful approaches for distinguishing the levels of working class. In terms of attempts to impose social discipline and changes in industrial production conditions, changes in leisure organization have been seen in the 19th century.

1.4. Working-class Identity and Politics

1.4.1. Class and Identity

A lot of workers adopted respectability as a key component of their identities. Although being sometimes subjective and malleable, respectable virtues bounded self-discipline and improvement, the industry with thrift independence and proper personal behaviour. The culture of political radicalism helped to shape working-class respectability, besides its association and improvement in the first half of the nineteenth century. By defining themselves as "respectable", workers had defined other workers as "rough" or missing respectability. Yet no consistent difference between the rough and respectable can be identified, as respectable standards varied greatly, thus individuals embraced and abandoned respectable norms in different contexts (August, 2007, p. 69).

In the middle of the late Victorian era there was a lack of coherent policy dynamics of "class warfare" while working class people sought to find a new place in social, political and economic order. Therefore the new liberalism would not have taken the form in advance without the continuous pressure of the working class activism that it maintained. But workers were upset about socio-political change and the Middle Class people were divided into radical and reformistic politics (Strong, 2014, p. 8).

1.4.2. Politics and Worker Frustration in the 1830s

For many workers, the state looked hostile to worker interests, as governments opposed the pressure from the Ten Hours Movement and passed a Factory Act that did nothing to ameliorate the conditions of young workers in the mills. After passing the New Poor Law of 1834 which gave more evidence of what many began to see as a "great Whig betrayal" for the party that had passed the 1832 reforms; Bronterre O'Brien, the chartist leader, recalled the collapse of faith in an union of workers with the middle class. Unions organizers and many striking workers opposed the repressive regime that convicted organizers such as the Tolpuddle Martyrs in 1834 and the Glasgow spinners' leaders in 1838. The Municipal Corporations Act in 1835 required the establishment of new borough police forces that would help to control working-class districts. In the view of a trade union leader, "the Whigs intended to bring the working classes down to the level of the miserable pauper under the poor law amendment act" (August, 2007, p. 73).

To sum up, workers were disappointed with the betrayal and ignorance of government, the middle class, and even political parties who looked only for their interests and ignored the workers' political rights.

2. The Working Class in the United Kingdom (1870-1900)

2.1. Traditional Working-class Community

2.1.1. The Working-class Neighbourhood

A large number of late Victorian and Edwardian working-class children were raised in settled districts whose quick advancement in the 19th century had slowed down. Despite the fact that reformers took increasing interest in the miserable sanitary state of poor neighbourhoods, housing conditions in central districts continued to deteriorate, roads grew crowded and mortality rates remained high. Some regularly employed and relatively well-paid workers were able to take advantage of new cheap trams and even trains, moving into

new working-class suburbs with better housing and sanitation. But, most workers could not afford to move far from their places of work and remained in established working-class districts. Many workers, however, found suburban migration expensive and inconvenient.

August (2007) stated that the lack of employment for women meant that men's wages should have been both regular and adequate to support the family. Commuting costs and the expense of eating in coffee shops added to the financial burden. Joseph Kirkham, a painter living in Battersea, noticed that his wife could provide dinner for the entire family for his dinner cost in a cook shop near his work. In the 1870s, even when trams and trains did offer affordable fares, they lacked schedules appropriate for many workers. Thomas Abrey, a North London carpenter, complained that the tram from his area did not begin running until 6.40 a.m., which was too late for building or engineering workers. Finally, many workers continued to live in central districts even after trams and trains became cheaper and more convenient.

2.1.2. Housing and Sanitation

The new working-class housing in the last years of the nineteenth century was drab and tedious. New housing in England from the late 1870s did; yet, reflect improved regulatory standards. The model by-laws of 1877, which provided guidance to local authorities in improving housing regulations, directed wider streets, open space at the back of every house, enhanced windows and drainage, and individual privies which could be emptied without waste being moved through the house. Housing that was constructed according to new regulations also included more space. Regular mid-century back-to-back housing included around 40 square meters on two floors. By the end of the century, by law houses included at least 54 square meters, and often over 70 square meters. In general, more private space was also provided by new housing, with less sharing of services. In 1892,

Scottish building regulations became a compulsory beginning, though flats remained typical of Scottish working-class housing (August, 2007).

Later on, local authorities started to provide working-class housing on a limited scale before the First World War. In 1869, Liverpool blazed the trail in this area, constructing a tenement building, St. Martin's Cottages. The London County Council (LCC) turned into the most aggressive and significant provider of council housing after 1890. It built flats in central districts. Despite these innovations, older houses that were constructed before regulation stayed typical of working-class neighbourhoods, especially in central districts. New by law, housing represented only about 01 percent of the housing stock every year. Model dwelling companies limited their activities almost exclusively to London, where they housed 123,000 people out of a population of over 4.5 million. The overall effect of municipal housing stayed small. Liverpool bragged the highest proportion of council house residents in England: 1.3 per cent of the population at the start of the First World War. In general, Scottish local authorities that gave dwellings housed just 01 per cent of their populations. As conditions in central districts weakened, neighbourhoods became more exclusively for the working class. Earlier in the century, elegant developments drew wealthy middle-class families out of central districts. In the last decades of the nineteenth century, residential segregation spread, as lower-middle-class suburbs developed, and even some well-paid manual workers moved into different suburban areas. In Cardiff, for instance, some skilled workers left the central districts and moved to Canton and Cathays toward the north and west. However, they settled in distinct areas, segregated from the lower categories of the middle class (Strong, 2014, p. 8).

All in all, and according to August (2007), this social gap between skilled workers and clerks or other non-manual workers grew sharper in Kentish London also, with manual workers occupying specific sections of these suburban districts, whether in new by law

housing or deteriorating slums, manual workers were progressively segregated geographically.

2.1.3. The Family Economy

In addition, CLARKSON (1990) points to the significant and unexplored and unquantified effects of working class women on the housing market as consumers. Women were interested, both because of the family spending plan and the house that they spent most of their lives, to achieve the highest value for money in their homes and to improve the conditions, wherever possible. Oral evidence shows that at the beginning of the century Barrow's women were instrumental for the purchase and re-payment of their households, frequently with husbands on poorly paid jobs. This pattern continued for women who took possession of their families throughout the period. Some bought homes while others looked for more affordable properties with facilities like toilets and a hot water system. Other people have spent more on goods, gear and design.

We consider much more research into the impact of decision-making on the housing market and related business companies, such as mobilization manufacture, tapestry and equipment.

In the most recent years of the nineteenth century, middle-class couples reduced their fertility, while most workers still had large families. The wealthy Edgbaston and Harborne ward had a birth rate of 18.6 per thousand, in Birmingham in 1900, compared with the poor St. Stephen's ward, where births totalled 36.9 per thousand. However, some families of professional workers started to limit their fertility late in the nineteenth century. Thus, Balsall Heath, a district with numerous relatively well-paid workers, registered 24.3 births per thousand. Upper working-class families like the Rileys started controlling their fertility for various reasons. Maybe the most significant relates to the increasing expense of raising kids. It was common for children to begin earning wages before age 10 in factories and

around age 11 in other trades, before 1870. Girls also made fundamental contributions to their families by minding younger siblings and accomplishing domestic work. The establishment of compulsory education beginning in the 1870s replaced more flexible and often informal working-class schools with a norm, legally enforced school day, and progressively raised the school-leaving age. Obligatory schooling interfered with children's capacity to contribute to their family's economy and made a tremendous burden for poor families (August, 2007).

As a result, investment in education among better-paid employees has become a symbol of respectability. These families were less reliant on the contributions of children to the household, and then both husbands and wives started working together to have fewer children.

2.2. Control, Conflict, and Collective Bargaining in the Work Place

2.2.1. Employer Initiatives and Worker Responses

During the mid-Victorian boom, British manufacturing ruled international markets almost without rival, gave manner to the great depression, as new competition put a strain on profits. In this context, August (2007) stated that organization efforts to maximize productivity and profitability threatened many employees' reputation, autonomy, pay, or even their jobs. Workers fought what was regularly a rearguard action against organization offensives. Although many unions gained recognition and collective bargaining rights, employers fought employees over control inside the administrative centre. As a result, the first decade of the 20th century came to a close, where the amassed frustration of many workers led to militancy and new disputes with employers.

2.2.2. Gender and Age

In the new economic climate of the great depression, employers confronted increasing pressure on incomes, and they stepped up efforts to get more out of their employees.

Business enterprise techniques covered new technologies, improved discipline and had control over work and new payment schemes. Also, they decreased dependency on professional male workers. Employers and workers had struggled over lots of these problems in the mid-Victorian time; however, the new economic circumstances created greater urgency for employers. Nonetheless, tries to impose procedures which varied tremendously, by industry, region, and employer, and each strategy faced major problems.

Whereas, most British employers were interested to include and put money in new technologies. In engineering, for instance, most employers followed new gadget equipment progressively as opposed to imposing wholesale technological transformation. In the Potteries, one employee complained that a revolution started to appear in the fields of manufacturing. British organizations were reluctant to endure the massive monetary expenses of large scale mechanization, and they confronted the prospect of battles with unions.

Here, August (2007) pointed out that these corporation initiatives threatened skilled men who had emerged during the mid-Victorian growth as the best paid and most self-salary earners, skilled footwear workers complained of the progressively common view that the knowledge of leather was turning day after day apparently less a necessity to the workmen than the fact of being able to direct some tricky pieces of machinery. In their opinion, leather produced below such situations would be void of those symmetrical proportions, the artistic outlines. Within two years of this 1881 criticism, semi-professional operatives had replaced skilled lasters in the Leicester footwear industry. Consequently, for plenty of working-class families, consisting of those dependent on low salary domestic manufacture like box making, the value of children's work seemed much greater than that of elementary schooling.

2.2.3. Unionization

There were mixed outcomes from more coordinated employee efforts to control shifts in the workplace. A prolonged strike against the imposition of piecework for fitters and turners was staged by engineering workers at Maxim Norden. Also, an observer of tries to put in force new machinery in engineering stores said: "I have seen factories recently erected without an automatic feed of any description because we are obliged to have one man to one machine". At the Birmingham, brass production firm Smith and Chamberlain, the union objected to "the employment of women to turn at the lathe and file", which had been men's work. Enlisting the assistance of brass employees all through Birmingham, the unions won the continued exclusion of women from this work (August, 2007, p. 116).

2.3. Class Identity and Everyday Politics

2.3.1. Complex Identities

The attitudes of Victorian working classes, which on the one hand state the working class identity, and the adoption of a consensus language common to dominant groups in society, had widespread contradictions and uncertainty. A priority of trade unionism was this specific identity, the status of which resulted in severe social tensions which challenged the Victorian consensus. Some groups had however considered professional workers' collectivism more important, and the bourgeois opinion which includes friendly societies and cooperatives had a distinct significance than what middle class commentators gave to social improvement (CLARKSON, 1990).

Finally we tend to believe that, irrespective of their apparent social closeness to the lower middle class and isolation from various workers, in the top stratum of the working class there was a strong sense of class identity. This raises the question of the working class' survival in a changing and yet volatile capitalist economy.

2.3.2. Informal Politics

Class identity did not translate directly into any precise party affiliation or political mobilization. The majority of workers did no longer embrace socialism, and lots of those privileged with a vote supported Liberal or Tory applicants. The Labour Party was established in 1900 as the Labour Representation Committee cooperated with the Liberals to avoid competing for parliamentary seats in England and Wales. While the votes of working-class voters were pursued by all three parties, none dominated this section of the electorate, and many working-class voters did not support liberalism, in part because a number of issues failed to address the party. While it defended the existence of unions and supported union recognition, in struggles with employers, the party did not consistently support labour. In 1871, the government of Gladstone passed legislation providing unions and their finances with legal protection. Many working-class voters have reacted to the monarchy, empire, and Protestantism's conservative embrace. Disraeli told Tory supporters that England's working classes were proud to belong to an imperial republic, and were determined to preserve their Empire if they could. This attitude has at times played a part in the animosity of workers to Irish and Jewish immigrants (CLARKSON, 1990).

A pamphlet published in 1892 claimed that the Irish Home Rule was threatening to draw thousands of ruined and desperate Irishmen to our market in England. From 1885 to 1898, Arthur Forwood is regarded as a black point, long time Liverpool councillor and local leader of the Conservative Party and MP, protested to an enthusiastic crowd, the Irish influx into Liverpool brought poverty, illness, dirt and suffering, drunkenness and violence, further to a labour market disruption. Conservatives appealed to Protestants on sectarian grounds in Lancashire districts with significant Catholic populations (August, 2007).

Therefore, caution should be taken of inferences from social stereotyping. Victorian observers may not apply to distinct societal classes, but to the same classes, found in different situations and subject to different pressures, with the tendency to view the stereotypes and complexity of the social and moral classes. However, there will still be a substantial overlapping if half moral judgments do not match the parameters of the social strata. One major source of insight and incoherence in the ideology of Victoria was how moral distinctions are connected to income and status at all social levels and how inexactly fit them (CLARKSON, 1990, pp. 174,175).

The economic divisions of the working club are undoubtedly linked to the representations of the respective craftsman, however the connection is complicated.

Conclusion

In late Victorian and Edwardian Britain, social change reinforced the class relations that were already visible in earlier decades. Dose knit societies of working-class men, women, and children were nurtured by prosperous neighbourhoods. In the midst of employer efforts to increase profits, persistent economic instability connected workers across skill divides despite increasing real wages. A clear sense of class identity was enhanced by a distinct working-class leisure culture based in the streets, associations, and commercial venues. This class consciousness coexisted without losing its force with various other types of identity based on locality, race, gender, and other factors. No matter how strong this identity was, no precise political party was regularly supported by working-class men, and the significant working-class voters were attracted by all three prevailing parties. In working-class districts, party politics proved to be less important than the pervasive politics of daily life.

Chapter Three:

The Contributions of Trade Unionism in Improving the Working Class Conditions

Chapter Three: The Contributions of Trade Unionism in Improving the Working Class Conditions

Introduction

European radicals in the nineteenth century devoted themselves to build up organizations of workers, which could both struggle for different improvements such as higher wages, shorter hours, and getting better working conditions in order to pave the way for proletarians to take power in the future.

Although the first origins of the United Kingdom trade unions could be traced back to the medieval guilds; however, the unionism movement took on a new important position during the Victorian period mainly after 1871 where the trade unions did not only support one political party but they were also committed to achieving a set of objectives for the sake of getting an ultimate improvement of working-class conditions in the United Kingdom.

1. Social Conditions Improvement: Discussion and Evaluation of Achievements

Regardless of the unrealized objectives of the trade unionism movement, a lot of rights were gained, where unions had participated in improving the working-class conditions, hence, its achievements could be well noticed in different fields of workers' daily life, mainly at the social level, where considerable rights were obtained for the benefit of workers such as weekend, eight-hour workday, health and safety of workers.

1.1. Sick Pay

Absenteeism is one of the main causes of lost working hours, where it has received much less scientific attention than dramatic forms of interruption such as strikes. It must take account both of employers and employees to argue that any explanation to justify absence rates. These are not independent, as malaises affect the motivations of workers to miss while absences affect the willingness of employers to provide sick pay.

According to Barmby (2011), he stated that in case contracts related to trade were unenforceable, the court in *Hilton V. Eckersley* will ensure that unions could not take legal proceedings against their members. In other cases for example at St. Helens, a member "who had been excluded for working under wages", with the support of his employers and their foremen to charge the iron founders for his sick pay; the unions again successfully argued that, by being an extra-legal body, the court possessed no power to judge in its affairs. The possible injustice to unions members was addressed by the majority of the Social Science Association Committee, which asserted that there should be "an easy and cheap remedy" (p. 32).

To sum up, it was expected that some consideration for old age and infirmity to be brought about by a long working career and that the man returning to work after an illness should not permanently lose his place. Again, the workman as failing eyesight, sickness, or other problems and is unable to fulfil his former duties ought not to be lightly dismissed if any adequate employment can be found for him. A man expelled from his Union will have no benefits, such as out of work, sick, superannuation benefits, for which he had paid, and thus sacrifices his entire life.

1.2. The Eight-hour Work Day

Fraser (1999) stated that reducing working days seemed to be the major concern for most unions to avoid excessive unemployment. The requirement to work eight hours by regulation is one of the problems that have generated disagreement between old and new unionists. For eight hours as such he explained the demand:

At anniversary dinners, bean feasts and drinking bouts, when they so far forget themselves as to indulge in the latter, there is one toast which is at all times enthusiastically responded to, namely: "The four eights; eight hours" work,

eight hours' play, eight hours' sleep and eight shillings a day. . . . through all the vicissitudes of the labour struggles, this aspiration has survived. . . . where differences did arise was on how it was to be achieved (p. 41).

The first to try and reopen this issue at the Trades Union Congress of 1878 in his paper, prepared with the help of KARL Marx, was Adam Weiler, the London Socialist cabinetmaker. However as Howell said the trade union movement's strong hostility to legislation for specific social classes was firmly established.' "The working class knew Whitehall and Westminster and the courts as mainly enemies" The initiative of Weiler came no news but reappeared with growing unemployment in the mid-1880s. The presidential message of 1885 TUC saw the union action at a time of eight hours as a first step towards freedom from the depression. In 1886 Tom Mann published his booklet "What an Eight-hour Working Day Means to the Workers" in which he did not agree with the inactivity of the trade union. This became an important issue at the conference of 1887, and led to a large amount of controversy among Ayrshire Ministers Henry Broadhurst and Keir Hardie. George Shipton, a long-time secretary to the London Trades Council, spoke against pressure of the law in the parliamentary committee in 1889, stating that the disasters of the interference of the State would be so great that any possible advantages could be achieved would be outweighed." (Fraser, 1999, pp. 87-8).

1.3. The Weekend

There was an important interest around the world in reducing the work week from five to four days. Politicians and businessmen considered changing to less. The idea was however, also mocked. "As a historian of leisure, it strikes me" he said, "there are a number of parallels between debates today and those that took place in the 19th century when the weekend as we now know was first introduced" It was considered a moderne event that Saturdays and Sundays are off (Brad, 2020, p. 89).

By the 19th century, the legalization of the government in factories began to reduce working hours and regular breaks. The weekend, however was not shaped by government legislation but by a combination of campaigns. Half days of holidays led some of them and trade unions led some. The existence of the weekend was a twisted and uneven change of labour. It was seen that the unaffected popular traditions that perished during the work week of the 19th century were overcome.

In the early factories, workers have thus adopted the Saint Monday tradition, despite producers' continuous opposition to that practice because it has perturbed productivity. But workers had a religious intention to justify the unofficial vacation, which prevented masters from breaking their habits. In the 1870s and 1880s it continued to thrive. Nevertheless, during the working week religious organizations and trade unions were eager to create a more official vacation. Religious institutions insisted on a break on Saturday helping to revitalize the "mental and moral culture" of the working class. In 1862, for example, Reverend George Heaviside noticed many religious leaders' optimistic tone when he told the daily Coventry Herald that a weekend would help rejuvenate and increase church attendance on Sundays (Brad, 2020, p. 66).

In conclusion, in the meantime trade unions wanted to establish an uncustomized break over the working week. Finally, the creation of the weekend is regarded as a pride in the history of the trade union.

1.4. Paid Holiday

In addition to its popular seaside days, which were large commercial gardens such as Manchester's Pomona or Belle Vue, the growth of commercial sport as entertainment is believed to have been part of the existing provision pattern developed from the 1880s on, included the music halls, which had been appearing in Bolton in the beginning of 1830's, the travel shows and exhibition grounds.

Substantially, it was stated in Walton (2008) that not all families with little children had the most popular pleasure, and that entertainment would never happen until the older generation was able to make a living, whereas poorly paid unqualified and casual workers did not have enough money to make a profit. In some instances, a regular and disciplined system of hard work made the pleasures of the weekend and vacation away from home accessible. To take advantage of these pleasures, families need contributions from all families, including children, especially in the northern part of the region, most obviously during infancy and early 20s but often in most of their working lives.

1.5. Healthy Safe Workplaces

The 1800s witnessed the continuation of the Industrial Revolution, a period of important change for the majority of the British people. Traditional manufacturing and agriculture, which were interested in small-scale production and the industry of cottage, were consequently eliminated by the greater adoption of labour and time-saving devices like the steam engine and the cottonseed drill. These devices did not only fasten goods production and get it made more uniformly but also affected the number of individuals needed for Labour (Callidus, 2020).

The health and safety of workers were regarded as necessary legal rights and the responsibility of employers. The year 1878 had seen the first steps outside the industrial sector with adequate agricultural threshing safety equipment requirements established. Employees got legal protection against accidents in the workplaces that were caused by employer negligence after passing The Employers' Liability Act of 1880, which strengthened the idea of a reasonable exception to safety procedures (Walton 2008).

Callidus (2020) added that by the end of the nineteenth century, another right was gained which is the establishment of workplace-based compensation with 1897s Workman's Compensation Act. This latter gave limited financial payments from employers to the injured

workers during work, forming the principle of monetary payments.

To sum up, the industrialization of the 19th century was guaranteed by many aspects of health and safety legislation adopted to face all types of dangerous factory conditions which were nearly the same in many industrializing societies during the very beginning of the urban growth era.

2. Insurance Function Amelioration: Discussion and Evaluation of Achievements

Two different roles were played by British unions of the 19th century. In addition, the trade unions have provided unemployment, health insurance, accident insurance, pensions and deadly benefits to their members to ensure that employees and their wives have funerals in order to raise their income and increase their working conditions.

2.1. Insurance Against Unemployment

Virtually, all trade union members were eligible for unemployment insurance in the industry of metal, engineering, naval, cotton and printing compared to less than 40% for mining and only five% for 'general syndicate' and workers at the port, river and building industries. The mining and cotton figures are a bit confusing. Although the unemployment of all miners in Durham and Yorkshire is low, just 14% of miners (70% of all miners) are eligible in the rest of Britain. In the same way, while all employees of the cotton industry were eligible for any form of unemployment insurance, only 23 percent were eligible for compensation if they were dismissed by "bad trade" Only during "mill stoppages" another 36% had the right to benefits and 41% had the benefit of being unemployed because of "breakdowns, fires, failures and so forth (Boyer, 1988, p. 121).

According to Boyer (1988), historians have given two reasons why low-skilled workers unions do not provide unemployment insurance. Firstly, low-skilled employees should not bear the taxes associated with providing unemployment insurance. The Webbs said that union groups of unskilled workers "make their wretched earnings tax no higher than a penny or two

pence a week" Secondly, most poorly qualified workers' unions were founded in 1889 or shortly thereafter and then formed part of the New Unionism which was ideologically distant to the left of the old craft unions. The vast majority of new unions were, according to G.D.H. Cole, free of friendly benefits, and focused on owning funds for strikes and lock-outs and organizing and administering expenses. Their leaders condemned the friendly benefits of industrial policy stagnation and reaction (pp. 324-6).

To sum up, friendly societies normally didn't provide job insurance; in 1906, the number of people who offered unemployment benefits was only 28,000. Workers wishing to take out unemployment insurance, but through their union were unable to do so.

2.2. Sickness and Accidents Insurance

Supply factors also influenced the adoption of mutual insurance schemes. Union leaders treated insurance benefits as a way to improve the union's structure. Insurance policies have increased the willingness of workers to join unions. The Webbs indicate that it is more likely that young men can obtain aid in the event of ill health and unemployment than the less apparent advantages of the combination of work. Moreover the promise of potential advantages enhanced unions' capacity to retain members through downturns, thus alleviating a problem that plagued unions throughout the 19th century. The relatively small number of qualifying union members from so-called friendly private mutual assistance associations qualified for health and old age benefits. 4.14 million people (4.43 million in 1911) were part of friendly health insurance companies in 1901 (Winter, 1983).

All in all, although few friendly societies have officially provided old-age benefits, the majority have practiced paying older people who are incapable of receiving health benefits.

2.3. Pensions for Retired Members

The effect on workers aged 30 to 45 was largely affected by the fact that the Union offered the old-age benefits in comparison to future beneficiaries lost. It was a strong incentive for

members to agree on the majority decision to lose a weekly pension of 8 to 10. The majority of mid-aged employees were thus less eligible for old-age benefits from deportation than any other trade union advantage. Only jobs over 45 were bound by pension schemes to their unions and most accommodating businesses and trade unions did not allow staff above 45. There will be no funeral payout, disabled or old age insurance to a 50 year-old worker who is not in a union, and who will need to spend his last years in a workhouse (Boyer, 1988).

The position of the European Union insurers declined in 1908 with national old age pensions and national health and unemployment insurance in 1911. In the end, though, there are limited national insurance incentives and most syndicates still pay insurance benefits (Callidus, 2020).

2.4. Death Benefit

Insurance was available to the working population against a variety of different contingencies, unemployment, sickness, old age, and death, but the insurance costs differed, and they were adopted on widely varying rates. Looking at the insurance market between 1870 and 1939, it is clear that death or burial insurance offered by the friendly collecting societies registered under Section 30 of the Friendly Societies Act of 1875 and the industrial life assurance companies were both the cheapest and the most common form of insurance used by the working class. The largest institutions were the Royal Liver and Liverpool Victoria from the former group and the Prudential in 1888, providing evidence of this sort of insurance from the latter (Winter, 1983).

It is true that a parliamentary programme. Congress continued. In the late 1870s, a call for an Employees Responsibility Act was the key proposal, which would allow employees or their families to be paid just compensation for industrial accidents and deaths by their employers if negligence were concerned. Commission of the Legislative Select published as detailed as the T.U.C. on the draft of the bill however, in 1880 the new Liberal Government

elected and signed a statute that examined the Employers Responsibility Act of 1880. The managers of the T.U.C., however were openly willing to plead if a partner who was wounded in in common employment" injured the wound (Pelling, 1987, p. 80).

3. Political Rights: Discussion and Evaluation of Achievements

Trade Unions were involved in improving the conditions of the working class, so their achievements could be well noticed in various fields of everyday working life, mainly at the political level, where significant rights were acquired for the benefit of workers by issuing important acts that protected workers' rights and ensured workers' organizations greater political freedom.

3.1. Trade Union Act of 1871

In July 1869, it was only on one condition that the Liberal government committed itself to give trade unions a recognized legal status, that their aims were not necessarily illegal. The subsequent Trade Union Act of 1871 was abolished and granted them an officially recognized status of the civil disabilities attached to unions. The essence of this development was overshadowed at the time, and to an extent in historical literature, by the contentious issues of criminal law. This diverted focus from some main policy decisions taken within the Home Office to decide what type of corporate function, if any, unions should have, and what legal role and duties should be conferred on them, in order to secure the goal of putting unions in a position of equality that both parties claimed to support (Curthoys, 2004).

The law was not involved in all economic affairs and was eliminated with any splendid criminal conspiracy. Winter (1983) argued that a policy of laissez-faire was continued. Employer pressure within the Liberal Party ensured however the preservation of specific criminal offenses of labor assault, obstruction and coercion. Since 1825, these unsuitable concepts have been a feature of union legislation.

Although the mere threat of strike is not a statutory crime, the Criminal Law Reform Act

has made things worse in various respects, because the House of Lords expands on the list of vague and imprecise illegalities by introducing "watching and besetting" and "persistently following" This allowed aggression judges to consider "injustifying" practically as "unjustifiable behaviour."

Annoyance and interference in the conduct of their companies with masters" (Fraser, 1999, p. 47).

In short, it was the Trade Union Act of 1871 that brought about practical reform which permanently covered the assets of the trade unions registered and apparently excluded all commercial restrictions. In addition, the third T.U.C. held in London in March 1871 succeeded, despite being covered by the separate Criminal Law Reform Act, in eliminating the criminal provisions of the Trade Union Act.

3.2. Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act of 1875

The appointment of a Royal Labor Law Commission was one of the first acts of the new conservative administration. Frederic Harrison opposed the nomination, and this was only a way to remove the need for legislation urgently. But Thomas Hughes and McDonald accepted. Harrison decided to boycott the hearings and voted to do so. The legislative committee voted. The legislative committee voted. The Commission's work has thus disappointed and its findings have shown poor importance. Yet Disraeli and his colleagues were at least free of the dogmatic individualism of the Liberals and R.A. The parliamentary committee queries Cross, Home Secretary, responded favorably at the election (Callidus, 2020).

More pressure was exerted on the government as well as legislative proposals, and it was surprised and satisfied that the Parliamentary Committee was very happy with this. In order to make the measure fully successful, only a few amendments had to be made. The government mostly approved those reforms, which resulted in the adoption of the Conspiracy and Defense

of Property Act in 1875 in the same year (Pelling, 1976).

In promulgating the Conspiracy and Security Act, the most relevant provisions of the Act are that unless one person commits a felony, a comployment or a joint of two or more people acting or acting with or in support of a commercial dispute between an employer and an employer is not to be found liable. Even, service, or accessing such a house or site should not be deemed unlawful in order to procure or to exchange information (Osborne, n.d., p. 32).

All in all, the achievement of amending and repealing laws which were considered a limitation on freedoms must be regarded as a significant achievement by the Unions, who have always promoted their ability not to bully or coerce, but merely to convince and induce. It is generally accepted that the Trade Unions justified this legislature by their conduct in repealing the Criminal Law Amendment Act in 1875 to give them free space for moral suasion (Osborne, n.d., p. 32).

3.3. Employer and Workmen Act of 1875

By the time Lowe, the Liberal adversary of democracy was encountered by the National Federation of Associated Employers of Labour, the Cabinet had already debated Lowe's paper and granted him the authority on 26 November 1873 to draw up a bill to be ready for the next parliamentary session. The Cabinet was still divided over the education controversy and eager to find non-religious issues to unite around, accepted his plan. Lowe met Henry Thring, the parliamentary draftsman, on 27 November 1873, and the Home Office officially demanded two days later that a bill be drawn up embodying Lowe's verbal orders (Curthoys, 2004)

In other aspects, Lowe's proposals were actually carried out by Thring's bill. The Master and Servant Act was to be repealed, leaving ordinary breaches of the labour contract before county courts or, in small cases, Justices of the Peace to be dealt with by the civil process. As Beaumont admitted, the establishment of Lowe as the true author of the settlement in 1875

paved the way for a reconsideration of the long-held belief that Gladstonian Liberalism could not meet the trade union's legal demands. Indeed, it was recently argued that a campaign was organized around the demand for equal legal rights for employers and employees.

Lowe stated during the 1875 debates, "to consider that they were not a class apart from the rest of the country "a remarkable discourse from a political leader whose political rhetoric in 1866-7 was widely thought to have gained the opposite outcome". While unionists were founding their campaign based on various reasons for freedom of contract and equality before the law, he saw the occasion to integrate labour within a framework of universally applicable rules (Curthoys, 2004, p. 207).

In 1875, Disraeli's Second Administration adopted the Employers and Workers Act. It was one of the most precious reforms early in Disraeli's office and one of the few which was not permissive. The Act finds the civil law on an equitable footing with all sides of the industry covers all contraventions of the contract. Prior to the act, workers were charged under civil law that might lead to fines, while workers could have been subject to federal law that could have led to penalties and incarceration. Disraeli was proud to announce that we have settled the lengthy and heavy fight between labor and capital" and to "gain and maintain the lasting affection of the working classes for the conservators" (Winter, 1983, p. 77).

Conclusion

To discount the input of the T.U.C. and its predecessors so readily would be absurd. They were undeniably successful in their constitutional agitation for civil and legal equality, although there is a risk of exaggerating the degree to which they abandoned the old language of rights of use in order to advance their claims. The amalgamated trades had emphatically set the limits under which any legalization would have to take place and to that extent determined the eventual shape of the Act of 1871.

During the departmental legislative drafting processes, the unions were maintained very

much at the length of the weapons. In November 1873, when Lowe drew them in to establish, for his own purposes, whether his plans were likely to represent a viable solution, the exception to this pattern was made. In addition, Liberal politicians only engaged in moments of crisis with the leaders of the unions in July 1869 to reinforce labour commitment to Liberalism; and to ensure the adhesion of the TUCPC to Liberalism amendments to the Conservative legislation during the summer of 1875 (Curthoys, 2004, pp. 243-4).

To conclude, the most significant contribution of the trade unions conservatives was to reinforce the hopes of both parties' politicians that the subject of labour law was now politically closed with the withdrawal of criminal law from industrial relations. The emergence of collective bargaining in the immediate aftermath of the legislation gave contemporaries fair reasons for thinking that the injustice and disparity of penal laws eradicated them. Industrial relations could be placed on a new moral basis, with each side equally respected as fellow citizens. In 1894, a great deal of the royal commission on labour claimed to discern a trend towards industrial peace brought about by natural forces and regarded no legislative solution to the conflict.

General Conclusion

General Conclusion

The history of Trade Unionism in the UK is similar to that of other causes which have had to light their way from prejudice to popularity. The movement was never so really strong and pure as when its difficulties were greatest and the opposing forces strongest. Then, the Unions were compelled to exercise continual vigilance so that the purity of their actions would disarm their critics and justify their own existence. Later, they embarked upon a policy which would have wrecked the movement in earlier years, and which even now is gradually undermining it.

The future of any nation depends upon its ability to advance, but that must be by adding to the edifice built up by centuries of care and effort on the part of the wisest of its race, and not by destroying it in order to start all over again. The results of the previous endeavours afford every encouragement to persevere. Never in the history of the world has such progress been made as in the last century, and no class has advanced more rapidly than that of the UK workers. During the latter half of the last century, wages rose nearly fifty per cent, hours of labour were reduced, and the cost of living was lessened. The most exacting toil was done by machinery, which cheapened the cost of production and added so enormously to the output that instead of displacing labour it increased the demand, and employment tended to become more permanent. The workers were better housed and clothed, and the general standard of living was raised. Human life and limb were protected by the Employers' Liability Act, Factory, Mines, Shipping, and other Acts. Education became general, while repeated extensions of the franchise raised men from serfs to citizens. The Truck Acts gave workmen the right to spend their wages in their own way, infant slavery was abolished, child labour was reduced, and female labour was regulated. Science and invention catered for new tastes and wants, while political and religious liberty was secured.

It is useless to condemn the present social system because of individual wrongs. Human nature would not change even if the system changed, and the disease in the body politic

would remain. The ideal state can be reached only through the ideal man, and eventual success needs steady and patient progress as each succeeding generation becomes better than the previous one. Some people, just as anxious for personal reform as others are for social and political reform, often feel keen disappointment at their slow progress towards the desired goal. The real inspiration must be drawn from the distance already traversed. The greatest encouragement any reformer can receive is in looking backward.

Non-achievements and failures do not diminish the necessity for Trade Unions, although they test the qualities of the leaders. It is the duty of Trade Unionism to be ready for all emergencies by reforming itself, so that it may be free from the tyranny and corruption slowly creeping into it. Its leaders must be chosen for general ability rather than for their aptitude in appealing to the passions of the crowd. The members must take an intelligent part in the management, instead of leaving matters in the hands of the delegates and the caucus. The best class of workmen, who have been driven out by the recent policy, must be attracted back by sound management. The officials must devote themselves wholeheartedly to the duties of their office, and their efforts must be directed towards the primary purpose of Trade Unionism, collective bargaining. This can be best accomplished by bringing capital and labour together and thus promoting that better understanding which is so essential to industrial peace.

This dissertation has come up with findings that explain and show what has been realized by trade unions mainly during the Victorian Era for the benefit of the working class. This could not deny some facts of failure and non-achieved rights.

In the end, more studies are recommended to shed light on comparing and evaluating the role of trade unions in the UK as a free country vs trade unions' role in a colonized one, to deeply evaluate to which extent do these circumstances have an impact on their achievements.

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ملخص

تتناول هذه الدراسة الظروف العامة للطبقة العاملة في المملكة المتحدة خلال العصر الفيكتوري وكيف ساهمت النقابات العمالية في تحسين هذه الظروف. تعود الدراسة إلى بداية نشأة النقابات العمالية في المملكة المتحدة وهي تمر بتطورها التاريخي إلى جانب العقبات التي واجهت تقدمها وانتشارها في المملكة. العمل مقسم إلى ثلاثة فصول. يعرض الفصل الأول خلفية تاريخية للموضوع. بعد ذلك، هناك وجهة نظر تحليلية يتم تقديمها في الفصل الثاني بشكل أساسي حول وضع الطبقة العاملة في تلك الفترة. أخيرًا، الفصل الثالث هو دراسة نقدية للأطروحة التي تناقش وتقيم مساهمات النقابات العمالية لتحسين ظروف الطبقة العاملة في الحقبة الفيكتورية. في النهاية، توصلت الدراسة إلى نتائج نجاح النقابات العمالية في الحصول على حقوق مهمة بشكل كبير للعمال، إلى جانب تحقيقها توازنًا للرأسمالية المهيمنة في تلك الفترة من خلال كونها دعمًا قويًا للعمال.

كلمات مفتاحية: النقابات العمالية، العصر الفيكتوري، الطبقة العاملة، ظروف العمل.

Résumé

Cette étude examine les conditions générales de la classe ouvrière au Royaume-Uni à l'époque victorienne et principalement sur la manière dont le syndicalisme contribue à améliorer ces conditions. La recherche est divisée en trois chapitres. Le premier chapitre présente un contexte historique dans, Après cela, il y a une vue analytique qui est présentée dans le chapitre deux, principalement sur la situation de la classe ouvrière à cette période. Enfin, le chapitre trois est une étude critique de la thèse qui discute et évalue les contributions du syndicalisme pour améliorer les conditions de la classe ouvrière. est revenue au tout début lorsque le syndicalisme est apparu au Royaume-Uni en passant par son évolution historique en plus des obstacles qui rencontrent sa progression et son déploiement dans le royaume. À la fin, l'étude aboutit à des conclusions sur le succès du syndicalisme pour obtenir des droits considérables des travailleurs, en plus d'être un équilibre pour le capitalisme dominé à cette époque en étant un puissant soutien pour les travailleurs.

Mots Clés : Classe Ouvrière, Conditions de Travail, Ere Victorienne, Syndicalisme.