

BURSTON SCHOOL STRIKE and EVICTED GLEBE TENANTS.

An appeal to all Trade Unions.

61, Collingwood Road,
Northampton,

August, 1916.

To the Secretary.

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the National Committee, may I draw your particular attention to, and urge the importance of, the enclosed appeal.

Briefly, the facts of the case are:

Brave-hearted men, women, and children have been evicted from the land of their fathers.

These folks owe no rent, they are good and true citizens, and their sole crime is that they have dared to elect the local schoolmaster and four labourers to the Parish Council in preference to a reverend gentleman and five farmers.

Mrs. Higdon, schoolmistress, and her husband, the assistant master, have already been hounded from the Council School.

Fifty-seven of the children came out on strike as a protest, with the full sanction of their parents. A carpenter's shop was hired, and for over two years the teachers have taught without one penny of salary.

The blind man who let the carpenter's shop for a school was cleared out of the village. Four other families have had to depart, and three more men have been evicted.

TWO OF THESE MEN HAVE SONS FIGHTING
IN THE TRENCHES.

Had not Trade Unions been compelled during the period of national crisis to give so much close attention to their own immediate affairs, the Burston struggle would have been more noticed, and although a fair amount of support has been given, doubtless greater assistance would have been rendered under more favourable national circumstances.

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It is now felt, however, that the struggle proceeding in this little village is so full of vital issues to the workers, that it is imperative it must be continued until victory comes to the folk who have fought so long and so bravely.

A piece of land has been purchased in the village, and on this will be immediately erected a school building, where the children will be as well educated as though attending the Council School. When victory has come, the building will be handed over to the village in trust as a memorial of a valiant fight.

I think it can be rightly claimed that this is one of the most remarkable fights in working-class history; and if the great Trade Unions and other organisations will give their utmost financial and moral support, and thus enable a triumph to be recorded, it will mark one of the most important epochs in the attempts of the rural workers to secure some measure of freedom.

Hoping that this appeal may receive your sympathetic support,

On behalf of the National Committee,

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

Fred. V. Roberts

P.S. "Casey" has written a very fine pamphlet dealing with the history of the dispute. These can be obtained at above address: Price. 50, 4/-; 100, 7/6.