

U DX218 Records of the National Minority Movement 1929-1930

Historical Background:

Founded in 1924 by the Communist Party of Great Britain, the National Minority Movement (NMM) consisted of committees made up of militant members of existing trade unions. It was headed by the unionist Tom Mann and by Harry Pollitt (who subsequently became General Secretary of the Communist Party of Great Britain). The NMM aimed to revolutionise the policy, structure and outlook of the trade union movement and sought to appeal to those who were unhappy with the trade unions but not willing to join the Communist Party. Various trade union branches and trades councils affiliated to the NMM, especially within the transport, railway and engineering industries, and a number of leftwing trade union leaders were also supportive. Its influence in the trade union movement waned after the General Strike in 1926.

Custodial history:

Donated by Jim Roche, through Dr Joyce Bellamy, Department of Economic and Social History, University of Hull, June 1990

Description:

Small collection of correspondence relating to the National Minority Movement, it also includes a printed manifesto to all workers about the 1929 General Election and papers relating to the 6th Annual Conference in August 1929.

Extent: 10 items

Related material:

Records of the Communist Party of Great Britain (Hull Branch) [U DCP]
Workers International League [U DP201]
Papers of Benjamin Theaker Parkin MP [U DBP]
Papers of Denzil Dean Harber [U DDH]
Papers of Harold Laski (and Frida Laski) [U DLA]
Papers of Howard Hill [U DHH]
Papers of Jock Haston [U DJH]
Photocopies of the Revolutionary Communist Party Journal, 'Militant' [U DX211]

Other repositories:

Labour History Archive and Study Centre (People's History Museum)
Oxford University, Nuffield College Library
Warwick University: Modern Records Centre

Access conditions:

Access will be granted to any accredited reader

Hull History Centre: Records of the National Minority Movement

U DX218/1	Letter. Harry Pollitt (Hon. Gen. Sec.) to M. Miller (of Leeds) National Minority Movement programme 1 item	17 Jan 1929
U DX218/2	Letter. S. Richardson (Secretary, Leeds District Cte), to M. Miller. Nominations to Leeds Trades Council 1 item	17 Feb 1929
U DX218/3	Letter. George Allison (Acting General Secretary, National Minority Movement) to G.Bloom of Leeds. Relates to lack of finances to fund activities and the need for finances to be raised by the workers themselves. 1 item	26 Sep 1930
U DX218/4	Broadsheet. 'National Minority Movement: Manifesto to all workers: the General Election, May 1929' Includes the comment "that no betterment of their conditions can be expected, whatever government is returned after the present election...and that only the Communist party has published a programme based on the class needs of the workers" 1 item	May 1929
U DX218/5	Resolution papers to the 6th Annual Conference of the National Minority Movement Typescript notes, possibly resolutions to discuss, include 'the crisis of World Capitalism and the War Danger; tasks for young workers (within the NMM) including how a Youth Section could work; arrangements for the Conference (24-25th August 1929) including allocation of rooms by trade/profession and a copy of speech given at the conference by a member of the RILU [Red International of Labour Unions] Executive Bureau. 6 items	Aug 1929