

Eyewitness Perspectives

Compare the following quotes from during the strike.

Do they contradict each other? Why?

These unfortunate conditions were used as a cloak by the Communist Sinn Fein element to attempt to start a revolution in our province.

Statement by Ulster Protestant League

I [would like to offer] the thanks of all Ulster to our own Royal Ulster Constabulary for their magnificent behaviour during the last few weeks.

James Craig, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland

I just wanted an improvement in the system. I never thought of changing the system.

Geordie Loughrey

Deplorable scenes and acts of lawlessness... No one with any sense of loyalty or decent-mindedness... can excuse them.

Reverend John McCaffrey, in Belfast Telegraph

When Orangemen and Catholics ... gripped hands and declared emotionally 'Never again will they divide us' there was consternation in the ranks of professional politicians

James Kelly, journalist,
Irish Independent

It wasn't a matter of looting; it was confiscation.

Barney Boswell

An absolute reign of terror prevailed while the police were in the streets.

Hugh Faloona, Belfast resident, in Irish News & Belfast Morning News

For many years the workers in Belfast have been divided by artificial barriers of religion and politics, but the past two months has witnessed a powerful spectacle, because the workers were never united on a common platform, demanding the right to live.

Tommy Geehan, leader of a Revolutionary Workers' Group

Belfast 1932

The Outdoor Relief Workers' Strike: a Shared Heritage

Green Shoot
productions