

"Walthamstow Guardian"  
Nov 26 1915

"Swinton Journal"  
Nov 27 1915

## PIT BOY TO M.P.

### DEATH OF MR. SAM WOODS RECALCS EXCITING ELECTION.

#### MEMBER FOR WALTHAMSTOW

Memories of an exciting Parliamentary election in Walthamstow are recalled by the announcement of the death of Mr. Sam Woods, the well-known Labour leader, which has occurred in his 70th year at his home at Bryn, near Wigan.

Mr. Woods was the son of a St. Helens miner, and was educated at the Baptist School until he was seven years of age, when he was obliged to work in the mines. Despite the humble position which he filled, he devoted his spare time to the improvement of his education, and, becoming keenly interested in questions affecting the workers, he was elected Miners' Agent to the Ashton and Haydock Miners' Association.

He was a member of the Ashton Local Board for four years, and became president of the Lancashire Miners' Federation, while in 1894 he was chosen secretary of the Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Union Congress.

He was returned to Parliament in 1892 as Liberal-Labour member for the Ince Division of Lancashire, but failed to retain his seat in 1895.

Then, in 1897, he was sent down to Walthamstow to contest the seat, which had been retained at the previous election by the Conservatives by a majority of 2,353.

Although Mr. Sam Woods was practically unknown in the division, he defeated Mr. (now Sir) Thomas Dewar by a majority of 279.

In 1905, Mr. Woods' health broke down, and he had not since then engaged in any public work.

#### WREATH FROM WALTHAMSTOW.

A wreath has been sent by the Liberal Agent Mr. F. T. C. Bristow, from the Walthamstow Division Central Liberal and Radical Association to Mrs. Woods. "With deepest sympathy, on behalf of thousands of friends in the Walthamstow Division, whom your late husband honoured 1897-1900."

The announcement of the death of Mr. Sam Woods, the well-known miners' leader, recalls a personality and figure once very familiar to Pendlebury. For many years Mr. Woods had lived in a retirement enforced by ill-health, a retirement so complete as to cause one to forget that he was still with us in the flesh. But the recollection of the man—the slight figure, white hair, and black, piercing eyes—is still a vivid one to those who remember the trade union battles of twenty years ago. No meeting of miners, whether of a social character or as a vocal expression of views in some conflict between themselves and the employers, was considered complete without "Sam" Woods, and nowhere was his entry into Parliament as the first Labour Member in Lancashire hailed with greater pleasure than among the Pendlebury miners. He had as great a share as any man in the pioneer work of forming the miners into the powerful trade union they are to-day, and no leader more completely secured their confidence and esteem. Mr. Woods was himself an example of what can be accomplished by perseverance and character, for he began work in the mine at seven years of age not far from the spot where he died the other day.

"Pace Mail Gazette"  
Nov 26 1915

Owing to the fact that Mr. Sam Woods, the late Labour leader, is to be interred at St. Helens to-day, the full conference of the Miners' Federation, which was to have opened at Southport, will not hold its business meeting until to-morrow.

"Walthamstow Gazette"  
Nov 26 1915

Owing to the fact that Mr. Sam Woods is to be buried at St. Helens to-day, the full conference of the Miners' Federation, which was to have opened at Southport, will not hold its business meeting until Saturday.

"Essex County Chronicle"  
Nov 27 1915 (Chelmsford)

#### DEATH OF MR. SAM WOODS.

Mr. Sam Woods, formerly Labour M.P. for Ince, and also for Walthamstow, died on Tuesday at Bryn, near Wigan. Mr. Woods was a miner's son, and himself worked in the mine until manhood. He scored a political triumph in 1897, when as Radical candidate in the Walthamstow Division he converted a Unionist majority of 2,353 into a minority of 279. Mr. Woods held his seat for Walthamstow until 1900. Early in the new century his health began to decline, and for some years past he had lived in comparative retirement.

"Swinton Journal"  
Nov 27 1915

#### DEATH OF MR. SAM WOODS.

##### Notable Lancashire Labour Leader.

Mr. Sam Woods, Labour leader, formerly M.P. for Ince, and also for Walthamstow, died on Tuesday, at Bryn, near Wigan. Mr. Woods was a miner's son and himself worked in a mine until manhood. As a youth he set to work to educate himself for the Baptist ministry, but becoming a miners' leader, he entered the House of Commons, and played a prominent part in the early days of the Labour movement. Deceased, who was born in 1846, was one of the earliest miners' organizers. He was first president of the Lancashire Miners' Federation, and was also vice-president of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, while for many years he was secretary of the Trades Union Congress.

"Essex Weekly News"  
Nov 27 1915 (Chelmsford)

The death of Mr. Sam Woods, who was M.P. for the Walthamstow Division from 1897 to 1900, occurred at Bryn, Wigan, on Tuesday. It will be recalled that at Walthamstow he won a sensational victory, defeating Mr. (now Sir) Thomas Dewar by 279 votes. The Conservative majority at the previous election was 2,353.

*Bolton Evening News*  
Nov 27, 1915.

*Yorkshire Post*  
Nov 27, 1915.

## Mr. Sam Woods.

### Funeral of Former M. P. for Ince.

The funeral of Mr. Sam Woods, formerly Labour M.P. for the Ince Division, and later for Walthamstow, who was for 11 years secretary of the Trades Union Congress, took place yesterday afternoon. Prior to interment in St. Helens Cemetery a service was held in the Baptist Chapel, Bryn. The Executive Committee of the Miners' Federation, meeting in Southport, journeyed by train to Wigan, and attended the service and interment. Mr. Smilie, president of the Miners' Federation, was unable to be present owing to illness. The interment took place at the Denton Green Cemetery, St. Helens, and amongst those present were Messrs. Stephen Walsh, M.P., J. E. Sutton, M.P., W. Johnson, M.P. (Warwickshire), W. Millin, Parliamentary Committee Trades Union Congress, Manchester; Jesse Butler, H. Twist, J. G. Hancock (Derbyshire), Coune, W. Forshaw (Lancashire and Cheshire Engineers' Association), Coune, B. Waring, Coune, J. Francis, St. Helens; Messrs. J. Turner, J. Kyle, Thos. Davidson and Andrew McNulty, Lanarkshire; T. Greenall, president, Lancashire and Cheshire Miners' Federation, and T. Ashon, secretary; J. McGuirk, H. Roughley, J. Parkinson, J. Chamberlain, Wigan; J. Booth, Manchester; T. Rothwell, Burnley; J. Gean, Leigh; Ald. Flower, Durham Federation president; F. Hall and W. Carter (Notts); H. Smith and S. Hoebuck (Yorks); J. Robson (Durham); H. Hughes (North Wales), C. Bunsfield (Notts), W. Whitefield (Somerset), W. Straker (Northumberland), T. Cape and W. Hogg (Cumberland), L. Lovatt (Leicester), T. Trotter, W. Richardson, J. Gilliland, and S. Holtzer (Durham Miners' Association), Rev. W. Holroyd, Mr. J. B. Leach, J.P., Mr. B. Richardson (Liverpool), Rev. C. H. Watkins, M.A., D.D., pastor, Myrtle-street Baptist, Liverpool; Clarence Fry (deacon), Rev. Alex. Harvey (Widnes), Mr. and Mrs. J. Hull (cousins), Mr. W. Molgneux, Mr. and Mrs. T. Glover, Rev. Herbert Dunnico (Liverpool), Coune, Catterall (secretary), Coune, T. Shaw (president), Park-lane, Wigan; Coune, W. Collier, Mr. H. J. Burrill and Mr. P. A. Twist, representing the St. Helens Conservative Registration Association. The remains were borne from the hearse into the church by deacons of Baptist Churches in the district. The nephews of the deceased carried the remains to the grave.

The funeral of Mr. Sam Woods, formerly Labour M.P. for the Ince Division and later for Walthamstow, who was for eleven years secretary to the Trades Union Congress, took place yesterday afternoon. Prior to the interment in St. Helens Cemetery, a service was held in the Baptist Chapel, Bryn, Wigan.

*Southampton Times*  
Nov. 27, 1915.

Mr. Sam Woods, for many years secretary of the Trades Union Congress, a vice-president of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, died at his home at Bryn, near Wigan. From a pit boy to Parliament was his proud achievement.

*Hampshire Telegraph (Portsmouth)*  
Nov 27, 1915.

### FORMER LABOUR M.P. DEAD.

Mr. Sam Woods, the Labour leader, formerly M.P. for Ince and also for Walthamstow, died on Tuesday at Bryn, near Wigan.

Mr. Woods was a miner's son, and himself worked in a mine until manhood. As a youth he set to work to educate himself for the Baptist ministry, but becoming miners' leader he entered the House of Commons, and played a prominent part in the early days of the Labour movement.

Deceased, who was born in 1838, was one of the earliest miners' organisers. He was first President of the Lancashire Miners' Federation, and was also Vice-President of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, while for many years he was Secretary of the Trades Union Congress.

*Northern Daily Chronicle*  
Nov 27, 1915.

### AN IMPRESSIVE FUNERAL.

#### LABOUR'S FAREWELL TO MR SAM WOODS.

The funeral of Mr Sam Woods, the first Lancashire miners' M.P., who represented Ince and Walthamstow in Parliament, and for eleven years was secretary of the Trade Unions Congress, took place yesterday afternoon. The burial, which was at the St. Helens Cemetery, was preceded by a service in the Bryn Baptist Chapel, Wigan, with which Mr Woods had been closely associated during his public career as a preacher and Sunday-school teacher. The blinds of the houses in Bryn were drawn, and the whole township seemed to have gone into mourning. Representatives from the various organisations with which Mr Woods had been associated were present, and the Executive Committee of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, meeting in Southport, attended in a body. The service in the Bryn Baptist Chapel was simple but impressive. The Rev. Dr. Watkins, of Myrtle-street Baptist Church, Liverpool, where Mr Woods was baptised as a youth, conducted the service, and spoke of the influence of his life.

Wreaths were sent by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, the Lancashire and Cheshire Miners' Federation, and the Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Unions Congress. An anchor sent by the Wigan and District Permanent Relief Society bore the inscription, "In loving memory of, and as a token of respect to, our departed friend, Sam Woods, who gave his life for the workers' cause."

A telegram from the Walthamstow Liberal Association to Mrs Woods read, "Deepest sympathy on behalf of thousands of friends in Walthamstow Division, whom your late husband honoured, 1867 to 1900."

*Birmingham Post.*  
Nov 27, 1915.

### THE LATE MR. SAM WOODS.

The funeral of Mr. Sam Woods, formerly Labour M.P. for the Ince Division of Lancashire and later for Walthamstow, who for eleven years was secretary of the Trades Union Congress, took place yesterday. Prior to interment in St. Helens Cemetery service was held in the Baptist Chapel, Bryn, Wigan. The Executive Committee of the Miners' Federation, meeting in Southport, journeyed by train to Wigan, and attended the service and the interment. Mr. Smilie (president of the Miners' Federation) was unable to be present owing to illness.

North Mail (Newcastle)  
Nov. 24. 1915.

Daily Telegraph  
Nov. 24. 1915.

The death of Sam Woods, the well-known labour leader, and for many years secretary of the Trade Union Congress, occurred yesterday at the age of 69, at his home at Bryn, near Wigan.

He had been in failing health for some years. In 1892 he was returned to Parliament as Liberal-Labour member for the Ince Division of Lancashire, and in 1897 was elected for Walthamstow. The funeral will take place at St. Helens Cemetery on Friday.

Leicester Post  
Nov. 24. 1915

OBITUARY.

Death of Mr. Sam Woods.

Mr. Sam Woods, Labour leader, formerly M.P. for Ince, and also for Walthamstow, died yesterday, at Bryn, near Wigan.

Mr. Woods was a miner's son, and himself worked in a mine until manhood. As a youth he set to work to educate himself for the Baptist ministry, but becoming a miners' leader he entered the House of Commons, and played a prominent part in the early days of the Labour movement.

Deceased, who was born in 1846, was one of the earliest miners' organisers, and was first president of the Lancashire Miners' Federation, and also vice-president of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, while for many years he was secretary of the Trades Union Congress.

Eastern Daily Press (Norwich)  
Nov. 24. 1915.

DEATH OF MR. SAM WOODS

Mr. Sam Woods, Labour leader, formerly M.P. for Ince, and also for Walthamstow, died yesterday at Bryn, near Wigan. Mr. Woods was a miner's son, and himself worked in a mine until manhood. As a youth he set to work to educate himself for the Baptist Ministry, but becoming a miners' leader, he entered the House of Commons and played a prominent part in the early days of the Labour movement.

Deceased, who was born in 1846, was one of the earliest miners' organisers. He was the first president of the Lancashire Miners' Federation, and was also vice-president of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, while for many years he was secretary of the Trades Union Congress.

The Times  
Nov. 24. 1915

MR. SAM WOODS.

Mr. Sam Woods, the Labour leader, and former M.P., died yesterday at his residence at Bryn, near Wigan, aged 69. He had been in failing health for some years.

The son of a miner, he himself worked in a mine from the age of seven until he reached manhood, being subsequently appointed check-weigher. He was one of the earliest organizers among the miners, and became the first president of the Lancashire and Cheshire Miners' Federation. He was also vice-president of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, and for many years secretary of the Trades Union Congress. Mr. Woods was elected to the House of Commons as Liberal-Labour M.P. for the Ince Division of Lancashire in 1892, but was defeated in the 1905 election. He sat for Walthamstow from 1897 to 1900.

DEATH OF MR. SAM WOODS

FROM PIT TO PARLIAMENT

Mr. Sam Woods, a leading figure in trade union organisation and a former member of Parliament, died yesterday at his residence at Bryn, near Wigan.

The son of a collier, Mr. Woods was born in 1846 at Sutton, near St. Helen's, Lancashire. At the age of 7 he followed his father into the pit. He received no education. He worked as a miner for twenty years, filling every position from pony-driver to colliery official. For many years he never saw daylight during the winter months from Sunday evening to the following Sunday morning. On that day, however, he attended a Sunday school, and there learned to read. When he was 16 a young Baptist minister became interested in him, and helped him with his studies. The same friend recommended him two years later as a candidate for admission to Spurgeon's College, with a view to his becoming a minister. The boy's father, for whom he worked in the pit, declined this offer for his son. In 1872, when the New Mines Regulation Act provided that colliers should have their work paid for by weight and not by measure, Woods was elected by his mates to be checkweigher. Strangely, he preferred to go on working at the coal face; but when he was again chosen a few years later he accepted the post, and thus came to the pit-bank. Then he began to organize the miners in defence of their interests. He trumped the district, and addressed open-air meetings.

In 1878 he and others founded the Lancashire Miners' Federation, of which Woods was elected first president, a position which he held for the rest of his life. As Lancashire's mining representative he assisted in establishing the Miners' Federation of Great Britain. He was chosen its first vice-president, and in that office also remained continuously. In 1892 he stood as nominee of the Labour and Liberal party of the Ince Division of Lancashire for Parliament. He defeated by 227 the sitting Conservative member, whose majority at the previous election had been 1,100, in an electorate of 9,000. In 1893 he introduced the Miners' Eight Hours Bill, and on the occasion of its passing was complimented by Mr. Gladstone. In the following year he was elected secretary of the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress. This was the third and most important of the Labour offices held by him without a break.

In 1896 Mr. Woods represented English trade unionists at the Cincinnati Congress. He attended international miners' congresses in several foreign countries. He scored another political triumph in 1897, when as Radical candidate in the Walthamstow Division he converted a Unionist majority of 2,353 into a minority of 293. This feat was regarded by the statisticians of polling as a marvel. Mr. Woods held his seat for Walthamstow until 1900. Early in the new century his health began to decline, and for some years past he had lived in comparative retirement. A man of religious nature, Mr. Woods belonged to the old school of Labour leaders, and enjoyed the respect of his political opponents as well as of his own supporters. His wife, whom he married in 1867, survives him.

Daily Reporter  
Nov. 24. 1915.

DEATH OF A LABOUR LEADER.

Mr. Sam Woods, the Labour leader, who was for many years secretary of the Trades Union Congress, died yesterday at his home at Bryn, near Wigan. Mr. Woods, who was sixty-nine years of age, had been in failing health for some years.

He worked in a coal mine at the age of seven, and eventually became president of the Lancashire Miners' Federation and vice-president of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain. He was returned to Parliament in 1892 as Liberal-Labour member for the Ince Division of Lancashire, and was M.P. for Walthamstow 1892-95. The funeral takes place at St. Helens Cemetery on Friday.

*Liverpool Post*  
Nov 24 1915

*Daily Chronicle*  
Nov 24 1915

**PIT BOY WHO ENTERED  
PARLIAMENT.**

**DEATH OF MR SAM WOODS.**

Mr. Sam Woods, the well-known Labour leader, for many years secretary of the Trades Union Congress, the first president of the Lancashire Miners' Federation, and a vice-president of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, died yesterday at his home at Bryn, near Wigan.

Mr. Woods, who was sixty-nine years of age, had been in failing health for some years. He was a miner's son, and himself worked in the mine until manhood. As a youth he set to work to educate himself for the Baptist ministry, but, becoming a miners' leader, he entered the House of Commons, and played a prominent part in the early days of the Labour movement. He was returned to Parliament in 1892 as Liberal-Labour member for the Ince Division of Lancashire.

By the death of Mr. Woods the miners of Lancashire have lost one of their most sturdy champions. He was ever ready to fight in their interests and sponsored many institutions for their welfare. His victory at Ince was hailed with acclamation. In Parliament he commanded a respectful hearing, his arguments being closely reasoned and his facts indisputable. So established did he become that when defeated in the Ince Division he fought Walthamstow in 1897 and won.

From a pit boy to Parliament was his proud achievement. He used to relate how he had been taken from his bed to the pit on his father's back, and for months in the year did not see daylight owing to the hours of his labour. It was on this subject that he waxed eloquent in the cause of the miners. In the pulpit he became a strong preacher, and the world was his university.

As a result of a railway accident he became prematurely white, which rather enhanced his personality. Interesting from his virility of speech and astounding enthusiasm, which always carried his audiences, he will ever be a treasured memory with the miners of Lancashire.

The funeral takes place at St. Helens Cemetery on Friday.

**DEATH OF MR. S. WOODS.**

**MINERS' LEADER AND FORMER  
M.P. FOR WALTHAMSTOW.**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Sam Woods, the well-known miners' leader, which took place yesterday at his home at Bryn, near Wigan.

Born at Sutton, St. Helens, in May 1846, Mr. Woods began work in a Lancashire coal mine at the age of 7, and worked there through all the stages of pit boy, pony driver, and hewer. But he had always a thirst for education, and his strength of character and uprightness marked him out for leadership of his fellow-miners. He took a first class mine managers' certificate in 1883, but "stuck to the men's side." He was appointed a check-weigher, and afterwards secretary of the Ashton and Haydock Miners' Association when it was formed.

At that time organisation among the Lancashire miners was in a chaotic state, and it was owing to the exertions of Mr. Sam Woods and his friend Thomas Ashton that the Lancashire Miners' Federation was formed, to regularise and co-ordinate the work. These two men, in company with Mr. Ben Pickard and Mr. Knuch Edwards, carried the work still further by forming the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, which now includes all the miners' organisations in the British Isles.

One of the most important planks in the Federation programme was a legal eight-hour day for miners. At that time, the post of secretary of the Trade Union Congress was held by Mr. Charles Fenwick, M.P., who had opposed the Eight Hours Bill in the House of Commons. At the Congress held at Norrieh in 1894 there was a great fight over the secretaryship, and Mr. Woods was elected to the post. In 1892 he had been elected as member of Parliament for the Ince Division of Lancashire, but he lost the seat in 1895.

In 1897 a vacancy was created at Walthamstow by the elevation of Mr. Byrne to the judicial bench. Mr. Woods stood as a Labour candidate, and won a sensational victory over Sir Thomas Dewar. He lost the seat at the Ebbwke election in 1900, and did not again enter the House of Commons.

The last years of his life were clouded by increasing weakness, and in 1905 he relinquished the post of secretary to the Trade Union Congress. Since then he has lived in retirement at Bryn. He was a member of the Baptist Church. A man of quiet and unassuming manners, he won the universal esteem of his fellows.

*Daily News*  
Nov 24 1915

**MR. SAM WOODS.**

**Death of Miners' Veteran  
Leader.**

Mr. Sam Woods, a Labour leader, formerly M.P. for Ince, and also for Walthamstow, died yesterday at Bryn, near Wigan. He had the reputation of being the first Liberal-Labour member of Parliament to be sent from industrial Lancashire when he was returned for the Ince Division in 1892. From 1897 to 1900 he represented Walthamstow.

Mr. Woods was the son of a miner, and he himself worked in the mine until manhood. Later he was appointed check-weigher to the miners of his district. He was one of the earliest organisers of miners, and became the first President of the Lancashire and Cheshire Miners' Federation. He was also Vice-President of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, and for many years he was Secretary of the Trade Union Congress. He took a prominent part in the early days of the Labour movement.

Owing to failing health Mr. Woods had lived a retired life for the past 12 years.

*Daily Mail*  
Nov 24 1915

**LABOUR LEADER'S DEATH.**

Mr. Sam Woods, the well-known Labour leader, for many years secretary of the Trades Union Congress, died yesterday at Bryn, Wigan, aged sixty-nine.

Beginning work in a coal mine at the age of seven, Mr. Woods worked underground till he was twenty-eight. His parents stopped him being a Baptist minister, but he read and became a miners' leader. In 1892 he was elected in the Labour interest for the Ince Division of Lancashire, but lost his seat in 1895. In 1897 he fought and won a sensational election at Walthamstow, a seat which had been strongly Unionist. He held the seat till 1900.