

I am the Very Model of a Public-Sector Worker (to be sung to the tune of 'The Major-General's Song')

Lyrics by Gabriel Webber

Music by Arthur Sullivan

The border force is striking and the lecturers are picketing,
The teachers are not teaching, traffic wardens are not ticketing.
The unions are furious, the government inflexible
And so industrial action seemed a consequence inexorable.

The NHS is winding down, the tension is unbearable,
Though Unison and Unite say their pensions are just terrible.
As Britain starts to remind one of Ireland, Greece and Italy,
Old Francis Maude just drags his feet and mumbles non-committally.

The UCU's not working and the same goes for the NUT,
ACL are joining in the strike as are UCAC,
In general the unions are going to disrupt the state,
Unless the British government agrees to superannuate.

The TUC is talking of a 'triple squeeze on pensions'
Though detailed economics are beyond my comprehension,
In essence they object to calculations by the CPI
Preferring that the government decide upon the RPI.

Their pension rates tend not to rise according to inflation,
Particularly with deductions for NI and taxation,
And also they're expected to pay more in contributions,
Let's only hope this quarrel doesn't lead to revolutions.

Now there's a chance that workers have to work into their twilight years,
And just because the Treasury has let itself get in arrears!
The unions object to members working 'til they're 68
And so the British government must start to superannuate.

The uni students are expected to show solidarity,
They must campaign with lecturers for public-private parity.
While riot police may rob them of their freedom to associate,
The students are just trying to get Cameron to negotiate.

The military have some plans to guard our nation's borders,
They sympathise with workers but they're just obeying orders.
And we shouldn't think that passport checks will just be unenforceable:
If Terri May says they will all be perfect then of course they will!

All these people really want is comfortable retirement,
And pension contributions of something like 6.5%.
So if workers send a strongly-worded message to the Head of State
Then hopefully the British government will superannuate!

