

THE SITUATION IN ABERDEEN.

Student Drivers attacked.

Union Street yesterday was a memorable sight. Both sides of the thoroughfare were lined with thousands of strikers, unemployed, and general public, eagerly awaiting developments. Incident came quickly upon incident.

The dense throng started by cheering vehicles containing foodstuffs, while private 'buses crammed to the door had a mixed demonstrative reception. Feeling ran high, and when two Corporation 'buses, manned by students, attempted to make their way up the street, the throng rushed the first 'bus into Belmont Street, and brought it to a standstill. Many of the crowd clambered aboard and ejected the driver and conductor. The second was diverted from its path too, and along with the first one, was ultimately sent back to the depot.

Then the tramwaymen, attended by a large following, and headed by a bugler, marched to Queen's Cross depot in an attempt to evict the students and voluntary workers there. One man was taken by the strikers and turned away forcibly.

Feeling reached an acute pitch in the afternoon. About 3 o'clock two cars controlled by Tramway Inspectors were mobbed between Market Street and Belmont Street. A coal cart was drawn across the path, and in the melee one of the bags fell into the street. This was the signal for reprisals.

Some of the crowd seized the coal and commenced a fierce onslaught on the stationary car. The windows were smashed, the missiles rebounded off the sides of the car

into the crowd lining the pavement, and everywhere there was confusion. For a few minutes the air was thick, and the men in charge of the tram were in considerable danger of being seriously hurt by broken glass, and flying coal and stones. Police soon were on the scene, and the car rushed through the crowd, but not without a further fusillade.

The attack was not confined to the Corporation vehicles, however. Private 'buses were also damaged, although, it may be stated, that no attempt was made as in the morning to remove the drivers and conductors of the Corporation 'buses from their posts.

About 3.30.p.m. a strong posse of police was on duty in Union Street. It was about this time that the vehicles were mostly placed in danger. The crowd was exceedingly hostile, but the police drew their batons and made a charge, the people scattering in all directions, while several people suffered bodily harm in the stampede. The Police handled well what might have proved to be an ugly situation. At the time of the baton charge women and children were among the crowd, and several of them were somewhat roughly treated as the result of the sudden rush immediately the Police drew their batons.

Although the crowd did not disperse altogether, comparative quiet prevailed for a time, although there was much shouting and hissing at the students, who, however, stuck grimly to their posts.

It was quite apparent that the sight of the broken windows in the various 'buses was responsible for would-be passengers not using them, and on one particular occasion four 'buses in succession passed the top of Belmont Street without a single passenger in any one of them.

Further trouble broke out at 5 o'clock, and the Police had again recourse to their batons. Another charge was made, and the situation soon cleared, but not before there had been a number of minor casualties. The 'buses were running with policemen sitting on guard inside. The crowd in front of the Town House and in Castle Street was immense, but the Police had the situation well in hand.

HOW TO GET ABOUT.

Aberdeen is not the only town where the question of transit is a difficult problem. Edinburgh and Glasgow have had to face a more exasperating condition of affairs than these citizens have ever had to encounter. Even the Little Village of London hardly knows how to get about, though the assurance comes through that the trains are multiplying daily. The Cockney regarded the road from Rangoon to Mandalay as in a heathenly primitive state of civilisation, because there ain't no 'buses running. Some favourite Metropolitan roads have been as backward as Burmah at times this week. Yes, it has been difficult to get about. Mrs. Baldwin, the wife of the Premier has had the good sense to step in with an appeal on behalf of the London business girls. She has asked that all people wishing to put their motors at the disposal of these girls, in order to allow them to get to business, should communicate with her at 10, Downing Street.

EMERGENCY POWERS.

By 337 votes to 96, several more clauses of the Emergency Powers Act were passed last night in the House of Commons. In the course of the discussion, Sir Douglas Hogg stated that there was no truth in the suggestion that the Government organisation for maintaining essential services in Newcastle had broken down.

THE SONG OF THE CITY.

"Man o' th' North" in a happy vein says

Professor Abercrombie's eulogy of Aberdeen as "a beautiful city" is gratifying, but it adds nothing to the sum total of our knowledge. We are well aware of its loveliness, its architectural dignity, its abundant charm, but I for one can say of it, as the lover said of his lass :-

"I have loved thee for thy beauty,
But not for that alone."

It is its homeliness that grips my heart. You go to Glasgow to get rich quickly, you go to Edinburgh to die gracefully, you go to Perth to escape the general naughtiness of a naughty world; but you come to Aberdeen to live. It is a city of homes; of folk who love the world, its culture and joyousness, but find at the end of the day their finest happiness in the peace and comfort of their ain firesides. If I were a poet and not merely an intolerable postaster I'd sing "The Song of Aberdeen" in tones that would be heard a century hence; and I cannot imagine why there is no gifted son of twentieth-century Bon-Accord to chant its praises in living music to the world.

FEEDING THEM.

Aberdeen is doing its share in feeding Britain. It is reported by the Aberdeen Area Civil Commissioner that the Transport arrangements are going well, and that foodstuffs are being despatched to the south.

BALGOWNIE NEXT.

At a Meeting of the Royal Aberdeen Golf Club yesterday it was decided to take a referendum of members as to whether golf should be played at Balgownie on Sundays.