

THE UPRHEAVAL

Never in our history has the nation been confronted with an industrial crisis of such magnitude as that in which we were plunged on Monday night. It is having in some ways a more disastrous reaction on the life of the country than the Great War had. That fearful cataclysm swept into limbo all divisive factors. It made everything else look mean and insignificant. It cast over the whole of our national life a spell of romance and chivalry under which the people found their soul, sensed their essential unity, and through common sacrifice realised their kinship, man with man, and class with class. It made us one. This new calamity has had a directly opposite result. It has enthroned discord, set class against class, struck a deadly blow at all the ideals of national fellowship that are worth preserving, and actually threatens the existence of the State.

This is not the moment to apportion blame; and we deprecate in the strongest terms the attempt that is being made in some quarters to identify the strike leaders and their supporters with the criminal designs of foreign revolutionaries. This is possible only in the case of men of alien minds. Is the mentality of men like Mr. Clynes, Mr. J.H. Thomas, Mr. Herbert Smith, and Mr. Ramsay McDonald an alien mentality? The suggestion is ludicrous. These men are thoroughly characteristic products of our own life; they belong to us, and we in a vital sense to them, and it is a shameful and wicked thing to suggest that they would so far forget their birthright and the greatness of their responsibilities not only to their own class, but to the country that bore and bred them, that they would stoop to play the game of international firebrands and unscrupulous Muscovy Jews.

Neither must we, on the other hand, give credit to the equally iniquitous idea that the Government with its eyes open precipitated the crash. It may have been dilatory in its methods; it may have exaggerated the constitutional enormity of the T.U.C.'s pretensions, but if there is one man in the country today whose sincerity and intellectual honesty is beyond all question, it is Mr. Stanley Baldwin. He did not welcome this crisis, and from what we know of him both as an English gentleman, and a Statesman, we may be sure of this - that his heart will be stirred less by the thought of industrial chaos than by the knowledge that, if a solution be not quickly found, millions of helpless people in the humblest ranks of life will suffer, and their children with them, without hope of redress and in pathetic ignorance of the root-causes of their distress.

Let us abandon recrimination, jealousy, suspicion, and ill-will. If we must be "die-hards", let us be "die-hards" on the side of peace. This struggle must not be allowed to drag on in an atmosphere of growing antagonism. For the longer it lasts the more bitter will it become; and then - what? Revolution - "chaos and black night".

Our first duty today - the supreme duty of every man, whether Statesman or stevedore, Capitalist or penniless labourer, - is to "seek peace and ensue it".

THE SITUATION IN ABERDEEN.

The citizens of Aberdeen have borne themselves with praiseworthy calm in face of the unprecedented crisis into which the country has been plunged. This attitude is not likely to be disturbed. The leaders of the Unions whose headquarters are in Belmont Street, have consistently declared that nothing can be gained by disturbance or sabotage, and the men have shown a stolidly peaceful disposition. The opinion may be expressed that they are still stunned by the suddenness and magnitude of the issue, and they cannot be expected to realise the full extent of the chaos and paralysis which have smitten the industrial and social life of the nation. The lessons of this Terrible Week are an open book for all who have the good of Britain at heart. Let there be no recrimination, no animosity. Let the end come when it may, this must never occur again.

U.F.CHURCH AND THE CRISIS.

The Rev. D. C. Mitchell, M.A., Convener of the Public Questions Committee of the United Free Church Presbytery of Aberdeen is to submit an important resolution bearing on the Coal Dispute to the Presbytery on Monday first. The general trend of the resolution is to support law and order, and to maintain an attitude of good-will to all parties; at the same time, to solicit the Government to make every effort to resume negotiations with a view to reaching an early and satisfactory settlement.

THE PALAIS DE DANSE.

A Public Meeting convened by the Churches and Laymen's Committee was held in the Music Hall, Aberdeen, on Wednesday evening to protest against the opening of the Palais De Danse on Sundays. The Very Rev. Principal Sir George Adam Smith presided, and two motions, one a protest the other a demand were moved by the Very Rev. Principal D.S. Cairns, and Mr. J. D. Munre, Advocate. Both speakers emphasised the danger of the permit being extended to other places of entertainment in the City. This it was considered would create a real menace to the community, and deprive many of the citizens of their day of rest. Each motion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously, the audience rising en masse. The speakers also included the Hon. Mrs. MacGilchrist, Mr. Donald Mitchell, Mrs. John Brown, and Ex-Baillie Wood, and they were thanked on the call of Rev. Provost Erskine Hill. The benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Professor Cowan.

NOTHING DOING.

"Labour Day" was celebrated by a vast cessation of labour. There seems to be something the matter with the name.

AN EMPTY VICTORY.

The Sunday golfers have won a great victory at Peterhead; but as the clubhouse bar has only a six days' licence, "Pro Bono Publico" wants to know what these fellows were fighting for after all.

INWARDLY DIGESTED.

The "Daily Mail" machine-room staff refused to print the paper because it had read the leading article. This disposes of the popular notion that nobody reads leading articles.