

The Bon-Accord and Northern Pictorial

Special Strike Issue No. 5.

NEARING THE END.

The end is not yet. It may not be far off. We say this in spite of the official statement that the situation has not changed. It would be a poor compliment to the protagonists who have apparently taken up an unflinching attitude to suggest that they are prevented from coming together by the fear that their consistency, their dignity, their *amour propre* would be fatally compromised. The biggest fight that has ever taken place in the politico-social life of Britain may tail off undramatically and unsatisfactorily. It would be just as well for it to end that way. We remember the cry of "To Berlin" right up to the finish of the Great War; to-day the cry is heard "Smash the Trades Unions to smithereens." It would be much better to discover how it comes about that the workmen of Britain who profess to be perfectly loyal to constitutional and democratic ideals have allowed themselves to be bull-dosed by leaders who have set up, as the Lord Advocate says, a type of tyranny which has reached its culmination in Russia. Although these leaders may pretend to be wroth at the suggestion, they have virtually adopted the tactics that have proved so far successful in Moscow and Italy. The challenge thrown down by the "Head Centre" of the Socialist party has been met by a consolidation of sober-minded politicians like Mr. Baldwin, Lord Oxford, Lord Grey and Lord Balfour who with united voice have proclaimed that the triumph of the Strikers would entail the dethronement of Constitutional Authority. This may be an overstatement of the position if it be really the case that the Trades Unionists have been concerned about the miners alone. Should they have no ulterior idea of smashing Capitalism, according to programme, the T.U.C. will have their proposals for a resumption of negotiations tabled without further delay. Window-dressing speeches may be discounted. Mr. Baldwin can afford to open negotiations without delay, knowing as he must do that the Trades Unionists by their wanton and senseless policy of holding up the whole nation have sterilised their activities for a long time to come. Enough money has been thrown away by the Trade Unionists this last week as would have subsidised the miners for a twelve-month. One fears that a deeper purpose was behind their madness. If that purpose was Revolution, the achievement will not be now.

WHAT REVOLUTION MEANS.

Earl Balfour on The Crisis.

"Two hundred and thirty-eight years have passed since a Revolution occurred in this country whose object was to secure the supremacy of Parliamentary Government and the traditional liberties of our people. Through eight generations it has proved successful. But we are now threatened, it seems, with a revolution of a very different kind, and it behoves us seriously to consider what are its practical methods, what are its avowed objects, and what would be its actual results were it, unhappily, to succeed," says the Earl of Balfour in a special contribution to the British Gazette.

Castlegate Meetings.

The Aberdeen U.F. Presbytery has arranged for a series of thirteen Sunday open-air meetings to be held at the Castlegate during the summer months. Not much superstition here, eh!

Edinburgh Railway Accident.

A railway accident occurred outside Waverley Station, Edinburgh, yesterday. Two passengers were killed while others suffered from shock. The driver of the passenger train escaped serious injury.

Jackularity.

A Buchan bowler who was observed the other day trundling a barrow-load of turf, explained to an inquisitive friend that he was merely "taken' plenty o' green."

The Old, Old Story.

A correspondent says the beach needs brightening up. It does; but the donkeys object.

COUNCIL AND TRAMWAYMEN.

The Aberdeen tramwaymen may find themselves in serious difficulties if they do not return to work. It appears that some of the older drivers have resumed, but an intimation has been sent to the tramwaymen that unless they return to work immediately, the Town Council will have to consider the question of dismissing them from the service. It may be too that the super-annuation benefits may be sacrificed. It is significant that a special meeting of the Town Council has been called for this afternoon "to consider as to granting powers to the Special (Emergency) Committee to deal with all matters affecting Corporation departments arising out of the present crisis."

Presbytery and Strike.

The national crisis was under consideration at the meeting of the Aberdeen U. F. Presbytery yesterday, and the following resolution, moved by Rev. D. C. Mitchell and seconded by Principal Cairns, was agreed to;—The United Free Church Presbytery, in view of the national emergency created by the coal dispute, calls upon the members within its bounds, to support law and order, to maintain an attitude of goodwill to all parties concerned, and to rely with confidence on God, whose will is wise and sovereign. They earnestly appeal to all parties involved in the dispute to make every effort to resume negotiations, and to urge an early and satisfactory settlement.

Harbour Board

At a meeting of the Harbour Board, yesterday afternoon, the Lord Provost made reference to the death of Mr. John Ross, and it was resolved to record the Board's appreciation of his services in the minutes. A sub-committee was formed to go fully into the question of the Graving Dock, which is not expected to be ready for the Iceland fishing.

Fatal Accident.

A very sad* accident has occurred at Cairnery Quarries, where George Anderson (9), son of Mr. George Anderson, 16 Catherine Street, ventured into a hole, and sunk in the mire. A companion went in search of something to get him out, but by the time he returned no trace of the boy could be found. The police were informed and continued to search, but up to a late hour last evening, their efforts were in vain.

Cheering Craiginches.

A vocal and instrumental concert arranged by the Central Sisterhood was given in Craiginches Prison on Saturday afternoon. The soloists were Miss Kemp, Miss Davidson, Mr. W. Rebecca and Mr. W. E. Gauld, while violin selections were given by the Rennie family. Several humorous sketches were also contributed by Mr. Hobbs. Misses Gauld and Rennie were accompanists. All the items were thoroughly enjoyed. Mrs. W. E. Gauld, the Sisterhood President, was thanked by the Governor for her kindness in providing so excellent an entertainment.

Miners International.

Mr. Frank Hodges, secretary of the Miners International, in a statement issued yesterday, said there had been no request for a general strike on the continent.

Customs Control of Coal.

The Customs Authorities are meantime taking control of ships arriving at local ports with coal. The object of this step is to ensure that an equal distribution of coal may be available throughout the country.

Emergency regulations provide that not more than one hundredweight of coal per week may be obtained for domestic purposes by any one household, and that for industrial consumption generally, supplies will be restricted by fifty per cent.

Another Minister Leaves.

At the meeting of the Aberdeen U.F. Presbytery yesterday, the call presented to Rev. Alexander Gray, Belhelvie, to Nithill U.F. Church, Glasgow, was unanimously upheld. Rev. Mr. Gray has been six years at Belhelvie.