

THE PREMIER'S PLEDGE.

Mr. Baldwin Stands by His Word.

The Prince of Wales occupied a seat in the Peers' Gallery in the House of Commons last night when a crowded house listened to interesting statements on the strike by the leaders of the Opposition Parties.

The debate was initiated by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, who said the strike which terminated the previous day was purely an industrial struggle. The step taken on Wednesday was, he thought, the right step. Yesterday, he was informed, that there were more men out than on Wednesday. That was because employers were offering terms which would make it impossible to continue industry under reasonable conditions. He emphasised the point that the men must be treated as self-respecting workmen who were not going to crawl back and not be treated as human beings.



Mr. J. H. Thomas asked every employer in the House who had any influence to substantiate the plea of the Prime Minister.

Mr. Lloyd George said what defeated the general strike was the action of public opinion. The Government was bound to see that there was no victimisation on either side. The country wanted to get peace as quickly as possible. There was never a time when it could less afford a prolongation of the industrial controversy.

The Prime Minister, in reply, said the supreme interests of this country to-day required that the largest body of men should be brought back to work at the earliest possible moment. Their duty was to escape from the consequences of this unhappy controversy, and the less they said about it at present the better were their chances of success. He had given no pledges at all during this conflict except one and that was that those who helped the Government should not suffer for having done so. "If ever I went back on that pledge who could ever trust me again? Who could ever trust the Government again? I will not countenance any attack on the part of any employer to use the present occasion for trying to get in any way reduction in wages or any increase of hours. Unemployment must be greater for a time in consequence of what has happened. I stand by every word of the message which I broadcast. If I fail to carry it out to everyone's satisfaction, it will not be for the want of trying."

The Prime Minister, proceeding, said he wished to warn the House not to accept the stories that fly about in the Lobby. They did nothing but harm. "Do let us remember that tomorrow, responsible people, the Employers' Federation and the Union negotiators are meeting in some of the most delicate and difficult work they have ever been called upon to perform, and let us do nothing in this House to hamper them in their efforts."

The "Bon-Accord" Leads.

This is the fifth number of the "Bon-Accord" special Strike Emergency issues. It takes the place of the regular weekly number of "The Bon-Accord and Northern Pictorial." So far as the printing is concerned the crisis has not passed at the hour of going to press, and pending the return to normal conditions recourse has again been had to the methods of reproduction adopted since the strike began. The experience of this week has been unique and "The Bon-Accord" can be said to be the only paper in the United Kingdom, that has been at this time printed, in part, direct from the lithographic stone. This fact should be interesting and instructive to the printing trade. We desire to acknowledge the cordiality of the reception extended to the paper on its daily appearance from last Saturday till the calling off of the General Strike. It is worthy of note that "The Bon-Accord" with the printed announcement of the termination of the strike was on sale in the city four minutes after the receipt of the official statement.

LATEST SPORT.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL.

Plebiscite of Clubs on Senior Proposals

(By "Argus")

The General Committee of the Scottish Junior F.A., met in Carlton Place, a short time ago. One of the chief items on the agenda was the S.F.A. proposals to junior clubs regarding the taking away of junior players. Although considerable discussion took place, the position was in no way advanced towards a settlement. It was surprising, in view of the importance of an early agreement, that a definite decision for acceptance or rejection was not arrived at. The decision to have a plebiscite of all clubs in membership of the S.J.F.A. was carried unanimously. The vote will be "For" or "Against" the acceptance of the proposals.

Several points of great interest arose during the discussion, and comment upon them here may be of some assistance to club officials when endeavouring to arrive at a decision, either for acceptance or rejection of the proposals.

The East of Scotland delegates showed a strong attitude against acceptance of the proposals as they at present stand. Inquiries as to whether the proposals were the final decision of the S.F.A. were met by President J. M. Harley in emphatic manner. The proposals are final and admit of nothing further in the meantime.

A junior player, who signs a professional senior form, is committed to the senior club. The consent, however, of the junior club must be given before the player can play for the senior club, unless the Compensation Committee have met and decided the claim of the junior club. The provisional form holds for a period of fourteen days, but should the Compensation Committee not have met within that time, an extension will be given.

It must, of course, be noted that, in the event of a senior club meeting the requirements of the proposed agreement, and with the sanction of the junior club, they may play the player signed on the provisional form. The player who signs a senior professional form, does not injure his junior status! It will be observed however, that the senior provisional form is a contract, and the player must be very careful ere he puts his signature on such a form.

The acceptance of the S.F.A. proposals by Aberdeen clubs is almost certain to be unanimous. The local conditions cannot exist any longer, and the proposals are a distinct advance upon the present condition of affairs. The whole of the proposals can really be summed up in the official extract as follows:—

Any club in membership of the Scottish Football Association shall be entitled to register any Scottish Junior F.A. on a provisional registration form. On the player being provisionally registered, the club registering him shall thereupon refund to his junior club the actual signing fee paid—which shall not exceed £5. Where no signing fee has been paid, a minimum sum of £2 shall be paid.

The provisional registration shall not be completed unless the clubs are agreed upon the compensation which shall not exceed £30, save as hereinafter provided. Failing agreement between the clubs as to the amount of compensation, the registration of the player shall not be completed until the question of compensation has been fixed by the Committee hereinafter mentioned. A junior player who has been registered provisionally with the Scottish Football Association, but does not play for the club registering him, shall not forfeit his junior status.

Any dispute or difference arising under this agreement between a club of the S.F.A., and a club of the S.J.F.A., shall be dealt with by a commission of three members of the S.F.A., and three members of the S.J.F.A., whose decision shall be final and binding upon the clubs involved. The chairman shall be one of the S.F.A. representatives, who shall have deliberate and casting votes. This committee, notwithstanding the maximum compensation as fixed at £30, shall have power in exceptional circumstances to award a sum in excess of this amount.

Golf.

The City Foursomes competition has always attracted a good deal of attention in the past, and this year is to be no exception. The ballot had again to be taken, and as last year the Murcar second string has had to drop out. The secretary of the Murcar club reports that the course is in excellent condition, and a full course is expected to be played over. The dip in front of the 6th tee has been levelled, and the fairway thus improved, while some new tees have been substituted in order to bring the length of the holes up to the best possible playing standard.

The following are some of the selected teams from which it will be seen the University four is the same as that which won the trophy last year. The other clubs are putting their strongest teams in the field, and the tournament will be a very interesting affair:—University—T. K. Anderson and W. Bremner, G. K. Ferries and G. N. Gordon; Royal Aberdeen I.—W. Matheson and D. R. Macdonald, C. M. MacEwing and A. B. Hutchison, Jr.; II.—A. Hendry and J. Macdonald, Sir J. H. Irvin and C. D. Peterkin; Murcar—A. R. Grosert and D. M. Watson, P. R. Summers and Geo. Watt; Bon-Accord I.—A. Fraser and J. G. Milne, Wm. Fairweather and J. G. Rae; II.—Jas. Middleton and John Mutch, W. A. Kinghorn and T. A. Campbell; Balnagask—Jas. Davidson and R. Walker, H. Murray and J. C. Scott; Victoria—D. Milne and Ian Williams, G. W. Cairns and G. G. Taylor; Police—R. Robb and J. Morrison, C. Symon and John Westland; Electric—D. Smith and A. Burnett, A. C. Duthie and W. R. Simpson.

Play commences at 5 p.m. on Wednesday 26th, and the semi-finals and final on Saturday 29th at 2.30 p.m., and 5.30 p.m. respectively.

Cricket.

Friendly cricket match—Shire v. Mannofield XI. at Mannofield; Teams—Shire, G. D. Cochran, R. S. Clark, A. S. Catto, A. Broadbent, O. C. Tudor, Geo. Forbes, J. W. Cameron, R. Beattie, R. S. Law, C. H. Webster and Vickerstaffe; Mannofield XI., H. A. S. Watson, Dr. W. A. Couatts, A. Wright, D. W. Davidson, W. Dawson, I. Davidson, D. J. Webster, G. B. Donaldson, W. Taylor, D. M. Munro and Alf. Simpson.