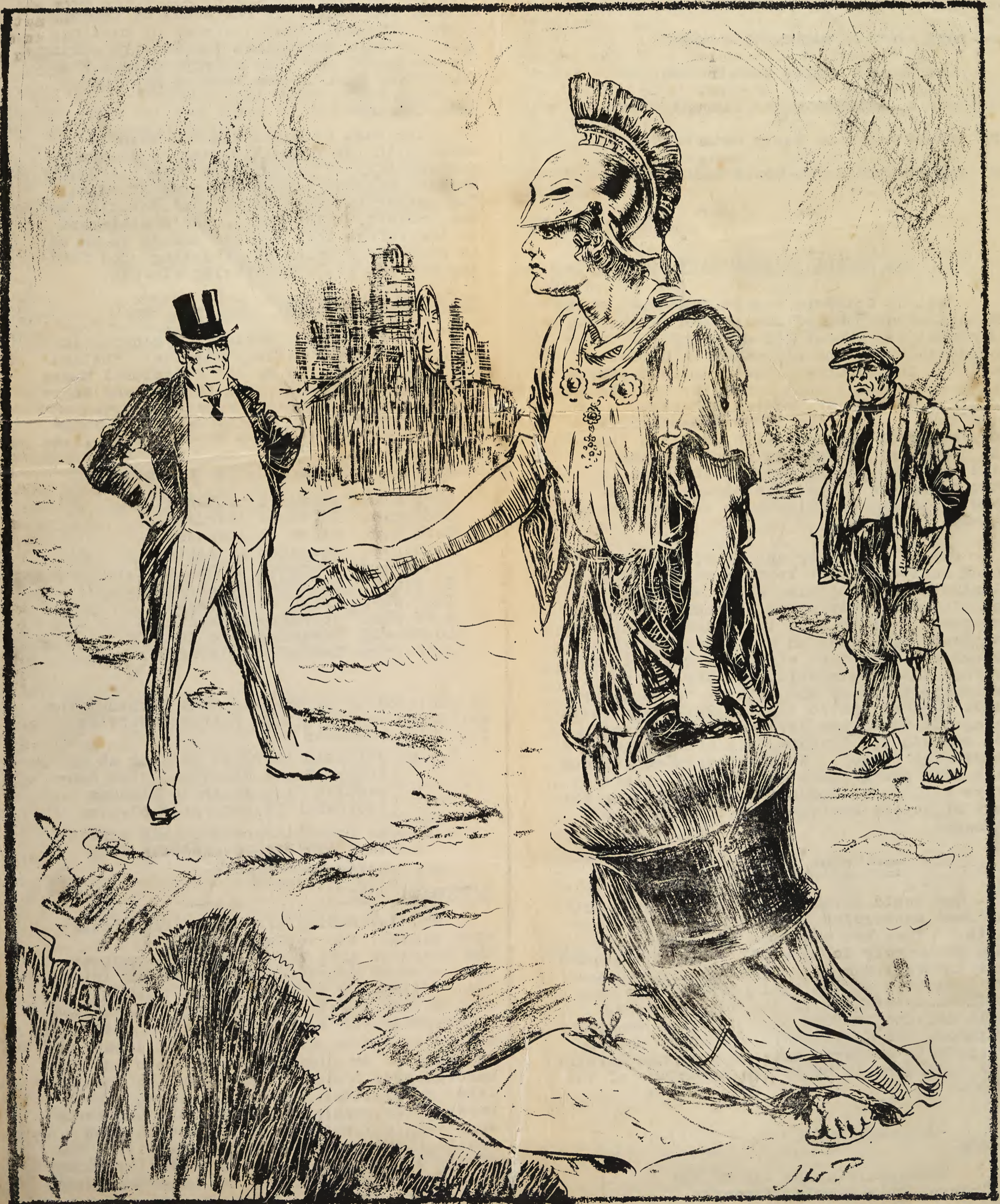


Special Strike Number.

7th May 1926.

The Bon Accord

and Northern Pictorial



The empty Scoop

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MESSAGE TO THE CITIZENS OF ABERDEEN FROM LORD PROVOST LEWIS

In this time of national trial, I appeal to all citizens to preserve order - and especially to keep away from the centre of the City, unless it is absolutely necessary for business purposes to be there.

I earnestly ask the women of the City to keep away from possible centres of disturbance, and I particularly urge upon all parents to keep their children away from the busy streets during this time.

Let us all do our best to keep up Aberdeen's reputation for law and order, and not be led into hasty acts which, in our calmer moments we would all deplore.

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THE RETURN TO NORMALITY.

Various opinions may be expressed as to the actual meaning of the phrase "returning to normality", which has been applied in connection with the situation in different parts of the country. Sober-minded people are now convinced that normality will be a remote condition of British industry. It will take a long time to re-establish the running of the machine with anything like the degree of smoothness which obtained till the end of last week. The hope is strong, however, that the struggle will come to an end as quickly as it was precipitated.

One of the important considerations which must be always kept in mind is the elimination of anything which would be calculated to keep alive rancour, and it is important to note that the Chief Civil Commissioner has given an assurance that the Government will take effectual measures to prevent the victimisation of any man who remains at work, or who returns to work, and it is further stated that no settlement will be agreed to by the Government which does not contain the fundamentals of enduring industrial peace. We have every confidence that when peace comes, as we hope speedily, there will be no thought of reprisals on the part of anyone concerned in this momentous struggle.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

One could hardly look for anything but the most unswerving loyalty from Civil Servants. They are expected at a time like this not merely to be civil, but to be acquiescent in every demand. The Joint Consultative Committee of the Civil Service say that in their opinion it is the duty of every Civil Servant in time of a national emergency to inform the departmental superior that he is ready to perform whatever work the Government considers to be to the advantage of the nation.

SAK!

Saklatvala drops out of the picture for a couple of months.

ROYAL ANNUAL.

The King and Queen are keeping in close touch with the Strike situation, and are receiving most of their information direct from Ministers. Their Majesties are in residence at Buckingham Palace, and members of the Palace Staff are offering their services in various connections.

THE T. U. C.

The General Council of the Trades' Union Congress has made it public that they would not hesitate to resume negotiations for an honourable settlement at any time, but they refuse to pay heed to the request made by the Prime Minister for an unconditional withdrawal of strike notices.

MINERS' FEDERATION.

The Executive of the Miners' Federation was in conference last night for over an hour and a half at the House of Commons. It was announced that a series of meetings is to be held throughout the country during the week-end, and that nearly forty M.P.s would take part in the various meetings.

PLAY THE GAME.

The Earl of Middleton has been in touch with the Prime Minister as to the advisability of carrying on with the County Cricket Matches during the present crisis. The matter has been under consideration by the Cabinet, which has issued a statement to the effect that Cricket should go on as it would be a means of promoting good feeling between all sport-loving classes.

THE RAILWAY SERVICE.

Latest reports indicate a general improvement in the Railway service. England saw an augmentation by 300 additional trains yesterday (Thursday), and in Scotland there were eighty more trains running between Glasgow, Edinburgh, Perth, Carlisle, Gourcock, Wemyss Bay, and the Clydeside Stations. It is officially stated that on the L.N.E.R. to-day the following trains are being run:-

9.45.a.m.	Aberdeen to Elgin.
3.35.p.m.	Elgin to Aberdeen.
9.32.a.m.	Elgin to Aberdeen.
3.35.p.m.	Aberdeen to Elgin.
10.10.a.m.	Aberdeen to Ballater.
2. p.m.	Ballater to Aberdeen.
1.3. p.m.	Keith to Aberdeen.
5.45.p.m.	Aberdeen to Keith.
10.53.a.m.	Inveramsay to Macduff.
3.10. p.m.	Macduff to Inverurie.

In addition to trains run this morning, the following is the L.M.S. Aberdeen service for this afternoon :-

2.p.m.	Aberdeen to Perth calling at intermediate Stations, with connection from Perth to Glasgow (Buchanan Street) at 5.30.p.m.
1.30.p.m.	from Glasgow (Buchanan Street) to Perth with connection from Perth to Aberdeen.

RATIONING GOAL.

Mr. Gavin Sinclair, the Burgh Procurator Fiscal, who is Coal Controller for the Aberdeen Area has issued an announcement of much domestic and industrial interest. Without a permit from Mr. Sinclair no coal beyond 1 cwt. per week may be acquired or supplied for consumption in any premises, and no coal even to the extent of 1 cwt. may be acquired or supplied where the stock in hand exceeds 5 cwts. Hospitals and such like institutions, hotels, boarding houses necessarily require such permits, and before supplying any such places, consultations should first be had with Mr. Sinclair. The supply of industrial coal has been cut down to 50% for consumption. The same percentage applies to gas and electricity for power purposes.

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 poetaster 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.

THE UPHEAVAL

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. Munro, 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 those 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 dispenses of the popular notion that nobody reads leading articles.