

disastrous day. While the religious world is thus at odds with Mr. Lloyd George, a movement has arisen in secular politics which is destined, to-day, or to-morrow, or the day after, to bring his career as Prime Minister to an end. There can be no longer any doubt that the continued rout of the Ministerial candidates in the constituencies has at last produced a crisis in the Tory Party, and that their association with the Coalition is at stake. For a false situation has suddenly grown into an intolerable one. Mr. George was never their chief; and now his political mind and theirs, or rather his entire scheme and method of government, are in active opposition. The whole sympathy of the Tory leaders and the average Tory voter is with the anti-waste propaganda which is sweeping over the country like a flood. To-day the Government does not own a safe seat in Great Britain and Ireland. It lacks even the power to save itself from anti-waste by grovelling to it. Nor is anti-waste a passing fad. There are elements, personal and political, in this agitation which we hope never to see linked, directly or indirectly, with the government of England. But with the mass of the electors it is no more a deliberate act than the flight of sheep to shelter in a storm. The country stands on the brink of industrial and financial ruin; and if ever there was a natural wastrel at the head of affairs, it is Mr. George. The Prime Minister's mishandling of the nation is, in our view, complete. He destroys, without a touch of creative energy; and his extraordinary talent for politics has revealed his complete incapacity for government. In two years he has led us to a pass in which the industrial force of Britain has almost ceased to operate. This country may have great possessions and prestige; but trade is its life-blood, and that is flowing away in a drain of taxes such as no prospering community could ever sustain and live. But England is not prosperous. She has lost much trade since the war, and, taking her most formidable competitors, it is doubtful whether she stands within 40 to 60 per cent. of the German or American rate of production, even in her established and staple industries. Cotton stands secure; can as much be said of any other great industrial occupation? Nor is there any firm prospect of recovery for our stricken foreign trade. Mr. George has utterly antagonised Labor, and he has cruelly penalised it. The workman is threatened with the loss of the standard of living he won during the war; but even if that goes and real wages sink to the level of 1914 or below it, the problem of industry remains unsolved, for it is the *morale* and the productive power of Labor, not its reward, which is to-day the critical factor. This, again, the Government cannot stimulate, and has done much to depress and destroy. The trouble, therefore, is moral; trust is gone, and cannot be restored. There is to-day not a segment of industrial England that believes in Mr. George's management of its affairs. To get rid of so characterless a thing is not an act of political convenience. It is the instinct of a community in fear of its life and in doubt of its future.

Now the chief agent in the coming fall of Mr. George is, as we have said, the revolt of the Conservative Party. Its allegiance to the Coalition is undermined, and any moment may see it formally withdrawn. The question is what part Labor and Liberalism are to play in the decree of eviction which has gone out against the Government. The Tory Party desires, beyond doubt, to manage England on anti-waste principles, and with a leader whom it trusts. We are afraid it is too much to hope that its choice will fall on an enlightened progressive like Lord Robert Cecil, or that the causes of free trade and liberty in Ireland would be safe in its hands. For that reason we should much prefer the more rational and enlightened alternative of a Government formed from the best elements in Labor, in Liberalism, and in the ranks of the free Conservatives. But that is an act of statesmanship to which at present neither Labor nor Liberalism has proved itself equal. In our view the Labor Party's isolation has been a capital error. The political power of Labor depends on its industrial strength, and in the storm which is coming that may be shaken to its foundations. But for the moment we are not in presence of a purely political movement, to which we can freely apply the test of ideas or of definite political principles. The anti-wastrels do not associate Mr. George's failure in government with his moral defects,

with the blunder and the infamy of his policy on Reparations, or with the fearful errors he committed at Versailles. The country is simply frightened, and anxious, in its fright, to be rid of an adventurer, whom it begins to regard as a public danger. That is substantially true. Mr. George is a great political artist, and he has had the time of his life with the Sassenach. But in four years he has demoralised England and nearly ruined her, and she is fast making up her mind to have no more of him.

OBITUARY

MR. FRANK McMANUS, EKETAHUNA.

(From a correspondent.)

There passed away on August 8, at his residence Eketahuna, North Wairarapa, after a short illness, Mr. Frank McManus, an old and highly respected resident of the district. He had been engaged in farming pursuits for many years. The late Mr. McManus was born in Kilnakeilly, Co. Fermanagh, Ireland, and came out to New Zealand when a young man. The deceased was a fervent Catholic and true-born Irishman, and all through his life a fearless advocate of the national rights of his country. He was a subscriber to the *Tablet*, and looked forward every week with great eagerness to its arrival. The interment took place in the Eketahuna Cemetery, Rev. Father Kennedy (who attended him in his last illness), officiating at the graveside. The funeral was largely attended, showing the respect in which the deceased was held in the whole community. He leaves a wife and family of six to mourn their loss. The sons are Messrs. F. and L. McManus of Eketahuna, and J. K. McManus of the Public Trust Office, Auckland, and the daughters are Miss McManus of Newtown school staff, Wellington; Nurse McManus of the New Plymouth Public Hospital, and Miss Marjorie McManus of the staff of the Eketahuna school.—R.I.P.

MR. MICHAEL MAHER, WELLINGTON.

(From a correspondent.)

There recently passed away peacefully at his residence, Thorndon Quay, Wellington, another of the fast disappearing band of old settlers, in the person of Mr. Michael Maher. The late Mr. Maher had attained the age of something like 87 years, and up to a short time of his death retained mental faculties, rarely met with at his time of life. He, his mother, two brothers, and a sister, were amongst the very early settlers at Wellington, which then was very little more than a Maori village, and experienced all the hardships and vicissitudes incidental to early colonial life. The deceased was a very fine man, and a practical Catholic, and had assisted the Church in many ways, especially in the old St. Mary's Cathedral days, then under the late Right Rev. Dr. Viard, S.M., and the early Marist Fathers. He, too, in the sixties, along with John Bowerman, Francis O'Sullivan, Robert Kane, Richard Duignan, John Sheridan, Edward Gibbs, Salvatore Cimino, Thomas Hodgins, Nicholas Reid, James Weight, Mathew Segrief, Edward McDonald, Reginald Vincent, and others assisted to establish the St. Mary's Catholic Young Men's Society of that time, under the presidency of the late Father M. L. Cummins, S.M., having for its object weekly Communions, a good library and weekly meetings of its members for recitations, readings, and original composition by its members. Mr. Maher, too, was of late years a member of the Thorndon committee of the Catholic Federation. His funeral which was a private one, by desire, took place at the Basilica.—R.I.P.

Learn to live and live to learn,
Ignorance like a fire doth burn,
Little tasks make large returns.

—Bayard Taylor.

CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART, TIMARU

A SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR LADIES will begin on SATURDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 3, and end on WEDNESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 7.

The Director of the Retreat will be REVEREND FATHER HANNIGAN, O.S.S.R.,.

Ladies desirous of attending should apply promptly to the Reverend Mother Superior.

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