

it remember that those who drew the sword often perished by it.

Bevin laid special stress upon the determination of the Council that the food supplies of the whole community should be ensured and that there should be no interference with hospitals, schools, houses, and so on. This was very well received.

After him came a few words of blunt eloquence from John Bromley, a discourse of considerable length and quivering vitality from Herbert Smith, and a magnificently energetic short speech by MacDonald.

The Leader of the Parliamentary Party was at the top of his form.

"It is a crime against society," he cried, "this decision of the Government to fight against the standard of life of our people." He made an earnest appeal for renewal of negotiations, and ended up with a promise that in the House of Commons the miners should be supported "until right and justice have been done."

Then Pugh put it to the meeting, "Was the action of the General Council approved?"

A great roar of "Aye" shook the building.

"To the contrary?" inquired Pugh.

No voice was raised.

So the General Strike was determined upon, and then, naturally, came "The Red Flag," in which, by the way, MacDonald joined heartily, forgetting all he has said about its being so poor a tune.

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That was at half-past two in the afternoon. By nine o'clock in the evening negotiations had begun again. They would have been successful if Baldwin's disastrous weakness of character had not let the "wild men" in the Cabinet once more get the upper hand.

The break on Friday night (April 30th) had been attributed to the arrival of Diehard members, Lord Salisbury, a lath who looks like a lath (Bismarck said his father was "a lath painted to look like iron"), and Neville Chamberlain among them. Birkenhead was reasonable. The lawyer side of his brain came upper-