

## Chapter VII

### AFTERMATH

IT is nearly eight years since the Armistice, and those years have been filled with industrial strife and increasing social animosity. If I have passed over the war period lightly it is because of the absence of any records that could make up a coherent story. All that I have sought to establish has been the two salient facts, that Labour did face the war in a British spirit and with an honest desire to do its duty whatever the consequences. If the example shown by the colliers and the engineers had been emulated by capitalism, I cannot think that the war would have cost one third of its ultimate amount, or that it would have ended as it did so indefinitely.

But I have, for the purpose of these pages, little interest in the military aspect of the war; I am much more concerned with setting forth the grave difficulty which it created against the possibility of industrial peace in our own time. The war was over, yet war *morale* and war mentality prevailed. As soon as the prohibitory regulations against strikes and lockouts were eased and lifted, there was a startling recrudescence of industrial disturbance. During 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, the recorded days of stoppage through strikes amounted to 17,700,000 for the four years. This, I am aware, is an under-statement of what actually occurred, but even if we multiply the figure by five, a comparison between these four years and the four