

AFTER four years of Conservative Government the Labour Party renews its appeal to the people of Great Britain. Its opponents have had their opportunity. They asked the nation for a crushing majority, and, thanks to the exploitation of a fraudulent conspiracy—a conspiracy of which many honest Conservatives are now heartily ashamed—the majority was accorded them. The consequences to-day are patent to all. Of the electors who complied with the exhortation to forget England and remember Russia there are now, it is probable, comparatively few who regard the results of their altruism with unmixed satisfaction.

“STABILITY”—FOR WHOM?

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a characteristic speech, has claimed that the Cabinet has “given a period of stability to the country.” It has indeed. In its determination to make the world safe for the plutocracy which, it affects to believe, is the only conceivable form of civilisation, it has fastened on the nation a stability more alarming than many crises—the stability of aimlessness, of torpor, and, should it continue, of decay. It has stabilised luxury and squalor, private waste and public parsimony, idleness and the disorganisation of productive industry, an expenditure upon armaments which, in spite of trifling reductions, is still extravagant, and a not less extravagant economy upon the services which fortify the health and enrich the spirit of the whole community. It has even contemplated the stabilisation in perpetuity of the supremacy of property and the Tory Party, by the creation of a new House of Lords with a permanent Conservative majority, and with powers even greater than those of which it was deprived by the Parliament Act. The only detail it has forgotten to stabilise is a civilised standard of life for the workers of Great Britain.

Whether they are workers who initiate and organise and plan, or who execute and manipulate and construct; whether they labour in the mine, in the factory and on the farm, or in the laboratory of the scientist and the office of the administrator, it is by their energy and their skill, their intelligence and their devotion that the fabric of civilisation has been reared in the past and is maintained to-day. It is to them, in the first place, that the Labour Party addresses its appeal. It speaks, not as the agent of this class or that, but as the political organ created to express the needs and voice the aspirations of all who share in the labour which is the lot of mankind. They know, and it knows, that the force which sustains society is not passive property, but creative effort, and that, by science, co-operation, and the spirit of service, the world can be made a more tolerable abode for future generations. It calls upon them with confidence to aid it in its task.

THE LABOUR PARTY AND SOCIALISM

The Labour Party, since it holds that creed, is a Socialist party. Its aim is the organisation of industry, and the administration of the wealth which industry produces, in the interest, not of the small minority (less than 10 per cent. of the population) who own the greater part of the land, the plant and the equipment without access to which