

involved to themselves. They will judge the present Government, as Governments should be judged, not by its words, but by its deeds—by its achievements, its actions and its omissions.

THE RECORD OF THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT

The Labour Party accepts that criterion. When once again it assumes office, it not only will be willing, but will desire, that the nation should judge it by its works. But, if it demands to be tried by its record itself, it demands no less that the same just measure should be applied to its opponents. It is not Socialism which to-day is in the dock, but the policy of parties to whom Socialism is anathema. With one short interval of eight months, Conservatives, or Conservatives and Liberals in coalition—for, though they are sparring to-day, they are old allies—have governed Great Britain since the day when they hailed, with outward enthusiasm and inward terror, the dawn of the new era of social justice which, as both of them so often and so eloquently explained, the return of peace was to usher in. How have these masters of state-craft used the power entrusted them by the confidence of their fellow-countrymen in the traditional wisdom of the governing classes? What sort of world have they created as an alternative to the Socialist Commonwealth? The answer to that question, the Labour Party submits, is not in doubt.

The Betrayal of the Unemployed

For four years more than a million workers have been deprived, through no fault of their own, of the opportunity of adding their quota to the nation's output of wealth. The Government has refused either to take steps to check the occurrence of unemployment, or to make adequate provision for those who are its victims. In the teeth of expert opinion, it has declined to make their maintenance a national responsibility. On the contrary, it has by two different Statutes imposed more restrictive conditions. While making a present of over £40,000,000 to the payers of income-tax and super-tax, it has established lower scales of unemployment benefit for large numbers of insured workers, and has driven thousands of them, including the soldiers who ten years ago were the saviours of the nation, to the degradation of relief at the hands of an overburdened Poor Law.

The Betrayal of Organised Labour

The wage-earner's bulwark against oppression is his Trade Union. The Government has used its majority in an endeavour to hamstring the industrial strength of Trade Unionism, and, while itself financed by the cheques of the rich, has not been ashamed to cripple the political activities paid for by the coppers of the poor.

The Betrayal of Industry

The coal industry, on which a population of some four million persons depends, and with whose economic prosperity the life of the whole community is inextricably intertwined, has relapsed into a