

of the world—reservations which are incompatible with the Covenant of the League of Nations.

While spending large sums on armaments, it demanded, through the British Delegation to Geneva, a reduction in the budget of the League of Nations, though the League is the principal bulwark which stands between the world and the horrors of another war.

### *The Betrayal of International Labour*

In the teeth of the wishes, not only of the Trade Union Movement, but of the more far-sighted employers, the Conservative Government has declined to ratify the international convention for a 48-hour week, adopted as long ago as 1919 by the International Labour Conference at Washington. Not only so, but, ignoring the agreement reached in 1924, when a Labour Government was in office, between the Labour Ministers of Great Britain, France, Germany and Belgium, it has actually initiated a movement for the revision of the convention, which, if successful, would make the international establishment of the 48-hour week incapable of attainment. It has done so in spite of the fact that the agreement was signed by the British representatives, that the International Labour Office has pressed for its adoption, and that Great Britain, with her world-wide economic interests, has most to gain by the establishment, through international action, of equitable standards of life and work, and most to lose by the continuance of unregulated international competition. The inevitable result of the Government's action is that other industrial nations have declined to enforce international standards of hours, and that goods manufactured abroad under sweated conditions continue to invade British markets.

Is it any wonder that the Conservative Government should be regarded as the principal bulwark of reaction in Europe, and that foreign observers should remark that, though Great Britain won the war, she is losing the peace?

### LIBERAL PRACTICE AND LIBERAL PROGRAMMES

The Conservative Government does not stand alone as the architect of confusion.

It was a Coalition of Liberals and Conservatives, with a Liberal Prime Minister at its head, which made the disastrous Treaties of Peace and which must bear the blame for the economic ruin created by them.

It was a Coalition of Liberals and Conservatives which betrayed the Miners in 1919, and two years later plunged the Coal Industry in chaos by a hasty and ill-considered measure of decontrol; which first summoned the National Industrial Conference, and then, at a whisper of capitalist disapproval, rejected its findings; which, under the premiership of Mr. Lloyd George, destroyed the machinery of Land Valuation—the boasted achievement of his own Budget of 1909; which advertised a programme of social reconstruction till returned to power,