

occupation and enjoyment of their land, to prevent absolutely forced labour, whatever form it may assume, and to ensure that contracts between native workers and European employers are entered upon voluntarily and not under duress, that such contracts are subject to the approval of a public authority, and that they embody terms securing to the workers equitable conditions of life and employment. It will encourage the development of the services concerned with health and education. Its policy will be based upon the firm conviction that all the dependencies of the Crown ought, as soon as possible, to become self-governing States. It will take steps, therefore, to transfer to the inhabitants of these countries, without distinction of race or colour, such measure of political responsibility as they are capable of exercising, while imperial responsibility for their government will be maintained during the period preceding the establishment of democratic institutions. It will instruct the Governments of these countries to extend to their native inhabitants such rights as may already, as a result either of legislative or administrative measures, have been acquired by Europeans, and to make it their chief aim, by education and otherwise, to prepare the whole body of their inhabitants for self-government. It will co-operate cordially with the Mandates Commission of the League of Nations, and will make every effort to strengthen and extend its authority.

THE IMPLICATIONS OF DEMOCRACY

The Labour Party makes no pretence of offering a final solution of all the problems that will confront the nation during the coming years. It believes, however, that the condition of handling those problems successfully is a frank recognition on the part of public opinion that the policy of uncompromising resistance to economic and social reconstruction, which, with one short interval, has been pursued by successive Governments since 1918, is based on a profound misconception of the real position of Great Britain to-day, and must result, if continued, in disaster to the nation.

The Bankruptcy of Capitalism

As the Labour Party sees the situation, changes both in economic and political organisation and in the realm of thought have combined to undermine beyond repair the social order inherited from the nineteenth century. Designed for the conditions of a world in which Great Britain had a virtual monopoly of certain fundamental conditions of economic success, and carried forward, long after that monopoly had disappeared, by the impetus derived from its initial momentum, British industry can to-day secure well-being for the mass of the population only if it consolidates its forces, eliminates waste, and calls in the resources of science and organisation to make good the lost advantage of priority of development.

But the gross and scandalous inefficiency of Capitalism in a score of industries—an inefficiency exposed in a long series of official publications, and which even its champions no longer venture to deny—