

Civil

General situation is unchanged. Chief/Commissioner reports that food and fuel position is everywhere satisfactory. Country is on whole quiet no serious disorder having occurred anywhere. There has been no bloodshed, wounding injury of property or looting worth speaking of at such grave crisis. No collision between troops and strikers has occurred. Not a shot has been fired and no large military movements have taken place. On whole throughout ENGLAND attempted obstruction by pickets to movement of necessary supplies has weakened and to-day is being more effectually overcome. Recrudescence of rioting at Hull attempted obstruction by pickets to movement of necessary supplies has weakened and to-day is being more effectually overcome and similar outbreak occurred at Middlesborough. In both cases they were suppressed and numerous arrests were made. On LONDON-THAMESHAVEN Rd. attempts to interrupt convoys were marked by stone throwing and bottle throwing. Strong reinforcements were however available and it is stated that this route will be brought under strict control. Complete confidence and order are maintained throughout London Dock area. Convoys are moving freely in and out of docks. Work of loading and unloading vessels by volunteer labour is proceeding and increasing continually. No difficulty is experienced in re-equipping of London and it is intended to keep Port of London regularly opened. Situation at all Ports is distinctly better than last week. Cunard Company has issued a statement that 16 vessels entered and left Liverpool yesterday. Situation in Scotland has improved. There has been rioting in Glasgow and Edinburgh and at smaller places but nothing serious has occurred and as in England Civil Authorities have been able to cope with any trouble without military aid. Saturday's Railway Services showed further extension and large improvement on all lines particularly Southern and Great Western, announced for to-morrow. Underground services are all ready regular and Great Western Railway has received many applications by strikers to return to work. Southern Railway reports that over 12,000 of their employees of all grades are at work and that there are indications that numbers of other men of all grades on various parts of system desire to return. L.M.S. Rly. state that 44,000 of their men remain at work and that number of their men of all grades are returning. Same applies to other Rly. systems and is occurring in other occupations. In particular printing works in provinces are receiving applications from

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from strikers who desire to return and from several towns it is reported that newspapers in their normal form are in prospect for tomorrow. Tramway service in provincial towns also resuming with large numbers of their normal staffs.

Churches today were exceptionally attended and many strikers took part in services at which special reference was made to present crisis and prayers for peace were offered up.

Only trifling number of strikers have been implicated in any rowdyism which has occurred and in most centres their conduct has been most exemplary. Their relations with the police have been most cordial. In PLYMOUTH yesterday football matches between police and strikers at which Chief Constable's wife kicked off. At LEWES Teams representing police and strikers are engaged in billiard match. In FOREST OF DEAN Strikers have placed themselves at disposal of police for maintenance of order. At HAMMERSMITH Busdrivers on strike have paraded locality urging less orderly men to refrain from damaging buses which are being driven by volunteer labour.

Official Communique states "Tranquil and improving appearances and it is evident that powers of govt. must not, however, lead anyone to forget increasing arrest of all business and production and growing hardships and impoverishment to which whole of people are being subjected."

Prime Minister, who, despite his present anxieties, is in best of health, reviewed situation in a speech broadcasted by wireless telephony. There were, he said, two distinct issues - stoppage in coal industry and general strike. Regarding the former he had done his utmost to secure agreement on basis of coal commission report. T.U.C. declared that this was merely an industrial dispute and their method was to attack community as a whole. He, as Prime Minister, did not believe that any honest person could not doubt that his whole desire was to maintain standard of living. He was ready to press employers to make any sacrifice to this end consistent with keeping industry itself in working order.

As to possibility of opening negotiations, Prime Minister repeated that T.U.C. had only to cancel general strike absolutely and without reserve and withdraw challenge they had issued and govt. could immediately begin with them, with utmost care and patience, long labourous task which had been pursued for many weeks of endeavour to rebuild, on economic foundation, prosperity of country and its trade.

British Wireless Press.