

—*Aimée de Coigny*—; parmi une quantité d'articles de revue, dont chacun est, en quelque sorte, un chapitre de notre histoire contemporaine, pas une phrase, pas une vraiment, qui soit négligée. Plus encore que le respect de la phrase, il avait le culte de l'idée. Certain de ses amis lui reprochait de mettre dans ses phrases, "moins de mots que d'idées". Il y a là quelque chose de vrai. Mais quel amour et quel sens de l'harmonie et de la distinction! Comme le dit M. Trogan, dans l'article que j'ai déjà cité: "La beauté littéraire l'a séduit très jeune et, comme toutes les passions, elle l'a quelquefois conduit un peu loin des sentiers battus du vulgaire. Il aime balancer la pensée, aménager des contrastes, affiner des antithèses. De là un plaisir exquis et rare à déguster..."

Dans le monde académique, où les incroyants ne manquent pas, l'écrivain catholique s'attira très vite

une considération toute spéciale. Certains de ses discours furent admirés à la façon des modèles. Quand la place de secrétaire perpétuel devint vacante, on l'y nomma comme l'écrivain tout désigné pour la remplir.

Il termina sa vie par un grand acte de générosité où s'unissent les sentiments du patriote et du chrétien. Il consacra une somme de 500,000 francs, (presque tout ce qu'il possédait) à favoriser la repopulation c'est-à-dire à encourager, par des prix annuels, les familles nombreuses, pauvres et méritantes. Comme les hommages des lettrés, la reconnaissance des humbles salue la mémoire de l'écrivain dont toute la vie a été un noble enseignement.

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## The Social Crisis in England

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THE present condition of England is not at all healthy. Those who hoped that the comradeship of men of all classes in the trenches would lead to greater social harmony after the war have been disappointed. There never was a time when labour unrest was more threatening, than it is today. It would be a bad thing for any writer to give a despairing account of the country's future. Depression is a dangerous vice for a patriot during the critical times of peace as well as of war. Personally I am not at all inclined to despair, but I realize that the greatest courage and determination is necessary if England is to be saved from civil disorder and economic ruin in the days ahead.

The facts are these. During four years Britain has borne the principal economic burden of the war. She has borrowed billions of dollars and she will be burdened for generations with their repayment. The vast securities she held in America, the mortgages on American real estate, the shares in American railways, banks and every kind of industrial enterprise have mostly been liquidated during the war in order to raise ready money. Instead of Britain receiving millions yearly in interest and dividends from America she will now have to be paying millions. Nearly a million of Britain's able-bodied men have been killed; a still greater number have been more or less seriously disabled; roads have gone out of repair; public utility works of every kind have been at a standstill; existing capital stock has depreciated; no building has been done for four years except for war purposes; and consequently there is a house famine and a school famine, and so on.

Britain has to make up for all this destruction. Obviously the only way to do this is by increased pro-

duction. But apparently this obvious necessity is not perceived by a great many of the British people. Demands are put forward for shorter hours of labour and increased wages so that the standard of comfort generally may be higher than it was before the war. And to enforce these demands strikes are daily occurring in the basic industries of the country. A strike, of course, is a stoppage of production. It is so much dead loss to the country, so much more weight to the crushing burden that the nation already bears. What is the result? Industry is paralysed. Business men are afraid to make contracts because they never know when their works may be closed down by a strike either among their own employees or in connected industries. Foreign competitors gain British export trade and unemployment exists as a growing problem.

This manner of writing implies condemnation of strikes and of strikers. I do not hesitate to utter this condemnation. He is no friend of labour who only flatters labour irrespective of right or wrong. As a matter of fact, the strongest condemnations of the present strike movement in England have come from veteran leaders of labour unions who are aghast at the new spirit of irresponsibility that is rampant. It is true that the past policy of the employing classes is largely to blame for the present difficulties. In the days of their power employers were often ruthless exploiters and profiteers. Now that labour enjoys strategic advantages we find many sections of the working classes showing the same ruthlessness. But this does not alter the fact that the present spirit of disorder must bring calamity to the whole nation, the wage-earners themselves included.

The urgent business of every patriot is to restore