

STRIKE GRIPS NATION:

Nearly all work is at a standstill in Belgium. Millions are angered by the Government for proposing austerity measures, forced upon the country by the loss of revenue from the Congo. Mass demonstrations in Brussels, Antwerp, Ghent and other large towns are on the scale of an almost national strike.

Railways are at a standstill. Government proposals have incensed the nation. Strikes sprang up, one after another, only some Catholic Trade Unions withholding their support. Antwerp and other ports are idle. Inevitably, there have been outbreaks of violence, especially where non-strikers have tried to carry on.

King Baudouin cut short his honeymoon and returned from Spain. As we receive these pictures no one in Belgium seems to know the way out of this terrible situation. Untended streets are but one sign of the effect on Belgium of Congo strife, thousands of miles away.