

intense bombardment from air and sea, with the result that the enemy appears to have found Ostend untenable as a port and to have removed all his ships from that unhealthy locality. Unfortunately, the principal nest, Zeebrugge, seems to have become too strong to be rendered similarly untenable without lengthy and expensive attacks which our naval and military authorities seem determined to press now that they have been commenced in earnest. The mistake made, was in the beginning, when the Germans first occupied the place and began to fortify it. Then was the time that it might have been made too hot to hold—it should never have been allowed to grow into practically a first-rate fortress. Our naval authorities have been severely criticised for their apparent lethargy in this, but as a matter of fact the whole of the blame does not lie at their door. Other weighty considerations have operated, which had nothing to do with the Admiralty, to prevent the carrying out of what was unquestionably the proper policy. Had our own people been given the full opportunities necessary, Zeebrugge would never have become what it is to-day—one of the most powerful coast fortresses in Europe. At the same time, the British Government cannot be acquitted of all blame in the matter. In war nothing should be allowed to weigh but military necessity—political considerations should all go by the board. Had the principle been properly recognised in the beginning, there would have been no Zeebrugge to reckon with. However, tardily enough these considerations of which we speak have been relegated to their proper place in the scheme and Zeebrugge is marked out for constant attack and, if it is militarily possible, destruction. It will be an intensely difficult task and one that would be practically impossible of achievement were it not for the co-operation of aircraft. There are limits to the power of naval forces when opposed to well-conceived shore fortifications, as we learnt to our cost in the Dardanelles. We know that the fortifications of Zeebrugge have been thoroughly well developed in accordance with all the latest theory and practice, of which the Germans are past masters. The whole coast bristles with heavy ordnance, naval guns up to 15-in. calibre in large numbers having been installed among the low-lying dunes with which this part of the coast abounds. Then what may be called the permanent fortifications of the port itself have been brought to a high state of efficiency, while the approaches have been made as safe from attack as is humanly possible by a very complete system of minefields, with the services of a powerful mosquito fleet to watch and protect them. It is, therefore, thanks mainly to our superiority in the air that we are able to seriously entertain the possibility of reducing this formidable fortress to impotence. Without aerial observation gun-fire from ships which cannot approach within 10 miles in safety would, naturally, be blind and robbed of nine-tenths of its effect. Even supposing that maximum effect of fire could be produced without the services of aircraft, the job would be more difficult and would take

The Folkestone Air Raid.

A deputation, consisting of the Mayor of Folkestone (Sir S. Penfold), the Deputy Mayor (Alderman Spurgeon), the Town Clerk, and the Chief Constable waited on the Earl of Derby at the War Office on June 11 in reference to the recent air raid.

Lord Derby informed the deputation confidentially of the measures taken for the local defences of the South Coast towns. The whole question had been thoroughly considered

infinitely longer were it not possible to discharge many tons of explosives from the air, as our seaplanes have been doing for a month past. Truly, if there is one arm that more than another dominates the operations of modern war it is the aerial. No matter what phase or what aspect of war we consider, we find that aircraft in superior numbers provide the ultimate factor, and that is almost as true at sea as it is ashore. The toy of yesterday has become the decisive element of to-day. And when we are able to realise this we get to the main conclusion, from which there is no escape, that supremacy in the air now and for all time is absolutely vital to the existence of the British Empire. That is an issue which we must never allow to be obscured by the mists that are bound to arise when at last the Great War shall have become history and the professors are wrangling about its "lessons." The main lesson, after "preparedness" of which it is an essential part, is as we have stated it.

Upholding Political Honour.

We have received the prospectus of a new society, which is called the Society for Upholding Political Honour, whose objects are:—

1. To attack the abuses of Government by Party, and especially the misuse of Party Funds.
2. To ensure that publicity shall be given to the source and amount and disposal of all monies devoted to Party objects.
3. To insist that Honours shall be bestowed only as a reward for services to the State, and in no case for monetary considerations.
4. To support as Parliamentary Candidates, men of character who are free from Party ties.
5. To free the Press from Party influence.
6. To co-operate (but not to be amalgamated) with other organisations whose aims are wholly or in part identical with those of the Society.
7. Generally to direct attention to all lapses from National or Political Honour.

The aims as set forth are admirable, and no one but the most hardened of political hacks will venture to assert that such an association is not needed. It is doubtful if at any time in our history political morality has ever fallen to so low a standard as of recent years. We have only to look at the last Birthday "Honours" as an object lesson. Everything has been allowed to become subservient to the ends of Party and Bureaucracy, and we are living under a tyranny of system which is only a little less objectionable than the frank and brutal autocracy of Prussia. Indeed, it is really questionable if the latter is not in many ways preferable, since it is at least honest in its pretensions. It does not masquerade as anything but what it is, whereas here we vapour about freedom and representative government where neither in fact exists. We welcome the founding of such a society as the one under discussion, and trust it will have a successful career, for it is high time that Alpheus and Peneus were turned through the Augean stable of British politics. The whole system stinks in the nostrils of decent people—it requires cleansing and disinfecting, and we sincerely wish the society well in its efforts.

in the light of recent experience, and steps taken with a view to increase security against similar raids in the future, including an improved system of warning on all occasions where such warning was possible.

On the 8th inst. Sir George Cave, K.C., the Home Secretary, received the deputation at the House of Commons, and discussed with them questions arising out of the recent enemy air raid on the South-East coast. Among other matters the presence of aliens in the area affected was dealt with.