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G. KNOWLING.

The Daily Mail

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ST. JOHN'S, NFLD., JAN. 17, 1914.

HOME RULE

Yesterday's cable message conveys the information that, unfortunately, the two British Parliamentary Parties have failed to effect any compromise on the Home Rule question.

For some time now Liberal and Conservative leaders have been holding conferences on this problem, and it was hoped that they would come to some arrangement mutually. Mr. Redmond, for the Irish Nationalists, and Mr. Asquith, the Liberal Premier, professed themselves as quite willing to consider such modifications of the Bill as would satisfy the disaffected province of Ulster, without, however, nullifying the whole purpose of the measure.

The objection made by the Unionists was not so much to the setting up of a separate parliament or parliaments in Ireland, as to the powers to be conferred on the new legislative body or bodies. An emphatic objection was made to bringing Ulster under the authority of a central parliament endowed with such powers as were given it by the original draft of the Home Rule Bill.

There should be ample room for a compromise which would yet leave room for a satisfactory Home Rule measure. Religious differences, of course, are the chief stumbling-block to co-operation on this question and it is suggested that legislation relating to such matters should be removed from the province of the proposed new Irish Parliament, and dealt with by the central body in England. Then, again, some of the larger powers, such as these affecting the tariff and the administration of the post office could also be lopped off the bill, while many minor matters could be referred entirely to the county authorities and, being so administered, would make Home Rule, in the main a practical and established fact. This would, of course, mean an extension of the present powers of the Irish County administrations, a proposal not so very objectionable after all, seeing that it would grant local independence in dealing with many matters of local import.

Under such a compromise measure many of the difficulties of the present situation might be settled and an

effective measure of Home Rule put in force.

It is rather a shock to hear, therefore, that no compromise is likely, and that, according to Mr. Bonar Law, a civil war is not at all improbable. Surely the chief actors in this matter will choose the peaceful alternative in preference to sealing the question with precious human blood.

OIL FOR WARSHIP FUEL.

The announcement in the Speech from the Throne that a British expert is to examine our shale areas to discover their extent value as oil-containers, while it may not amount to more than similar undertakings of the present government calls attention to the fact that it has been definitely decided to adopt oil as fuel for the combustion engines which are to be installed in the new ships of the British Navy.

This means that a most radical change is to take place. When steam engines are thus superseded, all the arrangements made for supplying battleships formerly equipped with this means of propulsion will have to be abolished and others substituted therefor—changes that will entail enormous cost on the British Admiralty.

Thus, coaling stations will have to be converted into depots for the supply of oil fuel to the Navy and the colliers will be replaced by tank ships. All of which means that the vast sums of money spent by Great Britain in perfecting the old arrangements for supplying the ships of the Navy with engine fuel will be so much cash spent for nothing—as far as the future is concerned.

When the change is made it will have to be a thorough one and will comprehend all the ships that make up the various units composing the British Navy. For, it will be manifestly practically impossible to duplicate stations and supply ships for fuel storage purposes.

Besides, prolonged investigation has shown that oil is by far the most economical fuel to use on ships. Oil engines do not entail so much waste of power as steam engines and they drive the ships at better speed.

The problem is where to obtain an ample and stable supply of the new fuel and to discover this the Admiralty are having examinations made of promising oil-bearing areas in British Countries all over the world. For, be it understood, that for purposes of safety and strategy it is necessary to obtain ample supplies of oil within the Empire. In this way only can interference with the supply in time of war be avoided.

It has been stated that the Home Government authorities were behind the prolonged and expensive investigations made at the Parsons Pond oil fields. In all probability they are making a move to determine the value of the Deer Lake shale areas. It is to be devoutly hoped that they will bring sufficient pressure to bear on our Government to have this important matter looked into at once and dealt with in a thoroughly practical fashion. Otherwise, we can expect but little from our administrative faddists and day-dreamers.

OBSERVATION.

Some people believe everything they hear, and make up the rest.

The luck of some people consists not in getting what they deserve.

The general opinion is that in States where women have been enfranchised they will vote—for the men.

Next to the trial of a divorce case a Coroner's inquest is attended by the greatest number of people who have no business there.

Selling it at auction probably is the most effective way in which to dispose of a mediocre article at a first class price.

A trained nurse and an actress are alike in the respect that neither is so attractive when off the stage.

The cold fried egg is about the only article of diet from which a thrifty woman is unable to recover salvage.

A New Year's resolution that is easily kept was hardly worth making.

The fellow who never tries to get even with anybody is decidedly odd.

The man who would try to flatter an egotist would carry coals to Newcastle.

The woman who has hopes of being a grass widow should make hay while the sun shines.

SPACING OUT

The parlor sofa holds the twin. Miranda and her love-sick swain, Headshe.

But hark! a step upon the stair, And papa finds them sitting there. He and she.

TOPICS OF THE TIMES

INFLUENCE OF TRADE UNIONS.

By John Mitchell.

As one reads the pages of history he might be led to believe that in former times the world was peopled with princes and nobles—that there were no workmen, or if there were any, that they rendered no service to society which entitled them to take a place in history. And, indeed, when we consider that in many nations prior to the birth of Christ all workmen were slaves and were supposed by their masters and the ruling classes to have no souls, it is not to be wondered at that their existence should be ignored. Yet there never has been a time in the world's history when the men of labor have not been required to bear the burden of these efforts has fallen upon the trade unions.

Great Benefits. If we enter the field of legislative activity and consider economic improvements we find that while the unorganized have not benefitted to the extent as the organized wage-earners, nevertheless every advance in wages, every reduction in hours, every lightening of the burdens of toil secured through organized effort has in part been shared by the unorganized wage-earners, even though they have made no sacrifice, have put forth no effort in the accomplishment of these beneficial reforms.

Furthermore, all the people of the nation have profited through the efforts of the trade unions to promote the general welfare. It is the wage earners who are the greatest consumers of wealth; it is their purchases, just as it is their labor, that makes the wheels of commerce and industry revolve and makes the nation prosperous. No country is prosperous now, no nation has ever prospered in the past, in which low wages and long hours of labor have been the established condition of industry. The nation that most clearly approaches an equitable distribution of wealth among all its people is sure to be permanently prosperous and secure.

Distribution of Wealth. An equitable distribution of wealth among the people is one of the ideals of the organized wage-earners. Much has been accomplished in this direction, not only in securing for labor higher wages and better conditions of employment, but, what is equally important, a healthy sentiment has been created among all right-thinking people for the abolition of poverty and all its degrading effects. There is yet much to do. We still have faint reminders of the demoralizing effects of exaggerated riches and extreme penury. We see on all sides the idle rich and the idle poor—the one debauched by their wealth, the other degraded by their poverty. There is no excuse for these extremes in this country; they are both menaces to our civilization. Any agency organized for the purpose of abolishing poverty and k-e-ping within safe and just limitations the accumulation of wealth is a bulwark of liberty.

While the Declaration of Independence established in this country civil and political liberty, it did not establish industrial. For nearly one hundred years following the Declaration of independence chattel slavery was a recognized and legal institution in our civilization. And real industrial liberty was not even established with the abolition of chattel slavery, because liberty means more than the right to choose the field of one's employment. He is not a free man whose family must buy food today with the money that is earned tomorrow. He is not really free who is forced to work untidily long hours and for wages so low that he cannot provide the necessities of life for himself and his family; who must live in a crowded tenement and see his children go to work in the mills, the mines and the factories before their bodies are developed and their minds trained. To have freedom a man must be free from the harrowing fear of hunger and want; he must be in such a position that by the exercise of reasonable frugality he can provide his family with all the necessities and the reasonable comforts of life; he must be able to educate his children, and to provide against sickness, accident and old age.

Labor Movement. The organized labor movement, misunderstood and often maligned as it is, the organized labor movement, that Gladstone characterized as the bulwark of modern democracies, is doing, perhaps, as much in the interest of freedom and real democracy as it is possible for an association of men and women to do. It is the movement that voices the hopes, expresses the thoughts, and fights the battles of millions of men, women and children whom modern industrialism has placed at a disadvantage in the race of life for the goal of success.

The army of working men and women comprehended in the trade union movement is banded together not to destroy, not to tear down, not to revolutionize society as it is established to-day; its philosophy is to construct, to build, to perfect society; to make the world better, to make its people happier, to secure justice for the men of our time and to insure to the coming generation a better and broader existence than is possible today.

False Charges. In carrying out this contract for new liberties and for broader concepts of old laws, we are often charged with running counter to established authority; but closer investigation will demonstrate that we are defending and not violating the organic and moral laws upon which the government is founded. The preamble to the constitution of the United States declares, "We, the people of the United States, in order to promote a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution for the United States of America."

"To promote the general welfare" is one of the chief functions of gov-

ernment; to be helped in promoting the general welfare is the fundamental purpose of the organized labor movement. We are constantly trying to secure laws that will protect those in our industrial life who are least able to protect themselves. There is scarcely a law on the statute books of any state or of any nation throwing the protecting arm of the government about the weak and the defenseless that has not had its inspiration in the minds of the organized workmen. True, they have had the assistance of good men and good women from other walks of life, but the burden of these efforts has fallen upon the trade unions.

Just a Smile or Two. A little laughter now and then is heartening to the gloomiest men. Not what it looked like. It was a very hot day and the fat runner who wanted the twelve-twenty train got through the gate at just twelve-twenty-one. The ensuing handicap was watched with absorbed interest both from the train and the station platform. At its conclusion the breathless and perspiring man wearily took his way back and a yacant-faced "porter" came out to relieve him of his grip.

"Mister," he inquired, "was you tryin' to ketch that Pennsylvania train?" "No, my son," replied the patient man. "No, I was merely chasing it out of the yard."

Really Concise. In the editorial room of a Louisville newspaper there hangs, in a small frame, a model of brevity in handling local news items. It is a clipping, now yellow with age, which was taken from a small country weekly printed near the Kentucky-Tennessee border in the troubled early seventies—not so very long after the Civil War. It reads as follows:

"The boys west of town lynched a nigger last night. We didn't hear what he done!"

In Winter Quarters. The medical inspection of school children has commenced in real earnest, and the various officials under the new scheme are busily engaged. There are still some who object to the new order of things. After trying in vain to address one child, both medical officer and teacher gave up in despair and sent for the mother to solve the buttonless mystery.

"Tak' aff the wean's claes?" she shrilled, in voluble protest. "Ye'll doe naething o' the kind. I hev sewed her up for the winter!"

Tedious. The slow train is still the target for the shafts of the humorist. Recently a wag sent the following letter to the editor of a country paper:

"Sir,—Is there no way to put a stop to begging along the line of the railway? For instance, yesterday an aged mendicant with a wooden leg kept pace with the afternoon express all the way from Blankton to Spacey and annoyed the passengers exceedingly, going from one window to another with his importunate solicitations."

Should Have Protested. O'Toole was passing a bird store when this sign caught his eye: "Step in. A bargain to-day. An elegant pair of parrots which speak seven languages for sale."

O'Toole went in. "Put the beast in a cage," said he, "and send it out to Mrs. Ellen O'Toole, to the Shamrock apartments, on the drive." Then he continued on his way to work. When the whistle blew he was the first man out. Running home, he rushed in upon his wife and exclaimed with face aglow: "Did the bird come, Ilin'?"

"It did, Diny, and it's stuffed, baked, and ready for ye, and I'm tellin' ye, Diny, there no more than a pick on the thing."

"Ye cooked it?" screamed O'Toole. "Sure," said Mrs. O'Toole. "Twasn't to be killed, Ilin," cried O'Toole. "Shure, the poor green thing was a present to ye—'twas a talking parrot! The bird could spake sivin languages!"

"Well, why the blazes didn't it say something?" came back Mrs. O'Toole.

"Saved" Indeed. "John D. Rockefeller, before he abandoned the interview," said a New York journalist, "once advised me strongly against the policy of hoarding—against the policy of saving money, penny by penny, instead of spending it for the good of one's business."

"Such saving, he said, seemed almost as foolish to him as the conduct of Peter Clay. "Peter Clay was a coachman. His master found him one winter morning lying on top of a snowdrift in the front garden, quite drunk."

"Why, Pete, you scoundrel, the master cried, 'what do you mean by getting drunk at this time of day? Your breakfast has hardly settled, and you're drunk!'"

"Well, sir," Pete answered, rising carefully, 'my excuse is that, sir, on the way home with a jar of whisky for my wife's rheumatism, I fell on a cake of ice, sir, and the jar busted, and the good liquor all ran out. It lay in little pools and puddles between the frozen ruts. I got down

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and lapped up all I could, sir. That's how I got overcome."

"You scoundrel," said the master, "how much did you drink?" "Well, sir," said Pete, "I guess I must have saved close on to a quart and a pint."

OBEYING ORDERS.

Mr. Kelly is always interesting. He tells a story concerning old General Kemmis, whom he describes as "a fine-spoken man." Once the gallant officer found a soldier in a very dirty condition. "Take him," he said to a sergeant, "take him and lave him in the Tagus." Some hours after he met the sergeant again, and inquired, "Sergeant, did you do as I ordered you?" "I did, sir." Where is the culprit?" "Sure," replied the sergeant, "I left him in the Tagus, as your honor ordered—up to his neck."

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