

public questions, the failure of democracy is assured. The forces that do not make for the public good will be left to control affairs. Then the step to Bolshevism will be a short one.

Lloyd-George's Plans

THE overwhelming victory won by Lloyd George in the recent elections is Britain's answer to those who would conclude a patched-up peace with Germany. The elections were fought out largely on two issues, the dictating of drastic peace terms to Germany and the inauguration of a great social welfare movement among the people of the country. In the old pre-war days Lloyd George had crystalized into legislation a large number of radical measures, such as old age pensions, industrial insurance, land reforms and various other measures which curbed the power and the wealth of land owners, and at the same time bettered the condition of the working man. The outbreak of war came too soon to give these measures a fair trial and in some minds there exists a measure of doubt to the effectiveness of these reforms.

The plans for the immediate future are far more comprehensive than those undertaken in the old pre-war days. One of the measures is for an improvement in housing condition, the plan being to construct a million modern, well equipped dwellings. Other measures have to do with better education, sanitation, working hours, insurance, old age pension, land reforms and many plans for the soldiers and sailors. Altogether the schemes outlined are most ambitious, indicating not only a desire on the part of the Government to do its part towards improving the social status of the people, but also indicating the growing power of the laboring and working classes. The world will watch with sympathetic interest the outcome of this wholesale effort on the part of the British nation to reconstruct the social and economic well being of its people.

Labor in the British Parliament

FOR several years we have observed and noted signs of the times which seemed to point clearly to such a growth of organized labor in relation to British public affairs as would lead at no distant day to the formation of a Labor Government at Westminster. The announcement just made that the Labor party will, when Parliament meets, assume the position of the organized Opposition is a further indication of the rapid movement of democracy in what was once Conservative England. In the recent elections the Labor party did not elect as many members as at one time seemed probable. Divisions occurred within the ranks which weakened it. The extreme views of such men as Philip Snowden and Ramsay Macdonald led astray a number of the working people, and probably so alarmed others as to prevent their adherence even to the reasonable section of Labor's campaign. But though thus rendered somewhat weaker than they hoped to be, the Labor leaders

find that they have the largest organized body in the House, outside of the Coalition Government's supporters. The defeat of Mr. Asquith and other prominent Liberals makes the way easier for the Labor party to assert itself as the Opposition, and apparently it has decided to do so. There is not likely to be any early political crisis that will require a change of Government. But if anything of the kind should occur, it would be the Labor leader of the House, William Adamson, a Scotch miner, as the recognized leader of the Opposition who would be called in to form a new Ministry.

Theodore Roosevelt

A Great American died last week. The unexpected death of Mr. Theodore Roosevelt was a shock to the world. "Teddy," as he was familiarly called among the people of his country, was a very American American. If his impetuosity sometimes led critics to doubt his wisdom, there was a universal recognition of his earnestness, his sincerity, and his tremendous energy in the support of any movement with which he identified himself. He had played a great part in American politics, and if he had lived would in all probability have continued to do so. Throughout the British Empire and the Allied countries the name of Mr. Roosevelt will be held in grateful remembrance for the courage and zeal with which, at an early stage of the war, he gave them his hearty support. At a time when others, perhaps with some reason, felt bound to maintain an attitude of neutrality, Mr. Roosevelt made it known in no doubtful terms that, understanding the great issues that were at stake, he realized that civilization must defeat the German barbarism. It was his desire to go to the front himself, but he was not permitted to do so. Four of his sons crossed the seas and fought the good fight. One of them, a gallant member of the air force, gave his life for the cause. Theodore Roosevelt will be mourned deeply by the American people, and hardly less deeply by the people of the free nations of the world.

A Papal Question

IN many Roman Catholic quarters the suggestion has been made that His Holiness the Pope should have a representative at the coming Peace Conference. In one sense the Pope is ruler over more people than any of the Emperors, Kings or Presidents who will be represented at the Conference table. But the Pope's domain is spiritual, not territorial. He is the head of a church, not of a nation. It is hardly possible that the head of any religious body, as such, can be admitted to the Conference. Since the Pope lost his temporal power, and the Papal States passed to the control of the Italian Government, the Popes have lived in the Vatican. Each of them has been called, among the Roman Catholic faithful, "the prisoner of the Vatican." The Pope is free to leave the Vatican, but in no case has he done so. It has been an article of faith among Roman Catholics that the occupant of the Papal throne shall remain within the walls of the Vatican palace as a protest against the destruction of

the temporal power. The Italian Government, while refusing to allow the Pope to continue to rule the Papal States, offered a large sum to assist him in maintaining with due dignity his position as the head of the church. A first instalment was accepted by the Papal treasurer, but thereafter the grant was declined. It was held that acceptance of the money would be an acknowledgement of an authority against which the Roman Catholic world has always protested. A recent despatch spoke of the Pope having an intention to abandon the policy of remaining in the Vatican palace. Another report comes through the London Times, which usually has sources of reliable information in continental affairs. A despatch to the Times says the Pope will take steps to submit to the Peace Conference a proposal which it is hoped will provide for an amicable settlement of the long standing dispute between the Vatican and the Quirinal. The suggestion is to be offered that the accumulated moneys set apart by the Italian Government for the Pope and not used be now applied to the purchase of a strip of land extending from the Vatican palace to the sea, thus giving the Pope an outlet through his own territory. The distance from the Vatican to the Mediterranean shore is about seventeen miles. The purchase of even a narrow strip of land for that distance would cost a good deal of money. The sum voted by the Italian Government in 1872 to the Pope as an annual grant was 3,225,000 lire, about \$645,900. There was at first no time limit on it. If that situation had remained unchanged the sum now at the Pope's credit, the accumulation of nearly half a century, would be enormous. But after the Pope had for several years declined the grant, the Italian authorities became troubled by a fear that he might at a future time call for it, and that payment in full might then be embarrassing. Therefore the law was so amended that, while the annual appropriation remains available, no claim for arrears will be entertained beyond the allowances for five years, with interest. The funds in hand which will be available for the land purchase, if the scheme be approved, thus amount to something less than four million dollars.

The relations between the Vatican and the Quirinal in times past have been so strained that any arrangement of this kind could not have been entertained. Visitors to Rome in more recent years have found indications that, while nominally the relations between the Church and the State are unchanged, practically there is little real friction, and that the strong feeling that existed in the days of Pope Pius IX. and King Victor Emmanuel does not exist between the present Pope and the present King. It is believed that the better relations now prevailing may lead to the acceptance by the Italian Government of the suggestions that are to come from the Vatican to the Peace Conference.

As the land in question is a part of Italian territory it may be said that the question is one for adjustment between the Pope and the Italian Government, not one for settlement at the Peace Conference. But the Pope may be reluctant to deal directly with the Government in Rome, and if, as is hinted, the Government are not unfriendly to the proposal, they may be quite willing to have the Peace Conference take it up.