

the train. The signalman presses a plug in the box, a click is heard, and a tablet is seen in a precisely similar apparatus in the next box. When the train passes the man presses another plug and the tablet disappears.

### COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Collective bargaining is the very essence of trade unionism. But collective bargaining presupposes a collective keeping of the bargain when made. The advantages of combination in the making of a bargain are manifest, and the plea that employers should recognize trade unions has generally had the support of public opinion, because the public has felt it desirable that Labour should have the right to bargain collectively. Trade Union leaders, whose word was as good as their bond have been in the past trusted by the men and respected by the public. Many very fine types have been produced, and, in scores of cases, the responsibility of leadership developed in them remarkable gifts of diplomacy. Most of them had considerable influence with masters as well as men, and there are many who have won for themselves public positions which they adorn. Character always tells, whether in the workman or the master. It is character that has brought these leaders to the front, and it is by force of character that they have maintained their influence. Certain events of late have had, however, a very disquieting effect. This is not the first case in which some of the rank and file of the unions have acted precipitately without waiting for the advice of their leaders. But it is the first case where, on a considerable scale, men have accepted an agreement made for them by their leaders and then proceeded to break it. That is not playing the game. It is not honest. It is a breach of faith and though the masters have acted in drastic fashion, their main contention is right. All the ethical considerations are against the men, whose plain duty it is to carry out the bargain made in their name. The very foundations of our Christian morality are undermined when bargains deliberately made are repudiated. The men who have caused the trouble will no doubt say that their only chance of getting what they want is to strike at a critical moment. That may be true in the ordinary way, but in this case they had deliberately agreed not to do so for a definite period. They may feel that the bargain was wrong. That does not matter. They entered into it with their eyes open, and until the period has expired breaches of the

agreement cannot be condoned. Otherwise the usefulness of collective bargaining is at an end. Entirely apart from the ethics of the matter, those men who are refusing to honor the bargain made in their name are doing a great disservice to the cause of trade unionism.

### THE OSBORNE JUDGMENT

At the Trade Union Congress at Sheffield Mr. Haslam delivered the Presidential address. By the acknowledgment of all parties the spirit of the president's address was calm and statesmanlike. He urged upon the members of the trade unions the absolute need of loyalty and discipline if their agreements were to be respected. Acknowledging that unnecessary delay took place in the settlement of some minor difficulties, Mr. Haslam said that their object should not be the breaking of this agreement by individual actions, but rather the expediting by proper rules and regulations of the settlement of their disputes. He thought he was voicing the opinion of the Congress when he said that they trusted that the disputes now hovering over them as a black cloud would soon clear away. On the Osborne judgment Mr. Haslam expressed the view that nothing short of the reinstatement of the unions' position previous to this Osborne judgment could be accepted. From eighteen hundred and seventy-four onwards the funds of trade unions had been applied to the purpose of paying and returning members to the House of Commons. It was only through the formation of the Labor Party some ten or eleven years ago, when the forces of labor as representing the trade union movement and the Independent Labor Party, were brought together, that objections were taken. But he did nothing to meet the difficulty that is recognized by fair-minded outsiders. Is it right that trade unionists who happen to be anti-socialists should lose the whole benefit of their subscriptions to their unions, or else help to pay Socialists to oppose their own views in Parliament? The Conservatives are slowly coming round to the State payment of members and election expenses, and we believe that the Liberals would be practically unanimous on this point. But if this remedy is rejected by the Laborists, they must find another. They must recognise cases of conscience, and they must do nothing to drive anti-Socialist members from the trade unions, and compel all trade unions to be of one political color. We are inclined to think that the reasons which, practically, all the world over, have led to the payment of members of Parliament must, in the end, prevail here. But, as yet, politicians are keeping their minds open, and are willing to consider any feasible plan that may be suggested. It is very difficult to suppose that any party will accept a coercive policy in the sense of the reversal of the Osborne judgment. The measured

and responsible style of the Labor leaders gives hope of a solution that may commend itself, a solution that shall not contravene the first principles of liberty.

### WIERD GERMAN INVENTION

Two Germans—the electrical engineer, Christopher Wirth, and one manufacturer, Christopher Beck, —have invented a ship whose engine can be started or stopped, and whose helm can be controlled by the electrical waves communicated without wires to a receiving apparatus on board the mysterious vessel by a sending apparatus on shore similar to that required for wireless telegraphy. By means of these electrical waves, a gun on board the ship can be fired and signals can be transmitted both by flashlight and by bells. All these wonders are possible within a radius of eighteen miles from the wireless station on shore, which transmits the controlling force to the vessel. The practicability of the new invention has been demonstrated before numerous experts by exhaustive experiments on the Dutzendiech, a large expanse of water near Nuremberg, with a motor boat, the Prinz Ludwig. Messrs. Wirth and Beck state that their system can be applied with equal facility to airships and submarine vessels. With its help it would be possible, without risking human lives, to block the entrance of a hostile fleet, or to the midst of a hostile fleet, and steer an unmanned airship to a harbor, direct an unmanned sub-  
over hostile positions.

### GEORGIAN BAY CANAL.

Sir Robert Perks who has been spending six weeks in Canada in connection with the new drydock at Quebec, and the Georgia Bay Canal, left Ottawa yesterday for New York and sails on October 1 for England. The canal from the Great Lakes to the St. Lawrence, will, he said, when started give employment for eight or ten year's directly or indirectly to 15,000 skilled and unskilled workmen. The ultimate effect of this waterway, opening up of Canada for the first time to the ocean going ships of the world, could hardly be exaggerated.

The Hon. John Verran, Prime Minister of South Australia, said he was proud to know that most of the members of his Government were strict teetotallers. No man need expect sympathy with the liquor traffic from his party.

Edinburgh's necessitous children are being fed on porridge instead of the customary soup and bread. Porridge is more economical, the children prefer it, and the teachers' verdict is that they have "thriven amazingly."

The Bishop of Sheffield in a sermon to Labour delegates, said that there was no stronger critic of the workman who drinks than the workman who thinks.