

"As stated in the Colonist a few days ago, a committee of three called on me to conciliate the difference, and made a proposition, which I agreed to, but when brought up before the union it was voted down. This was that I pay the old rate on all contracts in existence before the raise, and in future arrange for the 40 cent rate."

The report of the committee to the Council mentioned nothing of this; furthermore, the committee, when spoken to said no proposition whatever was made by Mr. McDermott. Now it is up to Mr. McDermott.

COMPULSORY ARBITRATION.

To the Editor.

A few nights ago I got into good company for a couple of hours and during the course of the evening the talk turned on the New Zealand arbitration act, and among other opinions advanced was this: That the award of an arbitration court should not be made compulsory, but that "public opinion" should be relied upon to enforce the parties to the dispute to obey the award, or in other words, that the fear of being considered in the wrong by the public would be sufficiently strong to keep the defeated party from refusing to stick to the award.

Let us look at things as they are and draw our conclusions from what we see around us as to the force public opinion exerts.

We, the people, all want a railway, direct and independent to the Kootenays with as direct connections as possible with the Coast cities. The Government of B. C. knows this, but do they, or will they, bow to public opinion? The answer is no! not until forced to by the ballots of the people, or public opinion in the concrete. Public opinion in the abstract doesn't jar them in the least and yet they are sent there as the direct representatives of public opinion.

Comparisons are odious, 'tis said, and I am going to compare the Government of B. C. to the C. P. R. Co. I don't know which party will feel the odium most; but I would like to ask which is the more likely to take into serious consideration the attitude of public opinion on any of their acts. Not the C. P. R. They are in no way responsible to concrete public opinion. Their history shows that they have the most shameless disregard of it and are, by their actions, echoing the gentleman across the line, who, when president of the B. & O. Ry., said: "The public be d—d."

Let us suppose a case. If we had a court of arbitration in Canada, whose awards were not binding, except that the parties were afraid of public opinion if they did not keep them and the recent dispute on the Canadian Pacific Railway had been referred to it and the men given almost all they demanded, how would the company stick to the award? Only until the first opportunity to set it aside, and very probably they wouldn't accept it at all.

New Zealand's experience is that the Court of Conciliation, whose award is not compulsory, only settles one third of the cases brought before it, the

other two thirds have to be taken to the Court of Arbitration, and when settled there they remain settled for two years. A peculiar thing about that court is that no lawyers are allowed to enter into its proceedings. Another feature is that the work goes on while the decision is being arrived at and there has not been a strike in seven years.

INQUIRER.

WANTED—A CANDIDATE.

The public, by which we mean the wage-earners, who earn an honest living in office, shop or factory, or in any other way, this collective body of men are earnestly wondering who will be brought out in the present crisis to defeat the Government, who have lost the confidence of the country. They realize that they need not look to the Dunsmuir party to bring out anyone who is not bound hand and foot to the capitalistic chariot, who control things to-day. If they look to the Liberal party, they know they are weak, and this the party know full well themselves; hence the desire and efforts on their part to ally themselves with the Independent Labor Party, so lately formed. We would almost be tempted to suggest that the following advertisement be inserted in the daily press:

"Candidate Wanted.—The Independent Labor Party, voicing the feelings of the people at large, want a man with a good clean record, and not a politician, an advanced man, who will be willing to go to Parliament as their servant (not master), willing to leave his resignation in the hands of three representative men, who shall hold it in the public interest: one in deep sympathy with labor, and who will honestly endeavor to find a plan to settle the Mongolian question in a fair way; a man not afraid to introduce new measures, which are for the public good, and will see that the public interests are in each and every case provided for, and protected when charters are given to corporations; and last but not least, a man who will undertake to urge direct legislation, until it becomes law. All applications to be addressed to the Secretary Independent Labor Party."

W. H. M.

NOTES.

In New South Wales, the oldest of the Australian colonies, general elections have recently been held. No party there terms itself Conservative, the names in use being Liberal, Progressive and Labor. The Progressive ministry was supported by the Labor party, and where Labor candidates were put in the field, no Progressive candidates were nominated. There were some 40 Liberals elected, 40 Progressives, 25 Labor and 18 Independents. The Labor men appear to hold the balance of power.

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Between one and two hundred union machinists employed in the Kingston locomotive works went out on strike Wednesday because one of their number was discharged for refusing to work overtime. The union has issued this statement: "The trouble

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are constructed with such excellence that they are building up our reputation throughout British Columbia.

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