

thing to convince the urban population of the justice of imposing on them a tariff for this purpose."

Lord Selborne's speech is remarkable not only for the change of policy which it exhibits, but also for the reasons on which he bases his present view. That a tariff on foodstuffs "was really felt by those who were the poorest," was the chief argument used by the British opponents of the Tariff Reform movement. Lord Selborne's speech is a strong confirmation of what had previously been indicated by others, that the policy of giving the Dominions a tariff preference on foodstuffs has been definitely abandoned by the British party who for a long time made it an article of their political faith. There will be many in Canada who will view this conclusion with regret, because they have attached much importance to the preference on breadstuffs. They have felt that, Canada having long granted a preference to Great Britain, the mother country should reciprocate by a preference on Canada's chief article of export to Great Britain. Canadians generally would have welcomed such a preference if it could have been given with hearty good will by the people of Great Britain. But few Canadians, we believe, would desire to have the preference established at the cost of the goodwill of the toiling masses of the British people. Since the leading public men of all parties in England now say such duties would be obnoxious to the British masses, few Canadians will be disposed to further urge the adoption of such a policy.

Topsy-Turvy Europe

RUSSIA, France, Italy and Sweden have all been much in the public eye during recent days. Sweden, long known to be pro-German, so far at all events as her royal family were concerned, has been caught in the violation of neutrality by lending her diplomatic service in Argentina and Mexico to the transmission of German despatches under the protection of the Swedish diplomatic telegraphic code. Argentina has promptly given the German Minister at Buenos Aires his walking ticket, and Sweden will have to answer to the Allies for her misconduct. The trouble has arisen in the midst of a Swedish election campaign, which seems likely to result in important changes at Stockholm. Italy has come to the front through her remarkable success against the Austrians, which gives promise that the Italians will play an increasingly important part in the great conflict. France has been passing through a political crisis, due to the discontent of the Socialist wing of the deputies. With much difficulty, which at first seemed to make his task impossible, M. Painleve, who has been Minister of War, has succeeded in forming a Cabinet in which the late Premier, the veteran M. Ribot, takes office as Minister of Foreign Affairs. The most notable absentees from the new Ministry are M. Viviani, the eloquent Minister of Justice, who was head of the recent mission to America, and M. Albert Thomas, who did much good work as Minister of Munitions. It is much to be hoped that further political trouble may not occur at Paris. The creation of a crisis at this time does not bode well. It is in Russia that the most stirring events have occurred. The starting of a revolt, led by the eminent General Korniloff, against the Kerensky Government, was an alarming movement, which for the time paralyzed all Russian effort. The loose system of government established at Petrograd, regarded with disfavor by the higher military under the control of the several councils arising from the revolution, would naturally be re-

officials, who do not like any method which places restrictions on their authority. Fortunately Kerensky has proved himself a man of strength and firmness, and has been able to obtain from the councils the almost dictatorial power that seems to be necessary to maintain anything like order in Russia. It may be that the prompt checking of the Korniloff revolt will be such a lesson to other would-be-leaders as will warn them against further efforts against the Provisional Government, and that Kerensky and his associates will be all the stronger for what has occurred. The Kerensky Government, to allay fears of a return of czarism, have proclaimed a Russian Republic. If the Russian people were well informed, this move, while pleasing the mass, might give some assurance of the maintenance of order. The misfortune is that the blessing of education does not widely prevail in Russia, and consequently there is much fear that the people lack the capacity to understand and fulfil the duties of citizenship under a democratic system of government. In the case of such a Republic one need not be surprised at anything that may happen. That Russia, which had such a large part in the war at the beginning, can hereafter wage aggressive warfare on the Germans is hardly to be hoped for. She will do well if she can re-establish discipline in her army and make some sort of stand against further German assaults. That she may help the common cause by keeping a large German army in the Eastern theatre and thus preventing the reinforcement of the German army in France and Belgium is about the best that can be expected, and even that is far from assured.

Learning From Canada

OUR American neighbors, only now getting thoroughly at work in organizing for the great war, are learning some things from our Canadian three years' war experience in military affairs. American officers have come over to our military camps, and have obtained useful lessons from their observation. They are learning also from Canada's management of such services as the Patriotic Fund and the Red Cross Fund. In another important field they are moving to follow an example from Canada. It is in relation to methods of dealing with the difficult problems of labor and capital. The American Government, in co-operation with the American Federation of Labor, are arranging a plan for preventing strikes in munition works, which is practically a replica of the Canadian law commonly called the Lemieux Act. Few laws are accepted with universal approval. It would be strange if this Act were approved by everybody. Some of the Canadian labor organizations have refused to approve it; some of the labor leaders feel that the law restricts the complete freedom to strike, which they wish to have. Nevertheless, many labor representatives will have to admit that the Act has been helpful in many cases in adjusting difficulties between the workers and their employers engaged in the operation of public utilities. The main feature of the law is the machinery for holding an impartial inquiry at the beginning of every dispute. Each party appoints a representative, and if they fail to agree on a third member, the Government makes the appointment. It is assumed that if all the facts be impartially set forth, and an award be made, public opinion will prove strong enough to enforce what is recommended. This expectation has been fully realized in many cases. Dr. Charles W. Elliott, the venerable ex-President of Har-

vard University, an able and careful student of social problems, has expressed the opinion that the Canadian law is the best piece of legislation of the kind that he has found. It is this Canadian law that, in principle, is to be adopted for preventing strikes in the American munitions works. The only difference is that while in Canada a board of inquiry is appointed for each case, in the States it is proposed to have one general board, which shall deal with all the cases that may arise in munition factories. The plan provides for a small commission—representing capital, labor and the Government—to adjust labor troubles before they develop into strikes. The scheme will be substituted for the labor commission of nine members projected by the National Defense Council, but rejected by the American Federation of Labor because it contained a compulsory arbitration feature. "The agreement," says a Washington despatch, "is regarded as the greatest step toward eliminating future labor troubles, and will be continued after the war."

Premium Bonds

THE disposition toward something like speculation—perhaps gambling would be regarded by some as too harsh a word—is strong in the human mind. In foreign countries it is so strongly marked that it receives official recognition. Lotteries are still carried on in some countries under Government approval, and sometimes for the special benefit of the public treasury. The use of lotteries in financial transactions such as loans has a particular attraction for many people. In the English speaking countries generally the lottery business has been severely frowned upon by both legislation and custom, and it is only tolerated in the form of charity funds. Hence British public opinion was shocked when, some months ago, the suggestion was published that in the issuing of war loans the proposal be made attractive by the offer of a chance to the investors to obtain something more than the liberal interest allowed by the Treasury—that some form of premium be offered. The suggestion was regarded by many as a gambling device, and as such was severely rebuked. No British Chancellor of the Exchequer felt at liberty to adopt the proposal. Time seems to have worn down some of the objections at first raised. Now the proposal has advanced so far as to allow the British Government to treat it as one entitled to consideration. A few days ago the Government announced in the British House of Commons that they would appoint a committee to study the question. Later despatches indicate that the proposal is gaining ground, and that when the next British loan is offered it may include some form of premium as an attraction to the investor who likes to take a chance.

The Quebec Bridge

ALL Canadians will join heartily in congratulating the engineers and constructors of the Quebec bridge on the complete success of their great work of raising the enormous weight of the centre span—the largest in the world—from the surface of the river to the cantilever arms far above and fastening it in its place. After all the difficulties and disasters that have been encountered, the completion of the operations of last week marks an engineering triumph which will have a world-wide fame and bring well deserved honor to the men connected with the work.