

forces sent to the field numbered about 280,000 men. The total British losses by death were 21,000, while 9,500 were prisoners or missing; 71,000 were sent home as invalids. Of this grand total over 7,000 men were Canadians, sent in four contingents, of whom 230 met their death. As a result of the war the marriage and birth rate in England shows a marked decrease. At this immense cost of money and men Great Britain has established the principle of manhood liberty which she fought to defend, and has gained two colonies, which are to be known as the Orange River Colony and the Vaal River Colony in place of their former Boer names, the Orange Free State and the Transvaal.

What Britain Will Do

The task of reorganization which Britain must now take up is admittedly one of great difficulty. The prospect, however, is full of promise, and one of the most encouraging signs is the evident submission and acquiescence of the Boers themselves who, now that the war is at an end, are disposed to become law-abiding subjects of a power whose justice and generosity they at last recognize and acknowledge. As a final step in connection with the war a Royal commission will be appointed to make a general enquiry into the affairs of the campaign from its beginning to the end. The more arduous work yet to be done is the providing of an efficient system of government. The industrial conditions of the country are, as a natural result of the war, more or less chaotic. Every assistance is to be given to the burghers in the repossession of their farms and the rebuilding of their homes, a fund of \$15,000,000 being provided for this purpose. Loans will also be made on very favorable terms, and it is hoped that the business of the country may be restored to its former footing at an early date. The school system has been already given some attention. The Dutch language will be recognized in common with English. The militia will be retained for some time, insurrections on the part of the few irreconcilables being quite probable; but as soon as the conditions of

the country will permit gradual steps toward representative government and full civic autonomy will be taken. For some time to come progress in South Africa must continue to be at the cost of constant vigilance, but there is no doubt that better days have dawned for the new colonies and that under British rule they will have increased content and prosperity.

Ireland's Indifference

Practically the whole world, from sister nations and governments to church courts, congratulated England and the King upon the termination of the war. Even the Boers at Pretoria cheered the King and sang the national anthem. Ireland remained stolidly silent. Such interest as was shown was on the other side; a monument was erected at Armagh in honor of an Irishman who fought in South Africa in the Boer army, but for British heroes there was no praise. The attitude of the Irish people is most unfortunate. A large proportion of them would seem to be absolutely irreconcilable, though of course there is a saving element of loyalty here and there. Politically the situation is becoming more and more difficult; the Irish members are persistent and vehement in their opposition to the Government, and the question of the future relations of the two countries is a vexed one.

The Colonial Conference

The presence in London, for the coronation, of the Premiers of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and other British colonies was taken advantage of by holding a colonial conference, at which matters of mutual interest were considered. The main purpose of the conference was to secure an interchange of views upon trade, postal, and tariff issues, both as concerning the relations of the colonies with one another and the mother country. The premiers met with Mr. Chamberlain, who also held consultations with the ministers from the various colonies also in London at the time. At this writing the results of the conference cannot be announced, but a number of topics were to have been dis-