

wages." Increased wages must, of necessity, add to the cost of production of materials. Wages in all trades have been increased, therefore, there is increase in the cost of materials, and in producing and manufacturing concerns the increase in the cost of materials to carry on business, added in turn to increase of wages of the concerns using the materials of enhanced value, demonstrates that increased wages must shoulder the big end of the responsibility. The law of supply and demand is inexorable, and the government that tries to nullify it is trying to do the impossible. A merchant in New Glasgow doing a big business told a visitor the other day that people could talk as they liked of the high cost of living, yet he never did a better business and said this was due to the better wages paid. High cost of living forsooth! What about the crowded attendances at all places of public amusement, and better attendance than when there was no outcry against the high cost of living? At the same meeting the same speaker referred to "the inadequate measures introduced by Borden to help the country in its greatest crisis." Is not that rich? Canada's part in the war and the deeds of her sons are on the tongues of all people of all countries. Had Canada not adopted adequate measures for sending men overseas in astonishingly quick time, her praise would not be to-day on the lips of the people of the Allied nations. Pretty hard up for something to say are the Laurier-Liberal candidates. The past deeds of the past government are trifling compared with the paramount issue: "Help the boys."

A HINT TO A. M. W. LEADERS.

The ballot vote of the South Wales miners on the issue of a strike in resistance to the new comb-out from the mines for the Army is (writes a South Wales correspondent) a sweeping vindication of the patriotism of the bulk of the men, as the percentage against a cessation of work is between 70 and 80 of the miners voting. This coalfield ballot has presented the loyal section with a supreme opportunity for vindicating the teeming colliery valleys of South Wales from the almost universal suspicion of a pernicious syndicalist and anarchical propaganda led by the Miners' Federation. The vote has served to place the propaganda in its proper setting and perspective, and exposed the fiction that responsible Federation leaders are at its head. There is undoubtedly a body of extremists at work, who would, if they could, vitiate and undermine most of the approved and tried forms of democratic Government; and, unfortunately, through the inaction of the main body of the rank and file, these men have captured the machinery of many of the Federation lodges and have spoken in the name of constituencies wherein, as a matter of fact, as proved by this ballot, they are in an insignificant minority. Not the least beneficial result of this vote is that it has aroused the miners as a general body to the obligation under which they lie to their own Federation—to see, in

short, that they are not misrepresented in the body politic on questions of national welfare by men whom they have permitted to enter office.

BRITISH INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION.

The War Cabinet has approved the report of the Whitley Committee on Joint Standing Industrial Councils, and the Ministry of Labour has asked associations of employers and organizations of work-people to take steps to carry out the proposals. On the Councils employers and workers in each industry will be equally represented, and through them it is proposed that all questions and differences arising shall be settled amicably, and so strikes and other interruptions of industry be avoided. The Government will regard the proposed Councils as official standing Consultative Committees on all future questions affecting the industries represented. The success of the scheme, it is pointed out, depends on a general agreement among various organizations within a given industry and a clearly expressed demand for the creation of a council. During the war the Government have continually felt the need of such councils in dealing with matters affecting various industries, and in the reconstruction after the war, including demobilization, resettlement of munition workers, employment of disabled soldiers and control of raw materials. Such councils would give invaluable help and advice. They will also in the national interest be of great service in settling the more permanent questions which have caused differences between employers and employed in the past. The Ministry of Labour offers all assistance in calling representative conferences to discuss the establishment of councils.

SECRETARY McADOO.

Mr. William Gibbs McAdoo, who as the Secretary of the United States Treasury is expecting to raise something like \$4,000,000,000 by next June to finance the cause of the Allies, is a man with a Lloyd George-like reputation for getting things done. He is a Southerner, whose father fought as a lieutenant in the Southern Army and whose family was reduced by the Civil War from affluence to poverty. Mr. McAdoo was brought up in Georgia, educated in Tennessee, studied law, and became first a railway barrister and then administrator. He built the steel tube tunnels under the Hudson, applied electricity to the problem of urban distribution, and at the Treasury Department at Washington effected a revolution in business matters. Under his regime business is despatched promptly, letters are answered without delay, and the whole staff, from the colored messengers to the Secretary himself, is animated by Mr. McAdoo's business maxim that civility and courtesy are of the greatest importance in dealing with the public. It was Mr. McAdoo who, when he was a railway magnate, told the porters on the Hudson Tunnels railway that "the amount of courtesy you display is going to have an important bearing upon the popularity of this road."