

time it remains that private economy is as effective as ever it was, and is still both expedient and possible.

The other fact is that a part of the increase in wages has not been effected without the aid of labor strikes, with all the unpleasantness which they bring in their train. Yet there is a tendency toward voluntary action among employers, some of whom have made fairly generous advances without waiting till their workmen demanded them. The strikes have not all been successful; notably the recent disturbance in the iron and coal industries at Sydney was a complete failure. A more encouraging sign of the times is that the lot of the working-man is being improved, a little at a time, in frank recognition of his rights and his importance. Things are far from universally what they ought to be even yet, but both employers and employees might with mutual and public advantage recognize the national importance of each other.

Our Own *versus* Alien Labor

ONE of the last measures considered in the recent Long Parliament was the alien labor bill introduced a considerable time before by Sir William Mulock, Minister of Labor. It had awakened much discussion from the first. In the form in which it finally passed the Commons it had three main provisions, which promised to be of much importance to the self-development of Canada. The bill, however, failed to pass the Senate, strong opposition being given it even on the last day of the session.

Though alien labor legislation has thus failed for the present, there is some significance in the efforts that have been made. The three chief features of the bill were, a provision against false representations for the purpose of securing immigration, several cases of which have been reported during the past year or two, the restriction of undesirable immigration, and the requirement that Canadian or British contractors, capital, and labor, be employed on subsidized railways. With the first two provisions there would have been very general sympathy, for there can be no question as to the desirability of keeping out unfit immigrants,

or as to the necessity of truthfully representing the industrial needs of the country abroad. But the heart of the measure, and the point on which opposition arose, was the proposed restriction of alien labor.

It was originally intended to prohibit the importation of labor under contract, from all countries, but this was amended in the Commons to apply only to such countries as had similar legislation against Canada. This meant that it would apply only to the United States, which has a rigid alien labor law. The measure was, therefore, in this regard, one of retaliation, aimed directly against the United States, and in its practical workings it would have prohibited American workmen under contract, while it would still have continued to let in Syrians, Italians, etc. The measure was further amended to apply only to subsidized railways, other public works, such as government buildings, bridges, etc., remaining free to the world, Americans not excepted.

The principle of protection for Canadian labor is, in general, sound. However, desirable it might be that there should be free and unhampered interchange of labor between our country and others, it is hardly to be expected that we can indefinitely continue to be the unprotesting victims of an anti-Canadian legislation such as that enforced by the United States. But the proposed measure does not seem to have been adequate. It is doubtful if it would have ever remedied the situation very much, though it will almost certainly form the basis of future legislation. The principle of protection is gradually making way. But why not protection for our products as well as for our labor?

A Danger to Our Fisheries

ANOTHER matter which came up in Parliament late in the session was the threatened depletion of a portion of our Atlantic fisheries. The importance of these fisheries can hardly be over-estimated, as above their direct money value they are the life of a great mass of people, and have given rise to a number of subsidiary industries. It was, therefore, a matter of national