

campaign on his behalf. The most interesting feature of the contest is the manner in which the scheme of the League of Nations is being discussed. In the earlier days of the campaign the question was somewhat cautiously touched by both candidates. The Democrats naturally were disposed to support the League scheme, which was to a large extent the handiwork of their President, but many were willing to qualify their support by some kind of reservations. On the Republican side the League was attacked, but in view of the attitude of Mr. Taft and some other Republican leaders who had favored the scheme the attack was not very vigorous. Indeed, the moderation of Mr. Harding's condemnation of the scheme has alarmed the "bitter-enders" such as Senators Borah and Johnson. Mr. Borah, it is announced, has refused to carry out a speaking programme that had been arranged for him. He may refrain from open support of Cox, but that he no longer supports Harding is quite apparent. Senator Johnson is expected to take similar action. Now comes President Wilson into the campaign with the first of a series of statements designed to force the League of Nations as the supreme issue of the contest. In his most vigorous manner Mr. Wilson assails the position of the opponents of the League and calls on the people of the United States to avail themselves of the election as "a national referendum" to vindicate the country's honor and ratify the Treaty of Versailles.

The much criticized Article X is particularly mentioned by Mr. Wilson as a part of the League scheme that has been misrepresented. He claims that there is no warrant for the contention that that Article creates an obligation on the part of the United States to go to war in certain circumstances. He maintains that the Article in no way conflicts with the right of Congress to decide when the nation shall go to war.

Mr. Wilson is to issue some further statements dealing with other features of the controversy. A little while ago it was felt that Mr. Wilson's ill-health would prevent his taking any part in the campaign. It is evident now that he has decided otherwise. The Democratic managers have called on him to lend the power of his pen to the campaign, and apparently he has consented to do so on the condition that the League of Nations be made the chief issue.

Grey and Carson

The Irish situation is about as bad as it can be and no blue sky is to be seen. One of the wisest of British statesmen, Viscount Grey, formerly Sir Edward Grey, has made a contribution to the discussion in the form of a letter in which he virtually says that, excepting two or three things that are essential to Imperial unity, the Irish people should be allowed any form

of Home Rule that the majority may desire. Assurance of such a policy would, he thinks, satisfy the people. As for the Home Rule bill now before the British Parliament, he says truly enough that it satisfies nobody.

Sir Edward Carson has promptly condemned Viscount Grey's proposal, which he says would place Ulster at the mercy of a hostile Dublin Parliament.

Sir Edward, as usual, is ready to condemn the proposals of others, but he has nothing to propose that would have a ghost of a chance of being accepted by the Irish majority. He does not like the Home Rule bill now before Parliament, but is willing to accept it. Unfortunately Sir Edward's willingness does not seem to be shared by any considerable number of Irishmen. The Ulster men do no more than tolerate the measure, and the rest of Ireland will have none of it.

Nobody need question the honesty of purpose of Sir Edward Carson in his course on the Home Rule question. But his honesty has been almost that of fanaticism. A man of his great ability should have seen long ago that Ireland could not be governed successfully by coercion. A moderate measure of Home Rule would have satisfied Ireland in the days of John Redmond. If Sir Edward Carson had then been willing to co-operate with the English and Irish statesmen who favor Home Rule the old quarrel could have been happily settled. Sir Edward begins to see light now. But it is too late. What was once a lawful and reasonable movement for Irish liberty in local affairs has now become a treasonable movement, attended by crimes and violence that shock the world.

The New Brunswick Elections

The breaking down of the old party lines is well illustrated in the New Brunswick Provincial elections that are to take place next week. In former times political situations in New Brunswick were sometimes difficult to understand. Coalitions were frequently found necessary to carry on the public business. But in recent years regular party lines have been drawn. The Government of which Hon. W. E. Foster is Premier is recognized as a Liberal administration. The preceding Government represented the Conservative party. In the nominations that have just been made for the general election for the House of Assembly there is evidence of the breaking of old lines that is one of the characteristics of this day of unrest. In only four electoral districts is there a straight fight between the Liberal Government and the Conservative Opposition. The list of candidates includes, besides those of the two old parties, men who run under the banners of Farmers, Labor, Independent and Returned Soldier. In one county only—Madawaska—was there an election by acclamation returned. This victory by acclamation

probably presages the return of Mr. Foster's Government. But there may be, as there is in Manitoba, a sufficient number of independents to make a possibly embarrassing situation.

A Good Roads Question

The movement for better roads is everywhere attracting public attention and people who have hitherto taken little interest in the subject are now keenly appreciative of the value of good highways. In Quebec the Provincial Government have made large expenditures for roads with excellent results. Many of the Quebec highways will compare favorably with the roads of the adjacent American States which have been constructed at very heavy cost. In Ontario much good work is being done and the Government have announced an extensive programme of road building. In Nova Scotia similar efforts are being made, through the co-operation of the Federal and Provincial Governments. There a curious situation has developed which for the moment is interesting some of the politicians. With a view to "taking the road question out of politics," a phrase much used in these days, the Provincial Government appointed a Board of Commissioners, composed of men of both political parties, to have charge of the proposed expenditures. A good deal of work has been carried on. The other day the fact was discovered that in a couple of instances the work was being done on plans that would make the cost of certain short pieces of road very heavy—so heavy that extensive construction of that character would require more money than was available. Finding some dissatisfaction with this and some other features of the work, the members of the Road Board sent in their resignations and at the same time proposed an official enquiry. The Premier replied in effect: "You gentlemen have been clothed by the law with full authority to control this work. If there is anything wrong about it, are you not yourselves responsible? Why not exercise your authority? Why not hold on to your trust, at all events until you have fully inquired into the operations of your officials?" The members of the Board, with one exception, have accepted this reasoning and resumed their duties. To provide for any additional investigation that is required, under oath, it is stated that a commission will be appointed for the purpose. Doubtless between the two tribunals all the facts will be disclosed.

The incident illustrates a point of importance that is sometimes overlooked. When the public business is "taken out of politics"—that is, put into the hands of men not responsible to the people—the moment any trouble occurs the public ignore the irresponsible persons and look to the Government for a remedy. You cannot "take out of politics" effectively the business of the people.