

There, admittedly, a change in social organisation was desirable and had to be made. The Emperor and his Ministers had realized the fact and had the subject under serious consideration and steps were being taken to improve the existing laws. But the enthusiasts, some of them University of College professors totally unacquainted with the practical side of life, could not wait. They must needs incite the passions of the people by fiery denunciation of prevailing conditions with the result that in a frenzy of hatred against their supposed oppressors, even respectable citizens started to use the bomb and the pistol to emphasise their demands. The obvious result followed; the intransigents pointed to this reign of outrage as a specimen of what might be expected with increased liberty, sympathisers deserted the cause rather than recognise the criminal methods employed and the reactionary regime triumphed.

Mr. Keir Hardie, the nominal leader of the Labour Party in England, long ago proved the sincerity of his convictions and that to do something practical for the betterment of the working classes was the summit of his ambition. But he leaves his home politics and the surroundings he so thoroughly understands and deliberately plunges into the vortex of the most complex question any government has to consider, Indian administration and the relationship between the white man and the native. This is admittedly one of the subjects the amateur cannot advise upon. The men whose business it is to deal with such affairs possess very special qualifications, backed by years of experience. Yet Mr. Hardie was not deterred from going to India and giving vent to utterances that can only be described as treasonable. The first fruit of his labours proved to be a sensible increase of unrest and sedition, sporadic outrages, and as a culmination the murder of a distinguished Indian official in London. Apparently the only reason for the crime was, that this gentleman had been especially chosen on account of his tact and peculiar knowledge by Lord Morley to bring into line as far as possible the irreconcilables and extremists amongst the young Indian students. Needless to say nothing was further from Mr. Keir Hardie's plan of campaign than a tragedy of this character, but it is an example of what misdirected enthusiasm, amounting almost to hysteria, may be responsible for, and cannot fail to adversely influence public sentiment against any movement that is even remotely responsible for such incidents.

The Labour Party in England are nominally concerned with the solution of problems which command universal sympathy and attention. No greater error could exist than to suppose, as some apparently do, that capital as represented by directors of companies and their shareholders care nothing about the welfare of their labour. But when the cobbler leaves his last and starts to meddle with issues, which from their nature and special complex-

ity do not lend themselves to easy grasp by the uninitiated, then he goes a long way towards crippling his cause and alienates much sympathy that he can ill afford to lose. Canada in particular is vitally interested in the satisfactory solution of the labour problem in England as she looks towards that country for the thousands wherewithal to people her undeveloped territory. Moreover in September she welcomes the Labour Leaders as her guests and will extend to them a full measure of sympathy and encouragement, for nothing but good can come of a real desire to promote the amelioration of the lot of the working man coupled with the promotion of a better understanding between capital and labour. But it is to be hoped that they will confine themselves to the discussion of those matters directly appertaining to them and will not interfere with affairs foreign to their sphere of influence. Nowadays, unfortunately, the ranks of the labour party are often recruited from undesirable sources, men join it who have no real interests at stake, who are not guided by any strong emotion directing them to help their fellowmen if they can, and whose chief desire appears to be self-advertisement. They sow the seeds of discontent with skilful hand and are the enemies of arbitration between masters and their employes. No condemnation can be too strong for persons of this type and if only the labourer could be brought to realize it, they constitute the real hindrance which is standing in the way of his betterment. A wave of unrest is sweeping over the world, times are changing with extreme rapidity and the alteration that will take place in social conditions within the next decade will be phenomenal. It is with the character of these changes that the serious minded labour representative should busy himself. Here is ample scope for his ability and the practise of those qualities which have lifted him above the heads of his fellows. In this way and this way alone will he ever prepare the path for the amelioration of the class he professes to represent.

#### HALF-YEARLY STATEMENT, DOMINION BANK.

The London correspondent of THE CHRONICLE calls attention to the tendency of British banks to reduce dividends, owing to the falling off in profits during the past half-year. Happily, no need for such action has arisen in Canada—general trade recession here having been of shorter duration than in the old land. And since current loans are now steadily on the increase, gradual improvement in banking business is practically assured—provided, of course, crop outcome at all fulfils present expectations.

The general manager of the Dominion Bank of Canada, Mr. C. A. Bogert, last week issued its half-yearly statement showing substantial net profits of \$309,171 for the six months ending June 30. While