

ernment to grant a larger measure of Home Rule to India, and that to this end Mr. Montagu would go out to India and, in conjunction with Lord Chelmsford, make a special study of the whole situation. After months of such study Mr. Montagu has returned to England, and his report, in which Lord Chelmsford joins him, is now made public. The report is a very voluminous one, covering events of the past and conditions of the present, and making recommendation for the future government of the country. As to the existing system, the report says:

"The existing edifice of government in India is a monument to the courage, patience and high purpose of those who have devised and worked it, to which, before we set about explaining our own proposals, it is fitting that we pay our imperfect tribute."

The report presents a picture of India's condition which gives some indication of the difficulty that has to be met:

"The great mass of India's people are illiterate peasants, living in mud-built villages and cultivating small holdings of land. The produce is too often threatened by drought or deluge. The physical facts of India, the blazing sun, the enervating rains, have doubtless colored the mental outlook of the masses of the people. The Hindu caste system, with its segregating effect, circumscribes the range of public opinion by limiting the range of personal sympathies, and tends to perpetuate many customs and usages which progressive Indians themselves recognize as a grievous impediment to progress."

Difficult though the situation is, Mr. Montagu and Lord Chelmsford hold that it can be grappled with by a moderate grant of Home Rule. India's part in the war has had the effect of strengthening India's attachment to Great Britain. An Indian statesman is quoted as saying: "She has a feeling of profound pride that she has not fallen behind other portions of the British Empire, but has stood shoulder to shoulder with them in the hour of their sorest trial." The admission of India's representatives to the Imperial Conference has also had a good effect on Indian public opinion.

The report recommends a considerable increase of the powers of the Provincial Legislatures, which should be mainly composed of directly elected representatives, with a broad franchise; periodic enquiry with a view to further extension from time to time; an Indian Committee of the House of Commons; an Indian Privy Council; a Council of Princes; reorganization of the Indian Government at Delhi, with increased authority. It is believed that these reforms will go far to remove whatever unrest there is in India. There is a small revolutionary party moved by hatred of British rule. A hope is expressed that these will see in the present effort a reason for abandoning their attitude. If not they must be firmly dealt with. The general tone of the report is shown in the following passage:

"We have shown how, step by step, British policy in India has been steadily directed to a point at which the question of self-governing India was bound to arise; how impulses, at first faint, have been encouraged by education and opportunity; how the growth quickened nine years ago and was immeasurably accelerated by the war. We measure it, not by the crowds at political meetings or the multiplica-

tion of newspapers, but by the infallible signs that indicate the growth of character. We believe profoundly that the time has now come when the sheltered existence we have given India cannot be prolonged without danger to her national life; that we have a richer gift for her people; that nationhood within the Empire represents something better than hitherto attained; that the placid pathetic contentment of the masses is not the soil on which such Indian nationhood will grow; and that in disturbing it we are working for her highest good."

The report has been well received by the British press generally, but not by all. The London Morning Post, a strong Conservative journal, confesses to a great dislike of both the report and its chief author, Mr. Montagu. Its avowed hostility to that rising young Liberal statesman has seemingly made it unable to take an unbiassed view of anything emanating from him. Sir S. P. Sinha, the Indian representative at the Imperial Conference, says:

"For myself I unhesitatingly believe that the report lays the formation of an Indian constitution which will contribute to the solidarity and unity of the Empire, in like degree as the genius of Campbell-Bannerman achieved in the case of South Africa."

## One of the Labor Problems

THE city of Vancouver is having an experience something like that which a little while ago threatened Ottawa. Efforts are being made to organize a policemen's union, and to affiliate it with the trades union organizations of the country. The Chief of Police is flatly against the movement—it is not easy to see how any Chief of Police could hold any other view of such a question. It is always possible, on a first and hurried glance at the subject, to make an excuse for such a movement, and even to create an impression that opposition to it can only spring from hostility to the interests of labor. The policemen forming a society for the promotion of the welfare of the body—why not? Why not give them the right which citizens generally possess to form associations? Who but a representative of the tyrants opposed to labor would deny such a privilege to any class of people?

Those who present the matter in that light may for the moment find their view widely approved. But a closer examination of the question will hardly confirm that impression. Nobody will think of denying the right of policemen to unite in an association for their social improvement and for the general promotion of their own welfare. Such associations should be encouraged by Chiefs of Police and municipal authorities everywhere. It is when a proposal is made to connect the association with the trade unions of the country that objection is properly raised. In their own place the trade unions are necessary and are everywhere recognized as a legitimate part of our economic and social system. But their objects and those of the police are not the same.

There are three powers for the preservation of law and order which, to be at all efficient, must be independent of all organizations other than those by law created for the protection of the interests of the whole community. These three powers are, the courts, the military service, and the police. That any one of these powers should become part of an organization like a combination of trade unions, and thus be-

come subject to the orders of some labor official residing perhaps in a foreign country, is unthinkable. To have one of our Supreme Courts affiliated with a trade union organization, subject to strike orders, would be not one whit more absurd than to have the police force of any community placed in such a connection. The labor union, important and useful as it is in its own sphere, stands for the interests of a class. The courts, the military service, and the police all exist, not for the benefit of any class, but for the protection of all, and must be in an independent position, free to act if necessary against any class which seeks to advance its own interests at the expense of the community. This notion of policemen forming associations in affiliation with any class organization of any kind should not be entertained anywhere. The sensible labor leaders should be among the first to see the absurdity of the idea, and to set their faces against it.

## The German Colonies

ONE of the grave questions arising from the war is what shall be the fate of the German colonies which have been captured by Great Britain. On the one hand, it is to be remembered that British statesmen have on many occasions declared that Britain engaged in the war with no ambition for territorial enlargement. A peace with "no annexation of territories" has often been talked of, sometimes by the Germans, occasionally by others. The Americans have in various ways declared that they coveted not an inch of German territory. From this viewpoint a case may be made out for the restoration to Germany of the captured colonies. But against this course strong protests are raised in various quarters. In Australia and New Zealand there is a vigorous demand that the former German colonies shall hereafter be British. Premier Hughes, of Australia, particularly, has been strenuous in his insistence on this, in his speeches in Australia and in England. With a view to strengthening the hands of those who oppose the restoration of the colonies to Germany, the Royal Colonial Institute of London, through its Council, passed a resolution just before the opening of the Imperial Conference as follows: "That the Council of the Royal Colonial Institute, in view of the coming Imperial Conference, wish to express with all respect, but in the strongest terms, their view, which they believe to be almost universally shared throughout the Empire, that, alike in the interests of the Empire and in the interests of the native races concerned, no one of the former German possessions beyond the seas should be restored to Germany." There is no doubt that this resolution expresses to a very large extent the general British view respecting these colonies. It is noticeable, however, that leading statesmen of the mother country treat the question with reserve. They realize, no doubt, that when the time arrives for the consideration of terms of peace, it will be an advantage to approach the question without the embarrassment of premature pledges. Great Britain, it is safe to say, will have the desire to respond to the wishes of those who would hold the captured colonies. But we must remember that when the time arrives for making the terms of peace, Great Britain will not be in full control of the situation. The representatives of all the allied nations will have to agree on the terms to be imposed on the Germans. Some of these may not be as keen as Mr. Hughes for the retention of the colonies by Great Britain. British statesmen may therefore be pardoned for reserving opinion on this very important question.

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