

### Prominent Topics.

#### Payment of Members.

The passing of the Bill for the payment of members of the British House of Commons is one more evidence that the United Kingdom has passed under the system of parliamentary group government. The members with few exceptions do not want it and the people do not want it, but a little group of twenty want it badly and whatever they want, they must get. It is the price of their support to a party with which they have little sympathy but which needs their support badly. The whole tone and character of Parliament have been greatly degraded during the present session. The London General Omnibus Company's vehicles bear the suggestive legend "Children must be paid for." The groups are the Liberal Party's children by adoption and they must be paid for—by somebody.

#### Socialism in England.

Should, as seems not improbable, the next development in the English strikes be the tying up of the whole railway system of the country, the principal sufferers will not be the railway companies, the capitalists, the employers, or the rich, but the poor, the men, women and children who will be the first to suffer from the inevitable famine. The great centres of population are absolutely dependent for their food supply, from day to day upon the steady operation of the railway system. The seven millions of people in London, for instance, depend entirely for the bare necessities of life upon the sea and sea-borne importations of food which can only reach the consumers by rail. The Government evidently acutely realises its responsibility, but lets "I dare not, wait upon I would." Mr. Lloyd George declares in the House of Commons that non-unionists are entitled by law to work without molestation and will be protected by the police in the exercise of that right, and that the Government will protect the railways, the food supply and life and property. Then he bolts like a frightened rabbit and declares later in the day that: "The Government is bound to protect life and property, but its responsibility does not end there. It must do all in its power to see that fair play is given the community at large. Nothing is further from the mind of the Government than even to convey the impression that it would intervene in the interests of any party. It is essential that the Government should preserve an attitude of complete impartiality. It certainly does not mean to give any guarantee or to lend any countenance to the theory that it has undertaken in advance to be any party to the controversy."

The ludicrous assumption of the Socialists that

they have the right and are the only people who have the right to revert to force and bloodshed, was aptly illustrated by Mr. Lansbury, the Socialist member for Bow and Bromley who accused the Governments of "butchering the innocents" because it called out the military to prevent the police from being slaughtered by the rioters. "I never knew such a blood-thirsty gang," he bawled across the House at the ministers. Poor Lloyd George and his colleagues! To be thus roughly used in the house of their friends! But what did they expect from their allies? Gratitude? They have liberated forces in England that they cannot control. A strong man is wanted to deal with such a situation and if one is not found soon, the record of the Asquith administration will go down to posterity as one of the most humiliating in British history. It is of no use to try to fight a howling mob bent upon destruction with soft soap and political general principles. You might as well try to divert a mad bull by reading him one of Mr. Churchill's speeches.

#### Again the Coal Oil Can.

A recent Longue Pointe fire caused by the time-honoured method of leaving a can of coal oil on the lighted stove. The contempt which familiarity breeds for explosive oils in domestic use is sublime. That people should constantly take such risks would be inconceivable if it were not a common practice.

#### New York. Insurance in

A statement issued by the New York Insurance Department regarding figures of the life insurance business transacted in the State in 1910 says:—"The results of the life insurance business for the year 1910 show a continuance of the improvement that has been steadily maintained since 1907. This improvement was perhaps more marked in 1910 than during any of the preceding years. While the amount of insurance issued during the year does not show any extraordinary increase, the large increase in insurance in force indicates a most gratifying and healthy business condition, showing as it does the stability of the risks acquired and increasing persistency on the part of the policyholders. The material increase in the amount actually paid to policyholders in dividends and also in the amount of the funds apportioned to dividends payable during the current year, the lowering of expenses and decrease in forfeited policies are among the more important factors that go to prove that the business of life insurance, taken as a whole, is at the present time being conducted on a higher plane and is on a more sound and satisfactory basis from all viewpoints than ever before."