

The Postmen of France.

The recent strikes of government employees in France has focussed attention on the civil service of that country in a quite unique way. The situation has arisen out of the fact that the civil service organizations in France are affiliated with the labour movement, and the labour movement in turn is to a very large degree political. The French Postmen's Association, however, seems to have definitely decided to resort no more to force to obtain their demands. The chief demand is the familiar one of an increase in salary based on the high cost of living.

The official journal of the Postmen's Union discusses the situation, and voices the discontent of the postmen. It says:—

"The railwaymen had their strike, and on Jan. 1 they will get their 5 f. a day. The rural and urban postmen have never gone on strike, and they earn, the one 2 f. 10 c. and the other 3 f. 45 c. per day. They have remained faithful to their duty and to the public. We would only say to the Minister of Public Works that the loyal discharge of duty, if it does not merit a recompense at least deserves that the wishes of the men who so act should receive friendly consideration. It should not be made possible to say to the Minister that employees who revolt obtain satisfaction, while those who remain faithful are fooled with the renewal of unfulfilled promises. We hope, therefore, that M. Millerand will take into consideration the representations of the Postmen's Association."

The question of the improvement of the salary of Post Office employees has been before the Chamber, but the Government does not seem disposed to agree to the proposals that have been made, and it is this attitude which is really at the bottom of the present discontent. M.

Roblet, the secretary of the Postmen's Association, when asked whether it was likely that the members would entertain the idea of a strike if other means of obtaining redress should fail, said:—

"Our resolution on that point is quickly taken. We are the servants of the nation, and not of any particular Minister. If we declared a strike or joined a strike already declared it would be the interests of the nation, and not the interests of Ministers, that would be prejudiced, and the Ministers would still persist in misunderstanding the justice of the views that we would submit to them. To combat the interests of the nation would only be to fight against ourselves, and the postmen have no idea of doing anything of the kind. We should merely alienate the sympathy of the public, and make Parliament and the public authority indisposed to meet our wishes. We have already obtained some satisfaction, but not nearly what we want. You must remember that the postmen are the stepchildren of the Administration. We hope, however, to obtain a further measure of redress. At all events, we are persuaded that our methods of obtaining satisfaction, which have always been firm, correct, and loyal, will in the end produce better results than the adoption of violent measures."

A young gentleman with a very plain face was rather annoyed because his view of the stage was obstructed by the hat of a pretty girl who was sitting in front of him in the gallery.

Wishing to get a glimpse of the performance, he plucked up courage and, in a nervous voice, exclaimed:

"See her, miss, I want to look at well as you."

"Oh, do yer?" she replied in a rich Cockney accent as she turned round and looked him in the eye. "Then you'd better run home and change yer face."—
Tit-Bits.