

the college is at a standstill, and much time is being lost by the students, just at the moment when, as Principal Burwash remarked in his address to the students of Victoria, they cannot afford to lose time. With regard to the course pursued by Professor Dale, in openly criticising both the authorities of the University and his associates on the teaching staff, it is obvious that he could have expected no other consequence than that which ensued, and that he must have been actuated by some powerful motive in taking such a step. It was, too, a step which could be justified, if at all, only as a last resort, after representations had been made in vain to the proper authorities. Whether such representations have ever been made, the public has no means of knowing. Possibly, therefore, it may only be just to suspend judgment in reference to Professor Dale until an investigation shall have been held. It is becoming imperative that such investigation should be held. At first thought one is disposed to say that the Minister of Education did only what is fair and reasonable in demanding, as the condition of holding the investigation asked for, that specific charges should be formulated against specific individuals. But, on further reflection, it may be questioned whether it would not be somewhat undignified on the part of the Government, and not a little humiliating to professors or lecturers, that the latter should be put on trial for incompetency on charges preferred by their own students. As not only the discipline but the reputation of the University are at stake, would it not be the more dignified course on the part of the Government to institute the investigation on its own initiative and summon the disaffected students, and such other witnesses as an impartial commission might desire, to make a general inquiry into the efficiency of the institution. We should suppose that every member of the Faculty, from the President downwards, would demand such an investigation, as the most effective means now left of removing all doubts from the public mind and re-establishing the institution on its old basis.

#### Threatened Failure of Popular Parliaments.

The congested state of legislation in the British Parliament has long been a source of perplexity to the leaders and of discontent to the people of the Mother Country. Legislation much needed in the interests of different parts of the United Kingdom is untouched, year after year, not because there is not sufficient unanimity of opinion in favour of it to assure its passage, but simply because, in consequence of the great mass of necessary legislation always before the Commons, it is found impossible to overtake it. The difficulty is, of course, greatly increased by the embarrassment, often approaching an almost complete dead-lock, which results from the intensity of party strife. The same difficulty is now felt to an even greater extent in the American Congress, where legislation is almost paralyzed, and some of the most necessary measures, too,—which, if they could be brought to the vote, would have the support of a large majority in both houses—have to lie over simply because the rules of the houses are so manipulated in the interests of partisanship that nothing can be done. In fact, the forms and whole system of procedure in the American houses seem to lend themselves to the purpose of mere obstruction to a still greater extent than those in the British and Canadian Parliaments. Such bills as the Anti-Lottery Bill, against which, it is said, not a dozen men in the House would dare to vote; the Post-Office Employees Bill, which extends the classified service, making promotion dependent upon examination, and fixing salaries by law instead of leaving them to the discretion of the post-master, and others similarly good, have very poor prospects of coming up for consideration before the close of the session. However warmly attached we may be to the principle of

representative government, it must be confessed that the ingenuity of self-governing communities has not yet been very successful in devising machinery for the efficient accomplishment of the work for which they are constituted. In the Mother Country the difficulty is being partially overcome by the gradual devolution of local concerns to local bodies. From what quarter deliverance is to be looked for in the United States does not yet appear.

#### The Labour Problem.

A Massachusetts clergyman, the Rev. W. W. Newton, has been making a special study of the problem presented by the perpetual struggle between labour and capital, to use the current expression, and gives some of the results of his studies in a recent number of the *New York Independent*. The article is of considerable interest from the fact that it summarizes the views of such men as Bishops Huntington and Newman, Cardinal Gibbons, President Eliot, Henry George, and other well-known thinkers. Yet it can hardly be said to shed much light upon the problem, still less, to give much hope of its early solution. The principal remedies proposed may be reduced to the following: definite contracts between employer and employed; more altruism on the part of both; the single tax; compulsory arbitration; and profit-sharing. The individual contract system is not likely to find favour with the workmen, save in a form involving mutual obligations such as nothing short of compulsion, or a long process of education, is likely to make acceptable to the average employer. It would, too, deprive both parties of the right of combination, which is at present the most effective weapon of either. That the spirit of altruism fully developed on the part of both employer and workman would effectually heal the inveterate social sore, cannot be questioned, but as altruism is a personal trait or feeling which cannot be produced at will, or by any process of legislation, the practical usefulness of the suggestion, save as an end to be kept in view by preachers and moral reformers, seems doubtful. To the single tax the obvious objection is that it is merely a theory, and one which is making slow progress, if any, towards general acceptance, while what confronts society is a condition, and a very perplexing one. Compulsory arbitration, as a practical remedy capable of immediate application, commends itself to the minds of many practical men. But, at best, it can be merely a preventive of strikes, while what society requires for its permanent well-being is a radical removal of the producing causes of strikes. Profit-sharing seems to be the only really practical, and, at the same time, radical remedy, but profit-sharing can hardly be made general use of until capitalists are educated up to the point of perceiving that it is not only a fair and righteous system, but one which would prove mutually profitable. That good time coming is, we fear, far off as yet.

#### The Armenian Massacres

It must now be regarded as established that massacres of a very frightful and disagreeable kind have been perpetrated in some of the Christian villages of Armenia. One journalist has succeeded in evading the obstacles placed in the way of his class by the Turkish Government, and has given a very soberly written account of some phases of the trouble. More recently the Italian consul at Erzeroum has reported to his Government that accounts of the massacre have been confirmed by the testimony of eye-witnesses. It matters little now, so far as the public opinion of Europe and America is concerned, what report is made by the Porte's own commission of inquiry; the conviction will remain that unspeakable cruelties have been perpetrated and that the perpetrators have, so far from being punished, received special marks of