

As Great Britain has met with such signal success in its land cultivation programme, so, there are striking indications that a new spirit has been introduced into its industrial life which may go far towards establishing better relations between capital and labor. This new industrial movement is dealt with at length in a pamphlet, "Industrial Relations," already published by the Canadian Reconstruction Association. It furnishes further convincing proof of the progressive temper in which the United Kingdom is dealing with reconstruction problems.

### INDUSTRIAL POLICY

In the manufacturing, commercial and financial fields tremendous preparations are being made to meet the future. In July, 1916, Mr. Lloyd George appointed a special committee, under the Chairmanship of Rt. Hon. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, to consider the commercial and industrial policy to be followed after the war. While this committee was conducting its investigations, special committees appointed by the Board of Trade (which is a department of the British Government) were active in consideration of definite proposals affecting the most important and staple trades. These included the iron and steel, engineering, electrical and non-ferrous metal trades; the woollen and worsted, silk, linen, cotton, jute and shipbuilding industries; the carpet associations, the lace and embroidery trades and the cotton hosiery and fabric glove industries. Inquiries were largely confined to supply of raw materials, production and marketing. A summary of the conclusions reached gives significant indication of the trend of industrial opinion.

### RAW MATERIALS

In dealing with raw materials, the Iron and Steel Trades Committee recommended the creation of an

organization co-operative in character, for the purpose of securing supplies of suitable iron ore. It suggested that this organization might ultimately become the owner of large deposits, or gain absolute control of them in such a way as to ensure continuous and uninterrupted supplies to the British manufacturer. The Non-ferrous Metal Trades Committee proposed the establishment of a powerful national organization to secure and market supplies. The Engineering Trades Committee recommended that firms be encouraged to work together for the purchase of raw materials. Commenting on the proposals of these various trades, the Balfour Committee was of the opinion "that every encouragement should be given by the Government to the formation of combinations of manufacturers and others concerned to secure supplies of raw materials, and that, where it appears expedient that the control of mineral deposits in foreign countries should be obtained, all practicable support should be given."

### COMBINATION URGED

Combination was likewise a feature of committee reports on production. The iron and steel trades recommended that British manufacturers should be urged to form combinations for the purpose of laying down large and well designed new units, for cheap production upon modern lines and for the remodelling of old plants. The Engineering Trades Committee urged that manufacturers should be encouraged to work together in larger units, either by amalgamation or by joint working, by pooling of resources and by specializing production. Impressed by the economic waste and inefficiency in competition in the smaller textile industries, the textile trades recommended that units of production should be enlarged wherever possible, either by amalgamation or by means of working agreements.