

which may be very disagreeable, but it is a fact that only a purblind individual will ignore.

A Labor Representation Committee organized the trade union forces for the election of trade union men to Parliament, absolutely independent of the traditional parties. They carried a force of men who are quite the most remarkable group which has ever shown itself in a new Parliament. As a body, their dominant quality has proved to be their brains. Many of them have been civic administrators for years. Their organizer and whip, Mr. J. Ramsay MacDonald, is on his way to Canada for the purpose of establishing an entente cordiale between the labor parties of the United Kingdom and Canada.

The Imperialism of labor is of a different hue from the Imperialism with which we are more familiar. No one can prophesy reliably the shape it will take. The only sure thing about it is that it will have to be reckoned with. Immediately, it will continue to press for larger pay and smaller performance. That higher wages, all round involves higher cost of living will not deter your modern laborist from calling for more wages. He reasons that whenever the standard of living has been raised and the workman has been able to buy things which his grandfather never dreamed of possessing, he, at least, has a better time than his forebears knew; and he leaves the economists to adjust their theories to changed conditions; and doesn't care very much whether the employer and politician make the best or worst of them.

Mr. MacDonald's mission to Canada will be worthy of the close, and, even sympathetic observation of those who naturally like his coming the least. In his younger days, he was secretary to a member of the present British Government. He married a wife with money; has travelled extensively, and bases his thoroughgoing Socialism upon a breadth of knowledge not common to labor agitators; and, it must be confessed, not common among parliamentarians generally. His maiden speech in the House of Commons was a remarkable success, which is also true of the first and subsequent deliverances of his colleague, Mr. Philip Snowden, who has all the natural attributes of a first-class statesman.

There will be many a battle between organized labor and organized capital so long as fateful decisions involving great departments of national trade, are in the hands of crowds of uneducated workmen who know nothing of the delicate movements of commercial forces. There will be dangers to the body politic; and, from time to time, violent and profitless dislocations of industry. In the United States, the wicked extortions of a man like the walking delegate Parkes have been possible because labor has not understood itself. In the United Kingdom, the advent to the Imperial Parliament of such men as MacDonald and Snowden has finally proved that, helping to make up the wages side of the international political balance, there are accountants worthy to be esteemed and not lightly to be disregarded by those who may have to deal with them. You may not like their gospel, and their way of preaching it; but you cannot know them without respecting their intellectual and moral quality.

So long as the wages bill is a dominant factor in all kinds of commerce, it will be highly unbusinesslike for commercial and financial men not to pay the closest attention to the movements and utterances of those who are the apostles of higher wages. For that reason, the coming of Mr. MacDonald to Canada is of greater immediate financial importance than the coming of the average semi-political, academic traveller at this time of year, who has in his pocket a patent scheme for Imperial federation, but who marshals in his support no force comparable to that of which Mr. MacDonald is a remarkably effective engineer.

AUSTRALIA BIDS FOR POPULATION.

Sir John Forrest, the Treasurer of the Australian Commonwealth, announced during his budget speech the other day, that Australia, with two million people less than Canada, exported goods worth yearly thirteen million pounds more than the Dominion. That sounds more flattering to Australian prosperity than it really is. Canadians are delighted to see Australians flourish. The more money they have to spend the more will there be for trade with us. Exports only tell half a story. How much of the exports went to buy imports, and how much to pay off accumulated debts, the Australian cable does not say. The year has seen a record wool-clip, and trade is flourishing generally, as our Sydney correspondent testifies, and gold exports have greatly enlarged.

If the prosperity of a country is to be gauged by its ability to pay its way, Australia is not jealously to be regarded. The public debt of Canada is about \$60 per head of the population. The debt of Victoria is \$210 per head of population; of Tasmania, \$250; of New South Wales, \$275; of Western Australia, \$335; of South Australia, \$385, and of Queensland, \$395. Concurrent with the piling up of liabilities there has been no corresponding growth in population. Immigration has been at a standstill; and the birth-rate has steadily declined. Happily, more progressive views about national prosperity are being entertained.

Australia has entered actively into competition with Canada for the favor of the intending British emigrant. We need not grudge the Australian states any success they may achieve. They have certain distinctions of climate of which Canada cannot boast, and a certain isolation from the rest of the world which we do not enjoy.

Victorian wheat is declared the finest in the world, and brings a higher price in London than No. 1 hard. It is unimportant to dispute this statement. It is worth while remembering, though that if the price is higher, the quantity produced is less. In 1904-05 Victoria produced 21,000,000 bushels, and four years previously, 17,800,000 bushels. The average for five years was 16,400,000. But 1902-3 was a drought year when only 2,500,000 bushels were harvested. The average number of bushels per acre yielded in each of these five years was 8.85, 6.91, 1.29, 14.49, and 9.26.

Emigration to Victoria is being facilitated by the operation of the Closer Settlement Act of 1904, under which the Government, after compensating the owners, may acquire large estates which have been used for cattle and sheep grazing, and to divide them up into smaller holdings, which are sold to new settlers for cultivation. Payment is made in half-yearly instalments, equal to 3 per cent. of the total value of the land. Purchases may extend over 36½ years. It takes a minimum of six years in which to obtain a negotiable title, and improvements must be made equal to one-fifth of the total value of the allotment in six years.

Queensland is also offering land to emigrants. Thousands of acres have been selected within the rain belt, near state railways, and can be taken up in blocks not exceeding 640 acres, at annual rentals ranging from 10 cents to 25 cents per acre. Farms can be bought outright at from \$4.40 to \$10.20 per acre. The land is being sold in London, the payment down to be one-fifth the cost of the survey fee and one year's rent. Payment of the full purchase money will secure a free passage for the farmer and family, free transportation from the seaport to the railway station nearest the farm, and a reduction of 25 per cent. on the usual freight rates for building and farm materials. If he performs the conditions of residence he will be entitled to receive 3 per cent. on the purchase money paid by him, and if at the end of five years he is dissatisfied with his purchase, he is entitled to the return

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