

of the country will hardly justify the radical measures that have been advocated by agitators whose projects do not appear to have won the sympathy of the masses of the people.

The Guelph Trouble

IT is more than probable that if Hon. Mr. Doherty, Minister of Justice, had not had a son in the Jesuit College at Guelph we would have had none of the excited press discussion that occurred last week respecting the relation of the men in that institution to the Military Service Act. It seems to be clearly established, from Mr. Doherty's statements, that his son submitted himself to examination by medical men recognized by the Militia authorities and that he was certified as being physically unfit for military duty. Since the young man has thus been shown to be ineligible for service, it seems hardly worth while to debate whether he is or is not exempt on other grounds. The Protestant clergymen at Guelph who have protested against the privileges said to have been allowed to the young men of the institution, say they have no prejudice against the Jesuit College, but only desire to see that the youth of both Protestant and Roman Catholic institutions are treated alike. It begins to appear that there is a possibility of the Roman Catholic college receiving more consideration than Protestant institutions, but if this proves to be the fact, it will arise from a situation for which the Roman Catholic authorities cannot be held responsible. When the Military Service bill came before Parliament, it contained provisions exempting members of religious orders and divinity students. Several members of Parliament who have never been suspected of holding briefs for Roman Catholic institutions strongly objected to the exemption of divinity students, and that provision was stricken out of the bill. It is now claimed that this change, while it distinctly made Protestant divinity students liable to serve, did not make young men of the Jesuit College liable. These young men entering the Novitiate are received on probation, and remain for some time free to withdraw. It is, however, claimed by the college authorities that even in that position they are distinctly exempt from military service. If the validity of this claim is to be authoritatively passed upon, it would seem that the court of the Central Appeal Judge at Ottawa is the proper tribunal to hear and decide the case. But since it has been made clear that in any case the son of the Minister of Justice is not liable for service, perhaps the interest in the case will diminish to such a degree that we may hear little more about it.

Our Divorce Courts

THE view, long held and acted on, that only by an Act of the Canadian Parliament could a divorce be granted in Quebec, Ontario, or the prairie Provinces (the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia having divorce courts) received quite a shock a couple of months ago when a judgment of the Supreme Court of Manitoba decided that that court had power to grant divorces. It was not claimed that the Provincial Legislature of Manitoba had any power in the matter. It was not denied that the Dominion Parliament had the legislative control of the subject. The meaning of the judgment was that the Canadian Parliament, in forming the Provincial constitution for Manitoba, had in general terms made the laws of England, as they were at the time, applicable to the new Province, and that on a

careful study of the effect of this provision it had been found that it included the divorce law of England. Acting under this new interpretation of the Manitoba constitution, the Supreme Court of the Province has exercised the functions of a divorce court.

When, in later years, the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta were organized, language similar to that of the Manitoba Act was used. Consequently, if the Manitoba court's decision is right, there are divorce courts now in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The Supreme Court of Alberta (the Chief Justice dissenting) has now given a judgment similar to that of the Manitoba court. The Saskatchewan Supreme Court does not appear to have dealt with the matter. It is likely, however, that if the point be raised, the right of that court to grant divorces will be asserted. Thus there will be, under existing law, divorce courts in all the Provinces except Ontario and Quebec.

If, owing to the objection which many have, on religious grounds, to the granting of divorces, it is not deemed expedient to establish divorce courts in Ontario and Quebec, the Canadian Parliament might well diminish the evil—for an evil it is—of the present practice of Parliamentary divorce trials, by obliging petitioners for divorce to carry their cases to the Provincial divorce courts, where such exist, and thus limit the disagreeable divorce business at Ottawa to cases arising in Ontario and Quebec.

One of England's Help Schemes

HAROLD Begbie, in an article in the London Westminster Gazette, brings to public notice an enterprise which seems to be well designed to meet a distressing condition arising from the war. It is a business-like provision to minister to the comfort of a class of English ladies who without some such movement would have to bear very heavy war burdens. The young girl who "ministers to the light-hearted happiness of the second-lieutenant," writes Mr. Begbie, is very much in evidence in the streets and tea-shops of London, but there is another class of young woman that is seldom seen in public places. She is too poor to dress in a manner to attract attention, too modest to behave audaciously, and too busy with affairs of cradle and perambulator to waste her time in frivolities of any kind. She is the widow of the young officer who has given his life in the war. The nation gives her a pension of £100 or less and she is struggling to make a home on this modest allowance. Her first great obstacle is the cost of rent of a house or apartment of the class she was accustomed to in her husband's lifetime. Under ordinary circumstances this charge would take a considerable part of her little pension. It is to meet this situation that an organization has been formed to provide homes suitable for ladies of this class. It is not, in the usual sense of the words, a charitable scheme, though it is truly charitable in its purpose. The enterprise is designed to be self-sustaining. Apartments in buildings specially constructed for the purpose and open to ladies of the class mentioned are available at very low rents, the smaller ones costing only seven shillings per week. Sanitary conditions are perfect and labor saving devices do all that is possible for the avoidance of heavy work. In such convenient apartments, surrounded by ladies of refinement whose circumstances in life are very much the same as her own, the young widow of the officer will have a degree of comfort which would otherwise be quite beyond her reach. And so well or-

ganized is the scheme that the modest rental will pay a fair return on the capital invested. It is one of the many projects which practical and patriotic Englishmen are making for helping people to help themselves.

An After-the-War Problem

ALL sorts of bodies are studying after-the-war problems, making recommendations as to what should be done after the war, or what should be done now by way of preparation for the conditions that are likely to arise. Most of these studies and reports relate to the larger questions of the time—finance, trade, the restoration of soldiers to civil life, the proper recognition of those who have fought and survive, and proper provision for the families of those who have given their lives. There is, however, a class of questions which relate to humble domestic affairs which may require much more attention than it is receiving. To the housewife there is no problem, outside of the immediate field of the war, that is of so much importance as that which concerns the obtaining of help in the household. The difficulty in obtaining competent domestic servants is an old one, and has been growing worse for some years. As the opportunities for the employment of women in offices and factories have increased, the willingness to engage in domestic service has decreased. Many reasons, both social and economic, may be given for this state of affairs. One result has been the development in all cities of the apartment house, where much is done to diminish the labor required in the ordinary household. The war has intensified the servant difficulty because of the very wide demand for women in munition factories and public offices. This particular demand will, of course, fall off when the war ends, but in the opinion of many careful observers, the condition which has been created—the dislike for domestic service—will remain and there will be less willingness than ever to engage in the household work under the conditions that have hitherto prevailed.

In England there is a widespread feeling that the remedy must be found in a reorganization of domestic work, which must be accorded a higher standing and a closer approach to the condition of men's service. The servant who is willing to engage in domestic work, living with her employer and usually available at all hours for whatever service is needed, is many think, likely to disappear. To meet the new situation, it is proposed in England by the Women's Industrial Council to organize a corps to be known as the "Household Orderly Corps." The members are to be trained and certified persons—that at all events will be an improvement—and they are to engage in domestic work from day to day as required, just as mechanics or workmen do now, living in their own homes or in hostels, supplying their own food and working only the appointed hours as workmen do. A minimum wage of thirty shilling per week is proposed. Domestic service of this character, it is claimed, will have a higher social standing than that of the domestic under past conditions and girls will therefore be willing to engage in it.—Although nothing is said in the reports concerning trades-unions, we may be sure that such a form of service would speedily develop its unions and that the public would have to be prepared for all the troubles which in these days are associated with labor organizations. This English experiment will be found very interesting, since the conditions out of which it springs are likely to be found in all countries.