

be disallowed. If a Provincial Act contains clauses which are believed to be beyond the Provincial power the attention of the Provincial Government will be drawn to them, and unless an agreement to repeal them be made, the Act will be disallowed. But so long as the Provincial law is not open to objections of that kind, it will be left to its operation, even though in the judgment of the Dominion Ministers the measure is unwise and unjust. The Federal system could not be successfully carried on if it were true that in practice "all Provincial legislation is subject to review by the Dominion Government."

Mr. Balfour

THE selection of Mr. Arthur J. Balfour as the head of the British Mission to the United States was a very happy one. His great ability, his wide experience in the field of statesmanship, his long term in the British House of Commons, his service in many of the highest offices of British public life, including that of Prime Minister, and last, but not least, his personal charm of manner, which won for him the esteem of his opponents even in times of intense party conflict—all these tended to qualify him to present to the American authorities and to the American people the principles which have governed and still govern Great Britain in the prosecution of the war. Mr. Balfour has been eminently successful in securing the hearty co-operation of the American nation in the war work of Great Britain and her Allies. All Canadians must rejoice that he has been able to give a part of his time on this side of the Atlantic to a visit, necessarily somewhat hurried, to the Dominion, and to deliver inspiring addresses at Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. Mr. Balfour may not be counted an orator, according to some standards. Oratory is almost among the lost arts in the British Parliament. With the ever-increasing volume of business to be transacted and of questions to be considered, with the large number of members who desire to be heard, the British House of Commons has found it necessary to create a style of speaking that differs from the eloquence of an earlier period. The House is not wholly indifferent to the words of a member who manifests some of the old-time eloquence; a little of that is at favorable moments appreciated yet; but what is regarded as of far greater importance is that a speaker shall exhibit evidence of hard study and correct information, combined with clear and forcible expression, a sincere purpose of fairly discussing the matter under consideration. There is no member to-day who in a larger measure displays these qualities, none who better exemplifies this highest Parliamentary style, than Mr. Balfour. It would not be surprising if one who has had forty-three years of service in the British Parliament had reached a time of life when impairment became evident. But there is no sign of this in the case of Mr. Balfour. He comes to us in what seems to be the height of his powers, both physical and intellectual, taking upon himself heavy burdens in the great matters of the time and giving to the Empire a noble service. Those who have had the great pleasure of hearing his thoughtful exposition of the issues in the war—the conflict between the underlying principles of true democracy and those of Prussian Militarism—will not soon forget the occasion or the man.

A New Science

THE claim is being made by leaders in Germany that they, by their methods of organization, have given to the world a new science. The claim of a remarkable organization by a skilful, plodding, inventive people may not be questioned, but the how and why calls for consideration. Lord Bryce, in a recent address in London, said:

"Heaven save us from imitating Prussia! If we had to choose between such wealth as state control has given to the great business firms of Germany and freedom, let us have less wealth and more freedom. Let us preserve that independent personality and individual initiative to which we owe our achievements. * * * Seventy years ago, the toast at gatherings in England used to be: 'Civil and religious liberty—the cause for which Hampden died on the field and Sidney on the scaffold.' Civil and religious liberty, in the old sense of the term, have been completely achieved in England, only to have liberty now facing a new attack from an unexpected quarter. It lies in the demand that the state shall at once step in to 'take charge of and direct branches of industry and commerce which have hitherto thriven without that direction—establishing banks, financing enterprises, organizing companies to exploit the resources of tropical colonies, perhaps secretly inspiring those methods of peaceful penetration by which Germany was trying to reduce her neighbors to financial vassalage.'"

These, Lord Bryce explained, are Prussian methods, for in Prussia the state is all in all, and the individual is bidden to serve it and be absorbed in it. He himself is distinctly not a believer in the old laissez-faire school, but he insists that all must preserve that individual freedom and initiative which have been "the glory and strength of Britain."

Commenting on Lord Bryce's address, the *New York Nation* says:

"But it is evident that Lord Bryce is not merely thinking of the temporary suspension or loss of rights during hostilities. He is warning us all against a new autocratic danger—the state. Shall we overturn Kaiserism and Czarism only to find that the state is no longer the servant, but the master, of the people, cunningly entrapping them into the loss of freedom by the lure of industrial and military and civic efficiency? Such efficiency does exist in Germany. What is the price the German people have paid for it? Lord Bryce is under no doubt. 'They have,' he says, 'been disciplined and drilled and trained to passive obedience, and obliged to take even their morality, if morality it can be called from their omnipotent state, which knows no ethical rule but its own interests.'"

Canon Kingsley had a saying: "That Madam How and Lady Why were always at our elbows." Lord Bryce has given us an explanation as to the—how—of Germany's deemed new science.

As to the—why, the answer is spread before a world. Wendell Phillips used to ask, as to any theory or system propounded, "Will it work?" In other words, what has the new science done, for Germany and a world?

For, within and behind the forty years organization was a purpose, made manifest in the attempt to obtain world domination, and

world supremacy. That efficient organization is excellent, calls for no explication; but, form, aim, purpose, the ends aimed at, are the justification.

Germany's working of the new science has called forth a feeling expressed by one of its leaders: "We Germans are the most hated nation in the world, and we are proud of it," was a loudly applauded remark of Professor Roethe to a Berlin assembly. We are told that "pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

Let us Keep Faith

THE extraordinary proposal has been made by a member of the House of Commons at Ottawa that the right to vote at elections shall be taken from persons of alien birth who, though they are fully naturalized British subjects, have resided in Canada only a few years. The movement (if it has no partisan aim) appears to be based on the idea that these people are not loyal citizens of Canada. Of course, if there is evidence that any person is disloyal, that person, whether a native of Canada or of alien birth, should be dealt with by the properly constituted authorities. If any person fails to discharge the duties of citizenship our laws and customs provide means whereby such person may, in one way or another, be penalized. But a proposal to disqualify any class of British subjects in this country as respects any of the rights or privileges of citizenship, on the ground of their short residence in Canada, cannot be justified. The period of residence as a qualification for naturalization has been fixed by our own laws. We have invited the world's citizens to come in and join us on these terms. The men who accepted our invitation, came in on the terms and conditions of our laws, complied with these, and became naturalized subjects of His Majesty, have a contract with Canada which Canada must unhesitatingly carry out. To ignore their title to citizenship, to treat their certificates of naturalization as mere scraps of paper to be flung aside as the Germans flung aside their treaty concerning the independence of Belgium, would be a proceeding that would shock every man having any regard for British fair play.

Shipbuilding

AT a time when there is quite a revival of the wooden shipbuilding industry and fair prospect of the successful establishing of steel shipbuilding, the "Shipbuilding Number" of the *Halifax Chronicle*, issued a few days ago, is deeply interesting. Within the memory of older citizens the shipbuilding industry was a very flourishing one in the Maritime Provinces. The *Chronicle's* writers have told the story of these operations at the principal ports of the Provinces and of the prosperity which sprang from them, and have pointed out the opportunities that are now opening for renewed efforts along the same lines. An interesting article in the number is written by Mr. Wallace Downey, a Nova Scotian, who is now carrying on an extensive business in the production of "standardized shipping" in New York.