

**Lord Curzon
and Kipling.**

Lord Curzon has added his voice to the chorus of protest against the school of the prophets who have been warning England of a time of trouble to come. He says:

"Great generals tell us we have no army. We are beginning to be a little bit suspicious about the navy, and, of course, we have a bad Government. Then our national poets write poems describing, in almost blood-curdling tones, the decline and ultimate disappearance of the race—every man over fifty is a Cassandra, talking of the brave days of old and the bad times in which we live."

As Lord Curzon is just about fifty years old we may assume that he will soon essay the role of a Cassandra himself. Meanwhile we may remind His Lordship that it was not the fault of Cassandra that the Trojans refused to believe her predictions concerning the Wooden Horse and the Fall of Ilium. In every age and every nation the popular prophets have been those who prophesied smooth things concerning the nation and flattered the national vanity. Lord Curzon's jibe at Kipling was courageous to the verge of rashness, not to use a stronger word. Is it possible that now after the South African war, the author of the "Recessional" needs vindication? Mr. Kipling has that gift of prophesy which comes with more or less of inspiration to every intelligent and thoughtful man, who carefully observes the signs of the times and especially the trend of national characteristics. We cannot by stoning the prophets avert the fulfilment of their predictions. When the greatest soldiers and sailors of England and the wisest and most experienced statesmen between the age of fifty and the chloroform age raise such a cry as has been raised during the last twelve months, it is time to be up and doing. There is no necessity for undue pessimism or exaggerated humility, but there is a call for action, which cannot be silenced by the boys of forty-nine and under, making a noise like "the crackling of thorns under a pot." Nor will men like Roberts and Kipling be silenced by flouts and jibes and sneers. Said the King of Israel to Jehoshaphat "There is yet one man Micaiah the son of Imlah by whom we may enquire of the Lord: but I hate him: for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil." Said Micaiah the son of Imlah! "I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills as sheep that have not a shepherd." "Did I not tell thee," demanded the King, "that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil." If England is not to "pass from the roll of the nations in headlong surrender" it will be because the people pay due heed to the warnings of such men as Roberts and Kipling. History repeats itself over and over again. It is in the time of their wealth, rather than in the time of their tribulation, that the Kingdoms need warning. These warnings are generally forthcoming and are generally unheeded, but this is not the fault of the prophets. Apollo's case must have been annoying and humiliating to

Cassandra, but its penalty fell chiefly upon the people doomed to disbelieve her to their own peril and disaster.

**Strikes and Riots.**

A day of fearful rioting is reported from McKee's Rocks, Pa., six miles below Pittsburg where there is a strike of car builders in progress. Meanwhile we have troubles of our own at Glace Bay, and the intense anxiety of certain local politicians to secure the withdrawal of the troops, sent there to preserve order, is to say the least suggestive. If the strikers have no desire to break the law, by interfering with the liberty of men who want to work, we do not see on what ground they can object to the presence of the soldiers. They are there, not as the servants of the Coal Company, but to uphold the law; and for the protection of the strikers, as much as the protection of the non-strikers; if we could imagine anybody wanting to molest the strikers. The Municipal Council of Glace Bay showed good sense in resolving by a vote of 9 to 2 that the troops ought to remain until the end of the strike. If any striker wants to sulk in his tent until the Company misses him so much that it will accept the dictation of a foreign labour organization to woo him back, he is within his rights; and the troops will protect him in his rights. On the other hand if any Canadian workman wants to go to work without the permission of a foreign labour organization, the troops will protect him in his rights also. As a rule the striker has more time and inclination for rioting than the non-striker, but the rights of each before the law are equal.

**Exempting
Fraternal.**

Fraternal beneficiary societies and orders, apparently, are to be exempted from the federal corporation tax provision embodied in the tariff bill passed by the United States Senate. In spite of all remonstrances, however, the tax on insurance companies, inclusive of mutual life insurance companies, is retained. It is a tax of two per cent upon the entire net income over and above \$5,000 received from all sources during the year. As the Weekly Underwriter remarks, it can hardly be hoped that the House of Representatives will be sensitive to the objections urged to the tax when they failed to appeal to the presumptively more conservative body.

According to our contemporary, the remedy for the injustice of placing additional burdens on thrift and providence as represented in insurance—now heavily taxed by States and municipalities—may come from the courts in response to the fight which the corporations are evidently preparing to make to test the constitutionality of the corporation tax in the tariff law.