

done, the matter, as he saw it, would have to be the subject of a report from the Chairman of the Committee regarding the incident, but he did not know what jurisdiction the House would have in the matter.

It was funny that Mr. Finn should find a champion in Mr. Butts, but then Butts may have been impelled by that fellow feeling which is said to make one wondrous kind. Some two or three weeks ago, Mr. Moffatt, general secretary of the P. W. A., was before the Law Amendment committee. Mr. Butts tried to put him through the third degree, and in the process told Mr. Moffatt that certain people in Cape Breton did not think him of much account. Mr. Moffatt cheeked up, and told Mr. Butts that he was absolutely a nobody, and one in whom no man, woman or child in Cape Breton placed the least reliance. Now, surely here was a glaring breach of privilege. Did Mr. Butts appeal to the chair, or did his comrade Finn? Not a bit of it. Why? Because he (Butts) was provokingly aggressive and just got tit for tat. I am afraid that our legislators when young were never duly impressed with the hymn for children, the lines of which are:

"Let dogs delight to bark and bite,
For God has made them so"

But—

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The plebiscite bill was up yet another time on Thursday, the 3rd. Premier Murray said that he still believed that no good could possibly result from this legislation. He felt strongly that the present was a very inopportune time to hold such a plebiscite, which would only serve to perpetuate the feud between the two labor organizations. He had been immeasurably strengthened in his views by facts which had come to his notice since the discussion of the matter in the house on Wednesday. He had since conversed with men who were regarded as labor leaders in the Province and found that these leaders realized the enormous importance of getting the miners of the Province together with common ambitions and common ideas.

With regard to interviews which representatives of the U. M. W. had had with him and which had been referred to by Mr. Douglas, Premier Murray said that he had had one or two discussions with them, had given them a sympathetic reception, talked to them frankly, and had felt that it was his duty to help them along reasonable and proper lines if he could do so.

The Premier said that one labor leader had told him that he would not consider as a desirable member of a labor organization a man who would not pay his dues himself direct to the union, but only if the corporation collected it from his pay. This opinion, said the Premier, made one reach the conclusion that all labor organizations should be placed upon their merits and collect their dues themselves.

"I cannot impress too strongly upon the members of the House that, in my judgment, if you leave the situation alone, the workmen of Nova Scotia, particularly the men employed by the coal corporations, will work the problem more satisfactorily on other lines than those proposed by this Bill."

My comment on a portion of the foregoing is that

the labor leaders, to whom Premier Murray refers, had no extended experience. That which is considered the toniest and foremost society in the land has to continually drum up "slow" members. It was because it was in their own best interest that the workmen asked that their lodge dues be collected in the office. It saved many a strike.

'Rubs' by Rambler.

The brutal characteristics of the German soldiery, as brought out in their conduct of the war, has so impressed the people of Britain and in short, the people of all English-speaking countries, that they have all but come to the conclusion that everything German is bad and that continually. This is an error, for there is no gainsaying the fact that before the war, in some things, the German people excelled. There is chemistry, for instance, and there is education. In Britain, to a large extent, and in Canada, wholly, when a boy has left school the state, the government is done with him, and concludes that it has done all required of it. That is just where our system of education falls down. In Nova Scotia, it is true, we have established technical classes, which in a far away sense may be called continuation schools, but these classes come in after the lad has selected a trade, whether suited to his proclivities or ability or not. In Germany, when a lad has gone through the common school the community is not done with him, but follows him and endeavors to teach him a trade for which it is found he is best suited. It is claimed that if after the war we are to maintain commercial supremacy we must take a leaf out of the German education book.

A well-known writer in a London paper has this to say on the subject:—"Before the war Germany was the land of education. Illiteracy is practically non-existent. The Government insists that all classes of the population must be educated. The Government has made as serious an effort as ever has been made to enlighten all its citizens. This is a matter which must occupy our minds at the present time. If we are to cope with Germany in economic matters after the war we must steadily face our own shortcomings in education with the object of overcoming them, and we must with the keenest attention watch the steps which are being taken by Germany to improve her educational standing. What do we see? In every one of the federal states we notice the authorities providing for the training of the young in occupations which will be useful and profitable after the war. The Economic Conference at Paris, where steps were taken to provide for joint economic action against Germany after the war, has given a tremendous impulse to movements having for their object the equipment of all classes of the population for the coming struggle in the fields of manufactures and trade. Perhaps the most significant movement is that in favour of an extension of the system of compulsory continuation schools.

"I may be permitted to say that we have here