

they refused to pay the men on the basis of the law, but announced that if the Supreme Court upheld the law the men would receive the back-pay. The brotherhoods have been complaining of this action, and apparently had some fear that the decision of the court would be against them. They therefore ordered the strike which was to have taken effect on Monday, the 19th inst. The prospect of this strike disturbed the country much. Strenuous efforts were made by officials of the companies and the brotherhoods, whose good offices the President had sought, to bring about an agreement. Only at the eleventh hour was this accomplished. The representatives of the railway companies yielded and agreed to terms that virtually reproduced the Adamson law. On Monday morning, immediately after the agreement had been reached between the companies and the men, the Supreme Court gave judgment (with three of the judges dissenting), declaring the Adamson law to be constitutional.

Thus twice within a few months has the business of the country been threatened with a paralyzing railway strike, and in both cases the disaster has been averted only by a yielding to the demands of the workmen. The representatives of the men, while ordering the strike, gave President Wilson an assurance that if the country entered the war they would not refuse to operate trains for military purposes. This, however, was not regarded as a sufficient meeting of the situation. In the end the position of the nation in relation to the war influenced the representatives of the companies in making the concessions necessary to prevent the strike.

The effect of the strike on the railways is to increase the pay of about 300,000 men, and to add to the pay lists of the railways about sixty million dollars annually. The companies will, of course, endeavor to get this additional sum from the public by increased charges on the traffic of the country.

The Woman Lawyer.

REFORM which the Legislature of Quebec has refused to accept is making much progress elsewhere. The member of the Quebec Assembly who championed the cause of the women's right to be admitted to practice at the Bar is no longer in the House. Doubtless another will take up the measure, and at the next session the question will be threshed out again. That in the end Quebec will grant the women's request in this particular matter may safely be predicted. Public opinion is fast accepting with satisfaction measures concerning the rights of women which a few years ago were regarded with little favor. Quebec may be slower than some other countries to feel the force of this movement, but that it will yield to some extent is almost certain.

England, usually slow to undertake important changes, is appreciating the strength of the women's movement. In some form women's suffrage will be one of the after-the-war measures. As to the admission of women to practice as lawyers, quicker action is likely to take place. A bill to provide for such a change came before the House of Lords a few days ago. It was introduced and cordially supported by Lord Buckmaster, who was lately Lord Chancellor. The present Lord Chancellor, while opposed to the measure, stated that the Government proposed to leave the question en-

tirely to the judgment of the House, a plain intimation that the Government could not be persuaded to set itself against the measure. Earl Halsbury, the most conservative of Conservatives, strongly opposed the bill. He admitted the propriety of allowing women to practice medicine, but argued that they were entirely unfitted for the duties of the legal profession. Lord Sumner, Earl Selborne and Earl Loreburn supported the bill. In reply to Lord Halsbury, one of the speakers reminded him that the bill did not propose to compel any woman to practice law, or to compel anybody to employ a woman lawyer, but urged that if a woman was prepared to undertake the long period of study necessary to qualify her, and to submit to the severe examination provided by the Bar Society, there was no reason why she should not be admitted to the right to practice. Although several of the Lords thus took strong grounds against the bill, they did not press for a division. The measure passed practically unanimously. The House of Lords, noted for its strong conservatism, having thus passed the measure, there is little doubt that the Commons will assent to it, and that it will become law at an early date.

Nearer home, the same question has been engaging the attention of the Nova Scotia Legislature. Mr. Graham, one of the members for Pictou, himself a lawyer, introduced a bill to admit women to the Bar. A meeting of the Bar Society was at once called. There was an impression that the society would not view the change with approval. But only one or two of the members dissented from a resolution approving of the proposal. The bill has since passed the House of Assembly unanimously. The possibility of opposition in the Legislative Council is suggested, but there is little doubt that that chamber also will pass the bill.

After the War Trade.

THE question of what can be done to stimulate trade after the war is engaging the attention of business men in many countries. That new conditions will arise is, of course, generally recognized. How each country can meet these conditions is the problem presenting itself. The latest expression of opinion comes from the little colony of Bermuda. The Bermuda Chamber of Commerce appointed a committee to study the question. The committee has now made a report. While the desire for the strengthening of the Empire is very properly exhibited by the loyal Bermudians, they modestly observe that the authorities in England are better able to decide what industries are essential to the future of the nation, and what steps should be taken to maintain or establish them, though the committee suggest that a Board of Commerce, made up of representative men of business, would seem to be an indispensable part of Great Britain's future trade policy. Preferential trade arrangements between the various parts of the Empire are cordially approved, subject, however to this important proviso:

"In this connection, however, Bermuda is dependent upon the markets of the United States to absorb over 90 per cent. of our agricultural produce, and in the event of that country retaliating by increasing the tariff upon said produce, Bermuda should have the privilege of entering into a reciprocal trading agreement with the United States."

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In Canada we have all recognized the necessity of refraining from the publication of news which, while it would be interesting to the reader, might possibly convey information that would give aid and comfort to the enemy. The regulations of the censor may not always seem marked by wisdom. Sometimes the reasons for excluding certain information from the press are not easy to understand. But most people are content to assume that the authorities know what they are about, and therefore the rules are complied with readily.

In the United States there is likely to be more difficulty in enforcing such restrictions than in Canada. Our American neighbors frequently carry the demand for publicity to an embarrassing point. European diplomatic representatives who come to this side of the ocean are surprised by the extent to which the Washington correspondents supply to their respective newspapers information and criticism of matters that are engaging official attention. The vigilant Washington writer is not content to report conclusions when they are reached; he deems it his duty to find out and make public the course of negotiations from day to day. He is slow to recognize any law on the subject except that which demands of the newspapers all the news about everything. In time of peace this insistence on the fullest publicity often proves an embarrassment to the authorities. It is likely to prove more embarrassing now that the nation, on the verge of war, is in the midst of widespread operations of "preparedness." It will be a hard task for the war and naval departments to resist the pressure of the correspondents for information concerning all the steps that are being taken to prepare for the great conflict that seems to be inevitable. Already a large amount of information concerning the plans and operations of the authorities has been made public. The Christian Science Monitor, of Boston, has taken notice of this, and in the course of its comment says:

"Let it be sincerely hoped that the agents of no watchful, possible enemy nation have been engaged in gathering the facts with reference to the defensive position of the United States, which have been so generously and foolishly exposed and distributed by the free press of the country during the last ten days, and that no harm may come of so much prodigality of governmental and editorial confidences. Possibly no injury to the nation or to its people will follow, at this time, a revelation of facts that should have been kept behind locked doors. But, if no lamentable consequences ensue, credit for such an escape from folly will not be due the press that indulged in it, the people who encouraged it, or the authorities who permitted it."