

The Peace Congress.

The National Peace Congress now in session at Chicago will have the sympathy of every man of good-will, so far as its aims are concerned. That it can accomplish much in the way of practical results at a time when several of the greatest powers are waiting for a favourable opportunity to spring at each others' throats, meanwhile impoverishing their life-blood by their preparations for strife, is doubtful. Some form of international arbitration is the only remedy in sight for the war evil, but arbitration can only be a permanent success between nations that are willing to have international law administered on principles of international justice and such nations are in little danger of going to war.

We do not say this in disparagement or discouragement of the work of the Peace Congress. The financial situation, the whole world over, is too serious to permit of any influences that may make for peace being despised. Senator Hale is quoted as saying that two-thirds of all the revenues of the United States are used to defray the expenses of past or future wars. The conditions in England, Germany, Russia and Japan are notorious. There are some minor victories to the credit of arbitration, and there are infinite possibilities in the Hague Tribunal.

**The French Strikes.**

The present attitude of the government employees in France on the labour question, is an exceedingly suggestive indication of the result of socialism carried to its legitimate end; and incidentally a warning against the public ownership of public utilities. Among the strikers the national feeling is evidently dead and replaced by a feeling of class interest. If this kind of tendency is not nipped in the bud, it will grow, and spread into every department of public service. Imagine the army infected with the strike fever! No thoughtful man can see such tendencies without anxiety, and there are similar tendencies even in conservative old England. Whatever else socialism may mean, it evidently involves the death of patriotism.

**Lord Grey.**

An English paper says that the best piece of personal news received from the outer Empire for a long time is the decision of Earl Grey to remain Governor General of Canada for the full period of his appointment, that is until December, 1910. The general rule is for the governors who are appointed for six years to remain only five; the only exceptions being Lord Dufferin and Lord Minto. Nowhere will Lord Grey's decision give more general satisfaction than in Canada.

Canada's Naval Outlook.

Not a few Canadians favoured presenting Great Britain with a Dreadnought or two — *instantly*. 'Twas a simple, out-of-hand proceeding, such as might be undertaken any morning before breakfast—at once simpler, and infinitely more spectacular, than the plan now entered upon. As it is, the Dominion is taking the commonplace course of consulting with the Imperial authorities before deciding upon its naval policy. And, already, most of us are beginning to think that the commonplace in this case is characterized by common sense.

In this connection it is noteworthy that, in the British House of Commons this week, Premier Asquith announced that the Government had taken steps to ascertain the views of the overseas governments respecting an early conference in the defence of the Empire. The coming summer is suggested for the meeting.

British press comments upon the Dominion Parliament's stand are warmly appreciative. Considerable attention, too, is being given to the published essay on Canada's naval policy which recently won the prize offered by the Navy League of Canada. Incidentally, the fact that first honours went to a woman—Mrs. W. H. Oliphant, of Toronto—may be deemed a better argument for female suffrage than some of the points advanced last week from the London platform of the International Woman Suffrage Convention.

**The British Budget.**

The maddest budget ever introduced, is Sir Frederick Banbury's characterization of the budget just introduced at Westminster by Mr. Lloyd-George. It is the natural, the inevitable sequence of a policy of heavy expenditure. Old age pensions are the children of the Asquith Government; and as the London General Omnibus Company so persistently and conspicuously proclaims—"Children must be paid for."

**The Princess of Orange.**

Every nation on earth (with one possible exception) will echo the cry of the Dutch royal heralds, "Long live the Queen! Long live the Princess of Orange!" The birth of Queen Wilhelmina's daughter may preserve the peace of all Europe for many years. The extinction of the dynasty of the Netherlands would precipitate an international crisis. It would involve either the election of a Protestant sovereign, from the limited number of Protestant royal families, with antagonistic interests; or the creation of another republic; and there are enough republics already in the world.