

the time that these troubles had been in existence at their mines for nearly nine months, and that the interests of the whole of British Columbia as well as of the miners demanded an immediate settlement.

Other Significant Features.

Remarkable as were the debates in the particulars mentioned, they were scarcely less significant in other of their features. While the motion of censure and the withholding of supply had special reference to the disturbances on Vancouver Island, the discussions clearly revealed the fact that it was not so much the neglect of the Minister in this single particular which was being criticized, as it was the whole Administration of the Department of Labour under the present Government. The line of defence adopted by the Minister was that he had done nothing which he ought not to have done. Repeatedly the Opposition retorted that he had done nothing that he should have done, that from first to last he had done nothing whatever. How deserved this criticism was is apparent from the Government's record of legislation which reveals the fact that with the single exception of the introduction of a Bill to prohibit the use of phosphorous in the manufacture of matches, which bill was introduced three years ago by the Laurier Administration but not passed owing in part to Conservative opposition at the time, and in part to the unexpectedly early dissolution of parliament, not a single measure in the interests of Labour has been introduced since the present Government assumed office. Even worse, perhaps, is the circumstance that all along the way are evidences of a desire to serve the "interests" at the expense of Labour. The Eight-Hour Bill introduced by Mr. Verville and which passed the House of Commons under the Liberal Administration was pushed to one side at the last session, and again at this session has been effectively suppressed by a technical ruling. The Fair Wages' resolution of Parliament passed during the Laurier Administration and intended to protect workmen engaged on public works has, according to the Minister's own statement to parliament, been wholly ignored as respects an important government contract in the city of Montreal. Little or no attention has been paid representations made to the Department respecting the bringing to Canada on false pretences of men to take the place of others on strike; and while millions of dollars have been voted for increased military expenditure, the Minister of Labour has resolutely refrained from asking Parliament to vote one cent towards carrying out the recommendations of the Commission on Industrial Training and Technical Education, appointed by Laurier Administration, and which presented its report to the present government.

If anything further were needed to satisfy Labour as to the undisguised attitude of the present Administration towards its problems and conditions, it will be found in the point of view of the rights and wrongs of the companies and miners respectively as set forth in the discussion on the Vancouver situation, and in the direct and bitter personal attack made by the Minister of Labour on Mr. Verville, Labour's representative in Parliament, and which was, perhaps, the most surprising feature of the whole debate.

"EDUCATING THE FARMER."

ON February 3rd, appeared the first number of *The Agricultural Gazette*, a new monthly periodical issued by the Minister of Agriculture for circulation among the farmers. Of how much value this publication is likely to be to its subscribers may be judged from the circumstance that it was hardly out before the Minister was obliged to admit in Parliament that the inaccuracies it contained were so numerous that a page of corrections would be presented to the House and distributed with the March number. How serious was the nature of the offence represented by these inaccuracies may be judged from the circumstance that, without exception, they relate to the withholding of figures which would have reflected credit on the Department of Agriculture under the Liberal Administration, and the insertion or repetition of figures designed to convey an exaggerated view of the real services being rendered the agricultural interests of the country by the present Administration.

LOYALTY AND IMPERIALISM!

TORY orators in the last reciprocity campaign found peculiar pleasure in drawing attention to the possible annexation of Canada by the United States through the extent of American interests in the Dominion. Amongst other dangers to the British Empire in case of war was mentioned the management and control of the railroads of the Dominion by American citizens. Now it appears that in selecting a Commissioner to report on the National Transcontinental Railway the Borden Government chose in preference to all British subjects an American citizen, Mr. F. P. Gutelius, and made him a Royal Commissioner with power to administer oaths in the name of the King to British subjects before he, himself had taken an oath of naturalization.

Not satisfied with this the Government has since made Mr. Gutelius, General-Manager of the Government railroads of Canada at a salary of \$20,000 per annum. As to the possible dangers to the Empire of this appointment, the Government and its friends are saying little at the present time.

REDISTRIBUTION OF CONSTITUENCIES

ON February 10th, Right Honourable R. L. Borden, Prime Minister, introduced the Bill to make provision for the readjustment of the representation in the House of Commons. Had the Government conformed to the provisions of the constitution and the practice followed by all preceding Administrations this Bill would have been introduced in 1912 or, at the latest, in 1913. The delay is but another evidence of the incapacity or indifference of the Government in the management of the nation's affairs.

Following the precedent set by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1903, the Bill was introduced without the schedules, which are to be prepared by a committee of members representing both parties. This committee was named by the Prime Minister on the 19th of February, and is composed of Messrs. Rogers, Reid, Pelletier, Rhodes and Bennett (Conservative) and Messrs. Pardee, Beland, Macdonald and Buchanan (Liberal). The committee organized on February 23rd, but until its report is received it will be impossible to say what actual changes the redistribution will involve.