

Arthur Henderson became Labor's chief representative in the Coalition Cabinet, while two other Labor members received places of less prominence in the Government. The recent resignation of these three members and their subsequent decision to remain in office serve to emphasize the important part that Labor is playing in the affairs of the Empire. It is safe to say that no Liberal Government will hereafter be formed in Great Britain without similar recognition of Labor's claims; and even a Conservative leader, called to form a Cabinet, would probably endeavor to find means of inducing some representative of Labor to unite with him. More than once in the recent history of our war measures, Mr. Lloyd George and other representatives of the Government have deemed it necessary to come into closest touch with the workmen and appeal to them for co-operation in the common cause. Mr. Will Crooks and Mr. G. N. Barnes, prominent Labor members, received Privy Councillorships in the New Year honors.

It is not in the field of national politics only that Labor is exercising its influence. In municipal affairs throughout the Kingdom Labor is taking an increasing part. Incidents which occurred at the recent municipal elections indicate the attention that is being given to this branch of public affairs. Party political divisions are not wholly unknown in British municipal affairs, though it is right to say that while this is true as respects some of the elections, in the Councils there is usually cordial co-operation of all in the carrying on of the public business. In the principal cities and towns the election of Lord Mayors and Mayors, who are chosen by the Councils, is usually brought about by a friendly arrangement between the parties. In the large manufacturing city of Leeds, the Liberals and Conservatives had quietly arranged that Mr. Howarth should become Lord Mayor. But Labor had not been consulted, and therefore raised a protest, which is thus reported:

"Alderman J. Hayhurst opposed the nomination on behalf of the Labor Party. He did so with regret, but with a sense of duty, and he wanted Mr. Howarth to understand that there was not the slightest personal element in his opposition, nor would any remark he was going to make be directed against Mr. Howarth personally. But he and the party to which he belonged took this course because of the very unjustifiable way in which Lord Mayors were nominated in that Chamber. All the Chamber knew it was common talk that there was a good deal of cant about such occasions as these. The first thing required of a Lord Mayor in these days was a long purse. The Lord Mayor must be prepared to give to all creeds and denominations, temperance societies, and spirit and beer associations that came his way. Those who had not the cash seemed to be regarded as not having the ability to be Lord Mayor. Again, at present two parties only selected the Lord Mayor. Such a system would be justified if the rate-payers had entitled these two parties alone to select the Lord Mayor; but they had not. At the last two contested elections the Labor Party polled more votes than any other single party. That entitled them to have some say in the nomination of the Lord Mayor and they ought not to be excluded therefrom by a combination of other parties.

Mr. T. W. Stamford supported the contention that a new system of nomination should be instituted which would secure

strict equality of treatment between the three parties, and the recognition of character and ability only as qualification for the post of Lord Mayor. There was only one reason why the Labour Party were ignored in the matter, and that was that they consisted of men belonging to the working classes and not possessing much of this world's goods. He recognized the financial difficulty, and the only way out was to attach a salary to the office of Lord Mayor, as had been done in some cities. He hoped before next election an honest attempt would be made to secure a conference of the three parties, when the whole method of the appointment of Lord Mayor could be discussed and satisfactorily readjusted."

In a number of towns the Labor party made their views so effective that Labor Mayors were chosen.

The expense which, as was pointed out, the present system entails on the occupant of the chief magistrate's chair, where no salary is provided, will usually exclude the representatives of Labor from the chair. The probability is that this will lead to an agitation for an extension of the salary system. The same difficulty existed in relation to Parliamentary representation so long as the members were unpaid. Payment of members was ultimately adopted, and is now an accepted part of the British system. Similar movements may lead to the adoption, in a larger degree than at present, of the system of providing salaries for the occupants of the Mayor's chairs.

Such a departure from the time-honored system of voluntary service is one of the things that may be expected in a democratic age. From one viewpoint the change foreshadowed may be regretted. British municipal affairs have on the whole been well managed, through the voluntary service of a class of citizens who perhaps would not be so willing to serve under a payment system.

Mr. Roosevelt

MANY friends of Colonel Roosevelt think that he is in a fair position to become again President of the United States. They have hopes that he may be a candidate, not of the Progressive party, which is practically dead, but of the regular Republican organization from which he and his associates broke away four years ago. It has long been evident that, while the Progressives could have no fair prospect of victory in 1916, they were in a position to exercise much influence upon the Republican nomination. At the best the Republicans will have a hard fight to defeat Mr. Wilson. With a united party they could hope for success. With their party split up, as it was in 1912, the contest would be hopeless. The chief concern of the Republican leaders now is to find a candidate upon whom all can unite. Hitherto Colonel Roosevelt has not been thought of to fill that bill, although the importance of securing his co-operation has been recognized. If the Republicans had in sight any strong and available candidate, not obnoxious to the Progressives, Mr. Roosevelt himself would have to be content to play the part of the "best man" rather than the bridegroom at the ceremony. It is the absence of such a candidate from the field that seems to give new hope to the friends of the ex-President. If Mr. Justice Hughes would allow his name to be used there would be no doubt of his nomination, and he would have an excel-

lent prospect of winning. But Mr. Hughes still refuses to allow such use of his name. To a recent enquirer, who desired to obtain his views on the question of "preparedness," he replied that as he was not a candidate, actively or passively, he saw no reason why he should express any opinion on the subject. Mr. Root, it is recognized, would make a strong President, and there is some reason for believing that, if no other difficulty arose, Mr. Roosevelt might smile upon his candidature. But Mr. Root's professional connection with many of the great corporations prevents his becoming a popular candidate, and the probability is that he will have to drop out of the race. Among the other men talked of—the "favorite sons" of particular States—there is hardly one who is at present regarded as of national importance. It is this situation that gives the friends of Mr. Roosevelt the opportunity to push him to the front again. The leaders of the old line Republicans do not forget his bolt of 1912. They would much prefer another candidate. But they want to win; if the men whom they would prefer are not available, and if none of the others measures up to the standard of a probable winner, they may be obliged to accept the ex-President.

As the candidate of the regular Republican organization, with the support of the large Progressive party which followed him four years ago, Mr. Roosevelt would be a powerful opponent to Mr. Wilson, and the contest would be a most interesting one.

A curious situation would, under such circumstances, arise for the large German vote. The German citizens of the United States, as a class, are not well disposed towards President Wilson. They have been threatening him with their solid hostility in the coming Presidential contest. But if they dislike Mr. Wilson because of his attitude concerning the war they dislike still more Mr. Roosevelt, who, in the impulsive manner which is so characteristic of him, has roundly condemned the German policy and the German actions. If forced to a choice between the two men it is more than likely that the German vote would support Mr. Wilson.

A Union Station

THE suggestion of Mr. W. F. Maclean, M.P. of Toronto, that advantage should be taken of the destruction of the Grand Trunk Railway station in Montreal to prevent the duplication of stations in this city is one that should receive very careful consideration from all concerned. The modern railway station in a large city is a costly affair. To rebuild the Grand Trunk station on the old site would be costly; to build a new station on a more extensive site, with suitable terminals, would call for a very heavy outlay. Is it not possible for the Grand Trunk and the C. P. R. authorities to come to an agreement by which the fine Windsor Street station of the Canadian Pacific may be used for the passenger service of all lines? The big companies always find difficulties in the way of such projects when first proposed, but in the end obstacles are removed, and a good understanding reached. Union stations have been found practicable elsewhere. Why not in Montreal? Both economy and public convenience point to such an arrangement as desirable. Probably neither company will at the moment say yea to the proposal. But the idea should not be dropped.