

noted that in Inverness County there were no successful candidates for mining certificates—if any presented themselves for examination. But one may not suppose that it costs more to run a mixed school than one where only candidates for engineers' certificates attend.

In August of last year rights of search were applied for and granted over a large number of the coal areas held by the Aeadia Coal Co. There are those who say that the new lessee, Mr. Spencer, purposes to bore for natural gas. The Record holds no such opinion, for the reason that up to date gas in Nova Scotia has not been declared a mineral, nor has it ever been declared the property of the crown. Gas, like water, belongs to the soil. Our opinion is that Mr. Spence is after oil shale. So far shale has not been declared the property of the crown. Indeed the Mines Department has so far fought shy of declaring what shale is. An official opinion of what shale is has never been given, though a former official of the Mines Department said there were two kinds of shale, one which properly can be called shale, and the other which can not be properly so called, but must be classed as coal. The names given to the two kinds of shale are carbonaceous and bituminous. The former may not be called coal while the latter may. The former is the product of fishy material and the latter a product of vegetable matter. Just here the puzzle comes in. If the shale underlying the Aeadia leases is of the kind that may be called coal, it goes with the leases of that company. If it is not coal, what is the government's position in the matter? Shale is not one of its mineral reservations, therefore in a matter of this kind the government is a mere spectator. Of course it is not to be expected that the Aeadia Coal Company will permit without protest boring to be carried on over a large portion of its property. The areas covered by Mr. Spence are presumably on the east side of the East River as no boring would be permitted in the vicinity of the company's collieries. If Mr. Spence honestly purposes to prosecute the shale oil business he deserves encouragement in every reasonable way. It should not be hard for him to make amicable arrangement with the Aeadia Coal Co. To invoke law is not a profitable business, as a rule. A famous law-suit took place in Scotland many years ago, called the Torl-anhill Mineral dispute. The question before the courts was "Is this mineral coal or is it not?" The Record forgets at the moment which of the litigants the decision favored, but the suit was a very costly and lengthy one and did not finally settle the question as to when shale was coal and when it wasn't. Oil from shale is a most profitable industry in Scotland and the wonder is that it has never attracted practical attention in Nova Scotia, where it is to be found in immense if not unlimited quantities.

#### •AFTER THE WAR.

Below we give extracts from an interview granted by Mr. Walter Long to a British paper. Mr. Long though once a minister is not a politician in the ordinary meaning of the word. He is not brilliant, but is possessed of strong common sense. His views should be interesting.

But taking Great Britain as a whole the effects of the war are mainly seen in the extraordinary, if

temporary, briskness of trade and demand for labour. The working classes are earning far higher wages than ever before in many cases, and women have come into their own as far as employment is concerned. In many respects they have proved themselves fully the equals of men, and have shown themselves physically capable of many kinds of work which formerly had been regarded as beyond their strength. Moreover, it has been necessary for employers to alter conditions of factories and workshops to the extent of making it possible for them to work side by side with men. Previously this has been one of the most formidable obstacles in the way of employment of women, but recently, without any fuss or outcry in regard to expense, it has been overcome.

My belief is that women in industry have come to stay. I fully expect that after the war there will be a development in industry in this country that will absorb their energies fully. In any case, the lighter occupations will probably remain theirs perpetually. To take one instance, I believe the male domestic will utterly disappear. We shall no longer see an able-bodied footman, capable of man's work, handling round teacups in a drawing-room.

But is not this present prosperity largely artificial? (the interviewer asked).

Not necessarily so (answered Mr. Long). This war has done more than merely create new demands for labour. To a large extent it has put new energy into this country. The Englishman, taken as a whole, seldom troubles about making large sums of money. He is more concerned with procuring sufficient for his immediate needs and in maintaining his family in moderate comfort. It is very rarely he seeks money for its own sake. But this war, with the tremendous burden it will leave behind, is likely to imbue him with a new driving energy.

What about home politics? Will the old party divisions ever operate again on the same lines?

I doubt that very much. I do not think we shall ever get back again to the Liberal, Conservative, even the Labour party, in the sense I have always known them during my thirty-six years in the House of Commons. The recent association of the leaders of the different parties during the past eighteen months has undoubtedly altered the attitude of all towards many hitherto pressing problems. Working together, men quickly find how much they have in common. And after the war we shall find ourselves confronted with a new and entirely different set of urgent questions which will strike clean across the old party divisions.

Moreover, I think even our Parliamentary system will have to undergo a change. Above all, I think there will be a general desire for closer association with our overseas dominions, apart from the feelings of gratitude we have for the enormous sacrifices they have made for the mother country.

#### Class Distinction Breaking Down.

Is this war likely to leave a lasting mark on the life and people of Great Britain?

Inevitably. Already it has practically accomplished one great thing in that it has almost completely broken down class distinction. I doubt if the working classes of this country regard any more the aristocracy as an effete race of parasites fattening on their labours. And, on the other hand, the aristocracy more than ever before realises the magnificent qualities of the British working man