

conditions (together with others briefly outlined in a recent discussion in the *BULLETIN*) had brought the industrial dispute in Great Britain to such a stage that, by 1914, many felt that such general strikes were imminent, as would amount almost to, if they did not end in, a revolution. The war suddenly diverted attention from the quarrel. Though some domestic bickering has continued, all parties loyally joined hands in the superhuman effort against the common enemy. The war has, at least for the present, removed from Capital all self-complacency, which was a large factor in the domestic strife. The nation is already face to face with an inconceivable debt which is mounting at an appalling rate. The food supply is threatened. The nation is about to put forth its extreme exertion. There is no room now for old quarrels. Dust and cobwebs have been cleared away. England is never at her best until her back is to the wall. It required three years of war to brush away the last cobweb of self-complacency. She is now not only thoroughly aroused to fighting mood, but has had her creative energy quickened by the crisis. In the awful throes and agony of the past year of war, Britain brought forth an industrial idea which, if broadly and wisely backed up in future by educational preparation, seems calculated to effect such a revolution in industrial relationships as will remove the malign social results of the pernicious economic policy followed since the industrial revolution of a century ago. In the blackest year of the war, just past, the British Government appointed a Commission whose principal work was to inquire into the causes of industrial unrest and to make suggestions for removing the causes of discontent. The work was quickly and thoroughly done. The whole country was divided into eight industrial areas to each of which was detailed a small Commission of three, consisting of one representative of employers, one of labour, and an impartial chairman. Their reports will prove of great economic value. While these industrial commissions were at work, a short preliminary report was sent to each by a sub-committee of the recently created Reconstruction Department, which at that time had merely the status of a committee appointed to consider the whole prob-