

action of the Board, we do not press for the order to be confirmed, but leave our claims for redress in the hands of the people and the Government of Canada, with complete confidence that justice will be done."

The Prime Minister thereupon declared the hearing at an end.

So far as the Government's conclusion, the setting aside of the Board's order, is concerned, the result is entirely in accord with public sentiment. Unfortunately, however, the whole subject is left in the dark at a time when there is the liveliest interest on the part of the public to obtain light. The resignation of the members of the Board of Commerce without any world of explanation does not contribute to enlightenment. To the many questions that have arisen as to the transactions of between the Government, the Board and the refiners, as to the purpose and effect of the embargo on exports to the States of which the refiners complain, and as to the manner in which the recent extraordinary order of the Board was made, there is no answer, and probably no inquiry can be made until Parliament meets. The concluding passage of the refiners' statement increases the darkness of the situation. The refiners "leave their claims for redress" in the hands of the Government. What form of redress are they seeking? In what manner can the Government under the existing law grant them relief?

It is a pity that while this whole subject is attracting so much interest there could not be, in some form, a full and frank statement of all the facts.

The Self-Determination Convention

A meeting, held at Ottawa a few days ago, of delegates from societies in Canada and Newfoundland endorsing the Sinn Fein project of an Irish Republic—for that is the undisguised purpose of the "self-determination" societies—received much prominence, not because of its own importance but because of ill-advised movements against it. The promoters intended to hold their convention in Toronto, but some Torontonians succeeded in having the city authorities forbid the gathering. The leaders then proposed to meet in Ottawa. Strong opposition was again manifested. Appeals were made to the Mayor, the Police Commissioners, the Attorney General of Ontario, and finally to the Prime Minister of Canada, to prevent the meeting. All these authorities very properly said there was no law to prevent the holding of such a meeting. For all these hostile movements the self-determinators should be grateful, inasmuch as they gave the gathering an importance it could not have otherwise received.

Freedom of speech is one of the rights of the people that are worth maintaining. Better that many foolish speeches be allowed than that the right of free speech be withheld. Many unwise things were said at the Ottawa meeting, but not more foolish than are said openly every Sunday in the public parks of London. The London folly is not taken seriously by anybody. The indiscretions of the speakers at the Ottawa meeting would have attracted as little notice if the event had not been magnified into importance by unwise opposition to the holding of the meeting.

Bluenose against Bluenose

Bluff sailormen who read with impatience the stories of the recent international toy-boat races must have been gratified when they learned a few days ago that on the Atlantic ocean, off the port of Halifax, there was to be a real race between real seagoing vessels. Through the sporting spirit of the Nova Scotians combined with the enterprise of a Halifax publisher who provided a trophy, a contest was arranged, open to all the fishing vessels of the Nova Scotia fleet. The movement excited keen interest among the hardy fishermen, especially at Lunenburg, the Gloucester of Canada. Schooners just in from the fishing banks, some of them with cargoes of fish still on board, competed for the prize, which was won by the Lunenburg vessel Delawanna, commanded by Captain Himmelman.

Out of this event has arisen an international contest which is to take place on the Atlantic off Halifax October 30, and following days. The Bluenose fishermen having suggested that they would be glad to test their skill in competition with the fishermen of Gloucester, the invitation was accepted by the Americans, who have nominated their crack schooner Eeperanto to meet the Delawanna. The race is exciting the liveliest interest in the fishing districts of both countries. The schooners are being put into their best condition and for each a crew of 25 men is being chosen, most of whom, it is stated, will be skippers.

A feature of this contest that has escaped notice is that a Bluenose victory seems to be assured in advance. It is with the Nova Scotians a case of "Heads I win, tails you lose". If the Eeperanto reaches the goal ahead of the Delawanna an inquiry into the personnel of the winning crew will probably disclose the fact that most of them are Nova Scotians. Certainly it will be all but impossible for the Gloucester owner to find a crew of fishermen fit for the contest that does not include some men who hail from Nova Scotia. The Americans own some fishing vessels, but they do not man them. Dr. Grenfell, of Labrador, in a recent lecture told of attending a service at Gloucester

in memory of the fishermen of the Gloucester fleet who had lost their lives in the season that had passed. One hundred and thirty men had been lost, of whom one only was American. The American fishing fleet is manned by foreigners and very largely by the fishermen from Nova Scotia. Some of these hardy Bluenoses have settled into American homes and American citizenship; many of them, however, retain their nationality, going to the American ports for the fishing season and returning to Nova Scotia when the season ends. So the probability is that the ocean race which is now attracting so much attention will be a case of Bluenose against Bluenose.

Nearing the End

On Tuesday next November 2, the first Tuesday after the first Monday, the Presidential election in the United States will come off. The campaign has been keenly carried on. The Republican candidate, Mr. Harding, has done most of his talking at home, having conducted his campaign largely from the front porch of his Ohio home, to which representative bodies from all parts of the States have come to see and hear him. In a few instances he has departed from that plan to speak at points not far away from the porch. The Democratic candidate, Governor Cox of Ohio, has made a whirlwind campaign, speaking at central points in all sections except the "Solid South" which, as usual, is counted on as safely Democratic. There is considerable evidence of a breaking away from old party lines. In the early days of the discussion of the League of Nations and the Versailles Treaty of which it is a part, before the debate settled into party lines, a number of leading Republicans gave their support to the League in strong terms. When the League became the chief issue in the campaign these Republicans found themselves in a very awkward position. They wanted to support Mr. Harding, the Republican candidate, but that gentleman, whatever his own inclination might be, was induced by bitter enders like Senators Johnson and Borah to come out strongly against the League. A number of the League Republicans have issued a statement of reasons why they will still support Mr. Harding. Not a few, however, are disposed to stand to their guns on the League and give their votes to the Democratic candidate who stands for it. Notable among these is Dr. Charles Eliot, the venerable ex-President of Harvard University, who has analysed and severely condemned the statement of Mr. Taft and the others.

The leaders of both parties are issuing statements which express confidence in a favorable result. All things are possible in such a battle. But the weight of independent opinion continues to be that Mr. Harding will win.