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The resolution of the National Liberal Federation at Leeds, November 27, in favor of the abolition of the right to capture private property at sea in time of war does not necessarily mean that the present British Government will immediately reverse the traditional British policy on this issue; but it registers a change in public opinion which will, in time, bring about such a change if Liberalism remains the dominant force in the public affairs of Great Britain.

At present, when a State is at war, it has a right to seize at sea by the agency its lawfully commissioned cruisers, not merely the fighting ships of its foe, but all enemy merchantmen with all the goods found on board them.' Both ships and goods must then be brought for adjudication before a Prize Court sitting in its territory. If enemy ownership of the vessel is proved, it is confiscated. The same fate overtakes the goods, if they turn out to be enemy property. But if they are neutral and are not what is called contraband of war, they are restored to their owners. The result is that neutrals who send cargoes to sea in belligerent merchantmen are exposed to the danger of enormous loss, even though in the end they get their goods back again. There is always the loss of market due to delay, and often the further loss caused by the deterioration or destruction of perishable merchandise.

At the last Hague conference the proposal that private property should exempt from capture by sea, made by the United States, was strongly supported, but failed of adoption chiefly through the opposition of the representatives of Great Britain. The traditional British view is that the strength of the British navy is sufficient to protect British commerce while driving the mercantile marine of a hostile nation from the seas-the maintenance of the principle of the capture of private property at sea is therefore held to be in the interest of Great Britain in the event of war. It is obvious that there is an intimate relationship between this adherence to the old view of capture at sea and the policy of having, at all hazards, an overwhelming navy; and it is not surprising that those who favor moderation in armaments also support a change in the international law governing capture at sea.

Public opinion in the overseas Dominions, it is safe to say, is in line with the declaration of the National Liberal Federation; and would thus express itself at the Hague conference if in the present scheme of things it were possible for them to secure representation at that gathering of nations. Winnipeg Free Press.

HOW NEW ZEALAND SOLVED THE PROBLEMS OF UNEMPLOY-MENT AND EMIGRATION

In 1899 Senator James Bucklin, of Colorado, U.S.A., visited the country as chairman of a commission appointed by the State Senate to investigate the tax laws of New Zealand and the Australian Colonies, and the effect of such laws." In his report he said:

"As the chief measure of relief, the Ballance Government had demanded during the campaign, and now passed, the Australasian land value tax law (1891). At once, without the 'Industrial Concilitation and Arbitration Act,' or any new labor laws, the condition of labor began greatly to improve. Wages increased, the hours of toil shortened, the cost of living decreased, and the idle received employment. From 1891 to 1898 the cultivated lands of New Zealand increased 3,522,091 acres (sown grass lands increased 3,278,501 acres), the value of improvements increased \$39,000,000, and nearly all business greatly improved. Wages in New Zealand are not high, but the cost of living is cheap, and the people generally seem to be most prosperous and happy. For nearly a day I walked through the streets of Auckland, a city of more than 60,000 people, in search of an idle working man, and was unable to find one. In the four years immediately preceding the land tax, in spite of government ownership and management of railroads, telegraphs, telephones, insurance, etc., there was actual decrease of immigration over emigration of 17,789 persons, being a loss each year. At once on the passage of the land value tax the tide of emigration turned, population has increased 122,447, and the first two years after adoption of the land tax the im-migration of New Zealand exceeded the emigration 15,370 persons, and has continued in excess each of the eight years since its passage."



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