

a general conference of representatives of all Irish sections to consider the whole subject is cordially accepted by Mr. Redmond and his followers. Difficult though the problem is, there would be ground for hope that such a conference, if participated in by all sections, would find some grounds of common action. Unfortunately, Sir John Lonsdale, who apparently stands next to Sir Edward Carson as a leader of the Ulster party, has announced that he and his associates will have nothing to do with the proposed conference. There is here the appearance of a clash between Sir Edward Carson and Sir John Lonsdale. It is to be assumed that Mr. Lloyd George did not write his important letter to Mr. Redmond without full consultation with Sir Edward. Therefore, the latter must be held to be fully committed to the conference, and may be expected to use his great influence with the Ulstermen to induce them to send representatives to the meeting. If the conference can be arranged, and all the various Irish interests send representatives to it, one might well hope for some further advance towards the settlement that is so much to be desired.

The Need of a Food Dictator

THE United States, universally recognized as the world's greatest food producing country, is finding it necessary to appoint a food dictator. Canada, which has been at war for nearly three years, and engaged in the colossal task of not only keeping home industries going, but in feeding the 400,000 soldiers we have sent overseas, and providing a considerable share of the requirements of the Empire, has done nothing in the matter of regulating supplies and prices of food stuffs, clothing, fuel, or any of the other commodities entering into the daily life of the people.

Some weeks ago the Government did come out of its comatose state and regulate the price at which the manufacturers of newsprint should sell their product. This was all very good as far as it went, but the consumers of newsprint only number a small proportion of the country's population, while so far as we know, everybody eats, has to be clothed, and consumes fuel in an effort to keep warm. If the Government started on a regulating policy they should not stop with an industry that does not affect the economic life of the mass of the people. A thousand and one other commodities need regulating far more than the newsprint industry needed attention.

To-day flour is selling in the neighborhood of \$15.00 a barrel, bread at 13c a loaf, coal at over \$10.00 a ton, and clothing and other necessities at unheard of levels, yet nothing is being done to eliminate the speculators and the professional traders who grow rich on the necessities of the common people. We are told that half a dozen countries in Europe are facing starvation, while there is an acute shortage of food throughout the entire world. We are urged to grow more foodstuffs, and to conserve our present supplies in every possible way; yet nothing is being done to regulate prices and to eliminate the speculator from getting in his objectionable work. We "save at the spigot but waste at the bung-hole." Canada is a partner in the world's greatest struggle—a struggle which is taxing the economic, military and financial resources of the world's greatest powers. If we are to put forth our best efforts and make our weight and influence felt as they should be felt, then it is im-

perative that the people of the country be relieved of such economic perils as now confront them in the shape of exorbitant prices for food, clothing, fuel, and other necessities. In so far as we know, every other country engaged in this war has a food dictator. It is high time that Canada did a little regulating in this matter.

Australia

MOST Canadians, we believe, have received with pleasure the news that Premier W. M. Hughes has been sustained by majorities in both Houses of Parliament at the elections just completed in the Commonwealth of Australia. Mr. Hughes, who passed through Canada several months ago, made many friends by his eloquent addresses and his patriotic zeal in all things relating to the war. Some of the comments of our Canadian papers on the elections hardly do justice to Australia. If they are well founded the result of the electoral conflict in Australia should fill us with alarm rather than with pleasure. The battle is treated in some of these comments as one between a party favorable to the war and a party against it. On such an issue we should, of course, rejoice in Mr. Hughes' victory, but appreciation of that triumph would have to be accompanied by the saddening thought that a number approaching one-half of the people of Australia are opposed to the war and consequently out of touch with Empire sentiment. It is too early yet to make an analysis of the voting in Australia, but enough is known to establish that a very large portion of the Australian people have opposed Mr. Hughes. To assume that these people are less loyal than Mr. Hughes is very ridiculous and calculated to present Australia to the Empire in a most unfavorable light. Mr. Hughes was the head of a Labor party and a Labor Cabinet. His attitude in public affairs, and particularly his support of military conscription—on which there was a referendum—displeased many of his associates. Several of his colleagues resigned. The larger part of the Labor party withdrew its confidence from the Hughes Government. Mr. Hughes, with the remainder of the Labor men, thereupon formed a coalition with the Liberal party. It was this coalition which went to the country lately in a battle with the regular Labor party. The result shows that the combination has been sustained. But it is not to be assumed that the many thousands of Labor men who voted against the Government are less loyal or less desirous of winning the war than Mr. Hughes himself.

Great Britain's Part

IN a general way we all know that Great Britain, a peaceful, unprepared nation, has accomplished much in her participation in the great war; but many even of her own people have not fully realized the wonders that she has worked in the realm of naval and military organization, and in the finance and industry which are closely related to the war service. Mr. Sidney Brooks, of England, who tells the story very effectively in an article in the National Geographic Magazine (Washington), points out that the British people not only lack the genius for self-advertisement, which the Germans so largely possess; but are the most inveterate self-detractors and the most persistent grumblers in the world. "Nothing," he

remarks, "that other people say about Englishmen can hope to equal what Englishmen say about themselves. The Prussians have from the beginning magnified every achievement, large or small, while the English have in many instances given too dark a color to the official announcements concerning the war. The moral Mr. Brooks draws is that you can cut all Prussian boastings and all British tamentation in half, and that when the Prussians are silent it is a sign of failure, while when the British are silent it is a proof that all is going well.

Mr. Lloyd George, in a speech made after his return from a Conference of the Allies, said he had been much struck with the increasing extent to which the Allied people are looking to Great Britain and trusting her to supply what is most needed in the prosecution of the war. This reliance is well founded, for Great Britain has been bearing the heaviest burden in supplying money and munitions for the common cause. Britain's intelligence department, though very much less advertised than that of the Germans, has kept the British authorities well informed in all things that can be learned by such an organization. Germany's one submarine that crossed the Atlantic was widely noticed, but Britain took a little fleet of submarines across from Canada and said nothing about it at the time. British submarines have rendered effective service in the Dardanelles, in the Sea of Marmora, and in the Baltic, with little or no mention of their operations. The German submarines have given trouble, but only about one in a hundred of the vessels entering or leaving British ports has been sunk. The British navy has kept supreme command of the sea, thereby enabling the commerce of the Allies to be carried on with little interruption. But for this naval supremacy the ports of the Allies would have been blockaded and the war brought to an early end, for the opponents of Germany, a disastrous conclusion. Britain, with the cooperation of the Dominions, has raised armies numbering millions and under the protection of the navy has transported them to the continent and to other fields of war with extraordinarily small loss. The transporting of troops of the Allies to distant points has been handled largely by the British navy. Simultaneous campaigns have been carried on in France, Belgium, Egypt, East Africa, the Cameroons, Southwest Africa, the Balkans and the Pacific. Enormous sums of money have been raised in Great Britain for her own part in the war and for the help of the Allies. The manufacture of munitions, which at the beginning of the war was on a very small scale, has been developed until Britain is now able to supply from her own workshop the greater part of the supply for the Allies. And, if last to be mentioned by no means least in importance, the women of the Mother Country have contributed immensely to all the work of naval and military preparation, and, by taking up many new lines of work, have released men for the service at the front.

It is a remarkable tale that is told by Mr. Brooks of the achievements of a people who were not ashamed to confess that they found more satisfaction in the last half century in cultivating the arts of peace than in perpetually preparing for war. Britain's unpreparedness is often spoken of as something to her discredit. But is it not probable that what has been accomplished in the way of war service in this time of emergency is the natural fruit of the financial and industrial power that Britain built up by her devotion to the arts of peace?