

service ought to receive a compensation that will enable them to have, for themselves and their families, a larger measure of the comfort and joy of life than was their lot in by-gone days. This spirit has been properly manifested by the arbitrators in the making of their award respecting the men's remuneration.

On another branch of the question referred to them the arbitrators have made an award which should be accepted as readily as is the increase of pay. The men are permitted to maintain any union or society that they may desire for their own benefit, but it must be an independent society, not in any way connected with any other organization. The arbitrators have seen clearly enough the dangers involved in the effort made by some ill-advised persons to bring the police and firemen of the city under the control of the trade unions. In several of our Canadian cities such a movement is disturbing the public mind. Trade unions need no defence anywhere. They are a part of the social organization of the world. They are a great power in our country. Under wise leadership they can exercise a very large influence for the good of their members and for the welfare of the community at large. But an attempt to bring such services as the police and fire departments of a city under the control or influence of any body other than the established authorities of the community ought not to receive and will not receive the approval of public opinion. If there are among the workers of the land men who are endeavoring to promote this movement respecting the police and fire services they are not wise leaders. There is a force in public opinion that labor needs. Powerful as the unions are, their greatest successes are won when they pursue a course which enlists the sympathy of the independent public opinion of the community.

It is to be hoped that the Montreal award will not only be cordially accepted by all the parties immediately concerned, but that it will be regarded as an example to be followed in other cities where the same question is arising.

## An Event for India

THE affairs of India, over which King George rules as Emperor, are commanding ever increasing importance at Westminster. The democratic spirit which in recent years has manifested itself in nearly all parts of the world has not passed by India. Indian conditions are not such as will admit of the wide application of democracy as understood on this Continent, but even in that country there has been a recognition that there must be some concession to the home rule principle. From time to time successive Governors General have endeavored to give Indians a larger share in the work of government. The most important step in that direction, however, was taken when Mr. Montagu, who had studied Indian affairs as Under Secretary for

India, was promoted to the Secretaryship and went out to India to join the Governor General, Lord Chelmsford, in the preparation of a special report on Indian reform. This report, which has been before the British Parliament for several months, has been the subject of some debate, but it has not yet been taken up for action. What shall be done with its recommendations is one of the many problems that are awaiting the new British Parliament. While there has been some shuffling of the portfolios in Mr. Lloyd George's Government, it is fortunate that there is no change in the office of Secretary of State for India. Mr. Montagu very properly remains to take charge of whatever measures of legislation or administration are to be the outcome of his report. In the constitution of the new Government in London, a very important step has been taken in the appointment of an Indian, Sir S. P. Sinha, to be Under Secretary of State for India, with a seat in the House of Lords. In several instances natives of India have been elected to the British House of Commons, but never before was one elevated to the peerage. Sir S. P. Sinha is a lawyer who has served in India on the Viceroy's Council, and more recently has represented India in Imperial Conferences. His knowledge of Indian affairs must be of great value to his colleagues at this time. His appointment is not only likely to be helpful to the settlement of the large Indian questions that are arising, but it has this additional advantage, that it will appeal to the imagination of the Indian people, who will see in it a further evidence of the desire of the British nation to do full justice to the Indian Empire. In too many instances the creation of peers has added nothing to the value of the House of Lords. In this case there is reason to believe that the new peer can be of much service to the Empire.

## A Big Little Question

THE minor things of life, or what to many seem the minor things, are often more troublesome to the public than the larger and more important matters. The Peace Congress at Paris, after it has disposed of such big things as the Treaty of Peace and the League of Nations, will be asked to take up a number of questions on which it is deemed desirable to have more uniformity of practice. Whether the Conference will have any time for the consideration of such matters may be doubted, but there are zealous people who are determined to press some of them if possible. One question of the kind is the establishing of a uniform international rule of the road. There is a rule of the road at sea. In the development of aerial navigation the flying men are establishing similar rules for air routes. But for vehicular traffic on land there is a perplexing conflict of rules, and some enthusiastic reformers think that the Congress of Nations should not dissolve without establishing uniformity of practice. In Great Britain the driver of a motor car or carriage keeps to the left. If he crosses the channel he finds that

in most countries of the Continent the rule is to keep to the right. In the United States keep to the right is the general rule. In Canada there is no uniformity. In the Central Provinces vehicles keep to the right. In the Maritime Provinces, where in most things English ideas prevail, keep to the left is the rule. Now that travel across boundary lines, Provincial and National, is so frequent, the conflict of rules is embarrassing. Indeed, it is quite conceivable that many accidents occur on account of it, the driver who has been accustomed to observe one rule at home forgetting to adapt himself to the different practice when he crosses a boundary line. The manufacturers of motor cars are particularly interested in bringing about a reform, since the cars constructed with a driving wheel where keep to the right is the rule cannot conveniently be adapted for the roads where the other rule prevails. The question has been taken up in England by Lord Montague of Beaulieu, who is organizing a movement to present it to the Peace Conference in the view that, for Europe at least, if not for the world, there shall be one rule of the road which, it is hoped, will "make the highways safe for democracy."

## The Presidential Office

THE two Houses of the United States Congress have with commendable promptness voted a pension of \$5,000 per annum to the widow of Theodore Roosevelt. Mr. Roosevelt was a man of considerable private means. His widow, it may be said, did not need any pension. Nevertheless the prompt granting of the allowance is to be commended for its acknowledgment of the principle that official service in the high offices of state deserves more recognition than it usually receives. If the granting of this pension causes more consideration to be given to the nature of the Presidential office it will do a good service. The question of giving a President a second or third term is frequently a very disturbing one in American affairs, one that causes the political pot to boil to an embarrassing extent. Four years is too short a term for a President. If he has ideas and policies to work out, the time is not sufficient to bring them to maturity. On the other hand, the temptation is strong for the incumbent of the office to occupy a considerable part of his time in planning for his re-election. It would seem to be an eminently wise policy to give the President a longer term. A United States Senator is chosen for six years. Seven or eight years would not be too long for a President. In France the President is chosen for seven years. Uncle Sam should give his chief magistrate at least as long a term, make him ineligible for re-election, and give him on his retirement such a handsome pension as would enable him, during the remainder of his years, to live in a position of dignity befitting a man who has been the ruler of a great nation.