

to rejoice. That being deemed impossible in view of the ever threatening aspect of affairs, to make the term of service as short as possible was regarded as the next best thing. The fight between a three years term and a two years term was often quite sharp. Ultimately the military party had their way and the three years term was agreed upon. When the war came the military party had abundance of justification for their views. Then, of course, there was no longer any question of period of service. The call came for universal service and nobly did the Frenchmen respond to it. Before the armistice came France had been bled white for army service. The military spirit is strong today. That Germany will some day resume the quarrel with France is the prevailing feeling among Frenchmen, and therefore a considerable degree of military organization in France is held to be necessary. But even in these circumstances, when there is so much to keep up the military spirit, there is a revival of the agitation against conscription. The complete abolition of the system not being deemed possible, the contest turns again on the term of service. The French Cabinet have agreed to recommend to the Chambers that the period of compulsory service be reduced from three years to eighteen months. A keen debate on this question may be expected when the Government's recommendation is submitted to the legislature.

The Surprise in Greece

These are troublous times for governments everywhere. The leaders of all the nations participating in the war have had to meet severe criticism, and most of them have gone down under it. Lloyd George is the only leader of a great nation who has been able to stand the strain. If there was one among the Eastern rulers who seemed to be strongly entrenched in the public mind of his country it was the Greek Premier, Eleutheros Venizelos. After a period of difficulty with the Greek King Constantine and his German wife (sister of the Kaiser), Venizelos seemed to have obtained the cordial support of the Greek nation. Constantine fled to Switzerland, leaving the throne to be occupied, not by the heir to it, but by another son, Alexander, who was in accord with the policy of Venizelos. The recent death of King Alexander, the appointment of Admiral Coundouriotis as Regent, and the dissolution of the Greek Parliament, threw all Greek affairs into a boiling pot, from which the friends of the exiled King Constantine have been able to draw unexpected favorable results. To the surprise of the outer world—and indeed it seems of most people in Greece—Venizelos and his party have been severely defeated in the election—so severely that without waiting for the full returns the Venizelos Cabinet has resigned,

and Greece passes under the rule of the Rhallis Cabinet, which is believed to be in sympathy with Constantine. Queen Olga, mother of Constantine, becomes Regent, and the exiled King is likely to be again placed on the throne.

It is not easy for people at this distance to form intelligent opinions as to how this remarkable change has been brought about. What seems clearest is that the new Cabinet will be looked upon with suspicion by most of the European nations and that the fall of Venizelos is not calculated to promote the peace of Europe.

Rousseau and Doherty

The representatives of the League of Nations, now assembled at Geneva, have much important business to do, but some of them seem to feel that they have time for some diversions. Among the proposals submitted to the Assembly, and apparently not yet voted on, is one to lay a wreath on the monument of Jean Jacques Rousseau. The cablegrams do not inform us as to the author of the proposal. If he has some of the qualities which made Jean Jacques famous he will fight for his project and thus we may hear more of it. It was in Geneva that Rousseau was born and his monument in that city is one of the things which every visitor is taken to see. This should be remembered by those who may regard the proposal as a strange one to be laid before such a tribunal as the League of Nations. Switzerland did not always praise Rousseau in his lifetime, but today, in Geneva at least, his memory is honored. Probably it is a Swiss delegate who asks the League to pay homage at his monument. Meanwhile, it is not surprising that the proposal has disturbed one of our Canadian representatives. Our Minister of Justice, Mr. Doherty, has deemed it expedient to file a protest and intimate that he did not travel to Geneva to do honor to the name of Jean Jacques Rousseau.

Oleomargarine

While the propriety of permitting the use of oleomargarine is still gravely discussed in some quarters in Canada, in other countries the aim seems to be to obtain the article at fair prices. In England the Board of Trade, a Government department, has had a committee investigating the oils, fats and Margarine trades, with a view to ascertain if there is any unfair practice that operates against the interest of the consumer. The committee have reported that they have found nothing like a trust in the business and they are of opinion that the divergent interests and aims of the group of manufacturers engaged in the trade are likely to ensure a continuance of sufficient competition to safeguard the public. In Canada a half-way measure was adopted, allowing the

manufacture and sale of oleomargarine for this year only. The effect of this is to create uncertainty and prevent manufacturers from engaging in the business on conditions likely to lead to a reduction of prices. At the next session of Parliament the whole question will have to be fought over again. In this matter at least Canada is far behind the times.

Progress

Progress has been defined as being: "From a lower to a higher next," which implies an order or principle and aim; "for nothing walks with aimless feet." Being a fundamental law in the natural world, the first book of the Creator, accepting any theory as to method of creation, back of all is mind. Reason, thought and purpose are revealed historically and are manifest in experience. While "philosophy bakes no bread" we must have it to honor our intelligence, to give a rational reason for things as they are. "We build on facts" and it is a manifest fact that "order is the first law of heaven"; a means to an end, the end being the fulfillment of a Divine purpose and the greatest good of the human race. The thwarting of that purpose by man's limitations, ignorance, selfishness, perverseness cannot be said to invalidate a purpose without which would make creation meaningless and the world a failure! Altitude gives vision and "where there is no vision the people perish." Matthew Arnold enjoined: "See things whole, and see them as they are."

Step by step the world has come up to what it is today; but through all there has been, even after upheaval and revolution, ordered progress by government. The form has varied but the principle remained.

Today with a topsy-turveydom perhaps unexampled, it is more than a wonder what is to be the outcome. If history be a steady-going and an enlightening force, a light on a dark path, the light of the wisdom of the ages is at our command. The God of history is the God of Grace. Providence and grace are man's great hope and a world's salvation.

The Spanish have a proverb: "God is not dead of old age." Beyond time's years "from everlasting to everlasting thou art God." With His plan, purpose and presence "God is wisdom, God is love." In the darkest periods of the past, light and aid have come to the sons of men by seeking "the old paths wherein is the good way" of peace, prosperity and content. Said a leading British statesman: "It is true we have not, as an ancient people had, Urim and Thummin—those oraculous gems on Aaron's breast—from which to take counsel, but we have the unchangeable and eternal principles of the moral law to guide us, and only so far as we walk by that guidance can we be permanently a great nation or our people a happy people."