

which it was earnestly hoped would not arise—France and England would be free to help Poland. It was not contemplated to send troops into Poland to help the Poles. But economic pressure could and would be brought to bear against Russia.

It was not easy for anybody in Great Britain to find fault with the policy so outlined. We are by no means out of the Russian-Poland woods yet. The position of Great Britain is made more difficult by the hasty action of France in recognizing the Government of Southern Russia, under the anti-Bolshevist General Wrangel. But the statement of Mr. Lloyd George seems to have satisfied even the labor party that Britain is playing a correct part in the vexed situation.

The Martyrdom of Mannix

Archbishop Mannix, when taken off the steamship Baltic and landed at Penzance, remarked that the course of the British Government in relation to him had been a "silly" one. In this he was right. The Archbishop himself deserves no sympathy. His conduct in Australia and in the United States proves that he is something of a firebrand, a poor representative of the Prince of Peace. He was a disturber in Australia and in the United States. He will be a disturber wherever he goes. But recognition of that fact does not justify the action of the British Government, who by an unwise course have made him a hero and a martyr in the eyes of excitable Irishmen everywhere.

The freedom of speech which is usually permitted under the British flag is one of the glories of British institutions. Even where the privilege is abused, wisdom may well dictate in many cases the ignoring of a foolish speech rather than public notice of it. A very strong case is needed to justify any interference with liberty of speech. The good sense usually manifested by the British authorities in these things is well illustrated in Hyde Park in London. On many days, and almost every Sunday, orators may be heard preaching all sorts of doctrine, social and political, and making violent attacks on the British authorities, from the King down to the nearest magistrate. The police, the effective representatives of law and order in London, pass to and fro, hear all that is said and smile at the proceedings. Most of the speakers would welcome an arrest. It would give them some of the notoriety they desire. But so long as the speakers or their hearers do not obstruct the highways no notice is taken of them. Experience has shown that all good ends are better served by letting them alone than by attempting to interfere with them. That is the best rule to apply in most cases to such disturbers as Archbishop Mannix. It is not likely that his attacks on things British could have done more harm than the speeches of the Hyde

Park orators. By widely proclaiming a determination to prevent the Archbishop landing in Ireland, the British authorities gave him a crown of martyrdom, under which he can be a cause of much more trouble to the Government than would have been at all probable if he had been ignored.

The Tariff Enquiry

The Government's Tariff Commission, or, to be more exact, its Tariff Committee, since there is not likely to be any formal Commission, is announced to begin its hearings at Winnipeg September 15 and continue them in the principal cities from coast to coast. The Ministers who are to undertake this duty are Sir Henry Drayton, Minister of Finance, Hon. Mr. Calder, Minister of Immigration, and Hon. Mr. Robertson, Minister of Labor. The time thus allowed for the enquiry is none too large, if Parliament is to meet at a reasonable date. It is to be noted that one of these Ministers, Mr. Calder, has just left for England. A fair guess may be made that he will hardly be back in Canada in time to take up this part of his duty in September. A delay in beginning is therefore to be anticipated, and a late session of Parliament is likely to be one result.

It is not at all likely that the Minister of Finance, who is the principal one concerned, will receive during the hearing any views or arguments respecting the tariff that have not already been presented to him by individuals or delegations. The question has so often been discussed that new light is hardly to be expected now. It is desirable, nevertheless, that the inquiry be held, in order that all sections and classes may be afforded an opportunity of submitting their views. Even if the information and arguments presented are but a repetition of what has already been laid before the Minister in other ways, the people in many places will find satisfaction in having the opportunity to present their case directly to Ministers and to support their contentions from the experience of the different sections of the country. It is from this viewpoint that the holding of the inquiry is to be commended.

Ponzied Finance

In the "wild and woolly West," when there was such a place, strange things happened without attracting much notice. If "wildcat" promoters or other adventurers broke in upon the stirring life of the country and reaped a harvest—well, that was not surprising; such things were to be expected in a new country, where people were too busy to take time to inquire into anybody's antecedents. But in the old and settled and sober East, at least common sanity was to be expected. Think then of what has happened in good old Boston! A stranger, an

ex-convict of Montreal and an ex-convict of the United States National Penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga., opens an office in the heart of Boston's financial district, calls himself by a high sounding corporate name, becomes a director in an old trust company, offers to accept money at his own office for "investment" on his promise to repay with 50 per cent. interest in 90 days, and receives in a short time over fourteen million dollars. Such a story in the form of fiction or produced on the stage would be regarded as the most extravagant and impossible kind of "get rich quick" scheme. Yet here we have it in reality in what is usually regarded as one of the most sober minded financial communities in the world. When doubt began to be expressed as to Ponzi's scheme his prompt reply was that he was prepared to repay at once all the depositors who wanted their money. Many availed themselves of his offer, and the long line of anxious depositors received millions. Naturally the payment of their money had a quieting effect—Ponzi was paying on demand; there could then be no doubt of his solvency. Probably Ponzi thought that by paying out a few millions in this way he would create so much confidence that he could hold on to the many millions remaining and so continue his business. If the matter had been left to Ponzi and his depositors probably this would have happened and the extraordinary financial operations would have been carried on much longer. But fortunately the authorities intervened, who found that Ponzi's explanations of his profit making methods were fabrications, that he was hopelessly insolvent, and that the bubble must be pricked to prevent further frauds. Unbounded audacity must be one of the qualities by which a man can even for a short time carry on such operations without exposure. But he must have much more than that. What a pity that a man of such talent could not apply himself to honest business.

A Year of Travel

Increase of travel is one of the striking features of the present year. Perhaps it is because travel was checked in the war period and, now that the tension is over, there is a general desire to see what is going on in the world. The ships bound to Europe are crowded. The trains at home seem always full. Sleeping car accommodation is in great demand. Many a traveler has to wait for days for the accommodation that he requires. Hotels everywhere are full to overflowing. Railway charges and hotel charges are much higher than formerly, but there is no difficulty in finding people ready to pay. Indeed, it is the higher class of accommodation that is most in demand. The people have the money to spend and are willing to spend it on things which can hardly be classed as necessities, but which evidently add to the sum of comfort and happiness.