

movement will tend. It is possible that when the armies return the men will oust the women once more from their positions, but then again it is not very probable. What is probable is that we shall see the whole question of the status of woman in industry, in politics and in social life shifted from the plane of factitious agitation to the plane of economic law, a result wholly for their own benefit and one which the militant leaders seem to have utterly failed to grasp.

By the end of April there was practically no unemployment in Great Britain, and so great was the call for skilled workers that the Government sent to Canada in search of them, several thousands being transported to England to help in the making of munitions. In May there occurred an event not of very great importance, but yet significant to a certain degree. The men working on the London County Council Street Car system struck for a permanent increase of wages. The strike was broken in a prompt and thorough manner, by the Council compelling all employees to surrender their uniforms and then announcing that no man of military age would be taken back. This effectually stopped it and the places of the conductors discharged were filled by women, thus showing the immense power put into the hands of the masters who can wield the club of military service over the heads of the workmen. In June there was a short-lived strike among the cotton operatives, who demanded a 10 per cent. war bonus on their wages: the demand was granted practically at once, and work was resumed.

### *The Great Coal Strike.*

But all was not well in the industrial world, and a storm was brewing, more fierce and momentous than any that had gone before. The details of the great dispute between the miners of South Wales and the colliery owners are of such importance that it will be best to go into them with some particularity. The miners were working on an agreement entered into in 1910, which had expired on March 31, 1915, and a new agreement was, in due course, demanded by the men. The owners, whether rightly or wrongly is immaterial, refused to enter into a new agreement, pleading that the war conditions made the time unsuitable for entering on an agreement which would last over a period of years. The owners placed themselves, and this must in all justice be reckoned unto them for righteousness, unreservedly in the hands of the Board of Trade, and the President, Mr. Runciman, formulated a series of proposals to meet those of the miners. The points at issue between the disputants are too complicated to specify with any exactness, since the system on which the miners are paid