

FINANCE AND MILITARISM.

this interview so big a question as economic reconstruction at the end of the war, but so far as improved conditions for labour are concerned, I would point out that there have been few domestic results of the war which are more striking than the growth of a desire among other classes to recognise the claims of labour, and than its increased political power, as evidenced, for example, by its share in both past and present coalition ministries. Though the war may have led labour to give up for a time certain privileges, it has not weakened, but strengthened, its general position. Labour has given freely its sons to fight in a great and just cause. It has generously agreed to temporary suspension of hard-won trade-union rights; in short, during the whole period of its greatest war, the State has been patriotically served by its workers, and I confidently believe that when peace has been won, workers will be more adequately and justly assisted by the State."