

## CAN CAPITAL AND LABOR PULL TOGETHER ?

An interesting experiment is going on in England, where the organization of labor, as well as that of capital, has been carried to a higher limit than anywhere else in the world. There has been an industrial conference going on in London, in which representatives of employers' Associations and of trade unions have been seeking to come into a mutual agreement for their common interest. The Minister of Labor has been presiding and read a letter the other day from the Prime Minister expressing satisfaction with an agreement that had been reached showing "co-operation of all classes, having as their object not self-interest but the creation of a better country for all to live in." For more than four years co-operation had been manifested "in the great task of freeing Europe from military autocracy," he said. "Let us go on," he added, "and manifest it in the not less important task of freeing Great Britain from poverty, unemployment, and political unrest." The labor leader, Arthur Henderson, moved a resolution welcoming the report of the joint committee and declaring in favor of carrying its recommendations into effect, which was promptly adopted.

It looks as though this kind of co-operation of organized capital and organized labor in the various productive industries and the agencies for disposing of the products might be successfully carried out in England, at least for a time; but there is a pretty serious question about the general result. The whole thing is based upon class distinctions. There will be many men employed in one way or another who do not belong to these unions, and employers who are not in agreement with those of the associations. There is likely to be an increase in the cost of production and consequently in the cost of living, which will have an effect upon the volume of trade in the industrial products. In this "class system" there is apt to be a wretched mass at the bottom left in neglect and incapable of organization or joint effort for rising to a better level. In a real land of freedom each individual or family has a chance to rise, to move forward, to better their position and make progress. Organization may be made to work harmoniously only if it does not establish privilege for its members and keep those down and out who exercise liberty of action according to their capacity and aspiration.—N. Y. Journal of Commerce.

R. W. Marshall, Limited, general agents Globe Indemnity and Maryland Casualty, have removed from 164 St. James Street to the Lewis Building, St. John Street, where the firm has secured more commodious accommodation, necessitated by increased business.

## OPEN BALLOT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANY STRIKES.

An intelligent workman offers as an explanation of the foolish strikes which cause great losses to employers, employees and the public.

He says the open voice ballot on strikes is responsible nine times out of ten. Intelligent and conservative workmen are opposed to strikes, and with a secret ballot would nearly always vote against them.

The leaders, who are agitators, thrive on strikes, sometimes by blackmail, sometimes by bribes. They terrify any man who opposes them. If he votes "no" he is denounced and threatened, and may be beaten and maimed.

Unmarried workmen generally have no dependents and welcome a strike holiday, but their vote is equal to that of the married workman. That baneful equality is perhaps unavoidable but it is responsible for much misery.

## WARNS AGAINST CURRENCY INFLATION IN EUROPE.

Senator Owen, of Oklahoma, chairman of the Banking and Currency Committee at the last Senate, in a statement warned against continued currency inflation by European countries and urged the making of an international agreement regulating the per capita circulation of money among the nations of the world. The Oklahoma Senator returned recently from a two months trip to Europe where he studied financial conditions growing out of the war.

"Europe has not observed the lesson which was taught the people of the United States by the Civil War," Senator Owen said, "and they are no longer on a true gold basis in Europe.

"Issuing currency to pay government debts without a gold cover and without keeping the notes freely exchangeable in gold is a direct route to economic financial injury.

"An international agreement should be established by which the per capita circulation of money between all nations of the world could be more equitably arranged in order that commodities may flow from one to the other. It is of the highest importance that commodities should flow equitably and freely from one country to another so that nations may pay for commodities with commodities produced at the same comparative level of cost.

"France cannot compete with the United States in foreign commerce on equal terms if France has three times the per capita circulation of the United States, and Japan can compete and will successfully compete with other nations as long as her per capita circulation is much lower than that of the other nations."