

Mentioned in Despatches

JULIUS H. BARNES.—The United States Government is determined to control and regulate food operators, coal barons and railway magnates. As part of the scheme to do this Herbert C. Hoover has been appointed Food Dictator; Judge Lovett, head of the Coal Commission, and Julius H. Barnes, as President of the \$50,000,000 Wheat Commission. Barnes is a young man to hold such an important position, being but 44 years of age. In pre-war days he was head of the Barnes-Ames Co., of Duluth, the largest exporters of wheat in the United States. He is an aggressive, fearless type of American business man and as head of the Grain Commission can be expected to perform excellent service for his country.

MAJOR-GENERAL NATHANIEL W. BARNARDISTON, the man who assisted the Japanese to take Kiau-chow from the Germans has just succeeded to the family estate through the death of his father. Gen. Barnardiston commanded a small British force which rendered very effective aid to the Japanese in Eastern China. In addition to the excellent work which he performed there he also made a name for himself in South Africa, and was well known as a military attaché at a number of European capitals. He is married to a New York lady.

GEN. LUIGI CADORNA, head of the General Staff of the Italian Army, has been receiving an enthusiastic reception in London, where he went to consult with the British military authorities. Cadorna, who is sixty-five years of age, has been connected with the army since he was a boy of ten and is supposed to know pretty nearly everything there is to be known about warfare. He is universally recognized as an able tactician, and his books on army tactics have even been adopted by the Germans. The old general belongs to the nobility but is a thorough democrat, and recognizes merit as the only reason for promotion. He is the man who was primarily responsible for the Italians' entry into the war.

GEN. ROQUES, who recently succeeded Gen. Gallieni as Minister of War, has had a lengthy experience, not only in France, but in Algiers, Madagascar, and other parts of France's colonial possessions. He particularly distinguished himself in Algiers, where he won promotion and the thanks of his country. Then followed an experience in Madagascar where, as an engineer, he constructed many important works. At the outbreak of the present war he was in command of the 4th Army Corps at Limoges, later being promoted to the head of the first Army. He was recently decorated with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor, and with the Military Cross.

"PRIVATE SPUD TAMSON, of the Glesca Milesby," a book giving an account of the troubles, trials, tribulations and triumphs of the man who enlists for service, is making a great hit. The author, Capt. R. W. Campbell, of the Scots Fusiliers, wrote it while serving in the trenches. As his name indicates he is a Highlander. As a young man, Campbell saw fighting in South Africa, where he was serving with the Black Watch. At the conclusion of the war he took up journalism, and travelled around the world. In the course of his wanderings he covered some 5,000 miles in Canada garbed in kilts. At the outbreak of the war he hurried home and joined the Fusiliers and wrote "Spud Tamson" at night while his fellow officers were sleeping.

MR. FRANCIS W. HIRST, editor of the Economist of London, England, has been adding to the excellent reputation he already possesses by his articles on war finance. The British public who look to the great English financial weeklies for information and guidance have been admirably served. Mr. Hirst was born in 1873, and educated at Oxford, where he took a brilliant course. He studied law, but only practised for a short time when the attractions of financial journalism weaned him from the Forum. He became editor of the Economist some eight years ago and under his management it became a recognized authority on financial matters. Mr. Hirst has written many pamphlets and books on economic subjects, some of his best known works being Adam Smith (English Men of Letters), The Stock Exchange, and The Six Panics. Some time ago he left the Economist.

JULES ANDRE PEUGEOT.—Recently the French Government conducted an investigation to find out who was the first French soldier killed in the war, and discovered that a Protestant school teacher named Jules Andre Peugeot was the first Frenchman to give up his life for his country. On Saturday, August 1st, 1914, the day mobilization was ordered, the French were ordered to fall back some six miles from the frontier so as to avoid any conflict with the Germans, a conflict which might be used by the Germans as a pretext for war. Corporal Peugeot, with four men, was in a little village near the Swiss German frontier when a German patrol, commanded by Lieut. Mayer, entered the village. The French corporal went forward to protest against this violation of the frontier before war was declared, when Mayer drew his revolver and fired three shots. As Peugeot fell mortally wounded he fired his rifle and killed the German.

RUSSEL D. BELL, of Greenshields & Co., stock brokers, has left for the United States where he has received a commission in the new army being trained to fight the Huns. Bell has been in Montreal for the past half dozen years, coming from New York where he was on the staff of the New York Sun. While an active member of the firm of Greenshields & Co., and generally regarded as one of the bright-

est and best financial men on the "Street," it was as a writer on financial subjects that Mr. Bell was best known to the Canadian public. His Monthly Reviews, as well as his frequent contributions to financial publications, kept his name before the public. Mr. Bell is the fourth member of the firm of Greenshields & Co. to go overseas, the other three serving in the Canadian forces. As Mr. Bell is an American by birth, it is only natural that he should turn to Uncle Sam when a call came for recruits.

GENERAL PETAIN.—The new French offensive at Verdun calls first attention to the heroic struggle waged there by France in the last days of 1916. That struggle was responsible for the "finding" of General Petain, now Commander in Chief of the French Army. At the outbreak of hostilities, Petain was but a Colonel in an obscure post; as a matter of fact, he was about to retire from active service, as he was then 58 years of age. The Hun invasion, however, called for every man capable of bearing a weapon and Petain stayed with the Army and did his bit. This was done so well that he soon won promotion, being first given a Brigade, then a Division. At Charlevoix, Dinant, and at the Marne he revealed a genius for command which was further shown in his remarkable defence of Verdun. General Petain is a firm believer in the gospel of keeping fit and his daily antics with a skipping rope, while somewhat of a joke in the Army, indicates something of the simplicity and thoroughness of the man who directs the destinies of the French forces.

The New Democracy in Britain

Industrial problems being solved

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(Special Correspondence of The Journal of Commerce).

It is very difficult and apparently almost impossible for the people of this country to realize what is happening in "democratic" circles. For this reason the position may appear a great deal more confused than it really is. It will change from day to day, but the broad outlines may be clearly stated.

The difference between a democratic country and a democratic government is the first difficulty the public meets. Even in this country partizan newspapers occasionally accuse the Government of failing to realize its democratic purpose.

The second difficulty arises through the want of understanding the difference between Socialism and Democracy, and this difficulty is increased by the frequent use on the continent of the description "Social Democrat." To many people Socialism and Democracy spell one and the same thing.

In Great Britain the distinction between the two is being made clearer by the attempt to organize the Workers' and Soldiers' Delegates Council. It is frankly a Socialist movement, its object being first of all to socialize all departments of our national life, and secondly to set up in this country something akin to the Russian Revolution. The utter impossibility of this attainment is well understood by the people of this nation, and it does not seem that the sinister attempt to undermine the democratic authority of the Government will succeed.

In order, however, to understand the real difficulties of the position with which the statesmen of the Allies have to deal it is necessary to look at matters from other points of view than our own. Is there any good reason, for example, for the prominence in this connection of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, an avowed socialist, a man of intellect, and a founder of the British Labor Party? I think there is. It is conceivable that among the industrial population of Russia there is as yet no distinction drawn between the Labor Party and the Socialists of Great Britain. Responsible Russians are doubtless well-informed. But when great masses of people are concerned in decisions which governments have to make, ignorance must be recognized as well as knowledge. Suppose then that among the people of Russia Mr. Ramsay MacDonald is regarded as the one representative Socialist, and that further, Socialism to the Russian people is synonymous with British Democracy. This is the state of Russian general knowledge it can be understood that the British Government cannot resist Mr. MacDonald's claim to attend an international socialist congress which the Russian people look to with great hopefulness. I do not say this is the actual state of affairs, but it is a reasonable interpretation of present difficulties which are causing so much confusion in the public mind. One thing seems plain, that if Mr. Ramsay MacDonald attends

any conference with continental Socialists he will be accompanied by a sound representative of British Trade Unionism.

During the last few weeks the temper of the British people has undergone a notable change. The whole nation has been in the war for three whole years. It would be strange if no signs of irritability and war-weariness were found among us at this stage. But it would be folly to attach too much importance to the signs of what is called "industrial unrest." We had it before the war. We shall have it after the war. It is no new thing during the war, though it is more dangerous at such a time than at any other. The spirit of unrest finds its causes ready made in these days. But though there is underground agitation, now and then making itself seen in a form that alarms the timid, nothing has yet happened to destroy faith in the good sense and deep patriotism of the nation. We go on with our work steadily and without cessation, and the results of our labors are seen in France and Flanders. It would be a great mistake to imagine that the excitement over the Stockholm Conference and the rumors of industrial troubles represent the real state of mind of the British nation.

Gradually we are preparing the way for the industrial problems that will come up for settlement when the war ends. The establishment of the Ministry of Reconstruction gives form to a vast amount of hard-thinking that has been going on for three years. A minor sign of the national attitude was given recently when the members of the railwaymen's trade union had their war bonus transferred to wages. This act increases the rate of wages in some branches of the union by as much as 15s. a week. And as the pay for Sunday work and overtime is based on the new rate the total increase of earnings is considerably more than 15s. I have no doubt that before the war ends such a transference of bonuses to rates will become general. It is an indication that after the war wages in this country will be much higher than before, and that the higher standard will be permanent. We have seen the same thing happen in agricultural wages, which are the foundation of our whole industrial system. This is a fact that must be taken into account in commercial circles throughout the world. The purchasing power of the British people will be greater; the producing cost of the British factory will be higher. To many, even among those who were free traders before the war, this will inevitably lead to some measure of protection. But up till now we have had no pronouncement from any responsible statesman on this point. If there is one thing, however, upon which the British industrial workers are united it is that the war level of wages must not be reduced.