

a bonus of five per cent. to all underground producers who work 28 days out of each period of four weeks. The officials of the company say that as the ten per cent. bonus is placed upon and is additional to the six per cent. given at the first of June last, and the four per cent. which is anticipated and made effective Nov. 1, is really equivalent to 21 per cent. The company also points out that, if in addition to this the worker entitles himself to the five per cent. bonus for steady work, he obtains an increase of 27 per cent. on the wages of last May. This is regarded as an increase without precedent in the history of coal mining in Nova Scotia. At the same time the Coal Company, it is said, is maintaining unchanged the price of coal and rent to its workmen."

THE NEW RUSSIA.

Mr. Lloyd George in the course of his brilliant career has made many a sagacious remark, but I recall none more sagacious than his famous aphorism that German arms are blasting the fetters off Russia. He has not read Russian history in vain. He knows that all or most of the important historical changes and reforms affecting Russia have followed war or were the result of war. And every student of this war as it affects Russia must come to the conclusion that this greatest of wars will work Russia's greatest metamorphosis. All signs point that way. There is no conceivable political agency which is not at work to promote political progress. The growth of material want, the growth of political disaffection, the national calamities brought about by the present war, are only among the more obvious agencies. The evidence regarding the working of other forces is varied and abundant, and a comprehensive study of the leading Russian newspapers throws a marvellous degree of light on the situation. Both the Duma and the outside leaders of public opinion have shown that they have an understanding of the situation. Besides the more obvious reforms growing immediately out of the present war and its issues, such as the autonomy of Poland, justice for the Jews, conciliation for Finland, amnesty for political prisoners, the new liberal majority loudly and persistently demands free political institutions, greater industrial development and broader national freedom. One of the best known of the Duma members, M. Vershinin, thus briefly expressed the unanimous wishes of the party he represented:

First of all let us devote every effort to assure success over the foreign foe. To secure this let there be a unification of all the forces of the country and the speedy adaptation of all its life to the necessities of the war. To this end a general political amnesty is necessary; all discriminations between the rights of Russian subjects, either on grounds of nationality or religion, must cease; freedom for professional and other social organisations must be secured; freedom of speech and of the Press, the right of popular assembly, and the sovereignty of the individual must be proclaimed.

These are sweeping demands, but I believe there are the strongest grounds for hoping that Russia will carry through these and other still more far-reaching reforms. The very extent of the present crisis is a strong ground for optimism. Every great war has, as I have already mentioned, brought some

great reform to Russia, but no preceding war has so completely roused the Slav spirit and so completely united all factions. If great events do really cast their shadows before them, is it wrong to assume that the reforms to follow this unprecedented struggle will far surpass anything recorded in the history of Russia? She is a land of great political surprises. As examples we have the bloodless abolition of slavery and the recent vodka reform. The Russian people are full of pent-up emotions, and the longer they accumulate the greater the pressure becomes. Her leaders know this, and will see that the pressure is relieved. It is ground for hope that a strong beginning has already been made towards a better understanding with subject races and religions. We have space for only one illustration. M. Fridmann, the Jewish deputy to the Duma from Kovno, said recently:

The Jews have given to the national defence all their mobilisable force, even their only sons, when the only sons of non-Jews are exempt from service. Jewish students in foreign countries have rejoined the colours in Russia or have volunteered in the allied armies. There are actually 300,000 Jews in the Russian army, and it can be asserted without fear of contradiction that no antagonism exists between them and the Orthodox troops—a revolution thought to be among impossible things. We are shedding our blood together. What a wonderful cement this blood has been.

We recall the moving story of a Jewish soldier wounded in the fighting in front of Vilna. He had already fought so valiantly that he wore the proud distinction of the St. George's Cross. Osnas was his name, and when his corps commander heard of his wounds he telegraphed a special request to the hospital to "do everything that was possible to save the life of Osnas the hero." With regard to the questions concerning Finns and Poles, it is perhaps well that we wait for further developments before we discuss them. But it is absolutely certain that a victorious war will result in the recovery and regeneration of the State all along the line. We know that many barriers have already fallen, we know that national, political and religious feuds have been softened, and that new conditions are being created in which mutual good relations of the people and the government can fructify with advantage to both. I think it is also clear that many leading men in high position in the government—not all, unfortunately—are convinced that at the present time of complete national union many of the old methods of administration are not only out of place, but simply impossible. Do not let us believe those fantastic pictures of civil disunion and revolutionary conflagration so widely disseminated by the German and Austrian press. Russia's enemies have made a bitter mistake. As Professor Struve has reminded us, the national consciousness of Russia not only has not weakened, but has wonderfully strengthened and taken shape. The tyranny which her people had most to fear, and from which they suffered most, was the German tyranny. That has disappeared for ever.

And if we look deeper into the life of this wonderful Russian people, with all their splendid possibilities, we shall find that in the loftier things of this world, and in the things which go to prepare us