

in South Africa. There are other contingencies; and there is also the unexpected, which may knock holes in any theory and in the head of every prophet. The next really great war may be one for commercial and financial supremacy. It will be fought not by individual nations, but by groups—the European and Western powers against those of the Far East. Russia would join with Europe in the issue, even although it should be considered in the light more of an Asiatic than a European nation. If China develops in the next twenty-five years as Japan has done in the last quarter of a century, the strength of the Oriental side can be vaguely estimated. That there will be vast strength is indisputable. The cause of the warfare would doubtless be the disagreement as to mutual interests and a jealousy in the matter of respective commercial progress. There you have the black clouds in the international picture.

The sunshine, which may after all prevail, is in the contentions already advanced. With the stepping forward of civilization, the linking up of nations by means of the cable and the steamship, with the development of new countries, with the rapid growth of international commerce, with the never-ending pilgrimage of capital—with all these, it may be found that finance and commerce are stronger arms than powder and shell.

ORATORY OF THE TIMES.

It takes no orator to brand a man a liar. Nor does it require a classical education to appropriately return the insult. If one were to believe half the stories of corruption now being fed to a weary electorate, disgust for things parliamentary would be omnipotent. Grouping the battle-cries of both Liberals and Conservatives, the man who cannot read between the lines would imagine Ottawa a city wherein boils a cauldron of the vilest political corruption. The orator of the old days, when an election meant anything from a pitched riot to an alcoholic orgy, might give the present day a few pointers on the art of haranguing the crowd. But it is doubtful.

England has given the world some of the best political orators. Men they were to whom party was not everything; principle stood for something. Men they were who magnetized their audience, swayed them with arguments, held their breath with reasoning, and won them to a cause with graciousness. Such parliamentarians we have had in Canada; a few we have to-day. Unfortunately they appear to be exceptions to the rule. Some of the gems of literature are the speeches of statesmen made in Parliament and out. It would be difficult to gather together half a dozen speeches made by our own statesmen, speeches that could be classed as masterpieces. Instead we have political bickerings which would scarcely be creditable in the atmosphere of a saloon wrangle. Some of them deserve no notice at the hands of the press. At these times the party press is compelled to cast aside, to a large extent, any cleanliness or conscience it possesses. It must go forward blindly, painting the Government as white angels and the Opposition as black imps, or vice versa.

It is questionable whether the public for whose especial benefit these wearying details of bribery and thievery are told, have not been sickened. Surely by this time the majority are able to dissect dramatic imagination and effect from actual fact. Doubtful it is whether the publication of scandal by lips and print affects to any extent the voting one way or another. The dragging into the public limelight of private life is a favorite election trick. This dodge, too, can scarcely have much weight. The elector, as a rule, decides upon the man for whom he will vote. A hundred blood and thunder stories of corruption and scandal, of an atrocious career away from the public gaze, will not likely change the voter's decision. Probably he knows beforehand all that can be told by the candidate who delights to plug through the

mire of political scandal. The average aspirant to and the holder of parliamentary honors has incorrectly gauged the intelligence of his electorate.

BARRIERS.

The man who can construct legislative machinery that will satisfy both capital and labor, is as yet unborn. If a quarter century brings him to us, the good fortune will have come ahead of anticipations. Broadly speaking, the two mighty forces in the economic world are, for many reasons, opposed. Their harmonious working is considered by the everyday man an undertaking in idealistic realms. The man whose brawny arms help forward the general weal far from seldom arrays his brain power against capital. He whose brain is moulding like wax the power of money has often a thought to become a taskmaster unto labor. Those who work with sinew only oftentimes begrudge the position which comes to the man whose sinew is boxed in his head. And he, in turn, may sometimes wrongly imagine that the education of a muscle worker is a crime to society. Wherein all of which, and more that is obvious, we have a direful field on which capital and labor wage war. The olive branch and the dove meanwhile are lazily flirting in Utopia.

Labor questions will doubtless for a week or two form a good sized bone of political contention. But delete politics. In Canada some attempt has been made to give legislation an opportunity to act as the arbitrator between two continually belligerent forces. This effort has met with some success. It has performed the feat of satisfying in several instances, the wage-giver and the wage-taker. The Industrial Disputes Act in some cases has failed. Failure is an excellent guide to reformation.

At Halifax recently a Labor Congress has dubbed this Act "a club to be held over the head of organized workmen"—which must be disappointing to those who have tried to inject science into a time-worn problem. A gold brick is another label for the Industrial Disputes Act. Because there is more brick than gold this new dissatisfaction may have arisen. The brick is endeavoring to knock away foolish controversial ground. There would seem to be a danger of this particular legislation, upon which so much must be built, of collapsing.

If the Labor Congress were allowed its desire and the, to them objectionable, Act were repealed, what would happen? It is fairly safe to assert the Congress would not, probably could not, replace it with a law equally as workable.

Our country has now an excellent basework on which to fashion something powerful enough to bring capital and labor face to face to discuss grievances without recourse to pre-historic grousing. It does not say much for our boasted enlightenment during recent centuries, if we cannot break down a falsely created barrier, one which is wrecking harm to the interests of general development. Labor should offer its sane suggestions.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

One of the recent guests of the Canadian Mining Institute has stated that for the development of our extremely rich minerals men rather than capital are needed. If the right men are put at the head of the industry, as are at work on some of the best propositions, capital would soon be forthcoming; which is very true. Money too often is considered before men. A large amount of capital is wasted, because men through whose hands opportunities continually slip are handling the finances.

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The lumber traffic in British Columbia is heavy for this time of year. The mills are beginning to receive