

vice which goes under said title is particularly dominant; it is so, because remuneration afforded is more than usually has been the case, and two-thirds of these employed in many occupations do not think it worth while to work six days a week. The 'stubborn operator' can hardly be said to exist for in such days as these when coal is in such demand, he would be only glad if it were possible to increase the output of his property." Conditions in Nova Scotia will soon be as bad, unless there is a reinforcement of the back bone of the big wigs.

• MORE GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

Mr. Sidney Webb tells us in *The Contemporary Review* that after the war we must have not less, but more, Government control of our supplies and industries. Not only for us, but for the whole world, there will be a very serious shortage of food products and raw materials for years, and to save the poor from being crushed into starvation and misery, if the usual law of supply and demand is left to act unchecked, all the Governments of Europe must take matters into their own hands. Indeed, Mr. Webb argues that at least for a year after the war an International Commission, on which both our Allies, neutrals and the enemy countries will be represented, will have to be appointed to control exports, shipping, and the other means of transit, and to allocate both food and raw materials, with due regard to the relative urgency and degree of the needs of the respective peoples. At present a Commission of this kind exists for the Allies for Army supplies, but Mr. Webb insists that it will have not only to be extended in scope, but to take in all the enemy countries. This Commission will deal with exports to any foreign countries, but will not interfere with "coastwise and colonial trade as necessarily reserved by each Government." Within each country the Government will need to keep, or take over, the control both of home products and of imports, and see that each district and section of the community gets its fair share. Immediately after the war our own Government will begin—through local authorities—the erection of half a million to a million new cottages for wage-earners in town and country, at the cost of two hundred millions or more, together with the repairs of roads, railways, factories, and the building of new schools. This, if we are to escape outrageous prices, will involve strict Government control both of building materials and of all the building trade workmen.

The resolutions committee of the American Federation of Labor favorably reported a resolution submitted by Florence Etheridge, of the national federation of federal employees on women suffrage. It read: "That we hereby affirm our previous declaration in behalf of women suffrage and the principle of equal pay for equal work regardless of sex." The convention unanimously approved the committee's report. The resolutions committee reported non-concurrence in a resolution calling upon the President of the United States to appoint representatives of organized labor to attend any conference that may be held among nations to discuss terms of peace, and that any peace treaty signed should contain labor clauses defining hours and working conditions. The convention adopted the committee's adverse report without debate.

The favorable report to-day of a resolution calling for the conscription of citizens of allied nations in this country brought on one of the most heated debates of the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor held in Buffalo last week. It reached a climax when Thomas Black, a Canadian delegate, who characterized conscription laws, "as dastardly legislation," was called to retract or leave the floor of the convention. The committee's report endorsing the resolution was adopted by a vote of 244 to 20 amid a storm of cheers, but not until a large number of delegates and President Gompers had replied to Black, and Delegate Cary, from Toronto had declared that Black's statement did not represent the sentiment of Canadian Trades Union men.

With some miners getting \$15 a day, an Illinois operator maintains that 10 hours a day is none too much as the working time under present conditions and that the long-continued experience with the eight-hour day shows that mine capacity is simply reduced to an almost proportionate extent. We think it must be apparent to the most impartial observer that while in some lines of industry there can be a certain speeding up that will offset lessened working hours, in such an occupation as coal mining it is difficult to effect the same result, for there are, certain processes, such as hauling, hoisting, screening, etc., that require a certain allotted time regardless of the activities of the individual workers.

The shortage of mine labor is due largely to men having been drawn away by the high wages offered in other lines of industry, but the recent increase in the bituminous fields has reversed the drift to some extent, according to reports from several coal-producing States. The advance of \$1.40 per day to company men means that any able-bodied man can make close to \$5 a day in or about a mine, even if he never did such work before, and that is an attractive wage to a man without a trade in spite of all that is heard about the big pay that unskilled labor is receiving in some places.

BRITISH LABOR PARTY'S AIMS.

The leaders of the Labour Movement are bent upon taking full advantage of the situation which will follow the operation of the Representation of the People Bill. The Labour Party has, in fact, decided to put forward at least 300 candidates for industrial constituencies at the next General Election. A committee, consisting of Messrs. W. F. Purdy, J. Ramsay MacDonald, M.P., G. J. Wardle, M.P., R. Wake, Sidney Webb, W. C. Robinson, and Arthur Henderson, M. P., has been appointed to prepare a scheme, and Mr. Arthur Henderson has agreed to devote all his time and energy to propaganda for this scheme. The Labour Party has elaborated plans for the political organization of women, seven millions of whom become voters. A determined effort is to be made to link the Co-operative Movement with the Labour Party. A party programme is being drafted, to be submitted to the annual Conference at Nottingham in January. The whole scheme is an ambitious bid for the supremacy of Labour in the House of Commons. The immediate propaganda will almost necessarily result in the regrouping of the old political parties. But under what chieftains?