

citizens from the government of another nation, except under certain conditions. On these points the representatives of the powers are in agreement. They give assent to the ideas embodied in the resolutions and declarations enumerated. And this act implies that the parties to future international disputes must conform to the rulings of the Conference or incur the hostility of the nations that it represents. The list of resolutions given does not suggest that the results of the Conference at the Hague are meagre. Of course, resolutions and formal agreements may not lead to results of practical importance. Means for the peaceful settlement of international disputes have not yet been secured. There has been no provision made for the arbitration of disagreements that may arise. But the Hague Conference is shaping opinion and creating healthy sentiment in regard to a practice that has for ages been excused as inevitable. It serves to focus world-opinion on matters of world-interest. It is more significant as an indication of a modern tendency and aspiration than as a producer of tangible results.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE IN ENGLAND.

In England industrial disputes have apparently not been abolished. That country is now threatened with a strike of railway employees. For some time the various grades of workers on railways have been represented by unions that have received the recognition of all large companies. The present difficulty has arisen from an attempt to gain recognition for an amalgamated union to comprise the subordinate bodies that have hitherto had separate existence. The request on the part of railway workers has been refused by their employers. Since the beginning of the difficulty attempts have been made to work out a peaceful settlement. Mr. Lloyd George, the President of the Board of Trade, has been extremely active in his efforts to secure a solution of the questions involved. And it is said that there is a strong public feeling against a strike. The Midland Railway Company has issued a statement of its concessions to its employees during the past ten years. These concessions, it claims, have reduced its income to the extent of £240,000 annually. The company, moreover, announces its willingness to continue its communication with each grade of workers rather than to accede to the demands of the Amalgamated Union. From the union comes the old demand for the right of collective bargaining. In all trade disputes it desires to be represented by duly elected delegates. The differences that mark the present difficulty will not be readily settled. In the meantime the general public must meekly await the outcome of negotiations between the railway companies and their employees, conscious that if a strike is declared their interests will be seriously affected. When a railway ceases operation all branches of industry suffer and the processes of commerce are deranged. In such a case it appears necessary that some power above either party to the dispute should be invested with the right of enforcing mutual concessions with an eye to public interests.

In Canada a recently enacted piece of legislation provides for arbitration of disputed points before the declaration of a strike. On several occasions