

If the "well selected committee," with two or three women in it, had got to work in 1915, "something" might have been done—and probably would have been. There was nobody to select it. "Unconsciously we have been slipping down hill." And there was nobody even looking at us.

FOOD PRICES.—Offering, at present, no protest against the ever-soaring food prices, so far as they affect individuals amongst ourselves, let me remind readers of two facts:

1. Present prices are verging upon famine figures; already, they are being restrained only by governmental action; and they can be reduced only by tremendously increased production.

2. As prices rise, famine commences with those persons least able to pay them. Famine first assails the poor, and revolution usually follows fast upon famine.

Amazement at Lord Lansdowne's recent letter would be somewhat tempered if people realized the rapidity of the world-slide towards anarchy, and if they were aware of the methods being adopted by governments everywhere to retard the momentum. I have not space enough to describe the European situation, I quote only two sentences from Mr. Webb's recent article (a).

"Thus, the government has already made itself the sole importer of cereals into the British Isles, a colossal business; already it controls every flour mill in the United Kingdom, and determines exactly what kind of flour is to be made, and at what price it is to be sold; and it has definitely fixed the retail price of bread (henceforth not to be raised whatever may be the price of wheat in Chicago) at ninepence per quartern loaf. IT HAS HAD TO TAKE THIS ACTION, INVOLVING FINANCIAL DEALINGS TO THE EXTENT, LITERALLY, OF MORE THAN A HUNDRED MILLION POUNDS ANNUALLY, IN ORDER TO PREVENT GRAVE LABOUR UNREST" (a).

Under such circumstances, is not the line of Canada's duty unmistakeably clear? I do not exaggerate when I say that a lengthened prolongation of the war may mean disruption elsewhere than in Russia and Canada; that, short of disruption, it may mean undue haste to arrange inadvisable terms of peace; that the only security against one or both of these evils is at tremendous increase in food-production; and that IT IS TO CAN-

(a) *Contemporary Rev.* October, 1917.