

will question the right of policemen, or people of any other class, to form a union for social purposes, or for the promotion of schemes for the benefit of themselves and their families. Combinations for such purposes deserve and will usually receive public sympathy and support. But when, under the guise of such projects, an attempt is made to make such unions a part of the trade union system of the country, a new situation is created, and one that may well produce something like alarm.

The trade unions, like unions of some other kinds, are allowably selfish. Representing a class they seek the promotion of the interests of that class, and if in doing so they are but little concerned as to the interests of the community as a whole, they are no worse than people of some other classes, who feel that they must be loyal to their own order. But the police are one of the forces which cannot be permitted to be identified with any class interest, one of the forces that have to be relied on to see that the interest of no class is permitted to over-ride the good of the whole community. The courts of justice must stand above all classes, and the military and police forces must be the instruments for the enforcement of their decrees.

A supreme court or a military authority subject to the order of the head of any labor organization would be no more absurd than a police force occupying that position. Even if affiliated with a purely Canadian society, a police force in one of our cities could be subject to the call of leaders far away, liable to be ordered to abandon their posts because of some dispute in a distant city, of the nature of which they knew little or nothing. Worse, they might be liable to such orders resulting from difficulties arising beyond the bounds of Canada. Labor is, to a very large extent, organized internationally, and the directing forces are to be found in the cities of the neighboring Republic. Imagine the police force of Montreal ordered to share in a "sympathetic strike," because of some trouble that has, unhappily, arisen in Chicago. Yet such a situation is easily possible if a Montreal police union is affiliated with any international trade organization.

The whole movement is indefensibly bad. Labor leaders who appreciate public sympathy as one of the forces which are needed to win for labor legitimate recognition should set their faces resolutely against these attempts to tamper with the police systems of the Dominion. If the mischievous movement cannot be checked in this way, Governments and Parliaments should devise such legislation as will protect the public against such efforts to destroy the safeguards which the police are expected to provide.

The police force of any community cannot properly owe allegiance to any authority other than to those who are charged with the responsibility of maintaining law and order. The trades union, in its proper place, is one of the necessary features of the social system of our times. It has done much and will still do much for the protection of the interest of the workers of the nation. But neither the trade union nor any other organization which stands for the interest of a class needs for legitimate purposes authority over any of those whose duty it is to maintain and enforce law and order.

The Newsprint Controversy

FOR almost two years the manufacturers of newsprint paper and the publishers have been at loggerheads. Following the outbreak of the war the manufacturers of newsprint

found that the cost of manufacturing had increased to a very marked degree. They had to pay higher wages to the men in the lumber camps, as well as more for provisions, tools and equipment, while in the mill itself machinery and equipment showed enormous increases. In the purchase of many parts of machinery they had to compete against munition makers, while the same was also true of their purchases of sulphur and chemicals of various kinds. When it comes to competing with Mars it takes a long purse if an industrial corporation is to hold its own.

The paper makers were not the only ones guilty of increasing prices. Every commodity in the country has felt the stimulus of war demands and has advanced in price. This is true of clothing, and of food as well as of all manufactured articles. The publishers admit this, but, nevertheless they appealed to the Government to force the newsprint manufacturers to sell paper at a figure which the latter claimed did not return them a fair margin of profit. Undoubtedly the Government took a questionable attitude in their dealing with the newsprint manufacturers. Had they limited the price at which shoes were selling, the profits of the textile manufacturer and the thousand and one other manufacturers in the country who advanced the price of their products, no fault would be found with their interference. To select one industry and make it submit to their dictates looked very much as if the Government feared the influence of the press. The negotiations are still going on, but it is not too late for the Government to do the courageous thing—treat the newsprint manufacturers with a greater degree of consideration than they have shown in the past. It is an important industry, and should not be hampered by unwise legislation.

The New British Democracy

IT seems hard to keep a Welshman down! The world knows of the spectacular rise of Lloyd-George, the little lawyer who rose to the most important post in the Empire. In his case, however, it took years of effort and finally a world war to bring about his triumph. An even more remarkable case is that of Brigadier-General Godfrey Jones. At the outbreak of the war Jones, who was a Welsh coal miner, enlisted as a private. Today he is a Brigadier-General. Only those who know something of the social distinctions in Great Britain, and especially of the spirit of exclusiveness and conservatism among the officers of the professional army can appreciate what Jones has been able to accomplish.

Let us hope that it is typical of the new spirit of democracy which is making itself felt among all the members of the Allied nations.

A Labor Government for Great Britain

IN ALL probability there will be a general election in the United Kingdom this fall. There is a desire in some quarters to avoid this by another extension of the Parliamentary term, but the tendency of public opinion is against such action. The Government, it is believed, will not propose any further extension. The Lloyd George Government will in all probability be sustained. The organized Liberal party, under Mr. Asquith, can hardly be desirous of a victory at present. They will endeavor to maintain a strong Opposition, and be ready for a probable change of the political situation when the war is no longer the chief

question for consideration. The thing that seems clearest in British politics is that the Labor party, already possessing considerable power, is likely to become much stronger in the new Parliament. Already a large number of Labor candidates are in the field. It is stated that the Labor leaders contemplate having over four hundred candidates at the coming election. A recent development is an intimation that the Irish Nationalist party, hitherto largely in sympathy with the English Liberals, will unite with the Labor party. In many English constituencies this will strengthen the position of Labor candidates. All the Labor representatives will not win, but a great many of them will, and the Labor party will occupy a large place in the new House. That they will increase their power, as they have done in recent years, is to be expected. It is not an extravagant prediction to say that after the second general election a Labor Government will occupy the seats of the mighty at Westminster. Stranger things are happening in this time of rapid change.

Signs of the Time

A RECENT cartoon in an American journal pictured Austria, Turkey and Bulgaria discovering the fact that Germany is not invincible, but is likely to be beaten in her fight. Keen observers of the war situation have felt that from these partners of the Kaiser, rather than from the Kaiser's own Government, the first signs of submission would come. The Germans were able, in the early stages of the war, to impress the Austrians, the Turks and the Bulgarians that the German Military Machine, built up during many years, was all powerful. These nations recognized no power but that of force. They wanted to be on the winning side. They thought the Germans would win against all comers, that the Germans would dominate the world. So they allied themselves with the Kaiser and have been serving his purpose during these years of conflict. Now it is becoming apparent to them that, to quote a famous phrase of Lord Salisbury's, "they have backed the wrong horse." The German Government may still keep their people in the dark as respects the situation of the present and the outlook of the future, may still delude them with stories of victories which were never won, may still conceal the facts of the recent successful offensive of the Allies; but the Kaiser's partners are not to be so readily deceived. They must now see very clearly that whether the end be reached soon or after many more months of fighting, the end must be one of disaster to the Germans. It is not surprising then that, while the Kaiser continues to make dramatic speeches about the triumph of the German arms, his partner, the King-Emperor Charles of Austria-Hungary, comes out with an humble petition to all the belligerent nations to send representatives to a "non-binding" conference for the consideration of peace measures. With hunger depressing her people, with internal discussions which threaten to break out in grave disorder, with her army meeting firm resistance everywhere on the Italian front, with her soldiers who are aiding the Germans on the Western front seeing daily evidence of German defeat, it is not surprising that Austria begs for peace. Turkey and Bulgaria will warmly sympathize with the move. Germany, no longer able to make her partners believe in her winning power, must feel that if she is to continue the war she is likely to be left to fight alone. Austria, Turkey and Bulgaria will probably abandon her soon, if they can make terms of any kind with the Entente Allies.

A statement of the ad Great Canada Effort' tion, h lished March that t The la war to on beh of \$53 Britain \$594,45 Canada purcha and to tions I ces sec abled troops

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