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LABOUR AT A PREMIUM.

The Whig recently commented on the scarcity of labour, and of the unskilled kind. A large industry in the city had to depend upon the service of a band of foreigners, who, whatever their shortcomings, were possessed of one inestimable virtue. They would do what they were told, and they were never too tired to serve. They had an offer to leave the city and go west, and at once their pay was raised.

The thought prevailed that perhaps the experience in Kingston, of a shortage of this particular kind of labour, was peculiar to the place. It was said, academically it appears, that larger cities had no difficulty in securing all the help they needed. But this is a misconception, as one learns from the American papers. Pittsburgh

has had no difficulty heretofore in getting all the help it needed. It is a well-known industrial centre. It had many foreigners—French, Italians, Austria-Hungarians, Poles and Germans—but many of those have gone back to Europe. They may not return to America. Some cannot if they would while the war cloud hovers over them.

Hence the scarcity of unskilled labour. It is a unique condition. It has never occurred before, and may never occur again. The admission in the past has been, "Be a mechanic, or an artisan, and be educated. Then you will always be in demand." It may be changed to, "Be a labourer, unskilled, without education or ambition, look wise, and you are in the way to fortune." Of such men Pittsburgh alone wants 50,000.

CANADA'S NAVAL POLICY.

Joseph Martin, M.P., is now in Canada, visiting familiar spots in the east, en route to the west to note its developments, and incidentally talking as he travels. In Toronto, he has been interviewed, and he declares, in effect, that the proposed conference in Canada, on the naval question, is a trap which is being set for the liberal party. It is not well to become unduly excited, and over something which has not yet taken form. The naval conference has not been announced by the government or by any one in its behalf, and so the value or virtue of it cannot be considered.

Canada's naval policy whatever it is, must be the conception of the government; its premier, and most of his ministers, have spent some time in England. They have been seeing and hearing things with respect to the wants and needs of the empire, and it is for them to formulate the naval scheme which will adequately and accurately express Canada's position under the circumstances. The government is responsible for the administration of public affairs. The idea of consulting the opposition is not appropriate. It will be for the liberals to approve or disapprove of the naval policy of Mr. Borden, when it has been laid before parliament.

Let it be remembered that there was

not a round table or any other kind of conference when the liberals submitted their policy. Sir Wilfrid Laurier conceived the scheme of a navy, which would belong to Canada, of ships that would be built and manned by Canada, of a fleet which would be engaged generally in Canadian defence while subject to use for imperial purposes when occasion demanded. With that scheme and policy the conservatives agreed for a time. Then, as political exigency suggested, Mr. Borden favoured a direct gift of a couple of Dreadnoughts, or their cost in money, to the British admiralty. Catering to the Nationalists, and in order to secure their support in the electoral question.

Clearly, up to the time he went to England, he did not know where he stood upon this issue. He may know now. Report has it that a great change has come over his spirit as he has contemplated Britain's needs and Britain's danger, but he has yet to define his views, and he will have to do it in cabinet council. He may have to appeal to the people upon it, and he must stand or fall by it. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is not likely to be asked to help in shaping Mr. Borden's policy in view of all the facts, and especially of the dishonourable pact to which he was submitted in the election of 1911.

BONAR LAW AND REBELLION.

Belfast has suffered severely from the rioting which has taken place in it; and as a result of malicious political teaching. In another column, the Whig gives a summary of what happened in two or three days in the large ship yards, in which thousands of men are employed. It got into the heads of the "loyalists," or anti-home rulers, that there should be no quarrel shown to all who differed with them upon the subject. The leaders of the cause, Bonar Law and Sir Edward Carson had preached rebellion into these people. They had declared that home rule should not be granted, and at any cost it would not be endured.

Then followed a systematic education of sympathisers for disturbance. "Unionist Clubs" were opened, a number of them, and the men at work at the great shipyards were invited to join. Some of them were coerced into alliance with the clubs. They feared to say they would not. Their decision brought upon them the malevolence and fury of the club. They were set upon, assaulted, abused, beaten, driven from the works, wounded, bleeding, and almost murdered. Those who led in these attacks, which were carefully planned, seemed possessed with a kind of frenzy and acted in the most brutal manner. The report sums up the result, and one can well see how badly the good name of the city and its business has suffered.

In parliament Bonar Law and Sir Edward Carson were called to account because of these riots. They were charged with counselling violence, and the "unionists" had acted on this counsel and became guilty of lawlessness and intolerance. These leaders had given an example of the "new style" which was unknown to Mr. Balfour and of which the party had reason to be ashamed. Bonar Law admitted that he had advocated assistance to home rule, but he had done it deliberately. Perhaps he had gone further than his party approved, but he had not been notified of it, and he had no apology to offer.

The premier's reply will never be forgotten. If one party, in Ulster or elsewhere, could defy law and authority, and practice violence, another party could do it, and there was an end to responsible government. Bonar Law did not lift his voice in response, says the London Chronicle, editorially of the position. "It shows the inevitable pass into which Bonar Law has led the party. Ever since he took the position as leader he has indulged in violence of language which out the early violence of Disraeli in his shade. He has run up a very serious indictment against himself in a very short time. What the more stable kind of unionism really thinks about this incendiary leadership would be interesting to know. Mr. Law is supported by the reckless, upstart class, and the country will certainly expire a great deal of persuasion before it entrusts its political fortunes to the gang of preachers of rebellion such as the new style Tories have demonstrated themselves to be."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Canadians will have occasion to be ashamed of Bonar Law unless he reforms his way. As a preacher of violence—anything to make home rule in Ireland impossible—he is doing himself and his cause a great injury.

England is having its talk about free breakfast tables. The food is not altogether free—tea affords a revenue of between two and three millions—but since the Asquith government has been in office it has lowered the duties on foodstuffs by five millions sterling. That is going some.

Toledo has spent \$200,000 in establishing a municipal market, but it

THE SPIRIT OF THE PRESS

Wreck the Dam.
 Governor Wilson says the tariff is a dam. His proposal to wreck it. The people who live below the dam should look out for floods.

Confident.
 If the reciprocity agreement stays on the United States statute book another four years, it will be inscribed on Canada's statute also.

"A Fool There Was."
 When you see the heading, "Tried to change seats in a boat," all that is necessary is to look to the bottom of the paragraph to see if the bodies have been recovered.

London Advertiser.
 The reciprocity agreement stays on the United States statute book another four years, it will be inscribed on Canada's statute also.

Did His Duty.
 On one occasion Lieut. Becker, reformed \$1,500 to a gambler, who had paid that amount for protection that Becker was unable to give. The public will now correct its first impulsive judgment of this unfortunate officer.

SING "TE DEUM" IN TOWER.
 Commemorate extinguishing of Fire in 1426.

To-day the choristers of the cathedral at Durham, England, sing the "Te Deum" upon the tower, on the eve of Corpus Christi. This, says a writer in The Ave Maria, is to commemorate the extinguishing of a fire that night in the year 1426.

The monks had arisen at midnight to pray, when the bell was set on fire by lightning. The flames raged all night and until the following noon; but the tower was only slightly injured, and the bells were not damaged in the least.

Somewhere beneath the soil of Sussex there lies a peal of bells, while in the church nearby a solitary bell calls to prayer. In the Middle Ages, it is said, a certain valiant knight wished to present to the church a peal of bells that should be of use and perpetuate his memory as well; but the vessel that brought them, careened on approaching the harbor and the bells fell out and sank into the mud. Thereupon the giver declared:

"Never shall the church have a chime until that peal I give it be dragged from the sea by a team of four milk white oxen."

The oxen seem to have been difficult to obtain; at any rate, the fact remains that to this day the edifice to which the pious knight made his benefaction has never possessed more than a single bell.

A spot in Northumberland used to be pointed out by very old people as a place where a great treasure was buried. Firely some curious persons set to digging and exhausted the remains of a bell, which was identified as that formerly belonging to the ruined priory nearby. The story of its burial is this: A pack of Scotch thieves were searching for the priory, but it was so situated that it was concealed from the gaze of the marauders by the highlands about it.

They were exceedingly wroth and marched away in disgust, and the monks to celebrate their deliverance from the enemy, rang their beloved bell. Unfortunately they were too hasty. The handi heard the signal, retraced their steps and sacked and burned the priory. It is supposed that during the conflagration the bell fell to the ground and the homeless monks, finding the pieces, reverently buried them.

Henry VIII, looked upon the bell as a means of adding to his income and encouraged their destruction, but ill-fortune attended those who abetted him. One nobleman from whom he is said to have won a peal of church bells by throwing dice was shortly afterwards hanged on Tower hill. And certain bishop of Bangor, who, having sold King Henry the beautiful bells of his cathedral, went to see them shipped and was stricken with blindness.

1,000 Islands—Cochester.
 Steamers Caspian and North King leave at 10:15 a.m. daily for 1,000 Islands, and at 5 p.m. for Rochester, N.Y., via Bay of Quinte. J. P. Hailey, agent.

In a fire at Valleyfield, Que., in the stables of the Dominion Cotton Company, twenty hogs, one hundred pigs and one hundred cows were destroyed. The late Emperor of Japan was the 121st of his line, representing the oldest dynasty in the world.

Samuel Scheppe, alleged paymaster of the Rosenfeld murderers, is under arrest in New York.

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