

George, without any loss of dignity, drops his Parliamentary or Ministerial manner, and appeals to his fellow-citizens in stinging words and pointed arguments which carry conviction and inspire enthusiasm.

His Limehouse speech was good, so good as to add oil to the fire of hostility already aroused; but his speech at Newcastle was far better, and brought home to millions, as no other speech has done, the true inwardness of the great struggle in which the country is engaged. "A plain talk about the Budget," he termed it, and so it was, too plain for the mob of little men of either party. His impeachment of landlordism was masterly, and his peroration, in which he warned the Lords of the root questions their proposed action would inevitably evoke, and of the only possible answers to the same—"answers charged with peril for the order of things the Peers represent, but fraught with rare and refreshing fruit for the parched lips of the multitude who have been treading the dusty road along which the people have marched through the dark ages which are now emerging into the light"—will necessarily take rank amongst the most eloquent, instructive and inspiring words the Budget controversy has evoked.

If the Tory party, the Constitutional party, as its friends are fond of calling it, the party of Privilege and Plunder, as its enemies term it, decides to throw the country into the throes of a revolutionary struggle, the British democracy need desire no more courageous, far-sighted, or able leader than Lloyd George.

In saying this I by no means desire to disparage any other of our prominent Liberal leaders. Asquith, too, has shown himself worthy of his opportunities and of the confidence of his fellows. Without his support Lloyd George could not have carried the Cabinet with him. Winston Churchill, too, has proved himself staunchly democratic, and to have realized the true inwardness, as well as the seriousness, of the present struggle. Above all others the Lord Advocate of Scotland, Mr. Alexander Ure, has earned abundant laurels during the past few months. His mastery of the subject has made his numerous speeches most effective, so much so as to call down upon him the bitter hatred of the opponents of the budget.

After lesser men, or less prominent men, had failed to disturb him, last week the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour deemed it advisable to indulge in a bitter, and to my mind unwarranted and unscrupulous, attack, unparalleled in recent British political controversy, on the honor and veracity of the Lord Advocate. But this only gave Mr. Ure an opportunity for a most dignified reply, emphasizing the very point which had aroused Mr. Balfour's ire.

And so the great struggle progresses. What the next few weeks will bring forth it is impossible to say. But one thing is certain: the Land Question has come to stay; and in Great Britain the Land Question to-day means, not any question of Small Holdings or Peasant Proprietorship, nor any bombastic scheme of extensive state purchase, but the question of the Taxation of Land Values.

It is with this question that the future of Liberalism in Great Britain is bound up. A rational land system is manifestly impossible in the absence of the rating and taxation of land values. And it is en-

couraging to know that in Great Britain to-day progressives of all shades of opinion would willingly endorse Mr. Lloyd George's contention, which appears in this week's "Nation": "A rational land system lies at the very root of national well-being. Liberalism will commit one of the most fatal blunders of its career if it allows this question to rest—until it is settled."

LEWIS H. BERENS.

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MARY JACKSON KENT.

Glendale, Ohio, Nov. 15, 1909.

Mary Jackson Kent, one of the most enthusiastic and sincere disciples of Henry George, a constant reader of *The Public* for many years, a veteran of eighty-five who, though in the atmosphere of wealth, was a fundamental democrat of clear vision and sane judgment, passed away at Glendale last week. She became a follower of Henry George soon after the publication of "Progress and Poverty," and from that time to the end of her long life she was ready with testimony for her faith. With convincing logic and in the pure English speech so characteristic of the educated Irish, she charmed all who heard her.

No world movement escaped her attention, no democratic triumph passed her by unnoticed, no apparent disaster to democracy eluded her sympathetic comprehension. A devoted Episcopalian, she found intense satisfaction in reflecting upon the significance of the economic discussions at the last Ecumenical Conference in London; but on the other hand she was depressed by the recent exposure of Trinity Church as a New York landlord.

On the subject of practical methods, Mrs. Kent pinned her hopes to the movement for direct legislation, believing that through this alone could economic justice triumph. For she feared that the great vested interests would persist in narrowing the opportunities of the poor until, driven to bay, they might plunge headlong into revolution.

SALLIE R. McLEAN.

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article, on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Tuesday, November 16, 1909.

Convention of the American Federation of Labor.

One of the most important conventions of the greatest labor organization on the American continent is that now in session at Toronto. It met on the 9th (p. 1093), in Massey hall, provided for it by the City Council of Toronto, and on that day listened to President Gompers's address. This address was followed by the report of the

executive council, one of its notable recommendations being an old age pension bill prepared by Congressman Wilson, a member of the convention. The bill provides for an "Old Age Home Guard," to be composed of persons eligible under the bill who apply to the Secretary of War for pension enlistment. They must be more than 65 years old, must not own property of more than \$1,500 in value, nor have an income in excess of \$240. The members of the "Old Age Home Guard" would receive pensions of \$120 a year. Another recommendation was for an appeal of the Gompers (p. 1093) case to the Supreme Court of the United States, both upon the question of the validity of the injunction and the question of authority for the contempt proceedings. Conservation of natural resources, further restriction of immigration, promotion of industrial education, and encouragement of a closer bond of affiliation between farmers and organized labor, were among the other recommendations made by the Executive Council. The Council also recommended that the convention indorse the resolutions adopted at the last Council meeting expressing horror and indignation over the assassination of Francisco Ferrer of Spain.

On the 10th little was done beyond receiving and referring resolutions and listening to an address on woman suffrage by Prof. Frances S. Potter, formerly of Minneapolis, but now the general secretary of the National American Suffrage Association. She advocated political settlements such as have been formed in several cities in the West with the object of training women for citizenship and the exercise of voting rights.

A report of the special committee on industrial education was presented on the 11th by John Mitchell, chairman of the committee. This report favors—

the establishment of schools in connection with the public school system, at which pupils between the ages of 14 and 16 may be taught the principles of the trades, not necessarily in separate buildings, but in separate schools adapted to this particular education, and by competent and trained teachers. The course of instruction in such a school should be English, mathematics, physics, chemistry, elementary mechanics and drawing. The shop instruction for particular trades, and for each trade represented, the drawing, mathematics, mechanics, physical and biological science applicable to the trade, the history of that trade, and a sound system of economics including and emphasizing the philosophy of collective bargaining. This will serve to prepare the pupil for more advanced subjects, and in addition to disclose his capacity for a specific vocation. In order to keep such schools in close touch with the trades, there should be local advisory boards, including representatives of the industries, employers and

organized labor. The committee recommends that any technical education of the workers in trade and industry being a public necessity, it should not be a private, but a public function, conducted by the public and the expense involved at public cost.

At another point the report declares that—

organized labor's position regarding the injustices of narrow and prescribed training in selected trades, by both private and public instruction, and the flooding of the labor market with half-trained mechanics for the purpose of exploitation, is perfectly tenable, and the well founded belief in the viciousness of such practices and consequent condemnation is well-nigh unassailable.

Agnes Nestor of Chicago, representing the glove workers' union, presented its resolution requesting the Department of Labor and Commerce to establish a special labor bureau for women and to put a woman at the head of it; and Mrs. Raymond Robins of Chicago, also a delegate, addressed the convention on the 10-hour law for women in Illinois.

On the 12th members of the United Mine Workers of America introduced the usual Socialist resolution declaring that the workers must own all the means of production and distribution before they can be free from economic-servitude.

A resolution introduced on the 13th by the piano and organ workers of Toronto urged the early formation of a labor party; a resolution asking that the Federal civil service act be amended to give all postal and other civil service employes the right of free speech and freedom of press, and the right to petition Congress for a redress of grievances against arbitrary rules issued by department officials was referred to the Executive Council to be taken up with the members of Congress in Washington. The president of the Federation was instructed to name a committee of three members each year for the purpose of making recommendations to the President of the United States respecting appointments to the Federal bench. On this day also action was taken by the convention to the following effect on the following subjects:

For woman suffrage.

For an 8-hour day for post office clerks.

For legislation for better protection of actors and actresses from the "extortion and corrupt business methods" of so-called theatrical employment agencies.

For a postal savings bank act.

For deep water ways projects.

For a continuation of the fight against tuberculosis.

For the granting of American citizenship to the people of Porto Rico.

For the construction of a twenty-six-foot channel

through the great lakes from Buffalo to Duluth and from Buffalo to Chicago.

On the ground that employment agencies are used as strike-breaking organizations, the Federation decided to attempt to secure national legislation for their regulation. "Labor Sunday" was a suggestion laid before the Federation in a resolution introduced by Secretary Frank Morrison. The resolution designates the first Sunday in September of each year as an occasion when the churches of America should devote some part of the day to a presentation of the labor question. It also recommends that the various central and local bodies be requested to co-operate in every legitimate way with ministers who thus observe Labor Sunday. Another resolution of general interest offered by the American Federation of Musicians, asked that the American Federation of Labor petition Congress to appoint a special committee to investigate the methods employed by the steel industry in maintaining industrial conditions, and that if it is found that the tariff instead of being used to maintain American industrial conditions, is turned into the pockets of the employers, the tariff on steel be suspended.

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A mass meeting attended by over 4,000 persons was held on the 14th, Sunday, to declare a labor war upon the saloon. The principal speech was made by the Rev. Charles Stelzle, fraternal delegate to the Federation of Labor from the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ. In the course of his speech Mr. Stelzle said:

I came from a family of saloon keepers and brewers. I have no sympathy with those who characterize the saloon keeper and bartender as low browed brutes. I am not a prohibitionist. But I am unalterably opposed to the saloon. The labor movement is a bigger thing than the saloon question. The time has come when the labor movement and the saloon should be divorced. In too many cities of the country trade unionists are compelled to pass through the saloon in order to get to their meeting places, and woe betide the man who doesn't stop to take a drink. Many of the workmen of America are helplessly in the power of those hall owners. It is the duty of the municipality to provide centers which may be used for the gathering places of the people in their organizations. In many instances workmen themselves have taken the matter in hand and in some of the leading cities they have erected labor temples which are used for the social, physical, intellectual, and moral uplift of the people. To the task of labor temple building organized labor may well direct itself. The work should be entered upon with a program which includes the entire American continent. Such a movement would give organized labor a dignity not yet achieved in our American life.

Other speakers were John Mitchell, John B. Lennon, vice president and treasurer respectively of the Federation; Thomas L. Lewis, president of

the United Mine Workers, and James Simpson. Mr. Mitchell said:

The labor organization has done more to advance the cause of temperance upon this continent than any other influence. Poverty has driven many a strong man to drink and drink has driven many a strong man to poverty. A shorter work day and good wages would do more than any other agency to advance the cause of temperance. I am not at all impressed by the statements often made that if we destroyed the liquor traffic an awful calamity would result. If a brewery or a distillery is closed, upon its ruins will rise a factory. It would mean simply a readjustment of industry. Every scandal in the labor movement, few as these have been, can be traced to the influence of the saloon. I would ask you who are not wage earners to judge organized labor by the good it does and not by its faults and weaknesses.

Mr. Lennon said that the liquor business lowers the standard of efficiency of the workingman, and prophesied that the time would come when the forces of labor would be arrayed against the saloon. The United Mine Workers, Mr. Lewis said, have prohibited their members from selling intoxicants, even at picnics. Education of the masses, he argued, would go a long way toward eradicating the liquor traffic.

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On the 15th, the convention ordered the outlining of a plan of campaign against the steel trust as "the most formidable and aggressive enemy" of organized labor. The resolution was introduced by P. J. McArdle, president of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers of North America, and was adopted unanimously and with enthusiasm. The most sensational feature of this day's session, however, was the announcement toward the close that telegraphic information was to the effect that the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia had refused a stay of proceedings beyond the 19th in the Gompers-Mitchell-Morrison case (p. 1093), from which it was inferred that the sentence imposed upon these labor leaders would be executed on that day. There was an immediate movement in the convention looking to an adjournment from Toronto to Washington in order to act in a body as an escort for the leaders on their way to prison. They are under \$12,000 bail bonds—\$5,000, \$4,000 and \$3,000, respectively.

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Protest Against Arrest of Labor Leaders.

Resolutions calling a general strike if Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison are imprisoned for contempt of the Van Cleave injunction against freedom of the press (p. 1093), were unanimously adopted by standing vote at the regular meeting on the 14th of the Central Labor Union of Phila-