

1. To treat with provincial Governments as to the establishment and development of employment offices, the standardization of such offices, and their coördination into a national system.
2. To supervise labor clearing-houses.
3. To negotiate the annual agreements between the Dominion and the provincial Governments required under the employment offices and coördination act.
4. To study and report on employment and ways and means of lessening unemployment, including wages and hours.

Although no official statement has yet been made, it is understood that Mr. Bryce Stewart, editor of the *Labor Gazette*, will be appointed to the position of director of labor research and employment service. . . .

Regulations governing the establishment and administration of Dominion and provincial Government employment offices under the employment offices coördination act are embodied in an Order-in-Council just made public.

Among other things the regulations provide for the establishment by the Minister of Labor of an advisory council, which shall be called the employment service council of Canada, to assist in the administration of the act and to recommend ways of preventing unemployment. This council shall consist of one member appointed by each of the provincial Governments, two appointed by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, two appointed by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, one appointed by the Railway Board, one appointed by the Railway Brotherhoods, two appointed by the Canadian Council of Agriculture, three members appointed by the Labor Department, two of whom shall be appointed by the returned soldiers, and one appointed by the Department of Soldiers' Civil Reestablishment. Members of the council shall hold office for three years and shall be eligible for reappointment.

The Department of Labor, according to the regulations, shall, among other things, maintain Dominion clearing-houses for the inter-provincial distribution of labor. It shall encourage the provincial Governments to open new employment offices, to develop those already in operation, and to establish provincial clearing-houses which shall endeavor to meet any unsatisfied demand for unemployment.

The regulations provide that the provincial Governments shall have direction of their own employment offices, subject to the terms of the agreement with the Minister of Labor under the act. Each province shall establish clearing-houses to provide for the distribution of labor within the province and to cooperate with the clearing-house for the inter-provincial distribution of labor. In connection with the office administration there shall be an advisory council, equally representative of employees and employers, appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to safeguard the interests of both parties in the distribution of labor and to cooperate with the Dominion council.

Local advisory committees are to be established by the provincial Governments, where they see fit, to assist the superintendents of the employment offices in the discharge of their duties.

## The Question of the Scheldt

THE *Paris Temps* having suggested that the action of the Dutch, in 1914, regarding the Scheldt was taken under pressure from Germany, the following statement was issued on December 10 by the Dutch Department of Foreign Affairs.

With regard to the measures already taken before the outbreak of the war respecting the movements of shipping on the Scheldt, it should be remembered that they are connected with measures of similar scope affecting the other Dutch outlets to the sea in the interest of the protection of Dutch territory. All these measures were the result of the general mobilization an-

nounced on July 31, 1914, in connection with the political tension of those days and the danger of war. The suggestion of *Le Temps* that this action was taken under pressure from Germany is entirely unjustified. No pressure was exercised by Germany, there was no demand or request, the matter was not even discussed. The incorrectness of the position taken up in this newspaper article is sufficiently demonstrated by the declaration of the Belgian Government, deposited with Jhr. Loudon on August 16, 1914, which stated that, though the proposed measures for buoying, lighting, and mining during the war departed from the system laid down in the treaties of 1839 and 1843, they were, nevertheless, justified in war-time by Holland's right of self-defence and the duty of the Dutch Government to maintain the neutrality of Holland. Naturally, the Belgian Government considered that the measures would only be of a temporary character and would cease as soon as the circumstances which occasioned them should come to an end. On this occasion the Belgian representative, speaking for his Government, emphasized the fact that the regulation of all the questions under discussion was made in perfect agreement by both the Governments concerned, and that the Belgian Government saw in the arrangement a proof of the friendly feeling of Holland towards that Government. With regard to the second point discussed by the Paris paper, its assertions and suggestions are contrary to the truth. It may be of advantage to state that the declaration of the German Government as to its intention to respect the neutrality of Holland was made in the afternoon of August 2, 1914, to the Dutch representative in Berlin, and was quite spontaneous. It was repeated to Jhr. Loudon by the German representative on the following day. Both declarations were made without any demands or conditions. Neither directly nor indirectly had any agreement, deliberations, or consultations preceded the declaration.

## Dr. Gilbert Murray and Oxford University

DR. GILBERT MURRAY, Regius Professor of Greek in Oxford University, who in the recent election was an unsuccessful candidate for a seat in the House of Commons as a university member, was endorsed by members of the university in the following manifesto, signed by the Master of Balliol, the Provost of Queen's, and fourteen other leading members of the university.

The retention of University representation in the Reform Act of 1918 has made it more than ever necessary that the Universities should send to Parliament members who can speak with authority on questions of education, and for whom it can be claimed that they represent learning. Such a member was the late Sir William Anson, Warden of All Souls. It is to secure such a representative for Oxford at the present time that we have nominated our Regius Professor of Greek, Dr. Gilbert Murray. He is known everywhere as a scholar distinguished for learning and originality and the power of imparting his own enthusiasm to others. His lectures and his published works have put him in the forefront of the teaching profession. Few men in England to-day have a better claim to be heard on the questions which will arise in the new Parliament in connection with education and research.

Dr. Murray has taken an active part in the propaganda called out by the war. He has written in the Oxford series of war-papers; he has warmly defended Viscount Grey of Falloden and his policy; he has lectured for the Government in America and has done much to promote a good understanding between this country and the United States; he is a convinced advocate of a league of nations.

If Dr. Murray is returned he may be counted on to support the dignity of our country in its foreign relations and to work for the improvement of the conditions of life at home.

## Foreign Press

### Questions for British Liberals

THE following "political catechism," ascribed to "a Liberal Executive in Kent," who decided that no candidate in the recent election would be acceptable who could not give satisfactory answers to the questions propounded, is taken from *Common Sense* (London) of November 16.

1. Whether he will assist in every effort to turn the present anti-democratic Government out of office?

2. D. O. R. A.: Whether he will support the repeal of the Defence of the Realm act and, therefore, the abolition of all orders made under it immediately on the declaration of peace?

3. Conscription: Whether he will support the repeal of the Military Service acts immediately on the declaration of peace; and agree to all soldiers and sailors being allowed, if they wish, to return to civil life at once, and any military work which requires to be done to be carried out by a voluntarily-enlisted army and navy, in which soldiers and sailors of all ranks shall receive pay and allowances at a rate not less than those paid to colonial soldiers and sailors?

And whether he will resolutely oppose any further attempts to impose conscription of life, upon any portion of the community, which does not carry with it, also, conscription of wealth on all members of the community?

4. Jingoism: Whether he will oppose all efforts to interfere in the internal affairs of other nations?

5. Land Values: Whether, in view of the vast revenue which will be required after the war, he will support a movement for the whole of the land of the United Kingdom to become at once the property of the state, occupiers to retain possession by annual payment of a capital tax on the principle now in force in several of our greater colonies, thereby providing from 300 to 600 millions per annum, and sweeping away the taxation which falls so heavily to-day on thrift, energy, and labor, and whether he will support the abolition of the leasehold system and its iniquities?

6. Labor Conditions: That the fundamental conditions of labor shall be the payment of a minimum wage and the provision of such conditions of life as will enable every man and his wife to live and bring up a family in such conditions as will give them an opportunity of enjoying their lives from birth to death?

7. Free Trade: Whether he will resolutely support the principles of free trade laid down by Cobden and Bright, and oppose every form of protection, under whatever name it be introduced?

8. Education: Whether he will support the entire elimination of clerical control in any form in the education of the children, and a policy which will give the child of the poorest member of the community an equal opportunity in every respect with the child of the rich man to rise to the highest round in the educational ladder?

9. Foreign Affairs: Whether he will support the supreme control of foreign affairs being placed in the hands of the Parliament; that there shall be no restriction, financial or otherwise, on employment under the Foreign Office, and that all negotiations with other countries shall be conducted in the open and before the eyes of the people; that no treaties shall be binding upon the people of this country which have not received the consent of both Houses of Parliament in open session, and that all existing treaties shall be declared invalid unless they are submitted to and receive such consent?

10. Government: That he will resolutely oppose the maintenance of the hereditary principle in all our forms of government, and support in every way the right to self-government of the peoples in England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland?

11. Disestablishment: Whether he will support the movement for the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church of England, the abolition of tithes, and oppose every effort to endow any religious sect at the general public expense?

12. And, finally, whether, in all matters, he will support the cause of the worker, whether employee or employer, against the causes and interests of those parasites who live upon the earnings of other members of the community?

There is to be no hedging. The candidate must answer each question by a direct "Yes" or "No."

### British Churches and a League of Nations

THE following appeal, reprinted from the *London Times* of December 5, was published in accordance with the request of the conference held at Lambeth, on October 29, under the presidency of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The signatories represent all the most important churches in the United Kingdom except the Roman Catholic. The *Times* notes that in a letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, published on October 31, Cardinal Bourne "explained that the question was one rather for international statesmen, but if a workable scheme could be devised it would have the support of Roman Catholics throughout the world."

We desire to appeal to our fellow-Christians of all communions to unite with us in supporting the ideal of a league of nations as an essentially Christian means of attaining international justice and peace.

We regard a league of nations—in the sense of a substantial and organized coöperation of all nations sincerely interested in the object of securing the peace of the world, the abolition of war, and the guarantee of freedom to the weaker states and races—as being now accepted by the consent both of leaders and of public opinion.

We recognize this as an advance politically in the highest and noblest sense of the word. Accordingly, we look with confidence to statesmen such as our own political leaders of different types, and the President of the United States, whose common endorsement of the proposal has brought it to the forefront of future policy, to work it into practical form, both as part of the coming peace and after the peace.

We do not underrate the difficulties and the intricacies of the task; it will demand the fullest political skill that statesmen can supply. But we are equally sure that this is a movement far too large, deep, and significant to be left only to experts. The demand for it comes from the heart and conscience of the peoples; and the force of the public conscience and will in the nations is the indispensable condition, the measure, of its success and its permanence.

We know also, and too well, how far a general acceptance of the project in name and in vague shape is from anything approaching realization. It is a commonplace of politics that agreed measures are sometimes the hardest to pass. There is a long road to travel and there are many enemies. To say this is only superficially inconsistent with what has just been said about agreement. No one who has given any thought to the history and conditions of true progress will doubt that real advances and elevations of standard are never secured without an arduous struggle against counter-forces to which the weaknesses and selfishnesses and basenesses of human nature always contribute. The principles of good are powerfully resisted by principles or forces of evil of which we only imperfectly descry, at any time, the nature and the workings.

Such considerations, in our judgment, point imperiously to the conclusion that a responsibility of the most serious and lasting kind rests upon all who form and influence opinion to watch, and support, and strengthen this great and far-reaching design.