

pleasant hours than cultured but pedantic college professors. He has a keen love of nature—it was a little gasp that came from him at sight of the green shore opposite us which brought about our friendship—and he can write most engaging letters, somewhat misspelled though they are. He is almost clairvoyant in his judgments of people; and now that he is always sober there are few men I would more greatly trust. I am not saying this in any spirit of patronage; I am honest when I say that I am very proud indeed that there is in me the capacity to reach out and find in this man what a hundred other people would never discover.

"Men like my barber are not limited to any one locality—that goes without saying—and the possibility of knowing them is open to us all. How do you know who is just around the corner? Just as romance may lurk there, so delectable friendships may also be hidden and waiting beyond the next crossing. A ride in a trolley car once brought to my attention a charming old lady who had left her purse at home. All of us offered to pay her fare—who wouldn't?—after the impossible young conductor wanted to throw her off. Because I happened to be nearest her it was my privilege to help her out; and to-day she is one of my most treasured friends. Suppose one is unobserving, uninterested in one's neighbors. When such a situation occurs, he has lost a rare chance. Of course the argument would be that such a person never realizes what he loses; but that does not minimize his loss. A deaf, dumb, and blind person is not to be pitied less because he is unconscious of the thrilling world that might have belonged to him as well as to you and me."

## UNEMPLOYMENT

THE sensational performance of Ledoux, called "Mr. Zero of the Church of the Unemployed," in "selling," at Boston, unemployed men on the auction block may have had a good effect in awakening public consciousness to the needs of workless men. This is what Ledoux himself declares was his sole object. It has also stirred up discussion as to the broad aspects of the unemployment question. In New York City Ledoux was rightly prevented from repeating his "slave sale," and his mere appearance led to disturbances which benefited nobody.

One obvious suggestion is that what is needed is not maudlin sentimentalism or the public exhibition of despondent men, but every possible public preparation to sift the honest men who can't find work from the professional tramps and pan-

handlers. The latter class, as the cold weather draws near, always flock to the cities and fill the municipal lodging-houses to overflowing, and often to the exclusion of men in real temporary distress. In New York Ledoux has found, he says, men sleeping in the parks who didn't even know that there were such things as municipal lodging-houses or industrial aid societies or labor bureaus. More effective and intelligent ways of getting the men who want work in touch with possible employers are needed. A fuller realization is desirable, too, of the fact that unemployment must not be dealt with too locally. Labor should be led to the places where it is desired. The United States Department for Labor, for instance, last year sent nearly sixty thousand men to places where farm labor was needed and kept them moving north as the season advanced.

There are indications that there has been exaggeration as to the unemployment danger. A recent statement by Secretary Davis, of the Labor Department, that there are 5,735,000 unemployed to-day excited alarm; later he explained that this was to be compared with the 7,000,000 unemployed of 1914, and that the number of those who are shifting jobs or dropping from pay-rolls for normal reasons is always very large. As hopeful signs Secretary Davis pointed out indications of recovery of certain industries and the fact that \$500,000,000 is now available about the country in the form of bonds already issued or appropriated by State, county, and municipal governments for public works.

In 1920 there were 18,000,000 or 20,000,000 wage-earners; the ratio of workers to non-workers was for the whole year in excess of many previous years, as was also the average of wages. Now, with falling prices of necessities, wages are also falling. There has been a rather general willingness, also, among wage-earners to accept reduction. Thus the New York longshoremen are reported as we write to have accepted a twenty-two per cent reduction and the Chicago building trades appear to have accepted peacefully the large wage reduction involved in Judge Landis's arbitral decision. It is always disagreeable to have one's pay reduced, but wages and prices must go down together as they have gone up together. Deflation must follow inflation. It is a healthy sign that, despite some industrial losses and shut-downs, our National Labor Department reports that the number of open quarrels between labor and capital is decreasing, and that out of a hundred cases it has handled seventy-five were settled without a strike through mediation and conciliation.

President Harding has named the

thirty-eight members of a Committee on Unemployment Conditions, and its sessions are to begin at once. Its membership includes Secretary Hoover and Secretary Davis, Mr. E. E. Clark, formerly of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, Samuel Gompers, J. L. Lewis, C. P. Neill, W. M. Leiserson of Rochester, Mayor Couzens of Detroit, Julius H. Barnes of Duluth, C. M. Schwab, Arthur Woods, Miss Ida Tarbell, and many other men and women well known as students of industrial matters or of prominence in the business world. The object of the conference as stated by President Harding is "to inquire into the volume and distribution of unemployment, to advise upon emergency measures that can be properly taken by employers, local authorities, and civic bodies, and to consider such measures as would tend to give impulse to the recovery of business and commerce to normal."

It will seek remedies as well as investigate facts, and its report should be of value.

Meanwhile the public will do well to avoid sensationalists and alarmists. There are no labor slaves in this free country. What can be done by public or private means to bring honest work and fair pay together should be done.

## BANDYING PHRASES OVER THE IRISH CRISIS

THE long exchange of notes, explanations, and would-be ultimatums between Lloyd George and Mr. De Valera reminds one of the time in this country when we all called for fewer notes and more action. Every one understands perfectly that Mr. De Valera and his followers hold that Ireland not only should be, but is, a nation. Every one understands equally well that the English Prime Minister has neither the authority nor the desire to admit this as a fact nor to accept it as a basis of negotiations in the proposed conference.

The one important question at this stage of the negotiations is whether the radical majority in southern Ireland, whose representative Mr. De Valera is, are willing to consider something else than absolute independence. Would they be willing to accept from Great Britain some form of Dominion government which would put Ireland on nearly, if not quite, the same standing as regards its relation to Great Britain that Canada has? A recent cartoon in London "Punch" shows the shade of Parnell saying to De Valera: "I suppose I loved my country at least as well as you

do; but I should have been satisfied with half that offer." Just what the terms of the settlement would be the conference itself would debate. Neither the people of Ireland as a whole nor the people in Southern Ireland in particular have had an opportunity of expressing themselves on this vital question. The votes of the past to which De Valera refers so often were mere expressions of an ideal longing for an Irish republic; they did not apply to the present situation.

If De Valera and the other leaders of his faction are not willing to debate the Dominion question, why the long correspondence and quibbling? Nothing has been more certain from the beginning than that the British Parliament and people would not now consent to disavowment of the Empire. Many weeks ago, when the negotiations began, The Outlook declared that if De Valera did not at heart recognize the fact that an Irish republic was impossible, his agreement to discuss terms was futile.

In any ordinary government the safety-valve, when such an *impasse* arises, is the resignation of the Premier and the forming of a new Cabinet; but with such a phantom government as that of the so-called Irish Republic this method does not seem to apply, although there are indications that many Irishmen who want peace and prosperity would gladly see another man take up the negotiations.

De Valera's recent telegraphic reply was in answer to Lloyd George's clear and sharp declaration that Great Britain could not accept a conference which

would involve official recognition of the severance of Ireland from the Empire. It would be doing just that if he arranged a conference without rejecting the claim in De Valera's former letter that Ireland "has formally declared its independence and recognizes itself as a sovereign state," especially as that claim was followed by the statement that it was only "as representatives of that state and as its chosen guardians that we have any authority or power to act on behalf of our people." Previously both sides had agreed that the principle of the consent of the governed should apply to Ireland; De Valera had said in effect that the doctrine of absolute independence might at least be "self-expressed" or "self-recognized." This certainly seemed to open a way to a meeting-ground, and would have done so had not De Valera in other parts of the letter spoiled his proposal by the clauses above quoted. It is no wonder that Lloyd George wrote in response with some feeling that the great concessions already offered should have met more generous response and that there was still an attempt to involve Great Britain in an acknowledgment which would leave Ireland free to break off negotiations and even conceivably to enter as an independent state into negotiations with some other foreign Power. "You have not come to meet us," he said, "by a single step."

Again De Valera in his telegram of September 19 combined, as one correspondent says, a conciliatory statement with a bellicose statement. Nothing

could sound more sensible than his admission that it would be unreasonable to expect Lloyd George to recognize the Irish Republic and equally unreasonable that the Sinn Fein should surrender its position as to nationality. If he had stopped here, the "treaty of accommodation" he hoped for could certainly go on. But once more his old contention creeps out in his reference to "the two nations" and his assertion that "preliminary conditions [meaning doubtless the stipulation that recognition of independence should not be the basis of the conference] would involve the surrender of our whole position."

Thus the matter stands. It is rather remarkable that public opinion still strongly believes that the conference will meet. The reason is evident: a very large part of the Irish people sees that its utmost ideals cannot be obtained at this moment and knows that such a wide measure of home rule or self-government as is in sight would be infinitely preferable to the horrors and cruelties of the guerrilla warfare that has been going on in Ireland. Assassination of policemen, the "driving," as it is called, of cattle, the destruction of creameries and co-operative farms, the reprisals by some of the governmental forces and by friends of those who have been shot or robbed—all these things may recommence if the present attempt at compromise and conciliation falls to the ground.

Such a result is almost unthinkable. No one desires it, and most people would go far to avert such an unhappy issue.

## KNOLL PAPERS

BY LYMAN ABBOTT

### AN INSPIRING LIFE

**F**AME is a shadow. The shadow depends not on the size of the man, but on the place where he happens to stand; not upon the light within him, but upon the light which falls upon him. This simple but oft-forgotten truth is illustrated by the life of Joel Asaph Allen.

He was as truly called to the ministry of science as was Martin Luther or John Wesley to the ministry of religion. Born in 1838, upon a farm near Springfield, Massachusetts, from his earliest childhood interest in nature and desire to probe her secrets and understand her meaning and her message was with him a passion. He writes in his autobiographical notes that "dandelions and daisies and other wild flowers were early attractions, the profuse gathering of which at an early age led my elders, and particularly my mother, to predict that when the toddling youngster grew

up he would favor the profession of medicine, and I was often facetiously dubbed 'Dr. Sykes,' in allusion to our then family physician, an herb doctor of local reputation." Whence came this extraordinary passion? Not from his father, who did not understand him, but who happily did nothing directly to discourage him; and not from his mother, who did not understand him, but did sympathize with him and by her sympathy did much to encourage and develop the boy's eager love of nature, though she did not comprehend it. It is one of the tragedies of life that so many mothers fail to realize their power to promote, one might almost say to create, a genius in the little child which needs only the warmth of sympathizing love to bear rich fruit in later manhood.

The boy was needed on the farm, for in those days "the services of boys of

even six and seven years were considered too valuable for farm work to be sacrificed in summer for school purposes." The boy was too conscientious and too fond of his father to neglect his farm duties, and too passionately devoted to his chosen studies to neglect nature's laboratory. The result was overwork, the ill effects of which he carried with him throughout his life. At the age of thirteen his father gave him a gun, which became an instrument for acquiring bird specimens for study. "Warblers, vireos, kinglets; sparrows, and many other kinds of birds were shot, measured, weighed, described, and given provisional names in my notebooks, so that I might again recognize them when met with, long before I knew that books had been written about them and that they all had names, Latin as well as English. I even made attempts to draw and color them, but en-