

parently reached on behalf of Great Britain a conclusion which virtually reverses the policy advocated by Lloyd George at Genoa. When the French insisted that foreign property rights in Russia be protected and foreign property seized by the Bolsheviks be restored, they encountered an obstacle in Lloyd George himself. Now at The Hague Great Britain has virtually come around to the French view. All the cost in money, energy, and anxiety involved in these two conferences, the one at Genoa and the other at The Hague, seems to be a high price to pay for convincing Lloyd George of the obvious. However, if there was no other way to show the utter unreasonableness of the Bolsheviks, these two conferences may have been worth while.

Whether anything further will come from The Hague is not at all certain as we write. There was every indication by the 15th of the month that the conference there was about to dissolve, although, on second thought, it decided to reassemble in the beginning of the following week.

The Russians under Litvinoff, who is an extreme Bolshevik, assumed at The Hague a very toplofty attitude. They insisted that they could make no agreement concerning the payment of debts, or the restitution of foreign property, or compensation for foreign property seized, until they were assured of receiving credit from the despised capitalistic countries. Naturally, the representatives of the other countries said that they could not agree to extend any credit to Russia until it proved its willingness to pay its debts. That seemed to be the *impasse* against which the delegates at the Hague Conference ran.

Litvinoff, the Russian chief, was not only toplofty but at times jocose. When the other delegates protested against Litvinoff's declaration that it would be impossible to find an impartial chairman for the Joint Commission, and asked him if there were not an impartial man to be found in all the world, Litvinoff replied:

There are two worlds—the Soviet world and the capitalistic world. I am sure neither could supply an impartial chairman. Unfortunately, there is no third world to supply a chairman. There is said to be a third world in the skies, the only one where angels live, but I do not think any of its inhabitants are at The Hague. Certainly we have not met any angels hereabout.

It is hard to take the Bolsheviks seriously except as one has to take seriously fanatics and the insane. Their effrontery would be comical if it were not simply another phase of that dispo-

sition of theirs which has filled Russia with untold and untellable misery.

THE TWO STRIKES

By the middle of the month both the strike of the shopmen on the railroads of the country and the strike of the anthracite and bituminous coal miners seemed to be in a condition which might easily be resolved into some kind of compromise or settlement. At the same time not even the President's proposal to the coal miners and operators nor the activities of the Administration in connection with the Railroad Labor Board seemed to have made very definite progress. Early last week there transpired little significant news of any definite action on the part of any of the parties to these strikes; but there were indications that before this issue of The Outlook could reach its readers there might be either some temporary agreement or, in the absence of that, some drastic action on the part of the Government.

It has become increasingly evident as a consequence of the coincidence of the two strikes that the danger of a shortage of coal in New England and in the Northwest has been materially increased. Secretary Davis has pointed out that in the case of the anthracite strike of 1902 the Administration did not interfere until after the strike had been under way for twenty-three weeks. Cold weather was then imminent. The present coal strike has been under way for a shorter time and there are many weeks yet before winter begins. On the other hand, the anthracite strike affected only a part of our coal supply, while these two strikes affect not only the mining but also the transportation of coal for the entire country.

Mr. Helm's correspondence on another page presents a trustworthy report of the coal shortage and its consequences.

SOLVENCY—THE COUNTRY'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

SENATOR BORAH has done something which is not often accomplished. He has succeeded in making the question of taxes dramatic.

In his Senate speech of July 6 he translated dollars and cents into human lives. He made Paying-Up Day as vivid a reality as Spending Day. Whether or not we accept Senator Borah's view entire, his speech must be acknowledged to have been notable in character and effect.

Senator Borah began by a summary of the money-spending bills now awaiting the consideration of Congress—bills the passage of which hangs upon the acceptance of the pending tariff legislation.

First on the list comes the Bonus Bill, entailing a total expenditure of from four to six billion dollars. After this comes the Ship Subsidy Bill, which Senator Borah estimated would call for from fifty to one hundred million dollars a year, and which he declared "will exempt some of the people of the country from the payment of a portion of their taxes; which will select a few and give them an opportunity to succeed in the midst of the distress which presses down upon the remainder of the people." Following this is the proposal to create twenty-four new Federal judges, a number which the Senator from Idaho regards as greatly in excess of our present needs. Last of all is the proposal to loan Liberia \$5,000,000, "at a time when the people of the United States are bled white, when they are absolutely without money to initiate enterprises, and when the great reclamation projects of the West are standing as they have stood for the last seven or eight years."

After his summary of proposed American expenditures, Senator Borah took up the financial condition of the European Powers. He quoted approvingly Lord Inchcape's comment upon the British Budget Committee's report: "I suggest to you that the first line of a country's defense, and of the defense of civilized life, is solvency. If a man's expenditure exceeds his income, if he is wise, he reduces his expenditure. If he is foolish, he goes on spending and borrows on his assets, pledging them for his loans, until he can borrow no longer, and then he is ruined. We are at the parting of the ways. We must reduce our expenditure and cease borrowing or we will come to grief. . . . At present we are slithering down an inclined plane of prodigality and indebtedness that will land us, unless we act promptly and resolutely, in the ditch. . . . If this goes on, our whole social and industrial fabric will go to pieces." Senator Borah compared the military budget of France to-day with its budget of 1913, and then added: "Five years after the war has closed, and after our antagonists have been reduced to practical helplessness, and after the signing of the Four-Power Treaty, and after every appearance of peace, they have increased their expenditures from 15,000,000,000 francs to 19,000,000,000 francs for 1923." If Germany has been reduced to practical helplessness and if there is every appearance of peace upon the Continent of Europe, then the Senator's eyesight is very much better than ours.

Of the other European countries Senator Borah said: "Russia is in collapse; famine stalks her streets. In Germany the assassin's face haunts her public

IN SUCH BUSINESS ACTION IS ELOQUENCE

(Coriolanus, Act III, Scene 2)

Enright in the New York World



SOFT MUSIC BY THE SNAKE CHARMER

From Noel B. Van Wagenen, New York City

McCay in the Louisville Herald



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THEY CAN'T RESIST THIS

From H. D. Cornwall, Louisville, Kentucky

Cassel in the Knoxville Sentinel



POLITICAL LOG-ROLLING!

From Mrs. Patterson Miller, Russellville, Tennessee

Ireland in the Columbus Dispatch



WASTED EFFORT

From Esther Marshall, Columbus, Ohio