

agreement are not yet at hand. Fear is entertained in some quarters that the differences in the conference that led to the resignation of Andrew Furuseh, President of the International Seaman's Union, may lead to compromises that will surrender the rights of seamen and passengers. Foreign delegates out-voted the Americans regarding the number of men manning each ship. The Americans succeeded in forcing the concession that never more than one-third of the life-saving craft should consist of rafts. A universal signal of distress has been agreed upon, and America is to have control of wireless operators entering and leaving American ports. The expense of patrolling ice and derelict zones is to be borne jointly by the nations. Ships must slow down during a fog or other dangerous condition. Another clause put forth by the American delegates provides that a ship before sailing must have a certificate issued at the wharf showing that it is properly equipped for life saving. December 14, 1914, is the time limit set for the acceptance by the various countries concerned in the convention. Should the treaty be approved it will go into effect July 1, 1915. [See vol. xvi, p. 1114; current volume, page 13.]



English Politics.

Persistent rumors of friction between Winston Spencer Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, and the other members of the Liberal Cabinet over Mr. Churchill's demands for greater naval appropriations continue to provoke speculation as to how long he will remain. Now that the Ulster bluster has subsided more attention is given to the question of limiting battleship building. As Chancellor Lloyd George and Mr. Churchill are the most aggressive members in the Cabinet, and as they hold opposing views regarding sociological questions speculation is rife as to which will have to leave the Cabinet. Chancellor Lloyd George, speaking at Criccieth, declared this to be the psychological moment for Great Britain to reduce her naval expenditure. Mr. Churchill, when interviewed in Paris, said that a Cabinet minister could not possibly talk about a matter which had as yet not been settled by the Cabinet. [See current volume, page 62.]



The principle of the general strike is for the time at least discredited. The failure of the English and Irish sympathetic strikes, together with the failure of similar strikes in New Zealand, Australia and South Africa, have brought labor leaders to a realizing sense that force is unavailing so long as the mass of society opposes. Labor's setback may be measured by the action of the London Association of Master Builders, who announce that henceforth they reserve the right to employ non-union labor. [See vol. xvi, p. 1213.]

Woman Suffrage in Great Britain.

The British National Union of Woman Suffragist Societies, whose campaign slogan is "Reason, Not Force," and whose pilgrimage to London last July was said to be the most impressive suffrage demonstration of the year, announced on the 16th its purpose to continue in 1914 its political work of bringing all possible pressure to bear for a Government woman's suffrage measure, this campaign to be begun with a mass-meeting in Albert Hall on February 14. In the course of its review of work done during 1913, the Union is quoted as saying:

Not long ago Sir Edward Grey admitted that the record of the House of Commons on the woman's suffrage question had not been good, and if to suffragists it has been profoundly unsatisfactory, the success of the advance in the country is only the more significant. Practically all the greater women's organizations support woman's suffrage, including the National Union of Women Workers; and of the fifty suffrage societies existing, the National Union alone has a membership of nearly 50,000, while between 28,000 and 30,000 friends of woman's suffrage have been enrolled to date. About \$100,000 was administered from headquarters during the year and the total number of meetings held was considerably over 2,700. After the Speaker's ruling and the postponement of the [manhood suffrage] bill till the end of the season was decided on, the annual conference of the Labor Party by two to one adopted a resolution opposing any further extension of the franchise to men without the inclusion of women. In the following September the Trade Union Congress adopted a resolution censuring the Government for failing to redeem its promises about woman suffrage and demanding a Government reform bill which would include women. The strength of the feeling among the more progressive Liberal women and their determination to stand for suffrage principles or for what they regard as an essential part of Liberal policy is further seen in the recent formation of the Liberal Woman Suffrage Union. Among men it has its counterpart in the Liberal Men's Association for Woman Suffrage.

[See vol. xvi, pp. 733, 1189.]



Chancellor Lloyd George, in a recent interview on Liberal Party policies for the new year, is reported to have re-affirmed his faith in woman suffrage and to have remarked that "the present position must soon become intolerable for the Liberal Party." He went on to express his belief that, but for militancy, the Liberal Party would now be committed as a party to this great reform. The London Nation, an influential Liberal journal, in a New Year's editorial on Party Policies, had the following to say concerning the woman suffrage situation:

The case for woman suffrage is as strong as the case for any enfranchisement of the past, and the Liberal Government has made it all the stronger. It was a favorite doctrine for many generations that Governments had no power over wages. During the

last five years a Liberal Government has legislated to fix wages in a number of industries, and to tax wages for insurance. Each of these measures destroys any argument that may be based on the belief that the economic circumstances of a man or woman cannot be affected by the possession of a vote. . . . Those who argue that a vote is no weapon to a class, fly in the face of history. For each class has begun to have its point of view considered in Parliament after receiving the vote, and not before. Those who argue that the vote is a weapon, but that the ruling classes can protect the interests of the voteless better than the voteless classes could protect themselves, are flying in the face of all democratic principles. They are approaching the problem of their own day in the spirit of Lord Eldon or the Duke of Wellington. The refusal of the party to apply its own principles to this urgent question, while every measure it passes increases the anomaly of refusing the vote to women, is at present the chief cloud on its horizon.



South African Labor Trouble.

Counselling peace, the strike leaders seem likely to avoid an open clash with the military arm of the government. Martial law throughout the Union of South Africa was declared on the 14th. The strike region is divided into nine areas, each controlled by an officer vested with absolute power as in time of war. Secretary Bain, of the Trades Federation in Johannesburg, together with 300 members, sought refuge from police arrest by barricading the Trades Hall. They surrendered when artillery was brought to bear on the building. Most of the principal labor leaders had been placed under arrest by the 15th. The response to the call for a general strike was not as unanimous as had been expected; and the defection of many of those who did go out indicates that the strike has been a failure. The operating force of the railways has decided to return to work. It is reported that the Government has discovered documentary evidence at Johannesburg of a plot for a revolutionary movement in April to set up a South African labor republic. [See current volume, page 59.]



Japan's Disaster.

Sakura-Jima, the volcano in the Gulf of Kagoshima that became active on the 11th, continued its destructive eruption for several days. There was a gradual subsidence until the 16th, when its activity was renewed. The small island upon which the volcano is situated is entirely covered with lava and ashes, rendering it uninhabitable to such of the 19,000 inhabitants as escaped. Nine thousand are known to have escaped in boats before the hot lava reached the shore. How many of the remaining 10,000 have been lost is not yet known. The earthquake on the mainland has destroyed many houses, but owing to their light construction little loss of life is expected from that

cause. Ashes to the depth of several inches cover the land, adding to the discomfort of the people who have been driven from their homes. Three hundred refugees from Sakura, the volcanic island, were buried under a cliff in a village near Kagoshima. The disaster was due to earthquakes. [See current volume, page 57.]



Judge Urabe, a refugee from Kagoshima, thus describes the disaster:

On the evening of January 12 the buildings in Kagoshima crumpled up and fell. I saw men crushed to the earth as they were fleeing from their houses. All points to the north of Kagoshima were crowded with despairing refugees as I passed through. Many of these people were so stricken with fear that they resembled clay figures. Weeping women, begrimed with ashes, straggled along, carrying infants in their arms. Others were dragging with them the sick and aged. Pumice stone and lava spurted from the craters; a scarlet vapor obscured the heavens; the roar of the volcanoes was like the sound of a thousand thunders. The whole island shook and oscillated like a swinging paper lantern. Plants and trees withered, and whitened mounds of ashes formed before us. The earth itself reared like a wild horse and knocked us down; poisonous gases choked our nostrils and crazed cattle charged, instinctively seeking the sea. Many of the aged refused to leave, crying that they preferred to die in the home of their ancestors. One by one those who sought to swim away were drowned or killed.



President Wilson has issued the following appeal:

Our sister nation of Japan is suffering from two very serious disasters. The failure of crops in the northeastern part of that country has brought hundreds of thousands of persons face to face with the terrible misery of slow starvation, and in the southwestern island of Kyushu a sudden great volcanic eruption has carried death and desolation to large numbers in a thickly populated district. I appeal to the humanity of our American people that they may give expression of their sympathy for the suffering and distress of so many of their fellowmen by generous contributions for their aid. Such contributions can be made to the local Red Cross treasurers or sent directly to the American Red Cross, Washington, D. C.



If Benevolence could do it, there would be no pauperism in England, for in no country I believe is there more benevolence than in the United Kingdom. But Benevolence can touch scarcely the fringe of this vast disorder. There is another virtue we could add and that quality is Justice. It is not Benevolence but Justice that can deal with giant evils. It was not Benevolence that gave the people bread twenty years ago, but it was Justice embodied in the abolition of a cruel and guilty law.—Speech of John Bright in Glasgow October 10, 1836, in Trevelyan's "Life of John Bright."