

land. Some, fearing the appeals to force made by some of the labor leaders, welcome the resort to the methods of Paul Kruger. Others, deprecating a return to Boer methods, fear that in re-establishing order, liberty has been crushed. The Boer sentiment at present is in the ascendent.



#### English Affairs.

The question of naval estimates continues to occupy a large share of public attention, partly because of its intrinsic importance, but more because of the efforts of the opposition press to embarrass the Administration. Opposed to Mr. Churchill's naval demands is the active and aggressive campaign of the "Little Navyities," who are to hold meetings throughout the country in behalf of the reduction of armaments. John Burns has graphically put the matter before the public in the statement that the expenditures for poor relief in the past eighty years amount to less than the cost of the army and navy for the past ten years, and less than the present national debt of \$3,527,270,000. [See current volume, page 108.]



The labor question continues to bulk large in the public mind. Reports cabled of the annual labor conference at Glasgow indicate dissatisfaction of the delegates with the Labor Party's policy in Parliament. Critics charged that Labor members of Parliament "became demoralized by contact with the luxurious ways of legislators," and that "their original enthusiasm for the cause of the people had been ruined by comfortable environment." All differences, however, gave way before the unanimous condemnation of the action of the South African authorities in deporting the leaders of the strikers. A few of the more conservative leaders at the conference appreciated the provocation of Premier Botha in the lawless means adopted by the strikers, but all considered his summary action unwarranted.



#### Mexico and the United States.

Arrests for participation in an alleged plot against President Huerta continued through the week, but no executions have taken place, and some of the men arrested have been set at liberty. Though rumors of the President's resignation, flight, and the collapse of his government continue to burden the press dispatches, there are few definite changes to be noted in the situation during the past few weeks. He flippantly boasts that he can keep off domestic foes, and the United States will prevent foreign creditors from using force in collecting their bills against his government. [See current volume, page 108.]

General Villa has advanced his army of 12,000 men to a position north of Torreon. The General himself has returned to Chihuahua to attend to administration affairs, after which he will take command of the campaign against Torreon. His cautious comment indicates the seriousness of the next move of the Constitutionals. He predicts a stubborn defense of this stronghold of Huerta's in the North, and sets no time for the beginning of the battle. To set to rest the rumors that accompany the rise of every successful Mexican general, that he has his eye upon the Presidency, General Villa made this statement in an interview: "Should General Carranza become President he would receive my support and I would obey his commands. As proof of my loyalty and as evidence that I have no ambition to become President, I would leave the country if he ordered me to do so. I have never been in anything but the fullest accord with General Carranza. I never had any personal ambition to reach high office. I am a fighting man only, and I am fighting for the liberation of my country, not to elevate myself. I am only a soldier under command of my chief, and I shall obey him, whatever his orders may be." This, coupled with his active efforts to restore business in Chihuahua, has caused a marked change in the American estimate of the man who has hitherto appeared only in the role of a savage fighter.



The Constitutionals claim to have plenty of money now, but have difficulty in getting arms and ammunition. Chihuahua, a city of 35,000 population, is assuming the dignity of a capital. One of the acts of the new government is a decree issued on the 1st, declaring counterfeit after February 10th, the currency issued by the Bank of Sonora, the Bank of Minora, and other banks established under the Diaz regime. The free and unlimited coinage of silver is offered as a means of providing money. A mint has been established to coin money bearing the Constitutionalist stamp. The new government is to exact a percentage of the large output of ore that has been mined at the Chihuahua mines during the military operations.



The embargo against exportation of arms from the United States to Mexico was raised on February 3, by President Wilson. In his proclamation ordering this the President refers to the proclamation of March 14, 1912, issued by President Taft, establishing the embargo, and further says that conditions on which it was based have changed and as it is desirable to place the United States in this respect "in the same position as other powers, the said proclamation is hereby revoked."