

I do not feel that the police were to blame in the matter at all, but I do feel that the system is at fault. The police are still laboring under the delusion that the most efficient officer is the one who makes the most arrests. They have practiced on me.

[See current volume, page 251.]

Labor Unions in South Africa.

The commission appointed to enquire into the condition of labor in the Union of South Africa gives little comfort to the men who used political power to suppress an industrial strike. If satisfactory agreements are to be made, the Commission says, and existing labor unrest is to be allayed, it is essential that employers shall recognize trade unions. The report urges the establishment of voluntary conciliation boards, with a view to preventing strikes and lock-outs, and to settling disputes. It regards hours of labor as excessive in not a few cases, and proceeds to make recommendations involving shorter hours, and a higher rate of pay for overtime. And it "cannot conceive why the Federation officials should be refused recognition as the men's professional representatives." Nor does the Commission sympathize with the fear of employers that if a "large number of white men are employed on the Rand the same troubles will arise as are now prevalent in the Australian Colonies, i. e., that the combination of the laboring classes will become so strong as to be able to more or less dictate." The Commission's report is, on the whole, a rebuke to the administration for its actions during the recent strike. [See current volume, page 132.]

England and Ulster.

Ulster politics reached a crisis when Sir Edward Carson made his dramatic departure from the House of Commons, and assumed personal charge of the situation in Belfast. Then followed such a flood of sensational reports of British affairs as has not been seen since the Boer war. Rumors of warrants for the arrest of Ulster leaders were accompanied by reports of the movement of troops into Ulster. [See current volume, page 277.]

Two definite points seem to have risen into view in the midst of rumors and reports. One is that many officers of troops ordered to Ulster, tendered their resignations rather than be put in a position where they might be called upon to oppose Ulstermen. Just how wide this defection of officers was is not known, some reports placing it as high as 200. The government, apparently fearing to proceed in the face of this opposition, altered its policy, and sent the officers back to the

troops. This shifted the interest from Belfast to London.

The full import of the government's action is not yet apparent. Sir Edward Carson taunts the Liberals with surrendering. And the Unionist papers ridicule the idea of coercing Ulster into accepting the Home Rule bill. The Liberal papers, on the contrary are indignant, and declare the question is no longer Home Rule for Ireland, but whether the country is to be ruled by Parliament or the Army. "If the Army is to be a Tory institution," says the Daily News and Leader, "to coerce the House of Commons when the Liberals are in power, then we will break the Army as we have broken the Lords, and make the Army as democratic as we have made Parliament." The Daily Chronicle declares that the whole future of British freedom depends upon the answer to the question, "Are the army officers to dictate to Parliament what bills shall pass?"

Political Storm in France.

At the moment when the French political situation seemed to be clearing, and the coming April elections promised greater stability to the Doumergue-Caillaux cabinet, all has been upset by the assassination of Gaston Calmette, editor of Figaro, by Mme. Caillaux, wife of the Minister of Finance. The Figaro has maintained a bitter warfare upon the Minister of Finance, which culminated on the 16th in the death of the editor. Joseph Caillaux immediately resigned from the cabinet, and on the 19th Ernest Monis, Minister of Marine, resigned. [See vol. xvi, p. 1188.]

The royalists, who never fail to take advantage of disorder, seized upon the incident of the shooting, and the political scandal that lay back of it, to make a "demonstration." The outbreak, however, was but temporary, and the excitement has for the most part, subsided; but speculation is rife as to the effect the incident will have in the April elections.

The 133 casinos authorized by the Ministry of the Interior last season show such large profits, \$10,000,000, from gambling, that the French government seeks to obtain a larger share. Instead of the old tax, which amounted to 15 per cent of the gross receipts, a new law has been proposed by a parliamentary commission, which will levy a graduated tax running from 3 per cent on incomes of less than \$2,000 up to 45 per cent on incomes exceeding \$1,000,000.

Mexico and the United States.

Want of revenue to maintain his government