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## MR. KEIR HARDIE IN INDIA.

It is to be hoped that all Englishmen who have placed confidence in the Labour Party of the House of Commons will follow with close attention the progress of Mr. Keir Hardie through the disaffected regions of India; they will learn something of disinterested magnanimity and something of statesman-like discretion. Mr. Keir Hardie, as everyone knows, is one of the first, one of the most notorious and one of the most uncompromising of that section of workmen who, having been returned to Parliament to represent a class interest, are claiming for that interest a preponderant, if not a universal, significance. In so far as his political activity is bounded on the one hand by the determination of Trade Union propaganda and on the other by a turgid Socialism, Mr. Keir Hardie is thoroughly representative of the main forces of organized labour; while in the utter recklessness of public statements he shows himself the accepted type of Labour member. Difficult though it is, we must remember that Mr. Keir Hardie is no school-boy firebrand, no inexperienced enthusiast; unlike the egregious Mr. Victor Grayson, who is something of both, he is a man of mature years accustomed to the tone of Parliament and the methods of public business; and unfortunately his name is known, and perhaps respected, where politics and knowledge are not correlative attributes. Did his statements fall on deaf or judicious ears, we might safely abandon them to their merited oblivion; but the fact is that they have fallen in dangerous places.

A telegram from Calcutta, which we published yesterday, states that Mr. Keir Hardie has been travelling in Eastern Bengal with the support of the leaders of the natives, and has been everywhere received with great enthusiasm by the Hindus. We were further informed that in several speeches he declared that he considered India to be just as much entitled to self-government as Canada, and that he would do his best to make India a self-governing colony. It will be observed that Mr. Keir Hardie quite characteristically voices his judgement with no modification. Self-government for India is to be not an ultimate aim, but, apparently, an immediate object of the Imperial Government — an object, in short, to which Mr. Keir Hardie will contribute his valuable support. It would be foolish, in all conscience, to meet word for word and sentence for sentence the fallacies on which this statement has been built. We could not, indeed, at greater length than is allowed us here, undertake to teach Mr. Keir Hardie history, philosophy or common sense; but in the name of millions of men and women who in every quarter of the globe have enjoyed the supreme privilege of British justice and love of truth, it is right that we should protest against so infamous a distortion of political ideals. Doubtless Mr. Keir Hardie intends no harm; but it is well-nigh incredible that in the very region of disorder, and almost on the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the Indian Mutiny, an Englishman of official standing and political experience, should conspire with a band of half-educated natives to goad a contemptible mob into sedition. There used to be a time when this form of patriotism was met with a short and sufficient rejoinder.

The English nation has never been slow to grant self-government to her subject peoples. In the matter of this privilege the Indian Administration need be no exception. Whatever its errors and abuses, it has always been conducted on accepted principles of national welfare; so that it would be quite consistent with British ideas to grant India self-government to-morrow if it were clear that India as a whole demanded and deserved the gift. But this is not the case. We have already pointed out that the unrest in Bengal is neither a national nor spontaneous movement, and that it must be counteracted with the greatest caution and finesse. Nothing could be more calculated to retard the rehabilitation of British prestige than such illconsidered rhetoric as flows from Mr. Keir Hardie. To grant India self-government, in the accepted sense of the term, would be sheer madness. The British Government, which has seen fit to give a Constitution to its former enemies in South Africa, can have no reason, apart from that of expediency, in refusing it to India; but it is a reason sufficiently weighty and conclusive. Obviously it has escaped Mr. Keir Hardie.

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### ANGLO-GERMAN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.

Berlin, October 2.  
According to the Vossische Zeitung, the Reichstag will at the outset consider a proposal by which the Bundesrat is again to be empowered to introduce measures granting to Great Britain and her colonies most-favoured-nation terms. Whether the Bundesrat will be in a position to avail itself of this right to the same extent as before must depend on the effect of the new Australian tariff on German imports as compared with English imports.

### A FOREST ACADEMY FOR ENGLAND.

London, October 2.  
The Government has bought a landed estate of 12,530 acres in Argyleshire, Scotland, in order to convert it into a State forest, and to erect thereon an Academy of Forestry.

### THE ENGLISH ARMY AIR-SHIP.

A telegram from London states that the "Nulli Secundus", the new English Army air-ship, which made a two-hours' ascent the other day, was fitted with two linen sails, and carried an additional sail behind in the shape of a bird's tail. These arrangements are intended to do away with the rolling of the vessel. Two aeroplanes were attached to the front in order to mitigate any undue fluctuation.

### WOMEN STRIKERS IN SCOTLAND.

Four hundred women employed in the cotton factories here have gone on strike owing to dissatisfaction with the latest decision regarding wages. They broke the windows of the mill, and forced the women who were still at work to join them. All work is at a standstill. The police had great trouble in dispersing the strikers. The mills have been closed. 5000 work-people are out of employment.

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### AMERICAN NEWS.

#### THE TELEGRAPHERS' DISPUTE.

New-York, Sept. 30.  
Cabled inquiries received here from London indicate that a movement is afoot in British Trade Unionist quarters to afford some sort of assistance to the telegraphists on strike here. As far as can be ascertained, the Commercial Telegraphers' Union, the organisation

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of the American operators, have not been approached directly, and it is doubtful if assistance from abroad would be accepted. Although most of the newspapers have been contending for weeks past that the telegraphers' strike is dead and buried, the men declare to-day that it is still general and vigorous.

Predictions that the strikers would be very quickly starved into submission have palpably been falsified.



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The strike leaders state that there are still plenty of funds in hand, and that all requiring help have received it from the commencement of the struggle. It is stated further that about a thousand strikers have found employment in other walks of life, and that, with few exceptions, these fortunate men and women are subscribing generously to the strike fund. It is difficult to ascertain the facts as to the position of the telegraph companies' business. Both the Western Union and the Postal claim that work has been proceeding on normal lines throughout this month. These confident assertions do not fit in exactly with the experience of the telegraph-using public, for it is beyond doubt that delays are very far above the normal, while the men offer to produce proof that all over the country the companies are sending "telegrams" by train to their various offices, whence they are sent out as though received by wire. This is stoutly denied and vehemently reaffirmed.

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Most of the inconveniences of the strike fall upon the general public, because the telegraphists employed by the newspapers and news agencies (with one exception), and by the great financial and commercial houses, using their own private leased wires, have remained at work on special agreements, with the sanction of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union. The exceptional News Agency is the Associated Press, a very extensive and powerful organisation, the managers of which have from the first defied the Union, and have succeeded in retaining most of their well-paid operators. — The Globe.

### FUTURE OF AMERICAN RAILWAYS.

New York, September 30.  
Mr. James J. Hill, the well-known railway magnate, in the course of an interesting statement with regard to the future of American railways, gives it as his opinion that there can be no more railway construction in America for a long time to come, owing to the lack of money. Traffic, says Mr. Hill, is increasing five times as rapidly as the railway mileage. To meet this serious state of affairs, he advocates the construction of great canals.

### MR. ROOSEVELT.

#### THE WESTERN TOUR.

Washington, September 30.  
President Roosevelt yesterday started on his tour through the Western States. Today he will unveil at Canton, Ohio, a monument to the late President McKinley, after which he will proceed by steamer down the Mississippi.

### ACCUSED OF PROVOKING WAR.

The New York Sun contains a double headed editorial, in which it accuses Mr. Roosevelt of deliberately provoking a war with Japan by sending the fleet to the Pacific.

### BISHOP OF LONDON IN AMERICA.

#### PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S TRIBUTE.

In the course of an address, President Roosevelt referred to Bishop Winnington-Ingram as "our guest, the Bishop of London, who has a right to speak to us, because he has shown in real life that he treats his high office as a high office should alone be treated, either in Church or State, and above all in a democracy such as ours—simply as giving him a chance to render service."

Then, turning to the Bishop, the President said: "I greet you here, Bishop Winnington-Ingram, because you have used your office in the aid of mankind, and because while you have served all, you have realised

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