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MR. KEIR HARDIE'S RETURN TO ENGLAND.

Not many months have passed since Mr. Keir Hardie gave unmistakable evidence of his aptitude for practical politics; nor is it likely that his consolation of the disaffected elements among the British subjects of India during a time of difficulty will be forgotten. Since those memorable events took place Mr. Keir Hardie has seen many lands and peoples, and has at last returned to his native shores amid the congratulations of his partisans. We are far from grudging him his welcome, for whatever his shortcomings as a politician, Mr. Keir Hardie is a man who has gained great influence through the sheer force of sincerity, personal probity, and honest effort. That his utterances should be treated with the respect we gladly enough extend to his personality is not, however, the best token of good sense; and it must therefore cause a certain amount of surprise that he has been accepted as one of the candidates for the Rector of Glasgow University. Achievement as well as character, distinction as well as uprightness, has hitherto been the primary qualification for such an honour; but whether it is in science, in letters, or in the art of statesmanship that Mr. Keir Hardie has become distinguished his supporters do not avow; so that we are bound to conclude that he has been selected mainly because he has chosen to treat his ideals as his every-day business irrespective of their character as ideals, or because as a working man he has upheld the dignity of work in the eyes of the world, or perhaps because he has overcome the obstacles of his environment with some measure of success. These are the qualities of a good citizen, although only within theoretical limits (as events have amply shewn), and if they are accepted as forming the qualities of a great citizen we shall not err in believing that the standard of public service today is not what it has been in the past.

The welcome accorded to him early in the week by the Glasgow Independent Labour Party is more intelligible than the welcome of a section in the University. Mr. Keir Hardie's address in the City Hall was received with enthusiasm, and especially his peroration, which might just as well have concluded an atheistic sermon as a review of political events. "There is a movement here in this country now," said Mr. Keir Hardie, "which, joining with similar movements all over the world, is working for the realization of the time when poverty, misery, destitution, and heartache will be abolished from the world, and when men shall worship the true and the beautiful for their own sake. . . . I shall stretch a hand of comradeship to all peoples and to all classes, and bid them in God's name unite for the overthrow of wrong and the installation of all that is right." This, then, is the measure of Mr. Keir Hardie's Socialism; it is the measure of the aspirations of the movement and the measure of its failure. If the most rigid of Conservatives could believe for a moment that Socialism was able to achieve this end, or to approximate to this end, he would become the most enthusiastic of Socialists. But it is clear that these high ideals of the dignity of human life and toil lie beyond and above the actual issues of political thought; that these speculations are inconsistent with the instincts of the large majority of human beings; that Socialism, when it is not an ideal, is the hasty rejection of all those principles of progress which the human race has learned from the development of centuries, and in the school of suffering, sacri-

STOP PRESS NEWS.

BRITISH NAVAL DISASTER.

We regret to report that during manoeuvres in the English Channel on Thursday night, the armoured cruiser "Berwick" ran down the torpedo-boat-destroyer "Tiger", which foundered immediately. An official statement issued in connection with the disaster states that 35 men of the destroyer's crew were drowned.

This is one of the most serious catastrophes which have happened to British warships during recent years. No further details are conveyed in the Portsmouth telegram.

INDIAN TELEGRAPH SERVICE INTERRUPTED.

Serious interruption in the Indian telegraph service, says a Bombay despatch just to hand, has been caused in consequence of dissatisfaction on the part of the telegraph operators with a new working plan introduced by an English expert. Messages are being very considerably delayed.

from labour. To this melancholy confession of ignorance Mr. Keir Hardie's audience replied with a burst of approval. Thus do we value the meaning of civilization and the activity of men; and, after all, the statement and the applause were very characteristic. When Socialism is used as the argument for the redressing of a grievance, it is like hewing down a tree for the sake of the fruit: nothing is allowed to matter except the prospect of repletion.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

During Thursday's sitting of the House, Mr. Lloyd George, the President of the Board of Trade, brought in a Bill for establishing a new controlling authority for the port of London, to consist of 25 members, of whom ten will be appointed by the Admiralty, the Board of Trade, and the county of London, the rest to be elected from among the merchants engaged in the business of the port. The authority shall acquire the property and business of the existing Dock companies and shall have power to provide further dock accommodation as required; it will, moreover, be empowered to make all necessary improvements and to levy dues on goods, but Mr. Lloyd George expressed the hope that it would not be necessary to make these dues very burdensome. Besides raising the capital necessary for the acquisition of the property of the existing Dock companies, the authority shall have power to raise further capital for necessary improvements. Mr. Lloyd George pointed out the necessity for such improvements if London was to compete successfully with other ports.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL'S AMENITIES.

Mr. Winston Churchill, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Colonial Office, speaking at Liverpool on Thursday on the advantages of free trade to Great Britain, admitted that the tariff-reform movement was gaining ground, but characterised it as an undemocratic movement that amounted to an attack by the rich upon the poor.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS CONFIRMED.

The United States Senate has confirmed the appointment of Mr. A. M. Beaupré as Ambassador at the Hague, and of Mr. Spencer Eddy as Minister to the Argentine Republic.

THE PROGRESS OF PEACE.

The Senate has approved the decision reached at the Hague Peace Conference respecting the formation of an international Court of Arbitration, and also the decision to create arbitration treaties between the United States and Italy and the U. S. and Mexico.

PRESIDENT CASTRO'S INSOLENCE.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Herald declares that the United States Government has decided that the best way of dealing effectually with the insolence of President Castro will be to wage a tariff war against the Venezuelan Republic. Government action to this end will be taken almost immediately.

(Continued on page 2.)

fice, and failure. Socialism, when it professes to be practical, desires to leap at perfection, and to achieve its aim without menaging, let us not say the lives of men, but interests which have become a second nature if they are not natural. How can we believe that the security of individuals against injustice, the happiness of countless men and women to whom the existing system brings contentment even when it does not bring prosperity, is not at stake? It is not only the rich or the well-to-do who are bound to be the scapegoats of Socialism: the laws of man have been kinder to the poor than the laws of Nature to the rich. If the weakest must perish at the lower extremity of society so must the weakest perish at the upper extremity; if there is injustice anywhere it is not man but Nature who is ruthless. How can we believe that Socialism will blot out the passion of competition or will destroy the natural power of the strong over the weak? The prince of today is the slave of tomorrow: that is the only equality among men which History is able to show us.

There is yet another kind of Socialism, a sort of bastard Socialism, which is not Socialism at all, but simply the partial negation of the individualistic principles on which modern democracy is based. To the supporters of this creed every problem of policy, every problem of administration is the occasion for an attack on the stratifications of society; every gain of the community is the loss of the working man. When Mr. Keir Hardie is not speaking in the vein of the preacher he speaks in the vein of agitators who see only the injustice of the world without its compensating benefits, and who base their political beliefs on that ungenerous estimate. Speaking, for instance, of Old Age Pensions he elicited heartfelt applause by means of the transparent fallacy that the only workers in the community are those who work with their hands. They were told, he said, the nation could not afford to raise the sum necessary to provide the pensions for the aged workers unless the workers contributed themselves towards the cost. Who else was there, he asked, to contribute towards the cost? He knew of no alchemy to produce wealth apart