

sonal disputes between Honorables and Right Honorables, and on Bills by which these great parties tried in turn to 'dish' each other, and so get or keep power, time might have been found long ago to pass well-considered legislation for the automatic settlement of trade disputes. It might be remembered, too, that it is not the working man only who brings pressure that may hamper the Government in time of war. The loyal members for Wales are threatening pressure if they do not get their own way about Disestablishment. If Mr. George were not a Cabinet Minister, he would probably be the loudest of the leaders of the threatened revolt.

You will permit me to speak of the drink question. Your article refers to Mr. George's hopes for what your writer calls 'the swift bridling' of the liquor traffic. 'For,' says the writer, 'it seems that the very men who are clamoring for a higher wage in consequence of the increased price of bread are coming to their work sodden with drink.' But turn back to the certificate of character from one of the masters given above, and then read Mr. George's own words. He merely says that some shirk their duty, that this is due to various causes, but mostly to the lure of drink, through which strength and efficiency are impaired. He admits that these men are a minority, but adds that even a small minority can throw a whole works out of gear. That we may take as rhetoric. He has to confess that 'the vast majority belong to a class we can depend on.' In the light of this, does not the remark about 'the very men . . . are coming to their work sodden with drink' seem a little exaggerated?

I trust that what is written here will induce the writer of your article and its readers to believe that the Glasgow engineers, though their local nickname is the 'Black Squad,' are not so black as they are painted, while some other people are not, perhaps, so white as they are washed. I trust also that nothing of what has been said will be looked on as offensive to your leader writer. I am sure that he wrote with the best and most patriotic motives. But we are all, just now, apt to get a little over-excited in our natural anxiety to see the war brought to a victorious close.

THE APOSTOLIC DELEGATE

ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME IN MELBOURNE.

In another part of this issue appears a brief account of the visit on Saturday, April 17, of his Excellency the Apostolic Delegate to Melbourne. After the account referred to went to press, the Melbourne papers containing a full report of the reception came to hand, and from them we take the following further particulars:—

At 4.30 p.m. his Excellency the Apostolic Delegate, the hierarchy, and the clergy went in processional order from the palace to the Cathedral, where addresses were presented by the Archbishops and the Bishops of the Province of Melbourne, the clergy, and the laity.

ADDRESS FROM THE HIERARCHY.

The following address on behalf of the Archbishops and Bishops was read by his Grace the Archbishop:—

'May it please your Excellency,—We, the Archbishop of Melbourne, the Coadjutor-Archbishop of Melbourne, and the Suffragan Bishops of the Province of Melbourne, extend to your Excellency a loyal and cordial welcome to our Cathedral City. In the establishment of the Apostolic Delegation to Australasia and in the selection of your Excellency as the first Apostolic Delegate, we recognise a further proof of the affectionate interest and fatherly care which the Holy See has never failed to bestow upon this new and fair province of God's Kingdom upon earth. Your Excellency comes to us with the blessing and commendation of two Pontiffs, Pius X. of holy and venerated memory, and Benedict XV., to whom already, in these days of strife among the nations, the whole world, distracted and longing for peace, looks for words of wise counsel and of dispassionate guidance. Young in years, but ripe in experience, your Excellency will, we trust and pray, be enabled to make good amongst us the promise of a

career already notable by marked achievement in other lands. With pride and joy we assure your Excellency that, in the discharge of the duties of your exalted office, you can rely upon the whole-souled co-operation of a zealous and devoted priesthood and of a loyal, faithful, and generous people. Nowhere within the wide domain of God's Church could you find priests and people more devotedly attached to the Holy See or more zealous for the interests of religion. In our churches, in our religious and charitable institutions, and above all, in our Catholic schools, you will find evidence of generosity and self-sacrifice, which have brought God's blessing upon our people and which, under God in large measure, account for the marvellous progress and stability of the Church in this southern land. The noble Cathedral in which we are privileged to welcome your Excellency is at once the product and the symbol of a faith that is deep and strong.

'To your Excellency, as the personal representative of the Holy Father, we tender a dutiful and loyal greeting; to yourself, we offer a warm and affectionate welcome; and we pray the Divine blessing upon every work that you undertake for the well-being and extension of God's Kingdom in this fair southern land.'

The address from the clergy was read by the Rev. J. H. O'Connell, and that from the laity by Dr. A. L. Kenny.

THE APOSTOLIC DELEGATE'S REPLY.

His Excellency, in replying to the addresses, said: My Lords Archbishops and Bishops, Very Rev. and Rev. Clergy, and esteemed members of the laity,—Even before my arrival in Australia as Apostolic Delegate I had ardently desired to visit your famed city, which rivals in many respects the greatest cities of the old and new world. As soon as I set foot in these new southern lands my long-felt wish became a pleasant duty, for the venerated Archbishop of Melbourne, with exquisite courtesy, went to the trouble of meeting me on my arrival in Sydney, and I at once promised to return his visit in Melbourne at the earliest opportunity. And now it is my happy lot to greet the beloved Archbishop in his metropolitan see. Faithful to the traditions of this city and of this ecclesiastical province, the Catholic hierarchy, clergy, and laity have united in according to me a brilliant reception, which I greatly appreciate, and which the Holy Father will even more highly appreciate as soon as the news of it shall reach him. I, in the meantime, thank you with all my heart in his name. In a very special way I thank you for the sentiments of fidelity and attachment to the Holy See which have found expression in your address—sentiments which have ever been the pride of the Australian episcopate. I thank you, furthermore, for the loyal co-operation which you promise me. Your help, your counsel will be most precious to me, and I shall ever treasure them. There is no need for me to point to the great development of the Catholic religion in this city, and in this ecclesiastical province of Melbourne. It is well known, not alone in Australia, but also in the other parts of the world, and especially in Rome. I will merely say this, that this Cathedral in which I now stand, dedicated to Ireland's glorious Apostle, is a poem of the faith and the generosity of the sons and daughters of Erin. Here the children of Ireland have, in a brief space, completed, in conditions not always favorable, what in other countries and times would have taken ages. If by the past we can judge of the future even more wonderful will be the monuments of zeal and activity of the Catholic hierarchy, clergy, and people of this State. Permit me, therefore, to express my heartiest congratulations, and to pray that God's choicest blessings may reward your labors. And from this Cathedral, the noble monument which adorns your city, permit me to present my compliments to the civil authorities, and to convey to them my deep appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have shown me. It is now my pleasant duty to thank the clergy, secular and regular, and the laity of this ecclesiastical province for the part they have taken in this reception, and for their expressions of fidelity and loyalty to the Holy See, or its representative, and to