

duce suggestions of change to an absurdity in the eyes of thinking people. Such extremes hardly can be said to be characteristic of persons whose minds are evenly balanced by a tendency to "be temperate in all things."

THE COLOSSUS OF STRIKES.

Far and away exceeding in financial and industrial losses any other strike of which we have any knowledge, is the great coal-miners' contest in England, only lately happily terminated by arbitration and concession on both sides. The figures representing these losses have been made public, and they are appalling in their vastness. During the sixteen weeks that the conflict lasted at full pressure, the coal output dropped from the normal figure of 63,000,000 tons to 39,000,000. The loss to mine owners, iron masters, railroads, and so on, was £13,255,615. Consumers paid in increased prices £1,767,000. Miners, iron workers and other artisans lost £18,208,000. The total general loss is placed at £33,232,215. The workers rendered idle numbered 1,003,250, which meant 3,511,425 persons in a destitute condition.

Does it not seem that in a case of this kind, where there was nothing but certain loss to all parties concerned—the miners, the owners, the consumers, and the nation collectively and individually—there ought to have been a chance for reason and common sense to assert themselves and do their work in less than sixteen weary weeks of destitution and delay? Enlightenment and civilization have perhaps greater problems to grapple with today than ever confronted a previous age in the world's history. But every day's disclosures prove that with all our nineteenth century boasting, there are stupendous lessons we have still left unlearned.

THE WORK IN HOLLAND.

The labors of the Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in that small but thrifty part of the European mission known as the Netherlands, have received occasional mention in these columns, though probably every other field of missionary work on the globe has been more generously noticed in our publications than this. Generally speaking, the branches of the Church there have been small and the Utah Elders laboring in them few in number. Furthermore, the latter have seemed very modest about seeing their names and operations in print, and have appeared disinclined to acquaint their friends at home, except by personal letters, with their experiences and the measure of their success. A few days ago, however, the News published an interesting communication from one of the brethren laboring there, and today, knowing the deep interest felt at home in the progress of the work in those tight little lands as well as in other parts of the world, we make use of a report just published in the *Millennial Star* by Elder A. H. Lund, president of the European mission, who recently returned to Liverpool from a

brief visit among some of the continental branches of the Church. He says:

On our return from the Scandinavian mission, we enjoyed a pleasant visit with the Saints at Rotterdam and Amsterdam. The headquarters of the mission is at the first named place, where we met with the Saints on Sunday, October 22, in a nice commodious hall, which was well filled with Saints and strangers. Several of the local Elders spoke quite fluently, and an excellent spirit prevailed. The singing, accompanied by an organ, was fine. The Saints in this mission have a small collection of our hymns printed in Dutch, but not sufficient to give them the variety they desire, so they use also a hymn book not published by us. The selections from this book, during the meetings we attended, were mainly from the Psalms of David, set to metre. It would be very desirable for some of our poetical Saints, who understand Dutch, to increase the collection of our hymns in that language. We went to Amsterdam the next day, where a large congregation met in the evening and we had an enjoyable time. The Elders, reporting their labors, said they felt much encouraged in their endeavors to spread the truth in those lands, and during the year they had met with much success, over seventy members having been baptized.

The Netherlands mission comprises the two countries, Holland and Belgium. Both enjoy religious liberty. The population of Belgium is Catholic, while three-fifths of the population of Holland are Protestant. The labors of the Elders have been mainly in Holland. The people there receive the brethren kindly; many come to the meetings, and quite a number investigate the principles of the Gospel. Most of the Saints live in Holland. There is also a branch of the Church in Belgium. On his last visit to that country our Elder reported having baptized four persons. The greatest difficulty which the brethren find in laboring in Belgium is their being unable to speak the languages spoken there—French, Walloon and Flemish. The latter, however, is merely a dialect of the Dutch language, differing from this, perhaps, as much as Norwegian from Danish; like these, the Dutch and Flemish have adopted the same orthography, which makes the modern Netherlands, or Dutch, the language of seven million people. Elders who could speak Walloon (a patois of French) and Flemish would find Belgium a promising field.

The Netherlands mission numbers between five and six hundred Saints, and is divided into fourteen branches, of which the largest are Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Arnheim.

THAT WAR CLOUD.

From time to time the dispatches bring reminders from Europe of a threatened great war there that will cause all other conflicts recorded in modern history to pale into insignificance by comparison. These frequently recurring rumors of a war, from the terrible aspect of which all the great powers shrink, occasion a vast amount of uneasiness in the nations most concerned, not one of which but looks on the conflict as likely to be in the near future.

When inquiry is made as to the reasons upon which this opinion of a certainly "approaching war" is based, the reply is substantially that there are two primary causes which are working

that way, namely, the dissatisfaction of Russia with her present southern boundary and the discontent of France at the loss of Alsace and Lorraine. There are other causes which contribute to the same end, but these are the chief.

As to where the outbreak will begin, there is uncertainty and great difference of opinion. There are some who fancy that the ball will open between Germany and France, or between the latter and Italy. In this connection it may be well to note the views of leading English statesmen, given public expression nearly two years ago. At that time there was considerable feeling aroused by anti-German demonstrations in Paris, and there was talk of prospective hostilities between the republic and the empire. It was then that this announcement came from official quarters in London:

"We have long familiarized ourselves with the thought that the great war of which the world has been in constant dread for some years back, and which is to readjust the balance of the continent, is much more likely to break out in the region of the Danube than on the banks of the Rhine. Since the treaty of Berlin patched up the last serious disturbance in Europe, there has been peace; peace, it is true; but a peace subject to perpetual menace, and weighty matter for the consideration of statesmen. Europe has lived, as it were, in armed camps, neutral and watchful; and all the time the nations have prepared against war as though war were at their doors. We repeat our firm conviction, based on long and close attention to the political motives at work among the nations, that it is on the Danube and not on the Rhine that the torch of war will be first kindled."

The peaceful settlement of the agitation at that time appeared a verification of the English view of the situation in a very important particular to say the least; while the subsequent soothing of a friction between France and Italy was a still further confirmation. The recent news from eastern Europe seems almost like a fatful and conclusive determination of the matter.

The demand of Russia to gain possession of the Kilia mouth of the Danube is in line with her policy for centuries. With the Kilia navigable, the Colossus of the north could overawe Austria and would have the Turk at his feet. It is well known that ever since the Berlin treaty Russia has been angry at her own supreme folly in forcing Rumania to accept the Dobrudja in exchange for Bessarabia, and thus depriving herself of a foothold and strategical base of operations south of the Danube, in the direction of the grand goal of her ultimate ambition—the Golden Horn. It is as much the desire of Russia to undo this unfortunate bargain, as her statesmen now look at it, as it is to shake herself free from the intolerable shackles that restrain her liberty of action in the Black Sea, and that seal up the outlets thereof to her ships of war.

It is probably true that Alexander III has a holy horror of war, into which he is determined not to draw his people. It is this that has contributed to defer the conflict. The late Count Von Moltke says that the period of dynastic conflicts, or strug-