

It is said that Ireland is not represented in anyway. This is untrue. Sir Edward Harland, the shipbuilder of Belfast is one of the members of the Commission. He is the builder of the *Teutonic* and *Majestic*, two of the greatest merchant steamers in the world. In fact all the White Star Line steamers were built in Ireland. The builder of such vessels is surely competent to sit in a board of labor investigators. Sir Edward is not an unpopular man among his workmen.

Another member of the Commission is Michael Austin, until recently Secretary of the United 'Trades' Association of the South of Ireland. He has studied the labor problem, from the side of labor.

The personnel of the Commission is as follows: Marquis of Hartington, Earl of Derby, Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Sir John E. Gorst, A. J. Mundella, Sir Robert N. Fowler, Leonard H. Courtney, Sir Edward J. Harlan, Joseph Cheney Bolton, William Gerald Balfour, Jesse Collings, Thomas Burt, William Abraham, Prof. Marshall, Sir W. Lewis, Mr. Ismay, David Dale, George Levesey Tunstall, Samuel Plimsoll, Mr. Madsley, Thomas Mann, Ed. Drew, Mr. Hewlitt, Mr. Tait, Mr. Austin and Sir Frederick Pollock, editor of the *Law Quarterly Review*.

It will be seen that in the above list are some familiar names. There is Plimsoll, a man identified with reforms in shipbuilding, that has saved thousands of lives. Jesse Collings is a well known labor reformer. Prof. Marshall is a political economist. Mr. Ismay is a director of the White Star Steamship Company. Thomas Mann is a noted labor man. Mr. Hewlitt is manager of the Wigan Coal and Iron Company. Mr. Tait is Chairman of the Glasgow Trade Council. In fact, there is not an objectionable man on the whole list, and the final report of such a body ought to be of much value as a politico-industrial document.

POINTERS ON WHEAT.

THE wheat market in Europe is profoundly agitated. The reason for this is that it is anticipated that crops will be exceedingly short this season.

Some of the old world governments are exercised over the prospect of starvation prices for bread, and are contemplating measures to meet the inevitable emergency. Some of the leading journals of France state that there will soon be a temporary suspension, in that country, of the tariff on cereals. It is also stated that Germany contemplates following suit on this subject. There may be a double rea-

son for such a precaution—the probability of war as well as short crops. The latter contingency is, however, a matter of certainty. Should both calamitous conditions visit the European continent simultaneously, the effect would be appalling.

The result of either or both of the anticipated situations in the eastern hemisphere would be a tremendous boom in the American wheat market, which has already been made feverish by the prospect.

The drain upon American cereal resources will be still more largely increased by the recent import and export negotiations between the United States and Spain. For instance, the flour supply for the Spanish West Indies has heretofore been exclusively monopolized by Spanish merchants, who have imported into that part of the world 500,000 barrels annually at \$12. The recent negotiations resulted in the removal of the heavy cereal tariff in the Spanish West Indian dependencies. This will bar out the Spanish merchants and give the United States entire control of the market. The new measure will enable the merchants of this country to supply flour in that part of the globe at half the price heretofore prevailing, and the reduction will increase the demand to one million barrels annually, in place of 500,000 as heretofore.

These causes combined and others that might be mentioned are certain to create a great demand for wheat and a proportionate rise in price. In these days of extensive and almost unlimited means of transportation, Utah is affected in correspondence with the markets of the world. The prospect appears to warrant the farmers of this region in sowing a liberal breadth of wheat. By doing so, should it happen to rain porridge they will be caught with their plates right side up.

While speaking of the advisability of sowing wheat plentifully, we take occasion to remind those farmers who are within reasonable reach of the sugar factory in Utah County, of the necessity for their adopting the wise suggestions tendered on the subject at the late General Conference, by raising plentiful crops of sugar beets this season. The sugar industry must not be allowed to flag on account of neglect in that respect.

THE EASTERN WAR CLOUD.

TO THOSE who have been giving attention to progressive war prospects in Europe, the following—translated for *Public Opinion* from the New York *Belletrisches Journal*—will be of unusual interest:

"The two most significant events that have given occasion to special anxieties abroad, as is well known, are the Franco-Russian Alliance and the condition of things in the East, which are again rendered critical by Russian agitation. As regards the first of these incidents, nothing particularly fresh has come to our knowledge; but that a treaty exists, both for offensive and defensive purposes, no doubt is expressed in any quarter; and the German foreign office is said to have received very conclusive information in this particular, through its own embassy at St. Petersburg. The Russian newspapers appreciate the investiture of the order of St. Andrew, in the person of President Carnot, as merely a diplomatic courtesy. *Grassdanin*, the organ of Russian aristocratic circles, however, significantly adds to its comments on the incident, that this official testimony of relations of friendship between the two countries is worth more than all the Panславist demonstrations put together, and renders supererogatory any mutual public declarations. It is now full time for the triple alliance to determine how much longer it will passively look on, while Russia completes her armaments. The Russian press abstains, for the moment, from any expression of opinion as to the movements of Russia; but declares, in regard to the situation in Bulgaria and the assassination of Beltschow, that an intervention of the European powers in that Principality has now become a necessity. The *Novoje Vremja* calls on the signatories to the Berlin treaty for the fulfilment of their obligations as established by that convention. In a general condemnation of the 'thoroughly rotten' internal condition of Bulgaria and the declaration that it is high time to put an end to it, the French press goes hand in hand, in the most noteworthy manner, with the Russian; although but a short while ago, it was giving itself very little concern about Bulgaria, or its surroundings. This discloses clearly enough what may be expected from that quarter, and contributes very materially to a complication of the general political situation. If Russia, however, under any pretext whatever, should proceed as an armed power against Bulgaria, it is very clearly shadowed forth that there will be a very expeditious delivery of arms and munitions on the part of Krupp, in discharge of orders already given by the German Government."

PECULIAR POLITICAL COMPOUNDS.

THE recent election in Chicago affords a fair illustration of the demoralized state of party politics in many of the Eastern cities. For Mayor, there were five candidates in the field. Each made an unusually active canvass. The returns have just been made by the official election canvassing board, and they make an instructive lesson. The total number of ballots cast was about 161,000. Hemstead Washburne, the regular Republican nominee received 46,957 votes. DeWitt Cregier the regular Democratic nominee, and the present Mayor, received 46,588 votes. Carter H. Harrison, Independent Democrat, received 42,931 votes. Elmer Washburn, the candidate of the secret societies, and of the anti-alien element, received 24,027 votes. Tommy Morgan the Social Labor candidate, received 2,376.