

ties of Lille, Roubaix and Turcoing, the manufacturing centres of France, to which the transport and building trades unions have adhered, threatens to become a general strike. The affected unions met last night to consider such a measure. The strike was called as a protest against a reduction in wages, the workers declaring that official statistics tending to show a diminution of the cost of living were not justified by facts. The manufacturers desire to put into effect a cut in wages of forty centimes per hour.

Washington, Sept. 3rd.—Retail food prices showed an increase over July prices in 14 principal United States cities, according to statistics made public today, by the Department of Labour.

Forest Hills, N. Y., Sept. 5th.—The United States Davis Cup tennis players, defending the famous International trophy, made their victory in the challenge round over Japan complete and decisive on the courts of the West side club this afternoon, when they won the remaining two singles matches of the five match programme. Tilden, of Philadelphia defeated Ichiyakumagal in straight sets by a score of 9-7 6-1 6-1. W. Johnston of San Francisco won from Zenzo Shimdezu three out of four sets 6-3 5-7 6-2 6-4.

London, Sept. 5th.—With the exception of the Morning Post, which said "it is impossible to make terms with a rattlesnake", the newspapers today made a united plea for forbearance in the latest phase of the Irish situation which has developed from the reply of Eamonn de Valera to Mr. Lloyd George's plan for a settlement of the controversy, in the hope that a common ground might yet be found.

London, Sept. 6th. Mr. Lloyd George today held conversations with members of his cabinet and civil and military authorities in Ireland. Although London newspapers continued today to counsel patience and forbearance in dealing with the Irish question, there were certain indications that the Irish controversy had virtually reached a crisis, and that tomorrow meeting of the ministry might prove historic. There were many who believed that Mr. De Valera and his colleagues at Dublin would be given a certain limited time in which they could either accept or reject the Government's offer. Considerable importance is attached to the fact that Sir Horace Plunkett has given out for publication an interview in which he emphasizes the need of a plebiscite. Sir Horace represents the moderate opinion in Ireland, and it is apparent from his statements that moderates, like himself, are afraid that the extremists of the Dail Eireann might carry matters to a point where rupture in the negotiations will become inevitable.

London, Sept. 6th.—Sugar in stock on

the 3rd inst. was 117,000 tons. Last year 137,000

San Juan, P. R., Sept. 6th.—The day train on way from Ponce yesterday afternoon at 2.45 jumped the track as it was about to enter Quebradillas tunnel and smashed into the tunnel wall. The engine driver and one conductor were killed and three others seriously injured.

NEW YORK, September 7th 1921.

Flour, Blended Clears St. Lawrence Brand pr. brl. \$8.00.

Meal, Kilndried per 100 lbs \$1.95

New Season's Pork per brl. \$37.00

Heavy Mess Pork per bbl. \$25.4

Sugar—Crystals maximum per 100 lbs. \$4.61

Molasses Sugar 89° test, no quotation.

Cotton, Middling Upland, at Liverpool per lb. 14 25-100d.

Exchange, New York and London, 60 days' sight \$3.68

Exchange New York and London, sight \$3.714

LONDON, September 7th. 1921

Sugar, Demerara Crystals, per cwt. 44s. —49s.

" Muscavado per cwt. 32s 42s.

German Beet 88° f.o.b. no sales.

White Java sugar cif United Kingdom 24s. September shipment.

Demerara Rum, per gal. nominal.

Trinidad Cocoa, Good Middling Red per cwt 56s. 58s. nominal.

Cotto good Medium West Indian Sea Island per lb. 26d. nominal.

Bank of England rate of Discount per cent. 5½.

Consols 47½.

Three per cent rentes in Paris Fcs. 56.50.

PORTO RICO'S FALSE HOPE

The residents of Porto Rico are poorly advised by the agitators who advocate independence of the United States. The island is fertile and is inhabited by an industrious people, but it is not endowed with resources sufficient to make it a going concern as a nation. It would be under the wing of the United States in any event, as Cuba and Santo Domingo and Haiti now are. But Porto Rico enjoys a great advantage over the republics named, by reasons of the fact that the strength of the United States is behind the guarantee of Porto Rican liberty and prosperity. This nation will not see Porto Rico suffer, but will take pains to keep the island free and prosperous.

Political agitators tell the Porto Ricans that they need something else than liberty and prosperity under the American system. They insist that Porto Ricans speak a different language and have sympathies which are not harmonious with the feelings of Americans. This is true to some extent, but it is not incompatible with a happy continuance of political ties. The Porto Ricans can increase their self-government whenever they please to do so, if they do not enjoy a sufficient measure at present. They

can never hope to place themselves outside of the system of which the United States is the sun. Nature and human events make it impossible for the Americans and Porto Ricans to pursue separate and perhaps incompatible political policies.—*Porto Rico Progress, Aug. 26th.*

SOME GOOD ADVICE

E. Mont Reily, newly appointed governor of Porto Rico, gave the people of these islands some sound advice in the course of his inaugural address recently. In brief, Governor Reily said to his audience that if they deemed it wise to change the form of government under which they dwelt, they should work for statehood. The agitation for independence, he declared, was largely due to the foment of foreigners.

Independence, said Governor Reily, would never come to Porto Rico so long as the United States was the United States. Moreover, the governor expressed his doubts that any considerable number of persons, aside from self seeking politicians, most of them aliens, should want an independent form of government when the ideal political existence for the islands eventually would be that of a state in the Union.

Governor Reily pretty thoroughly squelched the independence idea when he said, "I want you to be fully aware that there is no room in Porto Rico for any foreigner who is not willing to support and uphold our established government". There is no sympathy or possible hope for independence for Porto Rico from any individual or from any political party."

The governor drew attention to the fact that the last two great national conventions held in the United States, Republican and Democratic, declared un-animously against independence for Porto Rico. "Neither, my friends," he added, "is there any place in these islands for any flag save the flag of our common and beloved country, the Stars and Stripes, and there never shall be."

For some time reports have come from Porto Rico to the effect that agitators at work among the more ignorant were stirring up labor trouble wherever they could, and combining with that activity the spreading of propaganda for independence.

Clearly, Porto Rico should not become an independent nation. The reasons are many and quite obvious. Much less should politicians, especially foreigners, be permitted to continue preaching the doctrine of discontent. The case of Porto Rico offers in no sense a parallel to that of the Philippines or of Cuba. The best thing for the Porto Ricans to do is to labor diligently for the advancement of their industries and commerce under the American flag. They will prosper in that way, and in no other.—*Ibid.*