

deeper, stronger ideal, to aim for our girls not so much at innocence with her fading wreath of flowers, but to aim at virtue with her victor's crown of gold, tried in the fire. Sure am I, that if we accept this deeper and larger ideal, and endeavour to work it out on earth, in the midst of it, as in the Garden of Eden, will be found the tree of life.

## PARLIAMENTARY JOTTINGS.

A great deal of important legislation occupied the House during October. As before, the Land Bills took up most of the time. The Land Bill proper passed the House after considerable discussion, mainly as to length of lease. An attempt to reduce the sixty-six years' lease to thirty-three, though favoured by the land reformers, failed, as the majority of Liberals agreed to compromise on that matter and ensure the Bill's passing. Though not entirely satisfactory to either side, the Land Bill, if it passes the Council, will mark a great advance. Its sister Bill, the Endowments, also left some wool on the bush in its thorny path through the Lower Chamber. The Endowments Bill was not only shamelessly stonewalled by the main body of the Opposition, and wounded in the so-called house of its friends by pseudo-Liberals representing the old regime, but was unfortunate enough to call out strong local feeling in some of the southern members. That local prejudice doubtless accounted for the opposition of Mr Duncan, ex-Minister of Lands, who is usually a steady, if not ultra-progressive, Liberal.

Sir Joseph Ward saved the measure at the cost of two out of the nine million acres proposed to be set aside for old age pensions and education. As an offset to this sacrifice of southern endowments, he proposed to take over, for the purposes of the Act, renewable leases and small grazing runs under the 1892 Act. This, though hailed by many as a good make-shift for, if not a clear equivalent to, the lost two million acres, greatly displeased Mr Laurensen and other advanced reformers. Both Bills are now before the Council; but the Opposition put up a determined fight against the

pernicious "Socialism" which recognises old age pensions, charitable aid reform, etc., as permanent national responsibility.

Labour has been represented in two Bills lately introduced by Government. The first is the Scaffolding Inspection Act, and it is calculated to prevent many fatalities. The second is the Workers' Compensation for Accidents Bill, a much more comprehensive measure, which repeals and consolidates existing laws on compensation. The chief amendments on these deal with the fixing of values at present undefined, additional compensation being granted to those permanently injured while under twenty-one. Certain workers' diseases are expressly provided against, while the maximum paid to the totally dependent family of a man who has been killed is increased from £400 to £500. The term "worker" includes all classes employed at the trade or business of an employer, save those earning over £5 a week. Servants of the Crown and of local bodies are also included.

Humanitarians will be pleased that the Council has added a clause to the Animals Protection Bill, preventing pigeon-shooting and coursing of hares in enclosed areas. There is a doubt, however, whether this Bill will pass the Council this session.

The rising price of bread makes the lately brought in Abolition of Duty on Flour Bill a matter of moment. It is, however, not likely to illumine the problem to any extent, being vague, cumbrous, and tentative.

The Premier's long-promised Gaming and Lotteries Bill is down at last, though it is not far on the way yet. It has many admirable points. Gaming houses are severely put down, and their frequenters fined. Clubs are included, save those chartered under the Licensing Act of 1881. Lotteries are suppressed, and all games of chance declared unlawful. The double totalisator is abolished. Tattersall's sweeps are prohibited; street betting is made illegal; racing clubs cannot accept investments by telegraph, nor can they receive them later than five minutes before a race. Publication of betting news is for-

bidden. All this would confine betting almost entirely to the race-course. Unfortunately, the totalisator is retained still; moreover, racing clubs are allowed to license bookmakers to do business on the course—a source of reflection, as the better public only accepted the machine long ago in the vain hope it would eliminate the bookmaker. Still, the measure, if carried whole, would be a great advance on present conditions.

The report of the Commission set up to consider Mr Hornsby's Quackery Prevention Bill is valuable. It recommends dropping the Bill in its present form, but strongly urges Government to legislate at once against fraudulent, deleterious, or useless remedies, against the secrecy maintained as to their composition (with a protecting clause for genuine discoveries), and against false or misleading titles being given. The Commission was especially firm about preventatives; and this clause elicited from the Health Officer a corroboration of the Commission's testimony as to black-mailing carried on by unscrupulous vendors of supposed cures. Fifteen hundred copies of the report were ordered for distribution. J.M.

**Prohibition in Georgia.**—Mrs Armour, State W.C.T.U. President, is said to have done more than any other person in the campaign which has added Georgia to the list of prohibition States (Maine, North Dakota, and Kansas). Mrs. Armour addressed both Senate and House Temperance Committees. The Prohibition Bill was carried by 139 to 39. The Governor of the State—Governor Hoke Smith—gladly signed the measure, although it meant a blow at his private income, by closing the bar of the great Piedmont Hotel, in Atlanta, in which he is a large shareholder. On the first day of 1908 Georgia becomes a Prohibition State. The State Government has notified all the breweries and distilleries that the manufacture of intoxicants will be a punishable offence after that date. The State expects to flourish as Kansas has done. Though it will lose over £200,000 a year revenue, it expects to have fewer prison and workhouse expenses.