

(Continued from page 14.)

other countries, and to endeavor to promote that harmony between the different classes which is essential for the development of the Dominion. Legislation tending toward the maintenance and continuance of pacific relations between capital and labor has been enacted by the different Provincial Governments from time to time, and the efforts of the various Provincial Bureaus of Labor in their collection of statistics and in the settlement of disputes have been materially assisted by the labor organizations of the country. Among these organizations it has happily become almost a fixed principle to submit industrial disputes to conciliation or arbitration, excepting under the most extreme conditions, and Canada may rest thankful that they have not arisen within her borders. Trade and manufacture throughout the Dominion have consequently not received those terrible set backs which have been dealt them in other countries as the result of disastrous strikes and lockouts. The Canadian Governments, Dominion and Provincial, are fully alive to the great importance of keeping the happily existing pacific conditions of the labor world in perpetual force, for upon them undoubtedly, largely if not entirely depends the prosperity and future of this great country.

So long therefore as the State affords protection and help against oppression and possible, though not probable hard times, for years to come, to the working masses and supports the Church in her great work by wise legislation, so long will the industrial condition of Canada flourish and increase amid such peaceful and cheerful surroundings which alone are sufficient to bring success. It must not be forgotten however, that this work is not entirely in the interest of labor as against capital, on the contrary, the unperturbed and smooth current of the industrial stream is capital's best protection. We must look at the result of the existent harmonious relations.

What are they? Capitalists from all parts of the United States are flocking to Canada to erect plants and establish factories where they can manufacture and produce with a minimum risk of loss through industrial disputes, and at a fair and equitable rate of wages. It is certainly true that in some parts of the United States wages are considerably higher in specific lines of work than in others, but this is more than offset by the greater cost of living and the precariousness of the tenure of the job arising solely from strikes and lockouts or the more rapid industrial changes to which our enterprising neighbours are subject. When a United States artisan visiting Montreal a little while ago was explaining to a resident mechanic who also had worked in the States that he could get so much higher rate of wages over the border than in Canada, the Kanuck promptly answered "Yes, but it costs you a dollar or two more per day to live and the concerns here are so solid that it is usually your own fault if you cannot keep a steady job for life." Capital is therefore more secure against organized attitude in Canada, and where time is the essence of a contract and penalties are enforceable if time limits are not fulfilled, manufacturers and contractors, can nearly always rely on being able to complete their work according to the letter of their agreements.

We may safely say, that this combination of fortuitous conditions, has during the past ten years produced such an increase in Montreal and vicinity of plants, factories and a variety of industries which no other city of her size can boast of. The number of concerns, with modern and up to date plants, installed during the past year, and now being constructed in the neighbourhood of the Canadian commercial metropolis, is little short of marvellous. They offer employment to many thousands of hands, skilled and unskilled, at wages, which not only insure the workman with a large family a good living, but that which is nearly as important, a sufficiency to put by for the rainy day, which sooner or later, for a longer or shorter period, comes to all. These great and increasing advantages should not fail to be appreciated by all the vast body of earnest, willing and able workers. That they have been appreciated is fully demonstrated by the flourishing condition of the Savings Bank departments of the numerous financial institutions of the country. The large proportion of showings per capita of the working population of a country, is an unmistakable sign of the prosperity and independence of the majority of its inhabitants. A good and steadily increasing savings bank account, produces increased self reliance among the workers, individually and collectively, strengthens their hands, and enables them to

(Continued on page 24.)

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