

Let us make good our boast! Many handsome fortunes have been made by Toronto men out of Toronto's prosperity during the last few years. I confidently appeal to them, I appeal to all, in this noble cause. I believe they will recognize their duty, and will feel it to be their pleasure too. I cannot believe that they will suffer this institution, no insignificant part of the elements which make Toronto what she is, to become a reproach instead of an ornament. No! Let me hope that, with your aid and sympathy, they may come freely and gladly forward, and so enable us at once to go on with our good work on all the indicated lines."

The demoralization of the building trades in Chicago, consequent upon the great strike of the carpenters in that city last month, has led the *Chicago Graphic* to propose that the Government shall pass a law requiring all such differences between employers and employees to be settled by an appeal to arbitration. The right of the State to interfere in such matters it bases on the ground that society may be, and often is injured by such a sudden cessation of work in any important industry, that this is a matter which concerns more than the employers and laborers who are the principal parties to the dispute. "The relations of employer and employee," says the *Graphic*, "are not only a matter of concern to themselves, but a matter of the greatest possible concern to the whole community. They are not a mere private interest, but a public interest, and it is only by adopting some method of preventing, not the success of strikers but the breaking out of strikes, that the public can be protected." The advantages to be derived from such an arrangement are, that strikes would become less frequent if both parties were under obligation to state their case before an impartial tribunal, and that, should a strike occur, the suspension of labor pending a settlement would not necessarily be of any considerable duration, and would not be attended with the demonstrations which so often characterize important strikes. The mere obligation to put their differences before such a tribunal, would have a tendency on the one hand to make employers more careful and considerate in the treatment of their workers, and on the other hand to deter the most self-respecting and intelligent of the working men from countenancing foolish demands, for the reason that it would be distasteful to either of them to see their conduct condemned by an impartial tribunal. Then, too, there would be no call for public processions or mass meetings or inflammatory harangues. The walking delegate, the demagogues, the instigators of discontent, the advocates of violence would find their occupations gone. The man who "works with his jaw" would be forced to work with his hands. The employer who "grinds the face of the poor" would be required to pay a fair wage for an honest day's work. It would be both contestants on the same level, and a dispassionate and impartial tribunal would keep the scales of justice between capital and labor, and their quarrels to a minimum.

before precipitating that undesirable state of things known as a strike. But that the adoption of such a measure would prove all its advocates hope, or that it is the more excellent way to prevent these industrial contests, is open to serious question. The mere fact of being compelled to refer their disputes to arbitration has no power to beget a feeling of good-will between the parties concerned. And this is the *raison qua non* of a peaceful and permanently harmonious relation. A question, therefore, of greater importance than how to force employers and employees to settle their dispute, in case they cannot agree as to terms, is how to foster and develop a feeling of good-will between them, a feeling that would render a strike more ally impossible. In this connection if experience counts for anything it goes to show that this can be done, but that it can only be done by adopting some measure or system which will create the impression that there is on both sides a disposition to act justly towards each other. And just here the testimony of the Social Economy section of the great Exposition held in Paris last year is of very great advantage in showing what has already been done towards solving the difficult labor problem. The promoters of that section had taken for their motto: "To point out to masters and workmen who, so far, had done nothing, the example of those who know how to act, and had acted with success." By the authority of the Dominion Government Mr. Jules Helbronner, one of the commissioners of the Labor Commission created by the Government in 1886 to study the relations between capital and labor, was appointed to gather information bearing upon the social questions of the times. This Mr. Helbronner has done with great care and skill, and has presented the Canadian public with a large volume of facts and statistics which will prove of immense value to the citizen who would speak intelligently upon these burning questions.

In his report Mr. Helbronner gives special prominence to the system of "participation in profits" which he discusses at considerable length, introducing the testimony of many manufacturers and employers of labor who have adopted the system in their establishments. As an illustration of its working take the following case of Chaix Printing House, Paris, which is only one of forty-one similar accounts:

Profit-sharing is established in the house on the following basis: 15 per cent. of the net profits are divided among the participants in proportion to their wages; one-third of the share coming to each is paid in cash;  $\frac{1}{3}$  is paid to the Provident and Retiring fund, and can only be touched when the participant leaves the establishment; one-third is paid to the provident and retiring fund and can only be touched after 20 years' service, and at 60 years of age. The result gives an average of 6 per cent. on the wages, from 1872 to 1888. Besides the workmen's share there is also the apprentices'; they share in the profits realized on the work done by them. The proceeds are paid them when they finish their apprenticeship, and form an amount varying between \$100 and \$120.

Comparing the various accounts of the working of the system it is noticeable that no definite proportion of the net profits is considered essential to the working of the system. In some establishments it is more, some less, ranging from 10 to 50 per cent. profits. Nor are there any hard and fast conditions which must be met; each establishment being free to lay down conditions as one of the manufacturers says: "There is no one thing absolute in the working of the system. Moreover, it is not a question of money. It is a question of spirit. It is a question of the spirit which speaks in the heart."

the highest terms of the advantages of the system, how that while tending to induce greater economy and diligence on the part of the workmen—a state of things devoutly to be wished—it naturally begets an interest between employers and men in each other's welfare. Perhaps the system of profit-sharing is too young to absolutely pronounce in regard to it, being still in the experimental stage. But though it is not certain that its general introduction would usher in that golden age for which workmen long have sighed, it is hardly open to question that the system honestly worked would have a wonderful influence in preventing strikes, and in bringing master and men more nearly together in a bond of mutual respect and genuine good-will.

It may perhaps be necessary for the protection of the limbs and lives of the citizens that those, who having grown weary of the rate at which they have perambulated for a quarter of a century, less or more, have adopted the bicycle as a means of locomotion, shall be required "to ring a bell at a distance of twenty-five feet from any street crossing or intersection of streets which they may be approaching, and shall continue ringing such bell at short intervals until they have passed such crossing," but it is well nigh crazing to the man of sensitive nerves to contemplate the result when the army of bicyclist, which swarms on some of our principal streets set up their simultaneous ringing. If some means could be devised by which the discordant noises could be reduced to harmony the outlook would not be so alarming, but until some genius with a soul of music shall bless the world with such an invention the future for the Toronto citizen looks gloomy enough. Jesting aside, however, the proposed by-law would seem to be a necessity, as the recklessness of some bicyclists is a constant menace to the safety of pedestrians, while their impudent claim to right of way is to say the least very annoying. But now, limited to a maximum speed of six miles an hour, prohibited from riding along sidewalks or foot pavements, and compelled to signal their approach to any street crossing the danger from this source will be reduced to a minimum.

Though made up largely of statistics, which are proverbially dry, the City Treasurers estimates, as presented to the Council the other night, furnish interesting and instructive reading, and ought to be carefully studied by every citizen of Toronto. The estimates for the current year amount to over seven million dollars, being about half a million more than those of last year. To raise the amount for schools, police, and the amounts required by the various committees, such as water works, fire department, parks and gardens, markets and health, etc., a tax of 17 $\frac{1}{2}$  mills will be required. It is thought, however, that after the necessary pruning is over this rate will be reduced by at least two mills. Should this supposition be realized the rate of taxation this year will exceed that of last by only  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mill, which will leave Toronto little to complain of on the score of taxation.

In preparing his budget, Treasurer Coady was led to state some interesting comparisons and items of information. The area of Toronto, he says, is 14,963 acres, or 23.3-5 square miles, about the same as the area of New York, with a population of 1,750,000, and larger than that of Chicago with a population approaching 1,000,000. The rate of taxation in 1880 was 17 mills on the dollar, including a rate of 2 mills, yielding \$100,000 for new roadways, sidewalks and

general street maintenance. Now there is 78 miles of cedar, stone and asphalt pavements and many miles of stone, etc., paid for by special assessment, maintenance of which, however, costs upwards of \$150,000 annually and is a charge upon the general taxation. The net debt of the city is at present \$12,875,521.00 which is but 8.4 per cent of the last assessment, while the debt at the close of 1879 was 11.1 per cent of the then assessment. It will thus be seen that though the debt has more than doubled within the last decade, owing to the phenomenal growth of the city whose assessment is now nearly three times what it then was, its financial condition has actually improved. And this notwithstanding the enormous outlays rendered necessary by the rapid growth of the city.

The theory of Prince Bismarck that the discontent of the masses in Russia and Germany is due to education is one that will hardly find many friends among the educated and intelligent classes. The ex-Chancellor says: "Over-education has led to much dissatisfaction and disappointment in Germany, but in Russia it has led to disaffection and conspiracy. There are ten times as many people educated for the higher walks as there are places to fill. Further, education is making pedantic theorists and visionaries unfit for constitutional government. It would be madness to put such men in authority. The Russians do not know yet what they want. They must therefore be ruled with a rod of iron." Prince Bismarck would have come nearer the truth if instead of condemning the quantity, he had found fault with the quality of the education. A course of instruction that begets an aversion to honest labor, however menial, or renders a man less capable to perform the duties of even manual callings is sadly deficient in character. Of such education it is not difficult to believe that it does harm. Probably the Russians and Germans have been cursed with instruction of this kind.

There is some probability that the increased duty of 30 per cent. on barley, proposed by the McKinley Tariff Bill, will not pass the Senate Finance Committee, owing to the opposition of the brewer's throughout the Union. These insist that the increase in the duty on barley to 30 cents will be very injurious to the American brewers, and that it can hardly fail to result in increasing the price of beer. The shrewd politicians who control the Senate Finance Committee know very well that beer will be drunk in that country whatever the tariff on barley may be, and they also know that it will not be to the benefit of the dominant party if the brewers shall increase the price of beer, and make it clearly appear that the Republicans' Congress are responsible for it. The representatives from the cities, especially those who have large German constitencies, have suggested to the Finance Committee that the American farmer has quite enough in the rest of the agricultural schedule, and that it will be expedient to give the brewers and the beer drinkers a chance. Should this clause be struck out of the bill it will be greatly to the advantage of the Canadian farmers, who saw in the increased duty on barley one of the most unfavorable features of the bill. No decision, however, has as yet been reached, either as to the proposition to reduce, or the rate if a reduction shall be agreed upon.

The French minority of the Manitoba legislature who opposed the passage of the bills abolishing the Separate Schools of the province, and providing for other education,