

The Board of Commerce

According to a statement published on September 4 by the new Board of Commerce in answer to certain criticisms that it has not sufficient power to be effective in putting down profiteering wherever it may be found, two members (Judge Robson and Mr. F. T. O'Connor, K. C.) are evidently satisfied that it have all the power necessary. Be that as it may the proof of their statement will be in results. In the United States the authorities seem determined to punish the profiteer. In Great Britain, too, the profiteer is having a hard time, for he is treated summarily by the local magistrates who show him no mercy, and it remains for the Commerce Board to show just cause for its existence by doing something to satisfy the citizens that the day of the profiteer in Canada is over.

Part of the Statement sent out by Commerce Board reads as follows:

"The Board possesses wide and ample powers and these it proposes to fearlessly exercise. Its efforts not all of

which it can now or ever publicly disclose, are already bearing fruit, as reference to the market reports appearing daily in the public press will make apparent. The Board would add that in its judgment prices are bound to quickly and substantially fall and it cannot too seriously impress upon the business community this fact. The citizens of Canada have had to compete in a world market for products, food especially, which have been produced practically at their doors. The prices realizable for export trade have dominated the home market. Within the last 24 hours, Mr. Hoover, in a statement at Paris, has drawn attention to the fact that wharves and warehouses in northern European ports are overflowing with foodstuffs, principally meats and dairy products, and that for these there is no immediate market. The end of the export period in these commodities, is, therefore, in sight, and since this is so, the excuse that food products are held for export will no longer be accepted. Such stocks will have to be placed upon the Canadian market. If those who hold them hold them too long, the stocks are likely to be put upon the market in such a manner as to produce a glut, with the inevitable consequences. The Board would prefer that it should not become necessary for it to exercise its compulsory functions, so that it takes this opportunity of calling upon all whom these remarks may concern to forthwith reduce their storage stocks of food."

Police Strikes

In the old country the police have not been as successful in their strikes as was anticipated by the leaders. As a matter of fact in each case the local strike was a fiasco and largely because the men, in spite of agitators, realized that the very conditions under which they were engaged "for the protection of life and property," not only barred them from taking part in general strikes as strikers, but that at such a time their oath called for more vigilance on their part. Even in those cities where strikes did take place the proportion of strikers was small. According to the Home Secretary the numbers were:—

1,056 in the Metropolitan area out of 19,000.

57 in the City of London out of 1,170.

952 in Liverpool out of 2,100.

118 in Birmingham out of 1,256.

106 in Birkenhead.

63 in Bootle, and

1 in Wallasey.

This same official in referring to a police strike stated that such was "a definite act of mutiny on the part of the police, who had broken their oaths, and failed in their duty to their fellowman."

In Canada the police strikes were no more successful than in Great Britain, though hardly for the same reason. Outside the North-West Mounted Police, whose splendid efficiency is the result of the high standard of duty and keen sense of public duty impregnated into every man as soon as he dons the well known uniform, and one or two urban forces whose chiefs by precept and example daily visualize the police "Text" books, there is a tendency on the part of the average policeman in this country to place himself on a par with the layman worker. That he is just as much a factor in the good government of the city or town in which he may be located as is any member of the council, and even more so than most of the officials, does not seem to enter his mind as it should do, with the consequence that he becomes dissatisfied with his lot, and soon he is ready to join the striking fraternity. He seems to forget that his case is different from that of the

average worker whose lot is one long keen struggle against the nightmare of poverty. If every working man could have the same assurance as has the policeman of a decent living for himself and family all the year round and the same assurance from want in the time of sickness and old age there would be more contentment in the land. It is the grey nightmare of want and poverty that is ever before the mind's eye of the working-man father that makes him old before his time; a state of mind that the policeman is free from because of his sick benefits and old age pensions. It is true that in becoming a policeman a man loses much of his self-determination," but such is the trend of democracy towards collectivism and paternalism that individualism will soon lose its potency, meaning that the police system of today is to a large extent anticipating the general industrial system of tomorrow.

A UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

At a representative meeting of municipal executives of the Province of Quebec, called by the Editor of this Journal and held in Montreal under the chairmanship of Ald. Dixon, pro-Mayor of Montreal, it was decided to form a union of municipalities for the Province, those present forming themselves into a general committee to draft a constitution and present same to a convention to be held in October. The resolution which launched the new union was proposed by Mayor Leclair and seconded and supported by Mayor Prieur of Pointe-aux-Trembles and Mayor Thurber of Longueuil, and read as follows:

"That this meeting of municipal executives of the Province of Quebec, being desirous that a municipal union be formed for the Province without delay, resolve that the delegates present form themselves into a committee for the purpose of drafting a constitution to be laid before a convention of municipal executives to be called during the week previous to the opening of the Provincial Legislature;

"That the said convention be held in the city of Montreal, and that a program be prepared and proper arrangements be made to make the convention a success;

"That Mr. Omer Chaput be asked to act as secretary of the committee."

A full report of the meeting will be given in the October issue.