

PROMINENT TOPICS.

IN WINNIPEG FIVE THOUSAND skilled mechanics connected with the building trade, carpenters, bricklayers, stone cutters, lathers, plasterers, steam-fitters, painters and electrical workers are on strike because some plumbers have a misunderstanding with their employers.

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THE BUILDING TRADE, which was never so active in Winnipeg as lately, is completely stopped, and a serious blow is struck at the progress of the city, and at the welfare of the whole community, because nearly five thousand workmen, who have no grievance of their own, want to express sympathy with a handful, who have, or think they have a grievance.

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THAT WORKMEN SHOULD CO-OPERATE for the protection of their mutual interests is natural and commendable and that the plumbers should be assisted financially by the other workmen would seem perfectly reasonable, but why antagonise the whole community?

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THE SYMPATHETIC STRIKE is of all strikes the most unreasonable, most unjust and most injurious to the interests of the strikers themselves.

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ONE OF THE RESULTS anticipated from the strike is that the Canadian Northern shops will be built in Montreal instead of in Winnipeg.

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THERE IS BALM IN GILEAD for the melancholy patriots who constantly bewail the imminent commercial and industrial decadence of England. This time the soothing unguent is to be found in the last Consular report of the United States Department of Commerce and Labour. The report states that, "the two great machinery-producing countries of the world are the United States and the United Kingdom. The American leadership has been in new and skilful mechanisms to save labour costs, the British in bulk of production and export."

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TO BE MORE PRECISE the American exports of machinery for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1906, are \$93,448,397, as against \$78,979,981 for the year ending June 30, 1904. The British exports for the first six months of the year, are \$64,836,326 in 1906, as against \$52,129,317 in 1904.

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THE INCREASE IN THE EXPORTS of machinery from both countries is most gratifying. As might naturally be expected the United States leads in agricultural machinery. It has by far the largest home market for that class of articles. The United States also leads in electrical machinery cash-registers, typewriters and several other things.

IN LOCOMOTIVES, England does as much export trade in six months as the United States does in a year, in each case about six and a half million dollars worth.

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PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S LETTER to the Cuban Minister is a tolerably plain intimation that if the United States Government is forced to intervene for the pacification of the Island, it will be reluctantly compelled to assume the permanent control of the country. The President says:

"Our intervention in Cuban affairs will only come if Cuba herself shows that she has fallen into the insurrectionary habit, that she lacks the self-restraint necessary to peaceful self-government, and that her contending factions have plunged the country into anarchy.

"I solemnly adjure all Cuban patriots to band together to sink all differences and personal ambitions, and to remember that the only way they can preserve the independence of the republic is to prevent the necessity of outside interference by rescuing it from the anarchy of civil war."

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THIS IS NOTHING LESS than an ultimatum to the people of Cuba. Canadians as well as Americans now have large interests in the Island Republic, and if constabulary duty has to be done, the people whose property is in danger will not object to the policeman because he happens to be American.

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LAKE OF THE WOODS has declared a dividend of three per cent. for the half-year, or at the rate of six per cent. per annum. The statement for last year, which will be issued next month, will be of a satisfactory nature.

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WE CONGRATULATE the Winnipeg "Commercial" upon the admirable special number it has issued in connection with the meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

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THE CITY MILK INSPECTORS are to be commended for the activity with which they are prosecuting the campaign against milkmen who sell adulterated milk, a crime which does much to swell the infant death rate, and which is not a bit too severely punished by a \$10 fine.

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THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT'S last bulletin regarding milk inspection, shews that only about half of the samples collected and tested in Montreal by the Government inspectors, were found to be genuine. It would be in the public interest to give the names of vendors selling adulterated milk wider publicity than they get by being printed in an official bulletin which few of their customers see.