

reference to the workingman. We have placed him in a fair position in relation to his employer and the law. We did so in advance of the English legislation. We recognized the fact that it was essential in the interests of labour in its controversies with capital that it should be permitted to organize, and we removed the disabilities which then existed in the way of organizations and combinations. Strikes are evils, and the intelligent workingman recognizes them as such. But sometimes they were necessary evils. To have the right to act as a united body is absolutely essential to labor in these controversies with capital. I should like to have the young men of this Club devote their attention to other problems also—half social and half legislative in their nature. The question of co-operation in distribution and production is pregnant with importance. You see to what a great extent co-operation in distribution has progressed in England. It has gone beyond the retail societies, and now they have an enormous wholesale institution which supplies the retail societies. The transactions run up into the millions, and if their great experiment succeeds the relations of the laborer to the rest of the world will be almost revolutionized. Familiarity with the topic of co-operation and others of a like character is of the utmost importance to the young Canadian Liberal. We, as legislators, have to do with sanitary laws, educational laws, and with laws for regulating the hours of labor for women and children. And in all I want to say one thing to the young Canadian Liberals and one to the workingmen. I hope the workingman in Canada is not going to be satisfied with a less measure of progress in these important matters than that made in Old England. For eighty years the work of improving the condition of the workingman in these regards has been going on. For eighty years law after law has been passed as experience demonstrated its necessity. On the continent of Europe, also, great progress has been made in a few years. I hope we shall do as well even as they are doing in England. We should be ashamed to be behind them. We ought to be ashamed of such things as a statement made in Parliament, which, when it was made, caused me to be named that such a thing should be said in Canada. A gentleman on the Reform side was pointing out a diminution in the school attendance in Nova Scotia, and was answered by a gentleman on the other side. "Don't you know the reason of that? The

CHILDREN ARE BUSY IN THE FACTORIES

and can't go to school," [Applause.] Is that the sort of work we want done in this Canada of ours? Is that the way we expect to elevate the people to true

democratic principles? The young must be protected. [Cheers.] They must have time to grow strong and to be educated. England has passed through this stage, and, in the interest of the people, will not allow those things to be done of which this gentleman boasted. There are important questions beyond the pale of law. One is the inculcation of principles of economy and frugality and the spread of the system of keeping accounts among working men. I have before made a practical suggestion, which I was to repeat. I maintain that in our common schools we ought to teach the children the great masses of whom are the sons and daughters of farmers, mechanics, and labourers a simple method of keeping the daily accounts of the household or farm. It would be better than going on into advanced rules of arithmetic, which are never used after the person leaves school. (Applause). Economy and temperance are important questions, which are in your own hands. What I want to see is that mechanics and work ingmen should save something—should feel it their duty to save. Once the thing is begun, it is wonderful how you get on. To feel that he has something earned will make the mechanic an independent man, which he is not. For all this I do not except those things which are of a legislative character. There is much in a social and moral question which is beyond the legislative pale, but it is unquestionable that if you can mould your legislation in a more useful and beneficial direction, the higher the social and moral tone. It is not free trade nor is it protection, it is not competition nor is it the absence of it, it is not laws in our present state that will do, but the application to our daily lives of the principles of the Gospel is that which we ought to seek in making a country. [Loud applause.] It is the work of slow degrees. I may be called Utopian, but I believe that work is progressing, and will progress. It is our duty to set our faces toward it. We shall not reach high unless we aim high. Better aim higher than you expect to reach. With these considerations governing us as a people, legislation impossible and useless heretofore will become possible, and you will find social and moral considerations inextricably intertwine themselves with those of legislation.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

It is too late to discuss the other topic of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and I shall not trespass upon your patience. (Go on, go on.) I should rejoice if I could lay my hand on my heart and say I was mistaken, and the policy of the Government would not bring about the results I thought it would. I believe the expenditure, the enormous rapidly with which the work has been put through,