

AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER.

of having no diplomats understanding the Japanese language among ourselves. Japan will never go to war over her coolie laborers. She has no taint of what we proudly call democracy; no taint of individualism. Every individual in Japan exists for the good of the Empire; but if ever the Empire wanted an excuse for war, could she fail to find it in that limitation by courtesy? That's why—though B. C. needs labor, needs it desperately, she hesitates about throwing open her doors to the little Japs.

And now where are we as to the great need of labor in B. C.?

The Pacific Province must have labor, or see the progress that should be hers go to Washington and Oregon and California. There is practically no white Canadian labor to be had for love or money in B. C. to-day.

"Well, then," says the fruit growers, "let the Chinese who don't want to colonize or to stay, in for a limited time for limited occupations."

"Do you think we will stand that discrimination against British subjects?" demand the Hindu.

"We do not care whether you stand it or not," says B. C. "You have to stand the educational test in South Africa."

"Would B. C. welcome Oriental labor if it could get it without Oriental vices?" I asked. "It seems to me with commerce opening up with Asia, you can ill afford to biff the three biggest nations on the nose."

"You pass strict enough laws against Oriental vices, against sedition and blackmail and secret tongs and traffic in lust," said one thoroughly conversant with the situation, "and you erect a ten barred gate."

Let me repeat—these are not my views. They are the views of those out on the spot up against the real thing, where an ounce of fact is worth a ton of platitudinous theory; where one grain of common sense is worth a bushel of ideals.

And what about the I. W. W.'s? Are they to be barred out, too? Shall we run them out with the policeman's bat and the constable's gun; or—is there no middle way? Have we met them with help or a club? Have we tried to make each man a vested righter, instead of a bomb-fighter? Have we taught them that the flag is not a rag, but an emblem of enfolding justice, to them as to capital? I want you to nail down in your memory one point—the I. W. W.'s have only arisen to power in the United States since the court began granting injunctions to capital against labor, and refusing injunctions to labor against capital. Can we in Canada stop the perjuries and the forgeries and the ballot thefts and the inside loot ring? Or shall we see our civilization, too, ground to pieces between the upper and nether millstones of legalized loot and lawless riot?

AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER? That is the whole pith of the labor question in Canada to-day.