

## QUEBEC AND LABOR UNIONS.

Quebec city has undoubtedly suffered from the action of labor unions, and is suffering now, as a result of the trouble created in the shoe trade by a few disgruntled workmen acting on others. But to say that the Ship Laborers' Union is the cause of Quebec's decay as a shipping point, is not true. An observer says: "Of course the blame is not all on one side, but whether it is due to the air, or what, unions that discuss wages do not work as satisfactorily here as elsewhere. The Ship Laborers' Union is a case in point. They are blamed severely in some quarters for the decay of Quebec as a seaport. It is obvious to anyone that their union was not the only cause. The removal of sawmills farther west, nearer the sources of supply; the deepening of the channel to Montreal; the change from sailing vessels, which destroyed the ship-building industry; the advent of tramp steamers, and other conditions all contributed to build up Montreal and injure Quebec. But it is held by many fairly impartial observers that the tyranny of the Ship Laborers' Union was also an important factor. Some thirty years ago they were given a charter, ostensibly to protect them from fraud by stevedores, and for benevolent and other praiseworthy purposes, but under it they became a close corporation and framed a set of rules which are denounced as a pest to the port. Three years ago their charter was annulled, but even to-day they are practically able to maintain their rules by agreement among themselves. If a shipper objects, they say: "Get some others to do the work." They were short-sighted tyrants, and did more harm than they can understand or will admit.

## THE EMPLOYEE WHO THINKS IS WANTED.

Most business men, on a large scale, have had occasion to notice how large a proportion of their employees do their work in a routine way, apparently without reflecting upon the meaning or effect of what they are doing. And many have seen, too, how many of their retail customers, when ordering goods, do so without proper thought of how and when these are to be disposed of. An American journal says:

A business man in one of our large cities tells us that his greatest trouble through his commercial career has been in his search for the employee who thinks. The average holder of a position goes through his routine of duty in a stupid, "dumb-driven cattle" manner, absolutely refusing to think things out for himself, and thus possibly improve in method the system attending his individual line of duty. An employer very soon learns to regard an employee with interest who continually ask questions concerning his work, who seems to concentrate his mind upon his task, however insignificant, who seems to think and enjoy thinking and working. That man's talent does not long remain folded in a napkin, but speedily gains for its owner's value received, and for its owner's employer, peace and satisfaction.

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Peas	5	11 1/2
Lard	27	9
Pork	53	0
Beacon, heavy	31	0
Beacon, light	32	0
Tallow	26	6
Cheese	53	6
Cheese, new white	52	6
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