

change of officers every four years, as prevails in some of the American States, nor does it necessarily follow that a general inspection shall cease. County officers may be elected for a period of time consistent with proficiency and good behaviour, subject to clearly defined Governmental inspection. This system, we believe, will result in a more thorough inspection than where officers and inspectors are appointed by the same authority, and will remove the stigma which is too often repeated that officers receive appointments as a reward for party service.

Upon the fee system the Patrons have made no pronouncement, but in the interest of economy we contend that no greater sum should be retained by county officers than reasonable remuneration for services rendered.

It will be observed that your Grand Board has not caused petitions to be circulated during the past year to either of the Parliaments asking consideration at their hands in the interest of the masses. The 'serious consideration' with which our former petitions were greeted by both Governments has resulted in nothing practical in our interest, and the action of the Grand Association of last year led us to conclude that the time for petitions was past, and that it was necessary for the industrial classes to show by a united effort that in a democratic country the people must rule, and that the greatest number must be recognized by our legislators dispensing the greatest good.

MONOPOLISTS TREMBLING.

It is gratifying to observe that monopolists and combinsters are beginning to tremble at the strength of an organization formed to do them battle. We are not a little amused at their frantic efforts to resist the wave of independent thought which is spreading over the land. We are branded as Socialists, Anarchists, and dangerous men, and the more outspoken have said that the population would have to rise against such and hang the whole lot. Such appeals to the baser passions are only resorted to when arguments fail, and may be taken as sufficient proof that monopolists fear the influence of the united toilers, who desire, by constitutional means, to better the condition of the industrial classes. Capital has always claimed the right to combine. Manufacturers meet and determine prices in spite of the law of supply and demand. Capitalists, by united effort, strive to control the Legislature, the judiciary, and the executive. The departments of the Government are too apt to bow to their commands. Have the masses no right to consult or to combine? When toilers combine it is a conspiracy. If they defend themselves it is treason. If they attempt to persuade others that their views are correct, they are dangerous men. In Canada men are equally entitled to a voice in public affairs. Why should the monopolist and combinster assume to control the destinies of the land? The industrial classes are largely in the majority. The monopolist forgets his partizanship for the selfish purpose of advancing his personal interest. Why should not the toilers combine to advance the interest of the suffering masses.

Will the time ever come when the masses will appreciate their strength, when, for the common good, petty differences will be buried, and the long-suffering majority will stand together to obtain the greatest good for the greatest number? The time has come when men must stand up for the right, and the groaning protests and threatening taunts of pampered monopolists will avail little in stemming the tide of united effort for legislative reform, which the masses believe to be in the interest of our land.

I shall not attempt to outline the work of the session. The presence of many skilled in debate and zealous for the right is sufficient guarantee that no decisions will be arrived at without ample consideration. A great responsibility rests upon this convention. At no time in our history has there been so great need of careful and serious attention to the best interests of our order. The eyes of the Dominion are upon us. Upon the conclusions arrived at by this convention will largely depend the position we shall occupy in the land—whether a blessing to humanity or an object for ridicule to thinking men. The test is upon us. Are we equal to the task? Let gentlemanly courtesy and careful thought characterize our deliberations, and I have no fear for the result.

I desire to bear testimony to the ability and integrity of my colleagues upon the Grand Board. The utmost harmony has prevailed in all our deliberations. To their untiring efforts and careful counsel is due, to a great extent, the progress of the Patron

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