

Not Natural Enemies But Helpful Friends Are Capital and Labor.

In Canada, this Result due to Teachings of the Church.

The Peaceful and Harmonious Relations between Employers and Employed have seldom been seriously disturbed in the Dominion during the past twenty years.

No other country in the world has been so free from troubles between capital and labor, during the past twenty years as Canada. The specific and harmonious relations which are happily enjoyed between employers and employees throughout the Dominion, have practically existed during the past two decades, without having been really seriously disturbed. The work of the Catholic Church, her clergy and members, in the times of dispute, urging moderations on all sides, and wisely supporting equitable arbitration to settle the difficulties which have now and again arisen, has been one of the main factors in producing this enviable condition of affairs.

The *True Witness* reaching, as it does, the hearts and homes of the vast Catholic population of Canada, has ever made one of its features, while supporting the free independence of the working classes, and championing their rights, strong reasoning arguments against lockouts and strikes. It has sized up the 'pros' and 'cons,' and exact situation of both sides in every threatened conflict, and demonstrated in this way with success for many years past, the give and take principles which the disputing parties should adopt on every point arising in difference between them. The cooperation of the Church and her ministers, and printed organs, earnestly working in the direction of peaceable settlement by arbitration, has been an influence so powerful as to have become nigh irresistible. And one reason for this is that the love, reverence and devotion of all true Catholics for the advice and teachings of their pastors, has impelled them to listen to calm judicious counsels before rushing in to mad and thoughtless conflict which has always had the inevitable result of causing loss, misery, deprivation and lasting injury to more or less extent on every individual concerned, and alas in the most cases on those dependent upon them.

The great working classes, toiling as mechanics, artisans or laborers, know full well the deep and loving sympathy and compassion of the Church for those who earn their existence by the sweat of their brow, the majority having to endure the bitter ills of poverty from youth to old age. The main endeavor of the Church and clergy, in fact the bulk of the work they do is in the direction of assuaging the suffering, troubles and distress of the less fortunate of their fellow creatures.

When His Holiness Pope Leo XIII issued his famous Encyclical on "The Conditions of Labor" containing in language which may almost be called sublime, pleas so strong and undeniable for the amelioration of the surroundings of the working masses, and fastening upon every state in Christendom, the absolute necessity for the passage of laws to give wage earners government protection and assistance, he struck a keynote of sympathy which echoed throughout the civilized world. He had made a life long study of the modern conditions which now exist between capital and labor by reason of the growth of industry, the marvelous discoveries of science and commercial competition, watching closely during his long life, the birth, growth and development of these conditions. In his Encyclical, Leo XIII, having pointed out that classes revolve around their own interests adds: "The richer population have many ways of protecting themselves and stand less in need of help from the state. Those who are badly off have no resources of their own to fall back upon and must chiefly rely upon the assistance of the State, and it is for this reason that wage earners who are undoubtedly among the weak and necessitous should be cared for and protected by the commonwealth."

It is a matter for congratulation that Canada has recognized these great truths as fully and practically as any other country in the world. For upwards of the thirty years past, since the first congress of duly accredited representatives of labor met in Canada in 1873, the necessities of the laboring masses have been met by wise, just and sustaining legislation. Several years ago the Dominion Government established a Department of Labor to investigate and report upon conditions in this and

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