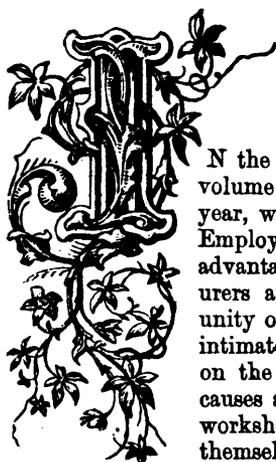


THE CANADIAN MECHANICAL MAGAZINE AND PATENT OFFICE RECORD

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HOME INDUSTRY.

*A Source of Income in
"HARD TIMES."*

IN the last number which closed the volume of this magazine for the past year, we endeavoured to point out to Employers and Employed the mutual advantages to be gained by Manufacturers and Employers working in an unity of spirit; their interests are so intimately connected, that any action on the part of the Employed which causes a stop in the machinery of the workshop is productive of injury to themselves, their employers and the world; and even if they gain their point it leads only to temporary benefit, and by no means compensating for the loss of wages and the misery brought to their families by a prolonged stand-out. Employers aggravated by these strikes, in their turn, retaliate when times like the present happen, and those most prominent as leaders are the first whose services are dispensed with. We trust that the time is not far distant when these matters will be more thoroughly understood, when the whispers of prudence and common sense will have greater sway over the minds of men, then the insidious and loud words of the discontented and disaffected; when a feeling of good will towards each other will animate the minds of both Employers and Employed, and that they will feel their interests are mutual, and that which brings a loss to one side must result also in a loss to the other.

It is one of the many well intended objects of this Magazine to be an adviser and friend to the mechanic, and convey to him in its columns not only scientific information of value to him in every line of mechanical business, but to point out to him the ways and means of benefitting his position in life, to raise his social standing, to educate its younger members, by inculcating on their minds fine feelings of honor and morality, and to afford pleasing and instructive reading to his family circle.

The Mechanics of Canada are a numerous body, and, next to the Agriculturists, the most important body of our people, and might under the influence of Education—Education the lever of power—become the strongest motive force in the Country, and even rule its future destinies. The manufacturing interests of Canada are but yet in their incipient growth, she possesses in her crude materials enormous resources of wealth, awaiting only time for development, and which judging from the rapid progress of her past prosperity and with a vision of the future before us, cannot be far off. This, however, is a subject far beyond our limits to dilate upon at present.

A new year has just dawned upon us, but there is still a depressing cloud hovering over every kind of mechanical labour, and thousands of mechanics in every trade are this month out of employment, and anxiously awaiting some movement in the wave of the commercial world to stir the stagnant waters of trade and set the tide of prosperity again a flowing. And here let us ask these questions, have the mechanics of the Dominion made any provision for a time like this?—have they in the days of high wages and plenty of employment saved out of their wages sufficient to carry them over the present hard times? have they a Savings Bank account? We fear not. We fear that many—very many—of those who for some years past have enjoyed a high rate of pay, are this day almost entirely destitute of money; and why is this so? Simply because from the want of prudence themselves and proper economy in their families, they have spent their earnings without judgment, in extravagances and wastefulness. This is a fault we regret to say peculiar to those who follow a mechanical trade. We know many a clerk, on the contrary side, receiving not half the pay of a first-class mechanic, employed, perhaps, in a wholesale-house or fashionable dry good store which necessitating that he should always keep up a certain position, rent a good house, clothe well both himself and his family, who has not only kept up his position in the world, but has enjoyed much of its real comforts and pleasures, and even been enabled to put by small savings to fall back upon in case of sickness, or loss of a situation, and this, as before said, when earning not much more than one-half the pay that a good