

CANADA

To the Editor of The Tribune:

Sir,—Just a short story to illustrate why all workmen should be unionists. Travelling in a train one day not five miles from Toronto, several fellow passengers fell into conversation. Among the number were some bricklayers going to a job up country. I happened to ask them if they belonged to the union. Another passenger sitting nearby jumped at my question, and replied, both the unions.

He said, "Now look here. I can do a little at bricklaying, carpentering, plumber work and painting, and no union can interfere with me, yet if I catch any of you meddling with my trade I will have you put into prison."

We were all very eager to know what his trade was, so we asked him.

He said he was a doctor.

Therefore, dear readers, you see it is important that we as artisans should protect ourselves. Yours truly,

J. S. R.

To the Editor of The Tribune:

Sir,—Through your columns I learn that our City Fathers are going to try to get legislation to compel the Toronto Railway Company to provide proper conveniences for their employees. They are trying to compel a company to do what they have failed to do for the citizens of Toronto themselves. Thousands will back me up when I say that this is one of the worst cities on the American continent for the public. We are forced by the hundreds into hotels, and as a compensation have a drink not needed. If the Temperance Alliance carry the reduction of fifty licenses it will make this feature much worse. The Alliance should take this up, and see the City Fathers make provision, and it would be the means of a good deal less drinking.

I am, yours, etc.,

J. S. R.

ARRESTING FOR DEBT.

We do not now arrest for debt. But the same thing is accomplished by sending the debtor to jail for what is called "contempt of court." That is, the debtor being unable to pay the debt is brought up before the judge on judgment summons and ordered to pay so much a month. If he does not pay it the judge has power to say that he (the defendant) has been guilty of contempt of court, and send him down for so many days. We are like the ostrich—we hide our heads in the sand when the enemy is in sight, thinking we cannot be seen. That is, we believe the people at large will not know we are sending the poor devil down for debt. Where the injustice comes in is this: No such procedure is found in the higher courts. It is only where the defendant is within the jurisdiction of the Police and Division Courts that the plaintiff is able to send him down amongst jail-birds for not paying the debt. If he owes a sum outside of the jurisdiction of the Division Court he cannot be brought up on judgment summons and sent down. The so-called upper classes take good care that the procedure in petty debts shall not be extended to large debts, as it might affect them. Therefore, should not the workmen keep pounding away until imprisonment for debt is done away with?

E. A. Forster.

LAW REFORM.

As a rule everybody's business is no one's business. But it seems impossible to get the majority of people to leave the beaten tracks without a struggle. Magna Charta and every reform since then has only been obtained by constant pounding away until the people woke up to the fact that the law the "agitators" or "reformers" wanted to change needed changing, and then they would wonder why they did not take a hand in before to help the good work along.

When a man is arrested, the "Crown," or people, step in and prosecute the ac-

cused. All the wealth of the community is at the back of the Crown Prosecutor, while the accused has only his own resources to depend upon. The Crown Prosecutor is only supposed to see that justice is done in the premises. And therefore one who is continually prosecuting is apt to get into a "rut" and believe every one who is arrested is guilty. And therefore feels justified in making use of all the machinery that is at his command. This course is justifiable when it turns out the prisoner is guilty of the wrong complained of. But suppose he is found to be innocent, what then? After being dragged into court and placed in the dock amongst felons and found not guilty, the court discharges him, and he walks out thanking God he is free, but forever resting under a slur, and perhaps ruined by spending all his money in defending himself from an unjust accusation. Now, is it not time for the workmen to take a hand in and get an Act passed to remedy this wrong? You or I may be the victim to-morrow. Ought it not to be the business of everyone to help in this good work? If a man is arrested wrongfully the Crown or the community represented by the Crown should pay all of his expenses, including his lost time. And if he has been unjustly imprisoned, then in addition his expenses pay him an adequate amount to recompense him for the wrong done him by the people or the Crown. And a minor injustice is being done every day by putting the accused in the dock before he is found guilty. The dock should not be used until the crime is proven. We live under English, and not French law.

E. A. Forster.

TROUBLE AT MONTREAL.

Grand Trunk Engineers and Firemen Differ With Officials.

Local Grand Trunk engineers and firemen received information from Montreal to-day that all is not lovely between their representatives and the management. The representatives of the two brotherhoods have been in the eastern city for some time holding joint and separate conferences with Third Vice-president Fitzhugh and Mr. Robb, superintendent of the motive power department. It is understood they have come to a deadlock because Mr. Robb, it is alleged, refused to confer with the firemen alone. There is a general mix up about the state of the locomotive department, brought about by the strike of the machinists, and it is said some of the men are refusing to go out on the engines because they are not kept up to a proper standard. The local officials deny that there is any serious trouble at Montreal. They admit that there is a little. They believe the request of the men will be adjusted. They also deny that their department is in bad shape. From the same source comes the statement that one of the head officials in the motive power department has been asked to send in his resignation.

Not the Same

A counterfeit of the Hatters' label is in use; it is of the same size and color as the genuine, but in design are the words, "Individual liberty." Many dealers are handling the "scab" hat under the impression that they are all right. Look out for them.

PAINTERS STRIKE.

Fort William, Oct. 15.—(Special)—Painters here and at Port Arthur struck to-day for thirty cents per hour. About thirty men are out.

A new Woman's Auxiliary of the Typographical Union has been organized in London, Ont.

The Iron Molders are still out on strike in Sarnia. The Goodwin and Doherty firm are in a bad shape. The union claims the press does not give them fair play, but they are bound to have justice, in spite of the misrepresentation of the press.

The time is fast approaching when the working people will stand in a booth, thinking and splitting tickets for what they think is the best man, but will the time approach when they will wake up to the fact that they are in the same boat as they were twenty years ago, voting and cursing themselves that they cast their vote this or that way. Do you not realize that you can never be satisfied until you put in your own Laboring Men? If you care not for yourself, why, how can you expect others to care for you. There is a time coming when you will open your eyes to the fact, but be careful you are not too late.—Niagara Breeze.

Case of the Canada Foundry Co.

At the close of last year, the management of the Canada Foundry Co., probably, growing alarmed at the numerical superiority of the Union Machinists in their employ, proceeded to make thing unpleasant for them. Taking advantage of the yearly stock-taking they discharged indefinitely about fifty men, telling them they would be sent for when they were wanted. In the local papers and in old country papers as well, an advertisement appeared at the same time, and for a few weeks previous, for machinists of all classes. This set the boys thinking. Why should they discharge men, at a time when, according to their advertisement they wanted them?

They then introduced their one-sided individual contracts, which they asked those machinists still in their employ to sign, and all new applicants as well. Their motive was plain—namely: to eliminate the union element from the shop. The next token of their esteem was the premium system of working. The harmony which had heretofore existed, ceased. The last imposition was more than even a machinist could stand. Matters came to a crisis, a committee was appointed and waited upon the management. After several interviews, which were destitute of any approach to a settlement, it was decided by unanimous vote to use the only weapon available under the circumstances. Accordingly on the 17th of May last, eighty machinists went on strike and others followed later. It is now about five months since the men went out, most of them have secured positions elsewhere, and an impression seems to exist in the public mind that things are running smoothly at the works, that the strike is by this time merely a faint recollection in the minds of the officials, of a little unpleasantness, which for a brief period inconvenienced the workings of that magnificent system (at once, the pride of the management and the citadel of the stockholders), which governs the works. That is the impression! At least, that is the impression which a few scaly individuals (who have got to do something to earn

SOVEREIGN

A Bank Account is both desirable and necessary

THE
SOVEREIGN BANK
OF CANADA

—o—

Main Office - 75 KING ST. WEST
Labor Temple Bldg. - 167 CHURCH ST.
Market Bldg. - 168 KING ST. EAST.

BANK

SECURITY

SAVINGS

their salary, wish to create. Things are not running smoothly by any means. They have got men it is true, but, very few machinists. Their position is that of a shop filled with apprentices. It is only in rare cases that a piece of work is turned out right the first time, and men are continually being discharged for spoiling work. With conditions like the above in the shop, those still on strike are as confident of success to-day as they were the first month of the strike.

UNION MAN.

He Got Another Heater

An Episode of the McClary Strike.

Quite recently, in a meeting room on Richmond Street, a couple of individuals were engaged in conversation when the statement was made by one of them that he was going to buy a new stove, and he wanted to know where he could get one from a firm where no trouble was on with the union. The other gave him the necessary information and then added "I am building a new house and it is to be heated with a furnace. I never bothered my head about where the furnace was made until the moulders strike took place and then I took the trouble to enquire. The architect informed me that he had decided to put in a McClary furnace, when I told him that kind of a furnace would not suit at this time and that he must put in another make. I was decided that no strike heater should go in a house of mine, and so the result was the McClary Furnace did not go in, and my advice to anybody who is building a house and putting in a furnace, is to find out where said furnace comes from and see if it fills the bill." The editor of the Banner heard this conversation and can give the names if required. We simply state it as an item of news that we know to be absolutely correct, without any comment which we think is unnecessary.—Industrial Banner.

It's up to you as a good union man to assist organized labor by patronizing those firms advertising in the Tribune.