

But the irony of events, even as they are recorded in the *Mail* shows that both Mr. Cain, the British iron master, and the *Mail*, itself as a prognosticator of things that won't happen, are in error, for in the same issue of that paper it prints a telegram from Montreal to the effect that Messrs. Nettlefold and Steer, of Birmingham, England, had been making overtures to the Montreal authorities for the erection of extensive iron mills in that city, the only thing holding the scheme in abeyance seeming to be in obtaining satisfactory terms from the city authorities regarding the matter of taxation; and it contained a half column account of a meeting that been held here in Toronto on the previous day by the mayor of the city and a number of gentlemen who are large local consumers of iron who want and will have an extensive iron rolling mill in Toronto.

The Nettlefold's, of Birmingham, England, are large consumers of iron, and as manufacturers of hardware their name is known and their reputation established throughout the world. They are "capitalists" even according to Mr. Cain's definition of the word, and if they should see proper to establish large iron mills in Canada, as it seems they propose doing, it is not at all likely that the enterprise will end in a first class collapse. Neither is it probable that such a fate would await the Toronto rolling mill project, especially when such experienced heads and able financiers as have the matter in hand stand behind it. The opinion and money of such men as Mr. H. A. Massey, of the Massey Manufacturing Company; Mr. Ostrander, of Cleveland, Ohio; Mr. T. D. Beddoe, of the Hamilton, Iron Forging Company; Mr. James Worthington, of the Ontario Bolt Company, and many others are a guarantee of success, even against the carping and ill will of all the newspapers in Canada, which profess to believe that Commercial Union with the United States is our only salvation.

Mr. Cain, of Barrow-in-Furness, England, may not be aware of the fact that there are rolling mills and iron works already in existence in Canada, although, as the *Mail* says, he has recently visited Montreal and Quebec, but the *Mail* should not stultify itself nor deceive its readers by concealing its knowledge of the existence of quite a large number of such establishments, scattered all the way from Nova Scotia to Ontario—from St. John to Hamilton. If it doesn't know of the existence of these rolling mills, what it doesn't know regarding Canadian manufacturing industries would fill a great many books.

THE LABOR CONGRESS.

THE third annual session of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress opened in Hamilton September 27th and was in session three days. It was a good representative assembly of the more intelligent portion of the laboring classes of the country, and much of the business transacted was of a practical and beneficial character. Of course there were many delegates present who made themselves conspicuous by their much speaking to impracticable resolutions, in which respect they resembled many in other deliberative bodies. Many of the resolutions that were passed foreshadowed legislation that should be had by both the Dominion and Provincial governments, and which, if enacted into laws, would be of great

benefit not only to the laboring classes but to manufacturers and the community generally.

Among the resolutions which if crystalized into laws would probably result in much good were those which call upon the government to pass laws compelling all vessels to carry competent crews; to make it compulsory to have hulls and rigging properly inspected by competent men; to prevent the overloading of vessels; that armed and uniformed private police, or detectives, be declared illegal; that all railway companies be compelled to block all frogs, and make such other necessary improvements as will protect the lives of employees and passengers, and that the neglect to do so be considered a criminal offence; for the encouragement of night schools; that the allowances now granted by provincial legislatures to universities and colleges be transferred to the public schools for the purpose of further promoting their efficiency and providing pupils with books free of charge; against the monopolizing of public lands by corporations and speculators; against all prison labor when it may be brought into competition with free labor; that the government shall not sell the services of convicts to contractors unless in such manner and at such prices that unfair competition with free labor will not result; that it be required that some distinguishing mark be placed upon all prison made goods; that no property be exempt from taxation; against assisted emigration to this country; that landlords be placed on the same footing with other creditors, and that all engineers, or those having charge of steam engines be required to pass an examination, and their competency certified to before being allowed to take charge of any such engines.

These resolutions all point in the direction of needed legislation, and it is to be hoped that the wishes of the delegates and of labor organizations generally in these matters may be realized.

We would have been very glad to have recorded the fact that the congress had not done or attempted a great deal of pernicious work. But the anarchistic socialist was there, and mouthing jawsmiths, talking against time, occupied the attention of the congress to the exclusion of more profitable discussion.

A resolution was unanimously passed which embodied the fundamental principles of the Henry George theory regarding the ownership of land, the mover expressing the opinion that no man should have any more land than he could work by his individual exertions. This was a bad case of jawsmith. An entirely impracticable resolution was passed demanding that the patent laws should be so changed that when a patent is granted a royalty price should be fixed, upon the payment of which any person should be allowed to manufacture the patented article. The government would have the right to abolish all patent laws if it so desired, but once having granted a patent to an invention, such patent becomes his individual personal property, and the government would not have any right to compel him to sell the whole or any part of it any more than it would to compel him to sell his horse or cow against his will. A resolution asking that the public instruction of youths be enlarged so as to include the establishment of institutions adapted to instruction in the mechanical arts was objected to on the ground that it would flood the labor market with too many skilled mechanics, and thus depreciate the value