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DELIVERED IN MONTREAL, at the 50th. Anniversary of the
BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE FIREMEN AND
ENGINEMEN.

Dec. 2nd. 1923.

This is the first opportunity I have had of attending a gathering of one of the great railway brotherhoods. My first impulse is to assure you that I appreciate the privilege, as I value the honour, and that I feel in this assembly of workers perfectly at home. It is composed of men who spend their days in difficult and hazardous toil, whose occupations demand not only that industry without which all life is a failure, but, in an unusual degree, fidelity, sobriety and courage. And just as these qualities are necessary and therefore in constant exercise so they are generated and developed and become second nature to railway men. Everyone therefore who values those human properties which make for useful living should be glad of a chance to be among you.

As a matter of fact the associations that are worth while are associations of workers. I don't mean workers in one field alone, or even manual workers alone. Intelligent ~~toil~~ of every kind is both the inevitable lot and the best possession of mortals. By intelligent and faithful labour, and only by this means, are conditions in the world improved and the lot of mankind made better.

One of your officers has prepared a pamphlet - a history of this brotherhood through its half century of growth. I am glad I read that pamphlet. It has given me an understanding of the gradual development of the trade union movement on this continent - and of how its energies have turned sometimes to services of relief and beneficence among its members - some times to contests with its employers and sometimes to both combined. Like every other institution it groped its way, it profited by failure and learned by experience.

It owes its success chiefly to the wise direction of a few able men. I could not help observing that this association flourished brightest and accomplished the most for its members during those times when general conditions were good, and how in hard and trying

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