

THE MANUFACTURERS AND THE LABOR CONGRESS.

The annual convention of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and the annual congress of the Trades and Labor organizations, both of which were held in Montreal in the same week last month, have proved the most important in the history of both bodies, not only because the attendance was the largest on record, but because of the character of the resolutions passed. The Canadian Manufacturers' Association, which now numbers 1,511 in its firm memberships, passed resolutions re-affirming previous resolutions calling for a general revision of the tariff on the broad lines of adequate protection to all native industries, even including the agricultural interests and the fisheries and forests. The preference in favor of Great Britain and the British colonies is approved of as against foreign countries, but the association does not favor a preference involving the extinction of a native Canadian industry; nor does it approve of a system of bounties as a substitute for protection. Whatever difference of opinion may exist among outsiders as to these questions, we fancy there will be a general endorsement of the resolution to organize a fire insurance company as a protest against the attempt of the regular insurance corporations to make the merchants and manufacturers of Toronto and the Province of Ontario pay for the fire of last April by an extra assessment that bears no relation to normal risks. We understand that steps will be taken to create this insurance organization at once. The proposal made for an association trip to the Old Country next summer is one which, if carried out, may have important results by bringing British and Canadian manufacturers into closer touch, and leading them into co-operation instead of competition.

The Trades and Labor congress, which comprised forty-eight councils and twenty-three federal unions, with an aggregate membership of 22,000, exclusive of twenty-one unions not affiliated, took high ground in the conduct of their convention. Indeed, the leaders viewed the facts around them with a breadth of vision and a statesmanship that did equal honor to their heads and hearts, and is in most favorable contrast to some of the eccentric legislation of similar bodies abroad. The congress passed a resolution in favor of better observance of the Sabbath, and one calling on all the unions to urge their members to abstain from intoxicants. Another very important resolution was one in favor of the Government ownership of telephones, and asking for legislation favoring the municipal ownership of local lines. This was carried unanimously, and another resolution passed asking the Quebec Government to appoint competent boiler inspectors to prevent loss of life by explosions. Not the least hopeful sign of a broader and more tolerant spirit in trades unionism in Canada was the resolution proposing a conference with the Canadian Manufacturers' Association with a view to arriving at a peaceful method of settling disputes between capital and labor. Such a proposal not only shows that the labor men recognize the

enormous loss to both sides involved in a dispute as to wages, etc., but it also implies a recognition that capital has a right to a fair return for its use and investment. If, as we hope, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and others representing capital, such as the railway and street railway corporations, will meet the Trades and Labor Committee with a serious determination to adjust differences, each seeing the other's side of the case, a new era will dawn in the industrial history of Canada. Millions of money would be saved that is now worse than squandered in contests that leave nothing but bitterness behind; and, what is more vital, the moral degradation of enforced idleness and the deprivations that innocent people have to suffer would be reduced immeasurably. But capitalists and employers of labor must remember that their responsibilities for the right use of money and position are heavy.



THE VISITING ENGINEERS AND ELECTRICIANS.

The visit to Canada last month of so many representative members of the Institution of Civil Engineers of Great Britain is a timely one, and should result in much good to both countries. Engineers are not much given to speech-making, but are men who "do things," and the few remarks made in public by our British visitors show that their practical minds have quickly grasped the importance of Canada as a pillar in the edifice of empire. The penetrating mind of Sir William White, for example, realizes instantly the potentialities of the colossal water-powers of Canada and the unspeakably lavish gifts of nature in the way of navigable lakes and rivers, to say nothing of sea coasts. We know something of the value of these water-powers from the industrial activities created by the use of the few that are already developed, but who can measure the industrial forces to be brought into the service of the country by the water-powers yet undeveloped and unknown? Within a radius of fifty miles of Ottawa a million horsepower has been measured, of which not one per cent. has been electrically utilized. In northern Canada we know, from the nature of the country and the source of the rivers and streams, that there are water-powers by the hundred yet unmeasured, or even explored. The statement that Canada contains 40 per cent. of the water-power of the world may prove to be within the mark rather than outside. These powers, combined with our enormous mineral, timber and agricultural resources and our vast systems of inland navigation are not put here by Providence for Canadians to boast possession of merely. They are a trust which it is our duty rightly to use for the benefit of the world, ourselves included, and to turn to account in behalf of the millions who will shortly seek homes in the vast unoccupied lands of the British half of America. In this great task our admitted present lack is capital, and our British visitors can, and no doubt will, direct their friends at home to safer channels of investment in the country than many British capitalists have unfortunately been led in the past through the speculative promoter. It is not only in this respect that