

interest with the employer in the successful conduct of the business; the latter postulates an irreconcilable hostility and is ever compassing the embarrassment or ruin of the employer, all the while ignoring the fact that capital and labour are the two blades of the shears which, to work well, must be joined together by the bolt of mutual confidence, but, if wrenched apart, are both helpless and useless.

It is also necessary for the unions, in order to win recognition, to leave no doubt in the minds of employers that they appreciate the obligation of contract, and in this regard we are glad to note that the importance of this is realized by the majority of the unions and their leaders, as is illustrated by the letter of the president of the International Boilermakers' Union, already quoted.

#### Definition of rights and duties of Unions needed.

The majority of workmen feel the necessity for some kind of organization, and organize they will, in some form or other, and therefore their right to combine to improve their conditions and to form unions for that purpose ought to be better recognized and regulated by law than it is. It is better that they be encouraged to establish legitimate unions which will be clothed with responsibility for the exercise of power, and which will, therefore, be more readily recognized and dealt with by employers, than that they should join secret organizations, some of which are really nothing more than conspiracies against society in general and employers in particular.

At the present time nearly all the industrial callings in Canada are organized, and some three or four score of them as integral parts of international unions which have their headquarters in the United States.

#### International Organizations.

It is, we think, a very difficult question as to how far the joining by Canadians of these organizations ought to be sanctioned or interfered with. Many of them claim the right to approve of any settlement

which may be arrived at between the employer and their members as the result of a strike, especially if the members have been receiving strike pay, as, for instance, in the case of the Western Federation of Miners, Article V, section 2 of the constitution, of which is as follows:—

Any contract or agreement entered into between the members of any local union and their employers as a final settlement of any difficulty or trouble that may occur between them shall not be considered valid or binding until the same shall have the approval of the executive board of the Western Federation of Miners.

Nor is any contract recognized as valid which conflicts with the rules of the union, which are generally framed to suit the union without the authority or sanction of any law. It is thus plain that a Canadian, when he joins such a union, surrenders a considerable portion of his freedom in matters of contract to a small body of men in a foreign country, and is, to that extent at all events, subject to their dictation. However, so far as we have been able to gather, the control exercised by these foreign officials has, generally speaking, not been inimical to the interests of the Canadian members either as workmen or as British subjects. They have, generally speaking, stood for the observance of contracts, and appear on the whole to realize the necessity for fair and reasonable dealing with the employers, although the cases of the Bakers' Union and the Garonne, already detailed, are conspicuous exceptions.

The main arguments advanced by Canadian workmen for the necessity of joining these international organizations are as follows:—First, that they are too few in numbers to form effective organizations of their own. For instance, in the case of the printers, there are only about 2,400 union men in all Canada, whereas in the International there are about 55,000. This body is strong enough to maintain a large benefit fund and a home for destitute and aged printers in Colorado. Second, there is greater economy in the administration of the international body, and so a greater margin for benefit funds. Third, membership in such organization practically insures work anywhere in North America. All the member

has to do is to present his membership card to any official who proceeds to secure him work, and until he gets it he is assisted by the union. Fourth, in the event of strike, they have the co-operation and financial aid of a powerful body, and the chances of substitute labour coming from the other side to take their places are reduced to a minimum, as of course no members of the union would come over to take their places.

The chief objection to the system of international unions is the liability of Canadian workmen to interferences by the officials in matters of contract and settlement of differences with their employers. If, however, parliament were to declare that notwithstanding anything contained in the constitutions or in the rules of the international bodies, any agreement arrived at by the employer with his employees in settlement of disputes shall be valid and binding, we think the most formidable objection to these bodies would be removed.

#### Certain Labour Organizations not Legitimate Trade Unions.

There is, however, a class of so-called union developing rapidly in Western America, which is really not a trade union at all, but a secret political organization whose members are bound by an oath so strong as to be considered a shield against giving any but forced testimony before the Commission. The primary object and common end of this class of organization is to seize the political power of the state for the purpose of confiscating all franchises and natural resources without compensation, and to this class belong the American Labour Union, the Western Federation of Miners and the United Brotherhood of Railway Employees, with an aggregate membership of between 200,000 and 300,000 men. These three, as already stated, are in confederation with each other, the two latter being affiliated with the former, and, as we have just seen, their leaders were engaged in a conspiracy to sweep all the employees of the Canadian Pacific Railway into the

United Brotherhood, and all coal miners into the Western Federation, and no doubt with a view to being able to stop all transportation and coal mining whenever it might appear expedient in the advancement of the common end.

All these bodies have declared for socialism, and the following resolution was, we understand, passed by a vote of 125 to 20 at the last convention of the Western Federation of Miners, held at Denver on June 4, 1903:

Whereas, the natural resources of the earth upon which humanity depends are being swiftly concentrated into the hands of the privileged few; and

Whereas, political independence is a bauble and a delusion while the tolling millions bear the yoke of wage slavery in the industrial field; and

Whereas, no man among the vast army of labouring humanity can successfully assert his manhood while his necessities make him a suppliant at the feet of another for a job which he must have to sustain life; and

Whereas, the privileged few who own the jobs which the many must have must necessarily own the man; and

Whereas, capitalism can never be dethroned and wage slavery abolished until the natural resources of the earth and the machinery of production and distribution shall be taken from the hands of the few by the political power of the many, to become the collective property of all mankind, to be utilized for the use and benefit of all humanity; and

Whereas, the socialist party is the only political party in any nation of the world that demands that the land and the machinery of production and distribution shall become the common property of all, and that labour shall receive the full product of its toil;

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the delegates of the Western Federation of Miners in their eleventh annual convention assembled, reaffirm the political policy of the tenth annual convention, believing that the principles enunciated by the socialist party will make man the 'noblest work of God,' woman the queen of the home, and the child the bud and blossom of an emancipated generation.

An amendment to the constitution was also passed, obligating the local unions to obey the direction of the executive when called upon by them to go out on strike, which has not yet been submitted to the referendum, as required by the constitution, and as already mentioned a resolution was also adopted at the request of the United Brotherhood of Railway Employees declaring the Canadian Pacific Railway 'unfair.'