

manufacturer has been *practically bonused* to the extent of \$20,000,000," or four millions of pounds. And one of the trade commissioners of Canada, Mr. P. B. Ball, of Birmingham, writes: "Since I have been in this country I have found it very largely due to the indifference of the manufacturer that more trade has not been done with the colonies—or probably I should say with Canada." So when we are somewhat gratuitously told: Your preference tariff is no good as a stimulator of trade, we are able to retort: Possibly not, but if you English had been as smart as the Yankees and the Germans it would have been.

#### TRADES UNION LAW.

It chanced that in the same journal which describes the issue of two writs by the Gurney Foundry Company, one against striking workers in Toronto, the other against the Western Foundry, of Wingham, for enticing away the plaintiff's workmen, appears a report of two recent cases in Great Britain in which decisions were given adverse to Trades Unions. They were before the Court of Appeal. The first, which concerned "the Welsh stop-day" had been tried before Justice Bigham last year. On that occasion, the plaintiffs, the Glamorganshire Coal Company and seventy-three other colliery proprietors sued the Miners' Federation for damages of £76,000.

The judge held, according to the report of the case in "Engineering," that:

The federation had not rendered itself liable, because it was actuated by an honest desire to benefit the members, and not by any malice towards the employers; and, further, that the defendant federation had no prospect of personal gain. The appeal was against that decision, and the appeal was allowed. The points raised were not new ones. It was a case of breach of contract, and the federation not only advised the men to break the contracts, but actually instructed them to do so, and called the men out. The federation, in its action, did not differ materially from that taken by the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants in the Taff Vale case.

The second case was of an entirely different character. It arose out of defalcations in a branch of the Amalgamated Laborers' Union. The defaulting officer of the branch was proceeded against for the recovery of the money, without much success, so he was expelled from the Union; and thus far the Union was within its legal limits. But here trouble began. When this dismissed workman obtained work, the secretary of the Union told the workman's employer that if the defaulting member was given work all the union men would stop work. Upon this the man was discharged. Now mark what follows:

The discharged man brought an action against the secretary, the treasurer, and the Union. He was awarded £100 as damages against Williams, the secretary, Mr. Justice Walton ruling that the Union as a body, and Toomey, the treasurer, were not responsible for the action of the secretary. This seemed arbitrary, and the decision was appealed against, and the appeal was allowed, the Lords Justices Vaughan, Williams, Romer, and Stirling being agreed that the Union was responsible. This is in harmony with the Taff Vale case, and other cases fixing responsibility

upon the Union for the action of its officials. Some of the labor leaders are startled by these two decisions. It is stated that the member for Battersea rather welcomed them, declaring that it would "force our people (the unions) to see their real position. We must work for an alteration of the law, and the worse the law turns out to be the better case we shall have." But the English bench has a strong and wholesome regard for the sacredness of contracts, and will be in no haste to alter the laws in this regard merely to please trades-unions.

#### CROP AND HARVEST IN THE WEST.

The following is our Winnipeg despatch of this week, concerning the condition of the grain crops in Manitoba and the Territories. It is dated noon of yesterday: "Harvest conditions have not been as favorable as could be desired during the past week. Heavy rains have fallen and there has been frost at various points, though no reports of damage have resulted from it. Considerable grain throughout the Territories has still to be cut, though cutting is almost completed in Manitoba, and threshing well under way."

#### BRITISH VISITORS TO CANADA.

Whatever susceptibility to irritation may have been shown by some of the British Chambers of Commerce delegates over the so-called protectionist views of Canadians in academic discussion, and however misguided they may have thought us in differing with them as to the future scope of inter-imperial trade, they now show nothing but the frankest admiration for this country and for the way in which its residents are developing it. East and west they have gone from Toronto in groups. Some forty of them reached Fredericton, N.B., on Saturday last, and spent a quiet Sunday and a busy Monday in St. John. Leaving that city on Tuesday via Digby and the Annapolis Valley for Halifax, they were as much pleased with the pastoral beauty of the country and the evidences of its richness as they had been surprised at what they saw of Ontario. The larger party, of nearly two hundred, are still in the Northwest, and at last accounts were marvelling at the great wheat plains of Assiniboia, driving about the vast cattle ranches around Calgary, and admiring the scenic wonders of Alberta. Englishmen, if they can be got to express themselves at all, do so frankly; and we may expect, from what they have already said about this, to them, new and surprising country that they will, when they reach home, tell their chambers fairly and squarely what they have seen and how it has impressed them.

—We hear a report that three remaining loan companies in St. Thomas, Ont., have amalgamated, under the title of the Southern Loan and Savings Company, with a subscribed capital of \$1,000,000, or are preparing to do so just as soon as the formalities required by law shall have been complied with. Of the capital, nearly \$900,000, it is stated, will be fully paid up, as follows: Southern Loan, \$400,000; Southwestern Loan, \$193,800; Star Loan, \$253,900; total, \$847,000.