

There is a statement by Mr. W. A. Appleton, Secretary of the English Federation of Trade Unions and President of the International Federation of Trade Unions, which one would like to have posted in every shop, factory and post office in Canada, read from every pulpit, and printed on the first page of every newspaper. "Everything depends," he says, "upon production. Standards of living cannot be raised, nor can existence be maintained unless mankind accepts this contention. Eloquence, rhetoric or legislative action, whether acting separately or collectively, cannot make the corn grow or build houses, or feed children or clothe humanity. Only working and thinking can provide the things essential to life and comfort."

THE RIGHT OF COMBINATION

A mass of evidence establishes conclusively that the bulk of manufacturers do not take full advantage of the tariff, and the industrial history of the United States demonstrates as conclusively that there is active, continuous and effective competition among industries which enjoy a common protection. Is there any more reason to deny the right of combination among industries to effect economies in production and distribution than there is to enact statutory regulations to prevent co-operation among farmers? It is true that there have been and there will be greedy and plundering combinations in industry, but we have also heard of compacts among growers of cotton and tobacco to maintain or increase prices beyond the natural level of the markets. There are even those who have suspected predatory combination among milk producers and have girded at the profits of the Grain Growers' Companies. It is significant that when the Government at Washington took over the railways there was an immediate decision to co-ordinate and consolidate the

services. But under the Sherman Act such combination and consolidation of services by the private companies to improve and cheapen transportation was not permitted. Assuredly railway charges should be regulated, and I do not suggest that commerce should have the powers of an absolute autocracy. But I do believe that governmental meddling with prices and wages, with industrial organization and methods of production, generally produces only confusion and mischief. The sense of equity among manufacturers is as strong and active as among farmers, and as strong and active in either class as in the councils of political cabinets. No Government can supply the initiative and energy, the stimulus to organization and production, which lie in the prospect of private profit and in the sheer love of producing a perfect product or creating a great enterprise. When one thinks of the remarkable war achievements of Canadian manufacturers and workmen, of the general attitude of the industries towards labor and the returned soldiers during this period of reconstruction, and of the energy generally manifested in readjusting the industrial machinery to peace conditions, in meeting domestic demands when imports could not be obtained, and in striving to secure a permanent foothold in foreign markets, and then reads the uninformed criticism and ungenerous attacks to which Canadian industries are so often subjected, associated with pious assurances that no class prejudice or natural enmity inspires these deliverances, one thinks of the moonshiner in Tennessee who was assured by the judge that in passing sentence he was actuated only by sympathy for his family and concern for his personal welfare, and as a peroration gave him six years in the penitentiary, and who said to the constable as he was led out of Court, "I sure am glad that the Judge wan't mad at me."