

It is unnecessary to discuss in detail the recent police strike in the city of Toronto. The very fact that, for several days, they refused to act as police officers is, without more, sufficient to indicate the spirit of anarchy to which we now desire to draw attention. The police force is, within its local jurisdiction, in the same category as the army is in relation to the Empire. Can we imagine a body of British soldiers striking to do less work, or for larger pay. The army and the police should be treated most generously, and be well paid—no one would grudge this; but they must of necessity be outside the influence and control of labour unions, and be absolutely loyal to the governing body to which they owe allegiance.

As to our third point, it is not altogether surprising that disloyal men should disobey laws intended to protect the public against evils resulting from the promulgation of seditious literature, when some of our leading daily journals seek by unworthy sophistry to find excuses for those who openly defy the plain letter and spirit of the law. Our readers know as much about this as we do; we will therefore only give one illustration. A certain daily newspaper in the city of Toronto, of wide circulation, takes the ground that an offence created by Order-in-Council is so different from one created by an Act of Parliament that it may be treated with a measure of indifference. The writer of such rubbish must know that it is not a question as to the origin of the law, but whether in fact it is a law. If there is a law, that law must be obeyed or the offender punished. And anyone inciting others to transgress such law is himself committing a crime. The writer mentioned must know, or should have known, that the Order-in-Council in question is given authority by statute duly passed with all attendant forms and ceremonies, and has the same force as a statutory enactment to the like effect.

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Since the above was written, an Order-in-Council has been passed as follows: "No conviction for any offence against the aforesaid regulations (as to objectionable publications, etc.) shall be had unless the prosecution has been assented to or approved by the Attorney-General of the Province in which the offence is alleged to have been committed.