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## MUNICIPAL PROTECTION FOR MANUFACTURERS.

AN anomalous condition of things prevail at Galt, Ont. A few weeks ago the moulders in that town went out on strike because the proprietors of the foundries declined to allow them to run their business. It was not a question of fewer hours of labor, or of more or less average wages; but the desire of the strikers seemed to be that workmen should be paid not less than minimum wages, whether they were worth it or not; while the proprietors declined to pay any man more than he was actually worth. It is conceded that the aggregate amount of wages previously paid the moulders, and the aggregate amount that would be paid to them under their present claim, would not materially differ; but the strikers insist that whether a workman is really worth it or not, his wages shall not be less than the minimum rate; while the proprietors say that their standard is and shall be regulated by the efficiency of the workman—good work, good pay; poor work, poor pay. Many of these striking workmen own the homes in which they live, and are identified thereby with the prosperity of their town; and it is to be regretted that such an unfortunate affair should have occurred as that which has brought almost to a standstill so many of the large industrial establishments there for which Galt is so justly celebrated.

No one denies to these workmen the right to work or not to work, or the right to fix the rate of wages at which they will work. They even have the right to say that they will not work unless the most worthless of their number receive as much wages as the most efficient. But when these concessions are made, it should be remembered that the proprietors of the Galt foundries also possess rights which even striking moulders should be made to respect. It is true that to the workingman his labor is his capital; and it may be true that some of these Galt strikers, through the increment of their capital, have acquired valuable real estate there; and that both this capital and this

real estate should receive every necessary municipal protection goes without saying. So, too, should the capital of the Galt foundrymen be protected, but is it? The papers tell us from day to day about the efforts that these foundrymen are making to keep their works in operation by the importation of moulders from other places, and about the successful efforts these strikers use to prevent outside workmen from coming in, or to get them to refuse to go to work when they get there. Walking delegates patrol the streets and infest the railway depots with the avowed intention of keeping Galt foundries in idleness unless the labor unions are allowed to have their way; and, strange as it may appear, there are hundreds of people in Galt who take sides with and encourage these unlawful demonstrations, and are delighted with a result that throws hundreds of workmen out of employment, thereby cutting off their source of income for the support of their families; and plunging into stillness and idleness the busy hum of industrial establishments which have won for their town the reputation of being one of the most prosperous in Canada.

There seems to be no way by which this unfortunate situation may be changed. The arrival in Galt of outside workmen for these beleaguered foundries creates intense excitement, not alone among the striking moulders, but among all classes; and the press dispatches tell us that on these occasions the fever of excitement rises to such an extent that the streets are rendered almost impassable by the crowds of strikers and their sympathisers, bent on intimidating the strangers and driving them from the place. The authorities, too, or some of them, are so much in sympathy with the strikers as to preside at indignation meetings, called to denounce the action of the foundrymen in daring to attempt to bring in outside workmen.

Concurrent with this strike and the incidents connected with it, it is to be noticed that the municipal authorities of the town of Galt have been making strong efforts to induce a certain manufacturing concern, who were seeking a location, to accept valuable inducements which they offered to establish their factory there. They will offer similar inducements to any manufacturing concern seeking a location; and a vigorous rivalry exists between about every incorporated town and village in Canada to induce manufacturers to accept bonuses and other favors from them, to locate their factories within their boundaries. But manufacturers who have money to invest might well ask what protection they are to receive from these towns where even the officials preside at indignation meetings called to denounce those of their kind who are not willing to surrender the management of their business into the hands of irresponsible labor unions. It is one thing to induce manufacturers to locate in a town—to expend large sums of money in erecting buildings, placing machinery and creating a business hum where silence otherwise would reign; but it is quite another thing, particularly to the investors, to find the town under the rule of mob law and their interests ignored and trampled under foot, as is the case at this time in Galt.

## CANADIAN INLAND WATERCOURSES.

AN official statement is published of the traffic of the Sault Ste. Marie Ship Canal for the fiscal year ending June 30th, showing that the enormous tonnage passing through the gate