

artisans and workmen in producing the necessities of life in excess of what the wants of the country were only a very few years ago.

A remarkable feature of the situation is, however, that while every industry in the country is demanding from abroad labor that cannot possibly be obtained at home, and that can only be had by immigration, the manufacturing industries not only do not receive any share of the immigration, but are absolutely and most outrageously discriminated against, not only by the labor organizations but by the federal and the provincial governments also.

Recently many cities and towns in Canada were entertained with torch-light processions, civic welcomes, music and festivities, legislative receptions and many other marks of appreciation, the occasion being the coming to Canada of General Booth, the head of the Salvation Army. General Booth is a most estimable gentleman, who has devoted his life to relieving the slums of London and other British cities of the distress that prevails there so extensively, particularly since Cobdenism and free trade drove the people from the soil and forced them to flee to the manufacturing centres in search of occupation that they cannot possibly find in agricultural life. General Booth has heard the Macedonian cry going up from Canada for help. "Come over and help us," is the cry, and he sees the opportunity to give material help to the human beings who look to him to piteously.

A feature of the Canadian demand for labor is that all the railroad extensions now being pushed require vastly more labor than it is possible to obtain, the new Grand Trunk Pacific proposing to introduce many thousands of Asiatics to be employed in construction work on the British Columbia section: and thousands of laborers from Russia and other European countries are now being brought over for work in the more eastern sections of that railroad; and but a few days ago a telegram from London stated that a labor agency in that city had commenced recruiting in compliance with a cable order from Lord Strathecona then in Canada, asking for 10,000 men for construction of Canadian railways.

The province of Ontario is peculiarly handicapped in the matter of labor of all descriptions. As in other parts of Canada much railroad construction is being done, and there is a painful shortage of labor for the purpose. Owing to the desire to occupy and operate the rich farming lands of the West, Ontario is being depleted of thousands of young men who were raised on our own farms, and Ontario farmers are handicapped by lack of farm labor, which want the Ontario Government are using their best efforts to supply, but with unsatisfactory results. As a manufacturer of every possible article required in the every day life of the people of Canada, Ontario stands pre-eminent. Supplies of all descriptions for railroad construction; farming implements of every description for the agricultural classes, requirements for clothing, feeding and housing the people—the demands upon the manufacturers keep pace with the growth of population, and the fact is that the manufacturers are more badly handicapped in the matter of skilled labor than any other element of the community.

Immigrants into Canada, most of them, are received with the glad hand. If they want work in railroad building they are quickly bundled off to where the construction is being done. If they wish to cultivate the soil, the waiting farmer hurries them to the farm. There are, however, two classes of immigrants who are not wanted, and to whom the glad hand is not extended—the criminals and those undesirables who cannot or who are not willing to render a quid pro quo. The manufacturing industries of Canada are suffering for need of skilled mechanics, all the forces of labor unions and trade organizations are arrayed in solid phalanx against their entry into the country. Is there no help against this organized hostility? General and provincial governments send their emissaries to other countries and invite any one who can wield a pick or shovel, or plow a furrow, or milk a cow or punch cattle, to give assistance in transportation, and tax the resources of the whole country to bring them here, always provided that no skilled mechanics be found among them. Skilled mechanics are not looked upon with favor either by the governments of the country or by the labor organizations. Too bad, too bad.

SAMPSON AND THE PHILISTINES.

Mr. R. L. Borden, leader of the Conservative opposition in the Dominion House of Commons will, it is stated, in a few days, tour Ontario and other provinces and address public gatherings on the important issues of the day; and it is expected that some of the Conservative members of Ontario will accompany him for speech making purposes.

Whatever the other important political issues may be which Mr. Borden and his friends may discuss before the electorate, it is to be most ardently hoped that the question of tariff protection will not be neglected, but kept well to the front, and we also hope that from this time on not only the Conservative speakers, but the Liberal orators also will not fail to inform the people on that subject.

Mr. Borden entered Parliament in 1896 just after the defeat of the late Conservative Government, which, because of their having attached greater importance to other issues than to that of tariff protection, forfeited the prestige of their party and went into opposition. Perhaps they thought that other issues were of more importance to their party and to the country than that which had placed them in power. Those issues might have been considered of greater importance, but while attention was given to these, that of protection should not have been neglected as it was, with the result that such protection as we have since had, as exemplified in the tariff, is administered from a hostile standpoint.

It may be that Mr. Borden and his friends are staunch protectionists. It is to be hoped that they are, but during the entire session of the Dominion Parliament so recently ended, we do not remember any occasion of pronounced and vigorous speeches having been made in favor of the policy of tariff protection, either by Mr. Borden or any of his lieutenants. On some occasions some things may have been said, but they were of per-