

The Canadian Manufacturer.

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FREDERIC NICHOLLS, *Editor.*

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ED. D. McCORMICK, *Secretary.*

This Journal has won for itself an acknowledged position amongst Trade Journals and is recognized as the representative industrial paper of Canada. All the various industries of the country are represented in its columns, and it has been for years the fearless and consistent advocate of those reforms which were indispensable to the success of the Manufacturers. It now reaches nearly every mill and factory in the Dominion, and its influence is constantly increasing.

As a medium for advertisements of machinery, steam appliances, mill and factory supplies, etc., it is unequalled, and our rates will be furnished on application.

Communications from Manufacturers, Exporters, and others, are respectfully invited

Any association of manufacturers who may desire to hold meetings for organization or other purposes, are invited to avail themselves of the meeting room adjoining the office of the CANADIAN MANUFACTURER.

MR FREDERIC NICHOLLS is Secretary of
The Canadian Manufacturers' Association,
The Woolen Manufacturers' Association, and
The Tanners' Association.

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THE TRADES UNION "COMBINE."

The *Mail* notices the fact that "Mr. Frederic Nicholls, the Secretary of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, has written to Mr. Clarke Wallace (chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Combines), suggesting that his committee should enquire into trades unions as well as into combines," and suggests that "if Mr. Nicholls would stop to think he could not fail to perceive that there is no parallel whatever between the two cases." We can furnish a fact as an argument to show that there is a parallel between the sins charged against such "combines" as Mr. Wallace's committee was appointed to investigate, and that other "combine," known as the trades union; though we cannot supply the *Mail* with the necessary intelligence to comprehend it. If the *Mail* will refer to some of the recent issues of the *Hamilton Spectator* it will observe that just previous to the first visit of the Royal Labor Commission to that city it contained accounts of the labor troubles then existing there, in which the Bricklayers' Union had ordered a strike on several important city works then in course of construction, because a non-union bricklayer, named Buscombe, was found at work building a sewer for the city. The affair was a dirty case of conspiracy and oppression on the part of the "combine," known as the Bricklayers' Union, to drive this poor man away from his job, the conspirators going so far as to appear before the city council and insolently "demand" the discharge of the man as the only terms on which work would be resumed on the city buildings. The facts of the case were published in the *Spectator* from time to time as they occurred. Later, and while the

Commission were actually in session in Hamilton, the *Spectator* published an item in which it was related that a poor woman, named Mrs. Farr, who had fallen upon the ice and broken her arm, totally incapacitating her from doing any work whatever, was the wife of an old man, a bricklayer, who had been debarred work when work was plentiful, because he was not a union man. Mrs. Farr, meantime, had been the mainstay and support of the family through scrubbing and similar menial work; and the family, according to the *Spectator*, was in "sad distress."

Does the *Mail* see the point? The Labor Commission was appointed "to enquire into all subjects connected with labor and its relation to capital;" and for the purpose of giving a better idea what subjects were considered pertinent to these enquiries, a circular issued by the Commission enumerated "conspiracies" and "labor combinations" among others. Here, then, were at least two cases in point where a labor organization, or "combine," wickedly conspired to wrong and injure a whole community, to wit, the city of Hamilton and the people thereof, and certain individuals of that community, to wit, the men Buscombe and Farr and their families. The *Mail* says, "A trades union may fix the price of labor at any figure it likes." True; and the Bricklayers' Union of Hamilton had fixed the price of labor for all bricklayers working in that city, and the city authorities were willingly paying the prices demanded, so the trouble was not there; but it arose from the fact that non-union bricklayers were at work. Time and again we have called attention to the facts here alluded to; and we have requested the Labor Commission to investigate them. One of the Commissioners, Mr. Freed, is editor of the *Spectator*, and a resident of Hamilton, and this journal appealed to him to bring the matter to the attention of the committee, but it is neglected both by him and it.

Certainly, in the interests of all employers of labor, of labor itself, as represented by non-union men, and of the community at large, such things ought to be investigated. The Buscombe and Farr incidents are but two of hundreds that have occurred, and specimens of what is occurring continually, and it cannot be charged by those who seek to shield the outrageous oppression and tyranny of labor unions, that they are isolated cases.

The manufacturers, as large employers of labor, are interested in the investigation of this matter. They do not deny the right of labor to organize and to act in its organized capacity in any lawful manner. But when trades unions "demand" the discharge of workmen simply because they are non-union men, and jeopardize and depreciate valuable interests—frequently destroying them—because non-union men are given employment, it is high time the matter was ventilated.

WITHDRAW THE BONUSING PRIVILEGE.

It was ill-timed and injudicious legislation that conferred upon municipalities the privilege to grant bonuses, exemption from taxation or any special privileges to manufacturing industries, as inducements to have them located in any such municipality. The privilege has been "worked" to a most ridiculous and unreasonable extent, and the system has become so obnoxious and objectionable as to loudly and urgently demand abatement. This journal, we believe, was the first in