

Bureau. If a man is out of employment, he makes application to the agent in charge of his district labor bureau, who sends him to some suitable occupation, paying for his transportation, if necessary, and having it refunded from the first money the man obtains. Employers of labor can send orders for men, and in this way, the labor market is always open. Here, then, we have a system of affairs by which it would seem that many of the difficulties between master and man have been and are being settled, and whose adoption would have prevented those troubles and heart burnings whose results have been felt so disastrously in the United States particularly.

Meantime, in so far as concerns existing difficulties on the other side, President Cleveland has announced that he will, in the near future, appoint a commission of three members, of whom the U. S. Commissioner of Labor shall be the chairman, to investigate the causes leading up to existing labor disturbances. Mr. Cleveland said that, as a precedent to the appointment of such a commission, all strikes must be called off, and that law and order be restored; that United States troops would be still retained in the disturbed sections to see that the orders of the United States courts were enforced, and that interstate traffic must be resumed and peace restored throughout the country.

COLONIAL CONFERENCE.

The deliberations of the representatives of the different British dependencies having been completed and the official record of their secret proceedings having been given to the public it is now possible to form some idea of what was accomplished by the assembled wisdom. In the first place, we may say that we are not inclined, as are some of our contemporaries, to regard the matter from the Imperial standpoint, governed by those mere sentiments upon which the unco' loyal lay so much stress. We believe in sentiment to a certain extent, for without it much that has been accomplished by individuals and communities would never have been attempted. But matters of fact and dollars and cents cannot be lost sight of. We have recently noticed in some of our contemporaries the publication of elaborate statistics regarding, and glowing descriptions of the British army and navy upon which all the colonists have a claim. But by how much have all these "advantages" practically benefitted the parties primarily concerned? Australasia is so far removed from the neighborhood of powers in any way assuming to rival Great Britain that the display, much less exercise, of the power of the Mother

Country has not been necessary in their interests, while as for Canada, opinions differ—all things considered—as to whether the connection has been really of much benefit.

In South Africa and in India, British arms would not, in all probability, have been called into action, except for considerations outside the demands of the peoples resident. As for ourselves, matters of disagreement with the United States have been patched up to our disadvantage in almost every case. Still, for all that, the majority of us are what may be described as thoroughly British, and what we now require are some of the substantial advantages. These, as far as discussed by the colonial conference, have been set forth in the official record of the proceedings. In the first place, it was determined as essential that all obstacles in the way of reciprocal trade between the respective colonies be removed. Next no uncertain sound was given as to the absolute necessity of a Pacific ocean cable under British control. It was urged that trade within the Empire should be carried on under specially preferential conditions, and a strong memorial was adopted in favor of an improved steamship service between Great Britain and Australia with an overland connection across the Dominion. This, with the adoption of a resolution endorsing uniform bankruptcy legislation, constituted the principal business of the convention, the subjects involved being of such a nature as to generally commend themselves. When we secure the advantages demanded or some of them, there will be a stronger disposition in many quarters to talk about Imperial interests. Now it would seem that those of the colonies should be paramount.

B. C. INDUSTRIES.

We wonder what will be the next development in connection with British Columbia industries. The season is getting far advanced and it is high time that something were done looking to the thorough development of some of our latent resources and dormant energies. Who will make the necessary move? We can quite realize that the political excitement of some months past has not tended to the consideration of our manufacturing interests. We have been temporarily removed, as it were, from every day business. But now that the Canadian tariff has been amended and that provincial politics are not pressing, surely some attention can be paid to the subject of taking further steps to develop our trade and industry. If some of our people do not take some decided action, we cannot expect that outsiders will come in and

invest their money. It is the capital which we want. Let there be some well digested plans for attracting it and for turning it to advantage.

MEETING OF BANKERS.

The Canadian Bankers' Association open their third annual meeting in the city of Halifax on the 26th instant—the convention being considered as one of special importance. The tariffs of the United States and Canada as amended will come in no doubt for considerable attention, particularly in view of the changed relative conditions which the new fiscal policy on both sides the lines is calculated to bring about. Then, there will probably be some talk over reciprocal relations between the British colonies, while the respective conditions of capital and labor as developed by the railway strike form also a most important topic. These signs of the times have their lessons for all classes, particularly the banking element, which controls the purse strings and can practically regulate the speed at which the machinery of commerce and industry shall move.

There are several prominent bankers whose opinions we hold in the highest estimation; but there are others who are accustomed to get off at their annual meetings a long string of words, the meaning of some of which is regarded in some quarters as momentous; but which when sized up by some of those who are entitled to be regarded as financiers is not considered as being at all weighty. In this class are found the two extremes, both of them having journals and shareholders which loudly proclaim the gospel to which they give utterance. Much of this clap-trap has no other meaning than the desire of General Manager This or Cashier That to get up a name for himself. There are always people who can be humbugged financially as well as otherwise; but as a rule the safe course to pursue is the middle one—the good old-fashioned plan of depending for profits and dividends upon safe business—a much more reasonable and honest line of financing than at times characterizes men who are always ready to volunteer their advice, but are not content that their customers shall as a rule follow their example.

THE Dominion Parliament has been prorogued after a very long session. It has accomplished considerable legislation, some of which is of a very important character, including the long promised revision of the tariff, which, it is to be hoped, will be productive of all the beneficial results that have been anticipated.