

shortly after the close of each month, and are a credit to the Department of Customs by whom they are issued. I commend this Blue Book to the study of every member, in order that he may inform himself promptly as to what extent his foreign competitors are taking possession of the Canadian market, and at the same time I desire to praise the Government for their prompt action in this matter.

We also hope, in the offices of our own Association, to give special care to the working out of such statistical information as may be of practical advantage to our members.

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY.

In the same line I would point to the success that has recently attended our efforts in the formation of a Canadian Section of the Society of Chemical Industry. This important Society, with headquarters in Great Britain, publishes a journal full of most valuable information for every class of manufacture into which industrial chemistry enters. The formation of a Canadian Section, whose membership is composed both of practical manufacturers and of the teaching chemists of our country, will afford many opportunities of discussing questions that should greatly affect the cost of production in many important lines of Canadian goods, and the utilization of various classes of waste material. The formation of this Society is to be regarded as one of the important features connected with the work of our Association during the past year.

LABOR QUESTION.

Another important topic on which I might be expected to say a few words is the relation of our Association and our members to the Labor Question and the Labor Unions of Canada. At the outset let me say that our Association has never had any connection with labor questions as such, that we have no organization for industrial warfare, and that in the past our relations with labor organizations have been most cordial. We must deplore, however, the occasional strikes

that have occurred during the past year, and we believe it to be important that all possible provisions should be made to prevent these ruinous contests, which injure employers and employees and entail heavy loss on the general public as well. The practical question of improving this situation is a most difficult one. We hear much to-day of compulsory arbitration and its operations in New Zealand. While this matter has never been discussed at any of our meetings, I am sure that the members of our Association would view with alarm any hasty experimental legislation along these lines. The great difficulty attending the securing of impartial arbitrators, who are also competent to judge of the merits of questions at issue, and the still more serious difficulty of enforcing decisions in a country like Canada, so contiguous to the manufacturing Republic to the South, should cause hesitation. There are very conflicting opinions expressed as to the working of this system in New Zealand, and it is well to note that even a successful operation in that country would not guarantee any success here. New Zealand is a country at least a week's sail from any neighbor. It is entirely self contained, and its problems are mixed up in no way with any other country. Here in Canada, however, the case is entirely different. We are so close to the United States, and our questions are so interwoven with theirs, that the adoption of any similar policy here might have serious effects. I feel, therefore, that it would be little short of an industrial misfortune if any aggressive legislative policy were adopted by our Government while the success would be, to say the least, highly speculative.

There are one or two features in connection with Trade Unionism, however, that we must deplore to-day. One is the policy of some international trade unions, which have declared industrial strife in Canada at the incentive of organizations whose headquarters are situated in the United States, and whose interests are entirely opposed to the furtherance of the industrial progress of Canada. The other is the growing tendency of certain