

ILL-ADVISED ACTION.

Manufactured door and window frames, doors, etc., have been exported from Canada and the United States to Great Britain for many years. Recently the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners of Great Britain made up their minds to stop it and issued an edict forbidding any member of their Society to handle such imported joinery. Up to this point the society acted within its rights, as the rights of such organizations are recognized both in America and in Europe, but there is one feature of their action to which exception may be taken. The exceptionable feature is the reason they gave for their action in which they stated that the joinery sent from America was manufactured by poorly paid labor and under conditions opposed by labor organizations.

As a matter of fact the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners of Great Britain, should at least have separated Canada from the United States in their statement. The United States is always ready to defend itself where, as in this case, the defence is one of argument. Whatever faults there may be in the joiners industry across the line, they do not exist in Canada. United States door and sash makers may be owners of sweatshops, but in Canada no such condition of affairs exists. The work done in American factories may not be first grade but a similar complaint will not hold good against Canadian factories. Of all our industries this is perhaps less a worry to the labor inspectors than any other. We can assure our over-zealous old country friends that they are altogether mistaken when they charge upon us the stigma of exporting to England joinery made by men who do not get a living wage for their work.

Because they have complaint against the United States they have no right to attempt to include Canada in their boycott. We are not responsible for the deeds of the United States, or any corporation in the United States, or any individual in the United States, and it seems too bad that a sharper line should not be drawn by our own kin beyond the sea between the republic south of us and the Dominion of Canada. It is unfair to Canada, and it is unfair to themselves, that the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners of Great Britain should be so careless of the rights of their fellow-men and fellow-subjects. They at least should have ascertained the facts in the case before they made such decision as they did make. Now that they have injured us, they should at any rate do us the simple justice of making a statement of the facts by way of reparation that may set us right before other people else we know not where we may suffer from their uncalled-for and unjustifiable action.

It would be wise, it would be just; it would be but common decency to suspend the operation of their resolution so far as Canada is concerned until they find out the facts they have to work upon.

Let them communicate with President Carey, head of the Trades Congress of Canada, and see what he has to say about it. Mr. Carey is an honest man who is not to be influenced from what he considers right. The Carpenters and Joiners may depend upon his view of the case and should have secured that view before taking action, if they wished to be certain that Canadian carpenters and joiners would not take as strong exception to their boycott as do Canadian employers.

HEAT, LIGHT AND POWER.

City and town councils should remember that three very essential factors for the establishment, permanently, of manufacturing, are cheap light, cheap power, and cheap heat. Nowhere is that lesson being more forcibly impressed upon the minds of the people, than right here in Toronto, where the disadvantages of the lack of these facilities is very clearly apparent.

Free sites and exemption from taxation are inducements to a manufacturing concern, but they are, in a certain sense, illegitimate inducements. Understand that by "illegitimate" is not meant "unlawful," but rather "uneconomic," if you will permit the term. This may, perhaps, be more clearly defined, if we put it in this way--that cheap heat, light and power are natural methods, and free sites and exemption from taxation are artificial methods. As between the two, the natural method is always to be preferred when it is at all practicable, although when natural disadvantages exist, benefit will, undoubtedly, accrue from the application of the artificial aids.

What we desire to urge is this:—The necessity for development of every possible natural resource. All over this country we have natural power that is second to none. By nature we are endowed with water-power near enough to almost every town, village and city in Canada, to warrant its development for purposes of application to the necessities of the said town, village or city. And yet how often do we find that advantage has been taken of this? Is it not a fact that, in many instances, coal is being consumed to furnish power where plenty of water-power is at hand to furnish far more power than is needed, and furnish it at much less expense than the cost of power produced by fuel? This is a state of affairs that should not exist. Instances might easily be given of towns which are producing electric light by means of a plant run from boilers heated by furnaces, when at the other end of the same town there is a water supply that could be utilized for the same purpose at a reduction of expenses of such amount as to mean the difference between a profit and a loss.

Waterpower is coming into favor for the production of electricity. Turbines are being put in by hundreds who realize the advantages of cheap heat, light and power. Municipalities cannot afford to be without these inducements to manufacturers. Manufacturers who manufacture power for their own factories must have an eye to the main chance and not neglect the opportunity (should it present itself), of supplanting boiler power by water power.

Just a word in conclusion. The preservation of water powers for all time depends altogether upon something in which altogether too little interest is taken by the public generally, viz.: the continuity of our forests. We must see to it that our country is not denuded of its trees, else we shall find all the rain and snow water running away in tremendous freshets instead of being held by the forest and dealt out to us as we need it for water power. Users of power will do well to study the advantages of water power, and the possibility of making it permanent. It is a question of millions of dollars to Canada and Canadians.