

INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE (Cont'd.)

coming from Scotland that it is an awful state of affairs. It is a condition that with one or two exceptions applies to the province of Nova Scotia generally. So far we have found our circumstances very happy and comparatively prosperous, and I think we would be very much disinclined to exchange for the conditions in some other part of the country where labour troubles have been more in evidence during the past few years.

Now I desire in closing, to make just a few remarks in reference to the municipal unions and now they have been used, and can be used in the future, if necessary, in defence of the rights of the community, to which I have been referring.

Some twenty-five years or so public opinion in the United States was outraged by the exposure of civic graft in many of their cities, and in succeeding years, in Canada, our city, town and county councils awoke to the fact that, while they were not on guard and while their parliamentary representatives, unfortunately were asleep, many of their important rights had been seriously invaded and privileges purloined by what we call charter sharks and others. That unfortunate condition of affairs in the United States as well as in Canada gave rise to these municipal unions, followed by Civil Improvement Leagues, Good Citizen Clubs, and kindred organizations, which have done very much to ameliorate the results of the evil conditions to which I have referred, and have provided to some extent at least a protection against any similar depredations.

But these unions have done more than that. They have done more than they at first had in view. They have not only taught the public to protect itself against its own internal enemies, but they have given a great impetus to the cause of good citizenship. They have inculcated the creed of public service which has been so prominent in this country during the past four years, and have served to attach to it that self-respect and dignity to which it is entitled.

Now, to our friends on both sides of the House—and I say it without the slightest meaning of any threat in any way, and I say it to the other members of the public—organizations of this kind, which conditions in the past have made necessary and whose usefulness has been demonstrated by their history, will be a means of protection. If conditions arise in which the interests of the community are not considered, then these organizations representing the public at large will be quite capable of finding a way to protect themselves, and, in so doing, to afford protection to the largest body in this whole country, and assist in the vital progress of the Dominion.

I have nothing more to say, Mr. Chairman. I wish only to emphasize the fact that there is a fourth party concerned in industry, and that important party will be a factor in the future more than in the past if it is necessary. God forbid that it should be. This is the gist of our message, not only to the ranks of organized labour and our friends the employers, but to all classes in Canada. We must bear in mind, we must not and cannot forget, the social obligations. Any class or group of classes that attempt to grasp the throat of society and squeeze it in the spirit of the highway-man, outlaws itself. There is no place for it in such a country as Canada.

What I have said has been said in the hope of promoting harmony and for the purpose of asking our friends on both sides of the House to bear these considerations in mind more in the future than they have done in the past, and in the hope, in which I am sure you all join, that there will be in Canada only one class constituting good citizenship to which we shall in the future bear true allegiance.

* * *

Education.

Mayor Bouchard (St. Hyacinthe, P. Q.):—I deem it my duty as one of the representatives of the Union of Canadian Municipalities to say a few words on the question of education. During the Conference we have been dealing with matters pertaining immediately to the material advantage of labour and capital, but I think that we should for a few moments direct our thoughts to the next generation. As I have been in public life, as alderman, mayor and member of the Legislative Assembly, for sixteen years, I have, perhaps, had an opportunity to learn the lessons that are taught to a man who is willing to do something to help his community, and what I have found is that we have

EDUCATIONAL FREE FILMS.

The Bureau of Commercial Economics of Washington, D.C., an organization exhibiting educational films all over the world, has started a nation-wide campaign to get free motion picture theatres into factories, department stores, mining towns, country crossroad centers, lumber camps—every place where there are workers.

The bureau has the largest educational motion picture library in the world—21,000,000 feet of film on almost every conceivable subject, such as, government, economics, industry, history, travel, nature, science, health, commerce, agriculture. All these pictures will be loaned without charge to those who will exhibit them free to audiences.

In addition the bureau is sending eight travelling motion picture theatres—specially built for work in the country to arouse persons and organizations particularly employers as to the possibilities of educational pictures. These trucks carry a projection machine, an electricity generating plant and portable screen. Thus they are able to show pictures at an isolated western ranch centre as well as in a city.

One truck is showing samples of the films that employers could exhibit in a darkened workshop at noon, or at night when the wives and kiddies may see, too—if employers would spend \$200 or \$300 for equipment.

URGENCY OF SLUM PROBLEM.

To solve the problem of housing the dwellers of slumdom" we must devise ways and means to provide homes of the type which are within reasonable rental and come within their means. If this cannot be done on a profit basis, then it must be done, and at once, by state and municipal aid. Homes are more essential for life, health and good citizenship than boulevards, parks and playgrounds.

It is a big problem of the greatest urgency. We dropped many things to engage in a war against brutal and unjust despotism. It is essential now to concentrate a part of that energy and determination upon this problem of providing homes for the work-people of Canada, their wives and children, the latter of whom will be the Canadian men and women of to-morrow, if the diseases of the slums do not wipe many of them out.—C.A.H.

been suffering from bad leadership, on the side of either labour or capital. There is only one way in which we can build up a sound leadership. I see here many of our labour leaders who are the kind we want in this country, but I think that the greatest trouble we have had in the West, and sometimes in the East, was due to the fact that the leaders on both sides had not the Canadian mentality. If we are to have leaders with the mentality that will bring peace and prosperity to this country, we must take them from the families of those who are living here, and if we are to have leaders from among the families of the labourers, we want those families to be educated—there is no question about that. When I speak of education I do not want to be understood as meaning only the ability to read and write. Education means something more than that, and if we desire to have the children of the labouring classes attain to the position of being good national labour leaders, we must give them the opportunity to acquire an education in all grades. There is only one way to attain that end: It is compulsory education.

I know that we have compulsory education practically everywhere in the country and that the different provincial governments are working to improve the present compulsory education laws. Compulsory education means that the State must necessarily provide free education, because there can be no compulsion where education is not free. Compulsory education is intimately related to the needs of the hour, and under that system we should give the children of the labourer the opportunity of obtaining the higher education, and they should not be debarred from it by poverty. The only means of providing it for them is by making free education in this country free in all grades. I am pleased to observe that the Royal Commission on Industrial Relations has recommended that, and I believe that when we have established free compulsory education in this country we may hope to see that unanimity of sentiment which we always find amongst educated people.