

and young women ever reared—worth in round figures at least five hundred millions of dollars. If you think the estimate high, work it out for yourself, my friend. A little over ten million dollars a year in young men and young women, given away absolutely without return! Is it any wonder that the population is stationary, that people think that the Maritime Provinces cannot be developed farther?

If these three provinces would only forget their petty jealousies and unite for the common good, they could get back a hundred million dollars' worth of those people. I have talked with many of these exiles, and they have declared their desire to go back. It is time for a revolution down by the sea—a real, genuine, bloodless revolution.

ARBITRATION of labour disputes is to be a feature of Parliamentary debate and probably of legislation during the present session. Perhaps the incipient organisation of a labour party has spurred on the political leaders to an effort to deal

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with this much vexed question.

The principle of referring labour disputes to arbitration is very old and originated from the practice, still prevalent, of referring trading disputes to expert arbitrators in cases where judges of the courts felt the need of such services to guide them. As far back as 1701 there was legislative enactment to deal with this question. The Statute of 1 Anne provided for a reference in the case of "woollen, linen, fustian, cotton and iron industries," to two Justices of the Peace, "to prevent the oppression of the work people and ensure payment of wages in the current coin of the realm." This Act was for ten years only. In 1710 it was revived, made perpetual, and subsequently extended to various other trades.

Provision for arbitration in labour disputes by law is thus not a new principle. Unfortunately, however, not one of the multitude of laws that have been passed since the time of Anne by legislatures the world over, has proven a panacea for the difficulties involved. Strikes there have been since the great one organised by Moses in the land of the Pharaohs, and strikes there will be until the end of time. This may seem pessimistic, but it is written with a knowledge of the important part played by the evil side of human nature in causing strikes and lockouts. You might as well hope for universal peace among all nations as among all employers and employees.

This is no reason why parliamentarians should not try to deal with the matter. As a matter of fact, legislatures have done much to prevent strikes and lockouts in the past, and, wisely guided, can do more in the future. The legislature has a duty to perform other than to deal fairly as between employer and employee. There is always the general public to be considered, and, while this nondescript body is made up principally of employers and employees, the largest part of it, in this country at least, is not liable to be directly involved in labour disputes, and is interested only in industrial peace.

Legislation, to be successful in the matter of arbitration, must recognise certain principles. The tribunal should be a permanent board, consisting of arbitrators who will deal judicially with the question submitted. Temporary boards, as proven by experience, are merely compromise makers and an encouragement to demands on the part of ill-disposed labour or capital not averse to making a gain at the expense of an opponent.

The only proper means of enforcing the arbitrators' award is the indeterminate but all-powerful public opinion. To punish, by imprisonment or fine, labour or capital that refuses to submit or conform to an award, is contrary to all principles of freedom and against sound economics.

There are trade disputes involving questions of princi-

ple that are not properly the subject of arbitration. For instance, the claim for the closed shop. The rights and privileges of non-unionists are as sacred as the rights of unionists. The Pennsylvania Anthracite Coal Strike Commission determined some very interesting matters, and among their decisions is to be found this dictum: "The contention that the majority of employees in an industry, by voluntarily associating themselves in a union, acquire authority over those who do not so associate themselves, is untenable." Fair-minded men will accept this view, and, if the principle of the closed shop is untenable, then it cannot be placed in arbitration, although, next to wages, it is the most prolific cause of strikes. The employer should not be compelled to give the unionist a preference and should not be allowed to discriminate against him.

The proceedings before any arbitration tribunal must be at once simple and inexpensive. Organised labour in some instances has accumulated large funds, but in more instances it has not, and at all times capital will have the advantage in collecting and presenting evidence to an arbitration tribunal.

The matter should be subjected to a thorough threshing out in committee and on the floor of the House. If the members will vote according to the dictates of their best judgment, regardless of currying favour with either of the two great parties affected, we may have in the statute book of 1906-07 an Act that will go a long way towards mitigating the strike evil. But no matter what law is passed, we are inclined to think that, after a few years' experience, most people will say with the president of the New South Wales Arbitration Court, "Arbitration is certainly a bigger problem than we anticipated."

TORONTO is beginning to enjoy the benefit of power from Niagara. About six thousand horse power is being received now and this will be increased to twenty thousand by the end of the week. This power was just in time, or at least only a few minutes late.

**TORONTO AND
N I A G A R A** The city has been growing very rapidly and the demand for electricity increasing extensively. The Toronto Electric Light Company's plant was inadequate to deal with the increased demand put upon it.

It is too early yet to say what effect the coming of Niagara power will have on prices. Were it not that the citizens have threatened to put in a municipal supply line, it is doubtful if the effect would have been noticeable for some time. The people who have brought the power in have invested large sums and they naturally look for considerable profit. Hence they would not likely be hasty about reducing prices. The enormous vote cast in favour of the power by-law on January first, may or may not modify the view of those who are selling the power now available.

Mr. Frederic Nicholls states that about 40,000 horse power is being developed at the Falls and that, as the Government restricts the exportation to fifty per cent., there is likely to be plenty of power available for the whole of Western Ontario for some time to come.

THE sympathy of Canada will flow freely and generously towards Jamaica in this her hour of trouble. The white population may be small, but both white and black are subjects of the same sovereign as we are. We feel for those in distress anywhere, but we may be pardoned if our grief is more keen

**COLONIAL
SYMPATHY** when the pall of disaster covers a portion of a member of the colonial sisterhood. Canadian relations with Kingston, the capital of the island, are close—both in a trade and a social sense; consequently the news of Monday came to us with something of a personal shock.