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TORONTO, MAY 15, 1903

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A CHALLENGE TO THE SLANDERS

International Trades Unionism is the Bul-
work that will Protect the Workers
Against Oppression.

By SAMUEL LANDERS.

The assailants of international trade unionism are in such a state of anxiety to strangle the "foreign agitators" that they are overlooking the first principles of British justice. The assails are, to say the least, most cowardly, and if made as charges before any court of law or jury, would not hold water for ten seconds. By a rigid court, on twenty-two different occasions, in pastoral letters, House of Commons, Senate, Provincial Assembly, boards of trade and manufacturers' associations, have the charges venomously been hurled from ocean to ocean, by means of telegraphic press despatches, of "foreign labor agitators" who come into Canada from the United States to foment strikes—in other words, "to paralyze Canadian industry in favor of that of the country these foreigners represent," and a dozen and one similar charges. One would hardly credit that the "brains of the country," who declare that "the workers not of the intelligent class," would make themselves subjects of ridicule by the "unintelligent workers," and that members of Parliament—Provincial and Federal—manufacturers, lawyers, et al, all making their "serious" accusations, and not in a single instance did any one of them cite a case, name a time, place, individual or any other circumstance where the said "foreigners" did any "fomenting," "strike ordering," etc., etc. It is a clear case of "heating against the winds." If the "honorable" gentlemen had cited one or more cases to substantiate their accusations, the Canadian public might take their arguments seriously, otherwise it can only be put down as a concerted "harangue" and cry of "wolf, wolf," where there is no wolf.

International trade unionism in Canada is a challenge to any of their antagonists to prove their charges by citing a single instance. If the gentlemen are, as they claim to be, men of business and intelligence, they will be specific in their charges. The whole scheme is one of "fomenting" an active campaign against international trade unionism, one to work the legislators up to such a state of hostility that they would be willing to pass "any old thing" in the shape of a law to curtail the powers of trade unions. Following Senator Longueville's fool bill to prevent international organizers coming into Canada, etc., comes one far more idiotic, suggested by the Montreal Board of Trade, which would make it a criminal offence to belong to any trade union not incorporated by the Dominion of Canada. It also provides that a strike could not be made by a non-incorporated union, and declares that all organizations or unions of workmen shall be local in composition, and in all cases so organized as to be amenable to civil law.

Again, we find in the printed Senate debates of April 23, in discussing Senator Longueville's bill, Senator Gibson says: "I think we should go still further, and prevent any international union whatever from being recognized in the Dominion of Canada. We should abolish countenancing international labor unions of any kind."

Trade unionists are far from being anarchists, and always have pooled the idea of a "bloody revolution," and while not taking any of the above "hills" or proposals seriously, yet nothing would force the workers of this or any other country to revolt quicker than laws that would rob them of their liberty and freedom and again return to the medieval days when men were the serfs and slaves of their "masters." The workers are everywhere condemning and utilizing the "brutal boycott" to enforce terms from manufacturers, but in this system any worse than using the courts of law for the issuance of injunctions for every petty imaginary grievance.

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- Rolls, select and lean, new cure, per lb. 13c
- Hams and Bacon 1c more per lb. if sliced.
- Boiled Ham, very fine, per lb. 26c
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much as they do smallpox. But their object in decrying the international feature is obvious. In the discussion of Senator Longueville's bill in the Senate, Honorable William Gibson, of Beausville, told the truth, that he said, according to the Ottawa correspondent's report: "We would be stronger with Canadian unions," and "strikes ordered from Washington and Chicago," only exhibited ignorance of the system of the Canadian labor movement and international trade unionism. In the Senate, Senator Gibson talked in a similar strain, and from the Montreal, came to Toronto to assist the management in the machine shops in Man-
"Furn Canadian unions and we will assist you; we will even raise your wages." This cry from the Canadian manufacturers at the present time reminds the writer of an incident seen by him at a variety show many years ago. A supposed wayward daughter of an Irishman arrived home in the wee small hours of the morning, and found the mother awaiting her, who said, "Come in, Mary Ann, dear, I have a sponge cake for you," and behind her back in one hand she held a brickbat.

THE IRISH LAND BILL
(Letter from Glasgow.)
Mr. John Paul, of Glasgow, editor of one of the papers of that city, writing to a friend here, says: "The Government have brought in the Irish land bill, and I send you the synopsis of it just issued by the Liberal Publishing Department. Gladstone's Land bill of 1881 provided for a revision of the land laws in Ireland. Two revisions had already taken place, and a third is due eight years hence. The first revision reduced rents 20 per cent., the second reduced rents another 20 per cent., and it was quite confidently expected that the third would have gone on the same lines. In view of this there was nothing facing the Irish landlords but complete ruin. Eight years hence their land would have been worth about ten years' purchase, whereas this bill of the Government gives them 25 years' purchase. The Irish representatives in Parliament, backed up by Irish sentiment, have accepted the bill, and thereby, in my view, sold the peas." But that is not the worst feature. The bill proposes to make the tenants occupying owners instead of occupying tenants of the state. These new landlords will be strengthened in the position of landlordism, and make it more difficult for genuine industrial capitalism, and be a mighty barrier in the way of the final settlement of the land question in Ireland."

SEEK THE INEVITABLE
Monopolist Parry Sees in Arbitration the Wedge That Will Split Up the Capitalistic System.
In a recent interview David M. Parry, president of the National Manufacturers' Association, said: "Compulsory arbitration, according to reliable accounts, has proved a disastrous failure in New Zealand. It must prove a failure everywhere, and that because it is based on fallacious principles. And yet we find indications that it is coming in this country. The Chicago organized labor seems to be able to compel arbitration, and in the last few months a score or more of demands from labor have been arbitrated there, resulting in substantial increases of wages and lessening of hours all along the line. The anthracite strike also furnishes a significant example of arbitration forced upon employers. The general adoption of this kind of compulsory arbitration as illustrated in Chicago and in the mining industry, and in fact, the adoption of any kind of arbitration policy, will be the entering wedge that will destroy industrial freedom."
Once the principle is recognized that

wages, etc., can be arbitrarily fixed by a court or a commission, and we will have taken up our march to socialism in earnest. If one set of men can have their wages fixed by a commission, all other sets of men are entitled to strike and to demand a commission to determine their wages. What is the result? State regulation of wages and hours. But commissions or organized labor or any other body composed of the best wisdom and experience in the country cannot correctly take into consideration the effects on the profits of industry, or the development of trade and on the tax to the consumer that their wage arrangements would have, and when the employers' wage barrels begin to run dry, then, I suppose, we may expect the next step to be commissions to fix prices of commodities, output, income on capital, etc., and, finally, as a natural sequence, would come the control of industry in general. The truth is that arbitration, to employers, means a surrender to the demands of labor as surely as yielding to them direct. Will the employers of this country allow the apparent peace bought at the price of arbitration null them into a feeling of security? If they do, they will awaken some day to find their rights have been stolen while they slept.

"Arbitration is only putting off the day of reckoning. It means that more arbitrations are to follow, that the peace purchased in the first instance must be repurchased over and over again, and that the price paid will be higher each time." It is refreshing to learn that Parry has at last recognized that he dug against the inevitable, and the sooner his small fry imitators in Canada do the same the less sleep they will lose and the more will all prosper.

A BLESSED PROSPECT.
To slava while there is strength—in age the workhouse; By union, justice, reason, law, I Toller hastily for a paper's funeral.
God is our guide! No swears we draw. We kin'dle not war's battle fires. By union, justice, reason, law, we claim the brightbirth of our sires. We raise the watchword, Liberty! We will, we will, we will be free.
—Corn Law Song.

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Those who make private property of the gift of God pretend in vain to be innocent. For in this retaining the subsistence of the poor they are the murderers of those who die every day for want of it.—Pope Gregory the Great.

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