

been justified. Under the Act three inspectors were appointed, one each for the western central and eastern districts of Ontario, and their first annual reports have recently been published and submitted to the Local Legislature. Notwithstanding the many remarks that have appeared in the press from time to time, as to the unfortunate condition of operatives in our manufacturing establishments, more particularly when the agitation for the passage of the Act was on foot, I am pleased to learn that the inspectors admit not only having been received with every consideration, but bear witness to the fact that our factories, as a rule, are well arranged; that the health and comfort of the work people are well cared for, and that the hours of labor are not excessive. Mr. Barber, the inspector of the western district, says: "I wish to bear testimony to the uniform courtesy and civility of factory owners in my district, and to their willingness to act upon my suggestions." Mr. Brown, inspector of the central district, says: "I am pleased to be able to report that in all cases I have been courteously received." Mr. Rocque, inspector of the eastern district, says: "In submitting my first report I consider it my duty, and I am happy to bear witness to the courtesy extended to me by the owners and managers of factories which I have visited during last year." These quotations prove that manufacturers are desirous of studying the comfort and well-being of their employees; and whenever the inspectors have suggested any improvement, such suggestion has been met in a reasonable manner and acted upon. The inspectors appear to have been impartial, and there is no doubt that their experience enables them to be of service to the community.

LABOR COMMISSION.

It is understood that the Labor Commission has handed in to the Government both a majority and a minority report. As up to the present moment I have not seen either, I am unable to discuss their findings. I may say, however, that when the Commission was in St. John, N.B., last summer, it was reported in the press that at least one member was active in organizing several assemblies of the Knights of Labor in that city. It is the general belief that the Commission was appointed in the interests of the public to enquire into and take evidence upon specific questions, and I have yet to learn that the organization of such assemblies was part of the duties of any member of the Commission.

INTIMIDATING WORKMEN.

A case of considerable interest has recently been decided by the Court of Queen's Bench.

In April of last year, at a meeting of the Hamilton, Ont., Bricklayers' and Masons' Union, the following resolution was carried: "That this Bricklayers' and Masons' Union boycott the new City Hall building, and that any member working on said building while the corporation retains Buscombe in the city's employ be fined fifty dollars." This remarkable resolution was directly aimed at a non-union bricklayer named Buscombe, who had been subjected to considerable persecution at the hands of union workmen, and had previously been prevented from working at his trade. A charge of criminal conspiracy was laid against the mover and seconder of the resolution, and, at the preliminary trial, a third person, who had been active in supporting the resolution, was made a party to

the charge. The learned Judge found the prisoners guilty of the charge of conspiracy, and an appeal from his decision having been set aside, a sentence of three months' imprisonment has been imposed upon the defendants. Ignorance of the law is no defence at law, and perhaps these unfortunate men were not aware that their conspiracy to prevent a fellow-working-man from earning an honest livelihood, made them amenable to the law; but a precedent has now been established which will deter others from committing similar errors. I regret the severity of the sentence for the first offence, and wish that the requirements of justice could have been met by judicial clemency in this case.

COMBINES BILL.

The now celebrated Combines Bill will shortly command the attention of Parliament, and I think the time is opportune for the members of this Association to place themselves on record in reference thereto. The principal support of this Bill comes from labor organizations, which in themselves are perhaps the most notable instances of combines on record, for, although they may not seek to control natural or manufactured commodities, the Hamilton conspiracy case would prove that they seek to control the labor market, and, in some instances, to make it difficult or impossible for any one without their special "combine" to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. The greatest developments in commerce and industry have been effected by means of honest combination of interests, and the trade of this or any other country would be stagnated without such combinations. Every joint stock company is a combination of capital and individuals, as is every other mercantile corporation. Such enable the many to embark in larger enterprises than could possibly be engaged in by individuals, and a combination of identical or allied interests is often necessary to meet competition of various kinds, by affording a means for more economical production and improved methods of distribution. Business men throughout the country are almost unanimous in their opposition to such unnecessary legislation, and, through various Boards of Trade and kindred institutions, have already acquainted the Government with their views on this question.

INDUSTRIAL ART AND DESIGN.

For several years it has been the custom of this Association to offer medals for industrial designs, to be competed for by pupils of the Ontario Art Schools. This year the committee specially charged with this matter have decided to enlarge the scope of the competition and increase the number of medals; and a few weeks since it was announced that ten each silver and bronze medals would be awarded as the first and second prizes, respectively, for the most meritorious designs sent in, of the following subjects:

1. Figure or group modelled in clay.
2. Carved panel suitable for sideboard.
3. Model for sailing yacht.
4. Design for wall paper.
5. Design for hearth-rug.
6. Design for stained glass window for hall or library.
7. Design for gasolier suitable for public building.
8. Design for epergne.
9. Design for diploma for use by the Association.
10. Design and working drawings for workman's brick cottage, estimates for which shall not exceed \$600 in value.