

The Cloven Hoof at Prince Albert

When it was noted that the western Associated Boards of Trade would meet at Prince Albert, we freely expected that the Manufacturers' Association would not allow such a splendid opportunity to pass without having one of their "labor-skinning" resolutions adopted, if possible, by an apparently innocent aggregation, and our experience shows that it is generally possible. Further an examination of the list of delegates to this convention left little doubt as to the source from which such a resolution would emanate. In neither surmise were we at fault. The resolution was moved by Mr. Cunningham of Edmonton, seconded by R. J. Hutchings of Calgary, who it will be noted is vice president and manager of the Great West Saddlery Co. The antagonism of the heads of this firm to organized labor is common property on both sides of the Atlantic, and the C.M.A. are to be congratulated that both in Winnipeg and Calgary they have such fearless exponents of their various schemes in regard to the flooding of the labor market so that, with a large unemployed surplus the manufacturers will have a chance to get their labor "dirt cheap" and so hasten the time when they may deport to California or the Bermudas for the remainder of their natural or unnatural lives.

The movers of the resolution asking the government to further flood a crowded labor market in Western Canada apparently never expected any opposition in their own convention, or care might possibly have been taken to suppress the honest statements thus made. The position of the convention was correctly estimated by Mr. H. V. Rorison when he said that "the convention was treading on dangerous ground, and it was not for a handful of commercial men to dictate to the great family of labor." Mr. Rorison's view would be a bitter pill to the labor-skinners, and no doubt they will do their best before another convention to teach him that the Manufacturers' Association has a God-given right to dictate

not only to the great family of labor, but to everybody and everything else. The "dictation" of a quartette of these individuals in the city of Winnipeg is now regularly looked for; but their connection being so well known their efforts are generally innocuous.

Mr. H. W. Laird, of Regina, is also to be complimented for stating the truth that "there was all the labor in Saskatchewan that was required," and that "there was no dearth of skilled or unskilled laborers."

Mr. R. J. Hutchings presumed not a little upon the ignorance of the delegates in regard to the lumber industry when he pointed out "that the dearth of lumber, and the inability of the transportation companies to complete their construction programs was ENTIRELY DUE TO THE SCARCITY OF LABOR." This effort on the part of one manufacturer to cover up the sins of those in the lumber combine would be pathetic if it were not so openly ridiculous.

We append a cutting from the Manitoba Free Press of June 19th for the information of any delegates who might be disposed to believe the statements made, just to show that other people have ideas:

"One reason for the advance in lumber prices in the west is that the Japanese government has given orders to Vancouver lumber mills for five million feet of lumber to be used for car building for the new railway line running north from Dalny through Manchuria."—Free Press.

The prime reason for the increase of lumber prices will be found in the ring of "get-rich-quick" people who do not employ white men in their mills, because they find Chinamen a cheaper item, and would not employ a white man where a coolie slave could be obtained. We do not make these remarks for the benefit of the Manager of the Great West Saddlery Co., as he is as well aware of the facts as we are; but the ideas of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association must be ventilated, whether violence be done to the truth or not—Wansbeck Mernoth.