

pline also in the prison, and is admitted to be a most potent factor in the reformation of the criminal's character. It is fairly open to question, how far prison labour should be used, in such a way as to injuriously compete with one particular branch or manufacture! But when the Knights of Labour ask for "the cessation of prison labour which competes with free labour" they surely are going beyond reason. A man when he commits a crime has not forfeited his right to live, and we, the free law abiding citizens might well feel agrieved were we called upon to support 7,454 criminals (as we did last year), in absolute idleness, doing nothing to defray the enormous bill of costs.

While the Knights are defending their own special branch of labour, let them remember that there is very little remunerative employment to which a convict can be set to work, without to some extent, taking the place of free labour. Surely the Knights do not seriously wish us to follow the example of Toronto Goul, where prisoners are required to wheel a barrow of sand round a yard, in order to wheel it back again.

The Common Sense of Ontario would soon decline to maintain an army of 7,500 convicts doing such work as that, or, as the only option the Knights would leave us, folding their hands in ease.

"Satan finds some mischief still

For idle hands to do."

is intensely true of our prison population; and if the clamour of Trade-Unions with its threatened loss of votes, causes the Government to withdraw its manufactures without the substitution of other regular employment; a few revolts and the massacre of half a dozen guards, will soon compel the province to deal with the prison labour question on its own merits.

We earnestly hope that the labour organizations, instead of trying to press their resolutions as a whole, will lend their powerful influence to get a Commission of competent gentlemen appointed to investigate the whole subject of prison reform.

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