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# THE TOILER

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## LABOR'S STATEMENT TO THE SENATORS

A Clear and Concise Statement of the Status and Aims of the Labor Movement in Canada.

### THE BETTERMENT OF ALL THE PEOPLE

Is the Watchword of the Movement Which So Many Are Ready to and Do Assail Upon Every Possible Occasion—The Bulwarks of Trades Unionism Will Withstand all Attacks Because It is Founded Upon Right Principles.

To the Honorable Members of the Senate (Committee on Banking and Commerce):

We have the honor of appearing before you to-day by reason of the courtesy extended by you to those who desired to be heard upon a Bill now before your honorable body for consideration, namely, Bill "H," being an Act to amend the Criminal Code, 1892, respecting offences connected with trade and breaches of contract.

We represent the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, which is the official mouthpiece of organized labor in Canada, and which comprises labor organizations from Halifax to Vancouver. Besides that body, we have representatives present of the Order of Railway Conductors, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and the Brotherhood of Railway Telegraphers, these latter organizations alone having a membership of over 200,000.

These bodies manifest in their constitution the logical development of the recognized and legitimate movement of the age towards unions. This movement was first exhibited by the trend of capital to unite with capital without regard to geographical, political or other boundaries, and the world-wide expansion of trade has not only invited but demanded the extension of ties that heretofore have been local, but that now find their ramifications in every quarter of the globe. So that we have to-day international organizations in religions, fraternal, social, manufacturing, educational and other circles with the stamp of legal approval upon them. Labor has followed the beaten track, and so great has the movement been that, besides the railway organizations represented before you to-day, there are one hundred and thirty-five international labor organizations (with Canadians in evidence in them all) in existence and represented by this deputation, the total membership thus represented being about one million and a half.

Looking at these organizations in a superficial way, one will fail to grasp the fact that large interests are represented by them. We may, for example, take the rights of property that have arisen and that now exist in connection with them. No principle in law is more firmly established than that property rights must be respected. It is the most sacred principle in law, and rightly so, for the right of property is the foundation of our civil polity.

In the railway organizations represented before you to-day there are over two hundred thousand workmen, of whom over thirty thousand are Canadians. One of these organizations—the Order of Railway Conductors—has three features in connection with it, namely, the Beneficial Society, the Relief Fund and the Protective Fund. Under the beneficiary heading alone there is an insurance of \$47,000,000, of which over \$2,000,000 is written for Canadians. This property right represents years of individual endeavor upon the part of the beneficiaries, and they may well look askance at any legislation that will jeopardize the efforts of a life-time, just as those efforts may be about to bear fruit in the protection from want of widows and orphans. In thousands of instances this insurance is the only asset the beneficiary has, and legislation that will, or may, seriously affect interests of the kind should receive the most mature consideration before its passage into law.

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Engage.....  
has centered principally round this catch phrase, and the quickest way to deal with it is to show its untruth.

No amount of iteration and reiteration will alter this one indisputable fact: that no international officer, or officers, can order a strike in Canada. All the international officers can do is to sanction a strike already decided upon by Canadians, or to refuse that sanction. The following is the procedure where a trade dispute arises:

A local union, say in Ottawa, that has affiliated with an international organization, desires a change in its terms of employment. Its constitution provides that a committee must first be appointed to confer with the employer for the purpose of amicably arranging the matter. If all members of the local union entitled to vote, as to what action shall then be taken. Let us assume that a strike is decided upon. Before that strike can take place a bill of grievances must be forwarded to the international secretary (the man remaining at work in the meantime), who within twenty-four hours calls together the members of the executive. This executive in every instance consists of at least one Canadian, residing in Canada. In many cases a number of Canadians are upon the executive, some expatriated and others residing in Canada. The executive comes into session upon the request from the local union, and it determines either to sanction a strike or to refuse that sanction.

This, it will be perceived, is quite different from ordering a strike. The request first comes for permission to strike, and it comes from the local union in Canada, that has already determined upon its line of action, quite apart from any influence from abroad. The only influence that ultimately appears is one that discourages rather encourages a strike. It is an influence removed from the excitement of local prejudice and passion, one that recognizes that strikes cost money, and that the international exchequer will be depleted considerably by the initiation of a strike. It is an influence for mediation, for conciliation, for the bringing together of employer and workman, and it is only in the last resort that sanction will be granted to a local union to strike.

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Force or Malta Vita.....	12 1/2	Vin. Life Chips, Quaker Oats,	
Grape Nuts or Malt B. Food.....	12 1/2	Tilson's Oats.....	9
New Jam in glass, worth 10, for 7 1/2		Package Oats, Gold Seal.....	7 1/2
New home-made marmalade, worth 10c	8	Coffee, 1 lb cans.....	12 1/2
Pure Maple Syrup, New, Imp. qt. cans.....	25	10 Bars best laundry Soap.....	25
Pure Maple Syrup, new, per lb.	10	3 large bars Soap, extra quality	25
Very Best Jam, 5 lb. pails, only	29	Tapioca, very best, 8 lbs for....	25
Red Cross Mince-meat, in tins, reg. 15c for.....	6	Quick "O" for easy washing 6 for 20	
		Vinegar, the best made, white wine or cider, per gal.....	25

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