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In the North-West Territories much good is expected to follow the opening of the Regina, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Railway, the first sod of which was turned a short time ago. The central place in the ceremony fell to Mrs. Dewdney, and the North-West capital made the occasion a gala day. By the new line direct communication is afforded between Regina, and thus the whole outside world, and the North Saskatchewan country. The region in question is acknowledged to be one of the most richly favoured parts of the Dominion, and now that access to the interior is promised at a near day, the settlements which have anticipated the railway (no small recommendation) are sure to be enlarged and multiplied. The enterprise now initiated with such promise of success was originally projected some years ago when some twenty miles of the road were graded and equipped. The work has now been assumed by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and its completion as far as Prince Albert—a distance of about 240 miles—by the fall of next year is confidently looked for.

Strong language is not always a sign of strength, nor, as a rule, are those whose prejudices are appealed to by untimely tirades against authority, deceived by such shows of zeal. No earthly institution is absolutely perfect either in theory or working. It is equally true that the finest theories are not always the most successful in operation. Our own Constitution is a compromise, and as for that feature in it that has recently been assailed in (as it seems to us) an uncalled for and unreasonable manner, its best defence is that it saves us waste of time and money and energy. Let any one compare a Presidential election among our neighbours with the noiseless transfer of the reins of power from one Canadian Governor to another, and he must confess that the latter system has certain advantages, from the standpoint of common sense and the public weal, in which the other is lacking. What a futile or mischievous outlay of money—into the destination of which it would not be safe to inquire too closely—what wrangling and bitterness, what disappointment to millions of citizens, does it not prevent! Putting the matter, therefore, on the lowest ground—that of frugality—the remarks of a delegate at the Labour Convention were as weak in argument as they were unseemly in tone.

There is certainly a very appreciable difference between fivepence an hour and sixpence an hour, and, doubtless, the London dock labourers had some justification for asking the increase or the great bulk of the other metropolitan workingmen

would not have committed themselves to their cause. It is the course of these latter, nevertheless, that has caused most surprise. As far as they were concerned themselves, the thousands engaged in other occupations who, by joining the dockmen in their strike, made it virtually invincible, had no reason to complain. Either, therefore, they were fighting for a principle or they were yielding to a force which they were individually or even as distinct organizations, unable to resist. The character of the influence that made those thinking myriads act as one man is one of which authority and capital must hereafter take account. That those who, having no grievance, left their work, thus causing untold loss and inconvenience to millions and affecting the well-being of persons at the ends of the earth, were acting illegally, seems to have been forgotten in the extent and variety of the interests at stake. As to the moral wrong, the leaders doubtless think that it is justified by the end in view. But, perhaps, the greatest injury is that which is inflicted on the families of many of the strikers. It has been often remarked that, whoever might immediately or remotely be the gainers, the strikers themselves rarely profited by a strike. The suffering in the present instance must be such that no future advantage can atone for it. But the order must be obeyed, though children drop with hunger.

The fact that men like Cardinal Manning, Bishop Temple, and the Lord Mayor have been mediating between the employers and the strikers suggests the advisability of some permanent board of arbitration for the settlement of labour difficulties without resort to strikes. Such a board, to be of any avail, must, of course, have the confidence of both classes. It is admitted that no strike can last for any time without causing suffering, inconvenience and loss, and ultimately the settlement arrived at is generally a compromise. It would surely be better if negotiations preceded, instead of following the resort to the most desperate of remedies. Every repetition of this kind of industrial war evokes a wonderful display of wisdom from philanthropists, economic experts and advocates of the rights of labour. Why could not all concerned have the benefit of this wisdom before the war had been declared, instead of in the hour of battle? If arbitration were the first instead of the last thing thought of, it would save labourers, employers and the community at large a great deal of avoidable misery.

Our neighbours sometimes boast that in Alaska they have the richest gold mine in the world—the famous Treadwell Mine, on Douglas Island. Dr. George Dawson, F.G.S., assistant director of the Geological Survey of Canada, read a paper before our Royal Society in May last, which has appeared in the *American Geologist*, and is now printed, with a paper of Mr. Frank D. Adams, read before the same society and published in the same periodical, on the ore deposit of the Treadwell Mine. Dr. Dawson examined the mine (with Mr. Treadwell's permission) while on his way to the Yukon District in the autumn of 1887. The ore he found to be a nearly homogeneous crystalline mass, of medium grain, pale grey in colour, evidently consisting chiefly of quartz and white feldspar, with a little calcite and specked throughout with small cubical crystals of iron pyrites. The deposit (a clue to the nature of which is afforded by the occurrence of certain granitoid kernels) represents,

he thinks, the upper portion or "feather edge" of a granitic intrusion (contemporaneous probably with the granites of the Coast Ranges), which, owing to peculiar conditions, has become decomposed and silicified by solfataric or hydrothermal action, to which the concentration of gold in it and the deposition of pyrites are also due. Mr. Adams, formerly of the Survey, who has been appointed Lecturer on Geology in McGill University, treats of the microscopical character of the ore, and throws additional light on the nature of the deposit. His conclusion is that the ore of the Treadwell Mine is a granite (of the hornblende class probably), much crushed, altered and impregnated with secondary quartz, calcite and pyrite—the last of which the gold largely occurs in a free state.

The author of "New America" wrote more than twenty years ago some words which were not wanting in foresight. After taking a general survey of "Uncle Sam's Estate," he went on to say that "on this fine estate of land and water dwells a strange variety of races. No society in Europe can pretend to such wide contrasts in the type, in the colour, as are here observable; for while in France, in Germany, in England, we are all white men, deriving our blood and lineage from a common Aryan stock, and having in our habits, languages and creeds, a certain bond of brotherhood, our friends in these United States, in addition to such pale varieties as the Saxon and Celt, the Swabian and the Gaul, have also the Sioux, the Negro and the Tartar. . . . White man, black man, red man, yellow man, each has a custom of his own to follow, a genius of his own to prove, a conscience of his own to respect; custom which is not of kin, genius which is largely different and conscience which is fiercely hostile."

Between the ruling white and each of these races of colour, there have from time to time been sharp conflicts. Between aggressive, grasping white and wild, untamed Indian, there has been war, with intervals of truce more or less prolonged, for nearly three centuries. The rivalry between white and Asiatic quickly reached an acute stage and the stronger naturally triumphed. The relations between them at present are those of armed peace. The negro problem is more difficult to solve. If the red men and the yellow men are myriads, the black men are millions—millions competing, not merely for the white man's labour, but for the mastery—they who a generation ago were slaves. The Civil War broke down the barrier between bond and free and established the principle, as the supreme law of the land, that neither colour nor previous condition of servitude should avail to withhold or impair the citizen's right to vote.

What has been the effect of freedom and the franchise on the intellectual, moral and industrial development of the Southern black? The replies to this question are variously significant. While some maintain that the negro is unfitted for any class of work save that of the plantation—the original *raison d'être* of his enforced presence in the New World—and that in skilled labour as in business and professional life, he is a lamentable failure; there are others who consider him the equal of the Northern, and the superior of the Southern, white, and who cite statistics in proof of their assertion. According to the *Tradesman of Chattanooga* (Tenn.), as quoted in the *Canadian Manufacturer*, persons who have for years