

good proof of the correctness of the statement that it is not in a spirit of retaliation we seek it. The Committee of which I have the honor to be Chairman, is appointed by the head of our organization, the head office of which is situated in Philadelphia or Pennsylvania, or I should say, rather, the committee is appointed as a branch of the whole organization as representative of the whole organization, but our instructions are to seek such legislation as the Canadian members of the organization desire. We have no intimation or no instructions that we are to seek anything that may happen to suit the Americans. We are called to follow the instructions of our Canadian organizations. This organization, I should say, is a cosmopolitan one. It extends through France, Germany, Belgium, England, Ireland, Scotland and Australia, as well as in the United States and Canada. There is one executive board governing the whole. To show you that the legislation which we seek is sought with the full approbation of our brothers on the other side of the line as well as with their knowledge, in my last year's report, which I presented to the General Assembly, which met at Atlanta, Georgia, last November, the following paragraph appears:—

“FOREIGN CONTRACT LABOR.

“The importation of foreign workmen under contract has engaged the attention of your Committee, and we have urged upon the Government the enactment of the law similar to the one now in force in the United States. While we are inclined to the opinion as the result of our interviews that it may be possible, perhaps at the next session, to obtain the enactment of a law forbidding the importation of foreign workmen under contract, yet such a law in Canada would be much less efficient as a protection to labor than it is in the United States, for the reason that, this being a portion of the British Empire, the law would not apply to contracts made in other parts of the Queen's dominion. Even with this disadvantage your Committee is of opinion that a Dominion law prohibiting, under a sufficiently severe penalty, the importation of alien workmen under a contract would be of great benefit to Canadian labor. The law of Ontario does not go far enough to be of any appreciable benefit, inasmuch as it imposes no penalty, but merely makes the carrying out of his contract optional on the part of the imported workmen while making it binding upon the employer. It is more than doubtful if any such law passed by one of the provincial legislatures could be anything more than illusory, for, of course, one province cannot legislate to affect or forbid the making of contracts in another, and so aliens intending to work in Ontario, for instance, could be brought under contract to Quebec, or some other province by “A,” and then a contract could be made between them and “B” to work in Ontario. All these things being considered, your Committee is of opinion that only a Dominion Act could afford any real benefit and we would recommend that our successors be instructed to continue our work in this direction.”

This recommendation was favorably commented upon by the members of the general body which was assembled at Atlanta and the report was unanimously adopted. We believed that it is the policy of the Government of Canada to keep Canada for the Canadians. And that I think is the motto which many of our countrymen cherish. For the carrying out of that policy duties are levied upon numerous products and manufactures, such as will practically prohibit their importation into this country and enable our manufacturers to give employment to our own artisans and laborers. But I believe it is an integral part of that policy that protection should be given to our workingmen. You protect the manufacturers, you protect the goods that may be made in this country; we ask you to protect the workmen that they may make these goods. That is the thing in a nutshell. The desire of organized labor in Canada is not retaliation, but emulation to a degree. A great nation has seen fit to enact a protective law such as we are asking, and they are interpreting it in the manner far exceeding the requests of the labor organizations. They are in truth protecting their citizens, for we find that before they issue a license to the officers of their steam vessels they require them to take the oath that they