

to aid and assist to every reasonable extent all enterprises that present a fair prospect of fruitful return to the people of Canada. Owing to the fostering care of the Government we see at one end of Canada, in Nova Scotia, heretofore a comparatively unprogressive portion of our country, a huge iron industry, which will in all probability give employment soon to 20,000 families. At the other end, in our own Province, we see great enterprises in the neighborhood of Sault Ste. Marie, which will in all probability give employment to an equal number of families at this end of the Dominion. We see, further, numerous and extensive industries from one end of Canada to the other, starting up and developing, not fostered by high tariff, but which are legitimate to the country. The Government are most desirous of promoting also sound relations between the two great classes of employers and employed and by their legislation have provided courts of conciliation, through the medium of which labor difficulties can be adjusted and dangerous and expensive strikes avoided. (Cheers.)

It is true that our present legislation is still tentative and is rather to be looked on as the germ of a better system than its full realization. But no man who has paid any attention to the enormous misery and far-reaching social dangers which are continually arising from strikes, especially in the U. S., (and of which there are samples enough this very year) can fail to appreciate the immense importance of providing some important tribunal in which both parties can feel confident, and before which they can state their respective grievances and place their cases fairly before the general public. I speak with knowledge when I say we have had already very good cause to know that the battle is half won when we can induce the disputants to meet and hear what each other has got to say. It is not by legislative interference, but by an appeal to the natural good sense and desire for fair play on the part alike of employers and employed that we can hope to bring about a genuine friendly sentiment between those who are eating off the same loaf, and whose interests rightly understood are not diverse but identical, and it is by the force of an intelligent public opinion, and not by the bayonet, that the Government of Canada desire to keep good order among our people. To what extent the industrial development of Canada may come to depend on the right solution of this problem, only those who are aware of the immense injury which has resulted to British trade from the perpetual recurrence of strikes of one sort or another in the United Kingdom, and who know how perilously near the two parties have come to a state of civil war in many sections of the neighboring republic, can form an adequate judgment.

As regards our relations with other countries, and especially with our Mother Land and with the people of the United States, we recognize that it will be our duty and our privilege, without relinquishing our right of self-government and without in any way promising our autonomy or loading down our people with burthens too heavy to be borne, to do what in us lies to solidify and unite the various portions of the Empire nor have the least fear that Canada in the future will play aught but a most important part in any project which can be devised looking to that