

are not shared by the more intelligent Americans themselves, or by their press. Some jingoistic talk has been indulged in, it is true, and the prophecy has been made by certain American writers and speakers that the Canadian West will be gradually made American in its sympathies and character, rather than Canadian. The *New York Independent* agrees with the saner view of broader-minded Canadians that this is not at all likely. In a recent article the *Independent* says that the effect will more probably be in the other direction, their self-interest leading the new settlers to consider themselves Canadian citizens. Should a preference be given to Canadian wheat in the British market, "is it not reasonable to believe that with that market before them as a rich and unfailing customer, the American-born grain-growers of Western Canada would develop into a powerful economic interest, based on Imperial policy?" The chief result of the American immigration will be an "unprecedented invigoration of Canadian racial and business life, although it will not necessarily be followed by a change of political allegiance or by any noticeable tendency in that direction. . . . It is hardly to be supposed that the American colony in the Northwest, so long as its economic and social life proceeds on lines of least resistance, will concern itself with political agitation. In the new environment it will find its former language spoken, its former municipal life, and educational and religious privileges practically the same."

#### The Laboring-Man's Discontent

**I**T is a strange fact that while there is no country in the world where the working classes are so well paid and so comfortably circumstanced as in Canada and the United States, there are few countries where labor disturbances and strikes are more frequent. The Canadian workman has great advantages over

the European. In England at the present time there are said to be over a million idle workmen, and in many of the largest English industrial centres the over-stocking of the labor market is a matter of great seriousness. A similar situation prevails in Germany, Britain's commercial rival. Numbers of German manufactories have been compelled to either shut down or to reduce their staff of men and lower the wages. Even where there is work the scale of wages is pitifully low. In the steel and iron industries, which in Canada would represent almost the height of labor-profit, five dollars a week is paid in Germany for skilled workmen. At the same time the cost of living is proportionately higher than in this country. In nearly every respect the European laborer is at a heavy disadvantage as compared with his brother in the New World.

Yet from one part of America to another there is an almost constant cry of dissatisfaction. The laboring man is not content, and he has made the present an era of strikes. It is true that strikes are by no means confined to this country, but as just shown, there is more apparent reason for them in the other countries. There is hardly a trade in Canada or the United States to-day in which high wages are not paid, and the chief claim that the workman can put forward is that the cost of living is advancing, and that he is not receiving a proportionate share of the prosperity which he is helping to create. And so the strikes are instituted, labor and capital being on terms of mutual suspicion. In the greater number of strikes the workmen have gained materially, and it is an undoubted fact that needed reforms, outside of wage questions, are resulting from the agitations of the trades unions. If, as the demand for labor continues, the labor element continues aggressive and capital continues on the defensive, only one remedy seems to be possible—arbitration. But to cure the evil