

### AN EIGHT HOURS DAY ENFORCED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

With regard to the enforced limitation by Act of Parliament of labour to Eight Hours of the day, there are many considerations to be taken into account.

For example :—Eight Hours is a hard day's work in some lines of labor, and a very light day's work in others. Moreover, all the work done in the world is to supply the *wants* of the world; which wants, from day to day and from season to season, vary considerably.

All work therefore, has to be prosecuted with regard to exigencies, opportunities, and circumstances.

There is a fundamental difference between out-door work and in-door work.

All out-door work has to be regulated by length or shortness of days; short days in winter, long days in summer, as well as by such circumstances as cold and heat, wet weather and dry.

We cannot get rid of this, nor can we get rid of such contingencies as rains, storms, fires and floods; the freezing up of harbours and rivers in Winter, and the opening of navigation in Spring, and rush of business consequent thereon.

We cannot have an enforced Eight Hour day, applicable to all seasons, for those who work on the Land, or for the great army of Lumberers, or Sailors, or Fishermen; or for Builders of Railways and other public works in the open air; in fact, for the vast majority of those who work in a country like Canada.

Even with regard to those who work in shops, and can work in winter as well as in summer, the following considerations are pertinent :—

(1.) It is useless to expect to get ten hours' wages for eight hours' work.

(2.) Leisure, unless accompanied by power of self-