

is not every change that is a reform. We are wiser than our ancestors, but I doubt if we are any better than they were. There are some paths which we know to be right; others are doubtful. Let us cleave to that which we know to be right. 'Safety First' is a good motto."



Since the foregoing was written, now nearly one year ago, every prediction made by me has been verified in Quebec, Toronto and in Winnipeg.

The situation is a serious one. I doubt if we fully realize it. There is one effect which is being brought about, that does not seem to have attracted the attention which it deserves; it is this:

It is gradually widening the breach between the masses of the people and their officers. And as the breach between the people and their officers widens, a bond of sympathy between striking officials and the criminal classes naturally comes into existence.

A striking policeman has more sympathy for a burglar than for a law-abiding citizen who thinks he ought to be dismissed from office for failing to do his duty.

There was an illustration of the truth of this statement in an event which is said to have occurred in Toronto during the policemen's strike.

One evening about dusk one of the strikers walking along a street observed a burglar attempting to break into a house. The ruling passion was so strong that the policeman, forgetting that he was on a strike, arrested the burglar, who with surprise not unmixed with anger, said to him: "How is this? I thought you were on a strike; otherwise I would not have plied my occupation right in your presence."

The striker, tho a policeman, seems to have been somewhat of a gentleman, and recognizing the justice of the burglar's contention, apologized and released him.

I do not vouch for the truth of this story, tho I remember to have seen some account of it in a newspaper.

The interest which attaches to the story is that it might very naturally have occurred.