

The Daily Mail

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INCOMPETENCE OR WORSE

As a result of the persistent refusal of the Minister of Labor to appoint an Industrial Board to consider the difficulties between the C. P. R. and the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees, a strike which has taken place. It is not known how far this strike will extend but it is claimed by President Mosher of the Brotherhood that it will involve from three to five thousand members and result in great loss to them, to the Railway and to the business interests of the country.

Just why the Minister of Labor refused to appoint an Industrial Board and undertook to carry on negotiations single-handed does not appear on the surface. Possibly the control of the interests and the close alliance between the C. P. R. and the Conservative Party may have had something to do with it. However that may be the Minister's policy seems to have been dictated by the company and his action highly arbitrary. The C. P. R. refused to deal with the Union; the Minister refused to grant the Board. But Hon. Mr. Crothers claims to have secured ameliorations in working conditions which would satisfy the employees—this in the face of an ultimatum given by the Union Brotherhood that unless they secured a satisfactory adjustment of their demands for a Board to consider them by ten o'clock Monday morning they would strike. The Minister has disclosed incapacity to realize the gravity of the situation or has arbitrarily refused to give to the workmen the benefit of redress which parliament intended they should have, and the strike order was issued sharp on time. Through his refusal to allow the Labor Legislation, carefully devised and successfully to be put in operation, Mr. Crothers has participated a strike which may have serious results. Mr. Crothers' arbitrary action in siding with the Company and refusing the men a Board is in striking contrast to the practice of his predecessor in office, Hon. MacKenzie King, who, when corporations objected, and there were grounds for believing that a strike would take place, never failed to establish a Board of Investigation, and himself name a representative for the company where the company refused.

The excuses given by Hon. Mr. Crothers for his inaction was that the demands of the Brotherhood included employees under some thirty-six different headings and that no one Board could deal with a situation because it presents some difficulties. Other boards have dealt with just as complicated railway disputes successfully in the past, and that without entering into the details of each sub-division of Labor, but by establishing broad rules which were successfully worked out afterwards. The urgent government appears not only unable to enact useful legislation but incapable of applying it which it inherited from the Laurier regime.

A leading city clergyman in the course of an able sermon Sunday evening expressed the opinion that if the head of the city police commission were a man of character with some regard for his oath of office, and had appointed men to the police force of the same type, the city would not have a police scandal on its hands at the present time. If character is lacking in the head of the police commission, it is also lacking in the man who acts as chief patronage dispenser in York for the Dominion and Local Governments; it must also be lacking in the man who is secretary of the party organization in this county; it must also be lacking in the man who acts as crown prosecutor in this section, it must also be lacking in the man who holds the position of clerk of the county court, because all these positions are filled by one and the same person.



"Man in his life time plays many parts," says the immortal Shakespeare. It is scarcely likely that the swan of Avon had Ald. Percy Guthrie in mind when he penned the above, but it seems to fit his case very nicely. Under conditions as they exist in York County today Ald. Guthrie can appoint you to a government job, or he can have you fired if you already hold one; he can have you arrested, and he can keep you in jail without trial; if you get into a scrape he can get you out of it providing you vote right; he can call out the militia on the Sabbath day, the police are under his control; he can make you a jurymen and there are a thousand and one other things he can do for you. Is it any wonder that hundreds of decent Conservatives are kicking over the traces?

Discussing the police scandal the hack organ rises to remark: "Where did these officers (the policemen) get their liquor if not from men in the business and in open violation of the law, and for the purpose of ensuring protection in the carrying on of an illegal business." On another page of the hack organ in large type we find the following: "Just at this time of year Red Ball Porter fills a much felt need, when you don't feel 'up too much.' You can pay your money and take your choice.

It is useless for Ald. Guthrie to set up the claim through his newspaper mouthpiece that he has not been running the police force during the past year. If he was not running the force how came it that he was able a few months ago to order the police to St. Mary's to arrest a resident of that place on a charge of assault trumped up by a Tory heeler. In his capacity as crown prosecutor he was able to keep the same man in jail for nearly a week without bail.

The hack organ rises to tell the public that Mayor Hooper is a Liberal. The hack organ is wrong. His Worship left the old party after it lost the reigns of power, and stumbled for the Tories in the late provincial election. He made his position quite clear at the time by explaining that as an honest Liberal he could no longer support the opposition.

In the matter of Scott Act enforcement, Chief of Police Hawthorn seems to have been between the devil and the deep sea. He lost his job for not enforcing the act and according to his own statement he would have been fired had he attempted to enforce it.

Halifax Chronicle:—Mr. Borden used to say in opposition that the expenditure of the Dominion should be cut at least ten million dollars. But, behold, what happened? Instead of reducing the expenditure, his government has increased it by eleven million dollars during the past seven months. There's 'robbery' for you!

Toronto Globe—Apropos of the C. P. R. strike, The Ottawa Free Press making a bullseye when it says: "Hon. W. T. Crothers, in our humble opinion, is much better at flag-flapping than at waving an olive branch."

It would be a shame to dismiss the policeman from Geary and permit the aldermen from Geary to remain on the job

It is beginning to look as if the public conscience has at last been aroused against the Local Government machine in this city, and its disgraceful methods.

BUTTERFLIES.

This popular play will be presented at the Opera House on the evenings of Nov. 25th and 26th. Reserved seats are 50c. and are now being sold by the ladies. A special prize will be awarded to the person selling the most tickets. This play is under the auspices of the Fredericton Brass Band.

Butterflies.

The Brotherhood of Railway Car-men recently organized a new lodge at Brandon, Man.

Cook's Cotton Root Compound.

The great Uterine Tonic, and only safe effectual Monthly Regulator on which women can depend. Sold in three degrees of strength—No. 1, \$1; No. 2, 10 degrees stronger, \$2; No. 3, for special cases, \$5 per box. Sold by all druggists, or sent prepaid on receipt of price. Free pamphlet. Address: TIG COOK MEDICINE CO., TORONTO, ONT. (formerly Windsor)

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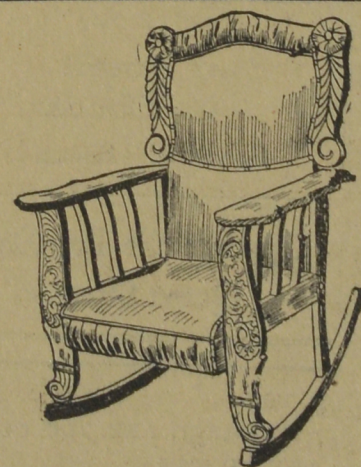
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HEADQUARTERS for CHRISTMAS FURNITURE

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from ONE DOLLAR UP.

HOWARD ROGERS

The Furniture Man KING STREET

The flour, feed, cereal, mill and grain warehouse workmen at San Francisco, Cal., are discussing a proposed organization.

95 per cent. of the print cutters of the United States and Canada are organized.