

for years, have been before the public like Brother P. M. Arthur, the Grand Chief of the B. L. E., and F. P. Sargent, Grand Master of the B. of L. F., would sanction or permit any such scheme for the destruction of life and property. Their reputation and the reputation of the twin Brotherhoods, earned by honest endeavor to build up the fraternity of the two associations, are too great to be sacrificed, if even they could compel, by such methods, a dozen railroads to acknowledge the honest grievances of their men. In every organization numbering its members by many thousands, it is to be expected that there will be found a certain number of hot-headed and wrong-minded men; but to hold an entire organization responsible, would be unjust and wholly inexcusable. Were the full truth to become known it would doubtless appear that whatever crime, if any, has been attempted, was the work of individuals, and the public can rest assured that if found guilty, any member of the twin Brotherhoods will be expelled and condemned by both associations.

This dynamite scheme has been, for the past few years, a favorite of detectives, and no one has made better use of it than the Pinkerton gang. This racket works admirably, and the detective knows how to have the bombs in the right place, in perfect keeping with the plot. It has always been and is to-day, a mystery to the average citizen how time-like the detective arrives on the scene and is always so well posted as to the exact location of the explosives. The question naturally arises, entirely aside from the propriety of their employment, why should individuals or corporations be called upon to raise or employ this gang of Pinkertons? Are our laws inadequate for the protection of persons or property? Are our police, our sheriffs or militia so derelict in their duty or so inadequate in numbers that individuals and property are in constant danger of violence, and the masses of our people so uncivilized and revolutionary that the citizen or corporation with important interests to protect must make up his mind to place no confidence in the laws of our land, but to hire armed men for their

protection? Such would seem to be the reasoning of those whose patronage has built up this great secret military institution in our midst. But there is no escape from the conviction that the existence and toleration of such a powerful army of mercenary hirelings is not only a grave scandal but a source of danger to our institutions. The same laws which prohibit intimidation or violence by others, should also prohibit the employment of these mercenaries to intimidate and kill; for it is a matter of record that their track has been marked with the blood of innocent people in St. Louis, Chicago, Jersey City and elsewhere, and it is the general impression that the armed strangers have been more desirous of precipitating riots than preserving order. Detective agencies may have their sphere of usefulness, but there can be no justification for the existence or toleration in our midst of a powerful force of armed mercenaries. That feature, at least, of the Pinkerton agency should be suppressed.

TO THE FRATERNITY.

The press, during the past year, has from time to time mentioned the fact that the government of China was negotiating for the construction of several large systems of roads, and it would require a great number of railroad men from this country. Several persons have taken advantage of the report by going from place to place and producing forged papers claiming that they were the accredited agents. A fee of ten or fifteen dollars was required for examination, etc., and we should judge from the many reports received here at the G. I. D. during the past year, they have been very successful. We reproduce the following letter for the benefit of the fraternity, and hope justice may soon be meted out to them.—[Ed.]

IMPERIAL CHINESE CONSULATE GENERAL,
SAN FRANCISCO, July 12, 1883.

CHIEF ARTHUR, CLEVELAND, O.:

DEAR SIR.—I beg to call your attention to the following: There arrived at Victoria, B. C., last fall, a man who represents that he is a duly-accredited agent of the Chinese government; that his mission here is to secure the services of locomotive en-

gineers, firemen and brakemen, to proceed to China as employes of government roads in that empire, at wages four times in excess of that paid here. He is a swindler and a fraud. He gets from his victims an average of \$15.00 each, having them go through the form of signing "articles." As there are no railroads in China, you will readily see that he is a fraud.

Letters by the score have been received by this consulate, making inquiries, by his victims, two-thirds of which are from locomotive engineers. By the addresses of letters, his route has been from British Columbia over a portion of the Northern Pacific, Union Pacific to Cheyenne, and Denver to El Paso. The latest inquiry comes from Texas. Several men have given up good positions and come to this port to embark for China. Some may have gone without calling at this consulate. Trusting that you may expose this scoundrel and bring him to his deserved home—a State prison—I have the honor to be, with much respect,

Your obedient servant,
F. A. BEE, Chinese Consul.

THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

B. L. E.

We are in receipt of a letter from Bro. John McMinn, C. E. of Detroit Division No. 1, and chairman of the committee of arrangements, announcing the following programme of proceedings in honor of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the inception of our Brotherhood, which will be enjoyed by the members of the B. L. E., their families and friends, in the beautiful city of Detroit, August 17th and 18th.

Friday morning, August 17th, at 9 A. M., a secret session will be held at White's Grand Opera House; in the afternoon, at 2 o'clock, there will be a public meeting at White's Opera House, when the following gentlemen will address the meeting: Mayor John Pridgon Jr. will deliver an address of welcome on behalf of the citizens of Detroit; his excellency Gov. Cyrus G. Luce in behalf of the State, responded to by our Grand Chief, Bro. P. M. Arthur. Gen. Russell A. Alger, ex-governor of Michigan; congressman Wm. G. Mayberry, commissioner of labor John W. McGrath, and others, will also deliver addresses.

The musical selections for this grand treat will be of the highest order, and will be a very enjoyable feature of the occasion.

In the evening a complimentary moonlight excursion will be enjoyed on Detroit river and Lake St. Clair, visiting Island Park and Belle Isle.

On Saturday, August 18th, there will be a complimentary excursion to the famous Oakland House, passing through Lake St. Clair and the new ship canal, touching at the renowned St. Clair Flats; giving all a day-light view of some of the most romantic scenery on the continent.

A cordial invitation is extended to all members of our Brotherhood to be present with their families. Hotel accommodations have been secured at reduced rates. The Wayne, opposite the M. C. depot, has been selected as the headquarters for the several committees. All Brothers will be welcomed there and have accommodations assigned to them.

The following roads will furnish transportation as follows: M. C. R. R. will carry members of the Brotherhood and their families upon application to E. C. Brown, General Superintendent at Detroit, by the proper officer of the road by which the applicant is employed; the Grand Trunk system west of Detroit and the St. Clair river, including the Detroit, Grand Haven and Milwaukee, by applying to H. Roberts, Esq., Mechanical Superintendent of Machinery at Detroit, by the superintendent or proper officer of the road employing the applicant; the Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific will furnish transportation to members and their families on application to Supt. J. S. Goodrich, Chicago, Ill., by the proper officers of the road by which the Brothers are employed.

Nothing will be left undone to make the occasion one that will ever be fresh in the memories of all who may be so fortunate as to be present so long as this life may last.

Detroit welcomes you. Go and lay aside the busy cares of the road and with wife and family enjoy a day of recreation.