

it may be taken as proved. This excess of supply over demand naturally gives the price of labor a constantly downward trend.

Apparently, however, wages have risen. This apparent rise is due to the fall in gold. As has been shown above, the real wage has fallen 10 per cent., even in a period of capitalist prosperity. And now that that period is over and the industrial depression following it has immeasurably swelled the ranks of the unemployed, thus increasing the disproportion between supply and demand in the labor-power market, the money wage also has come tumbling down.

In the case of a fall in the prices of other commodities this would be remedied by a restriction of production, but no such restriction of the production of labor-power is possible. The workers labor-power being his physical energy, his very life force, he must continue producing it while he lives, and he will not continue to live very long if he does not find a buyer for it, unless he can get next to a soup kitchen.

The inevitable result of this downward trend of wages is an ever increasing portion of misery and privation for the workers, in spite of the constant struggle which they have carried on in the industrial field to obtain a better price for their labor. Strikes have been fought with the greatest determination, privation and suffering have been endured with a heroism of which the working class alone is capable, millions of dollars have been spent, the unions were never so strong as during the last decade, and yet, in spite of it all the wage has fallen. Here and there, in favored localities and at favored trades, they have attained to some success, but it is but a passing success. Capitalism is the great leveller of the working class, the great abolisher of individuality. All trades are being reduced to a common level. In one line after another the skilled worker has been replaced by a machine and a "hand." And locality after locality is being brought more and more within the full dominance of Capitalism.

It should be evident to the worker that they are fighting a losing fight. Attempting the impossible. At one time, when they fought against individual capitalists with no great capital, some measure of success was possible. But now the odds are against them. Monster Capitalism sits enthroned. Their employers are now grown to giant corporations, with millions at their command. Out of the very rise and fall in stocks consequent upon strikes and lock-outs, the masters reap a richer harvest than they lose by the stoppage of industries. And all the powers of government are theirs to do their bidding, the policeman with his club, the thug with this revolver, the soldier with his rifle, the court with its injunctions and the legislature with its law. Weapon after weapon has been wrested from the hands of the workers until to-day, in the words of a western labor-union official, "the only remaining usefulness of the labor-unions is in resisting the petty tyrannies of the masters."

It is indeed a losing fight the workers are thus fighting, for they are