

as possible. But if competition became severe one year and the profits were cut in half the mine would be worked at a loss, its credit would be exhausted, no fresh capital could be forthcoming and the men would be thrown out of work.

#### Working at a Loss.

Such an argument has also to assume that the original shareholders would receive absolutely no compensation for the loss of the mine when the men took it over. If they were to be paid only five per cent on their original investment the mine would be worked at a loss as far as the men were concerned.

The same argument can be applied to all industries. It is impossible to work without credit and it is impossible to arbitrarily raise wages or lessen the hours of work without regard for the economic principles involved and still keep credit. It is perhaps human nature to strike for higher wages when by so doing and "sticking-all-together" the shareholders, or capitalist, may be forced to pay those wages but even the capitalist is governed by the laws of supply and demand and cannot pay wages if he cannot sell his products in the markets of the world.

#### Credit Can Be Destroyed.

Granting that labour today is so well organized that it can enforce its demands by means of sympathetic strikes and paralyze industry, it must also be granted that capital or credit can be destroyed by that action. If a community as a whole, living by industrialism, thus cut its own throat its place would be taken by a community with a little more commonsense. Human nature may be justified in grabbing all it can if it has the power to do so but it is also a law of nature to starve if nothing can be produced. The Socialist has magnificent theories regarding self-supporting communities but in practise they have proved lamentable failures. Fournier, Owen and scores of others have laid down the fundamental laws of Utopia but they have always forgotten the fundamental laws of human nature which act just as strongly in communistic as in capitalistic circles.

#### Capital and Labour Cannot Be Divorced.

Let us admit for the sake of argument that capitalists are all tyrants and labour alone virtuous. It has been shown that it is utterly impossible to divorce them without destroying both. The problem then remains how to make them live together so that the virtue of the one may overcome the tyranny of the other. Curiously enough there are many very happy examples of capital and labour living and working together on most excellent terms. I suppose this would not be admitted by any labour official and capitalists themselves often seem to ignore the examples of others, so that possibly there may be some reason for this peculiar form of blindness on the part of both. The Metropolitan Gas Company in London, the Lever Bros. Port Sunlight Soap Works, Cadbury's Works at Bournville, the Taylor Woollen Mills, some of the big Coventry and Birmingham factories and others spread about the world hardly ever have any trouble with their men. In many cases the men belong to their various Unions, but their own clubs supported by their employers and themselves alike, generally prove more attractive.

Now when a reason is sought for the good relations existing between some employers and their men and the bad relations existing in so many other cases, a thousand and one answers might be given when perhaps in nine cases out of ten only one is necessary. The men are found to be content where the employer is in personal touch with all of them; where he is personally known to them as a man who will listen to their troubles, help them individually over a strike, take an interest in their work, is always ready to listen to suggestions, and is broad minded. It is true that strikes have taken place even under such conditions but still in spite of a disagreement with the official representatives of the men, the relationship among all remains as good as ever. When the disputed point has been settled the men return to work gladly and without any of the bitterness that has so often been engendered between masters and men. The men appreciate recognition and the example of good fellowship, they resent being treated merely as automatons paid to do so much work at so much a day. In the latter case they are quick to use every opportunity their unions give them to cause trouble.