

fallen. Here and there, in 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 In one line after another the skilled worker has been replaced by a machine and a "hand."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.

At one time, when the workers 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! 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 lockouts, the masters may reap a richer harvest than what 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 his 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 today, 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."

The workers today are fighting not only against the man-made laws of capitalism, but also against all the laws of economics. So long as their labor power remains a commodity they