

So, in the first place, I am afraid that we shall have to charge the labourer with being the promotive cause of the want of occupation of labour.

But we are not to blame the whole of it upon the workman. Others were extortioners; others demanded fabulous rates; others contributed to this general fund of unemployment. The Government started it. They are always to blame. The Government during the war required almost every commodity, every supply—provisions, munitions, appliances of all kinds, and in every direction—and they lavished money right and left. Everyone had a hatful. Then the Government issued loans. The newspapers found the advertising of loans very remunerative. Those good people, the brokers, and others, advised everyone who had a little money to invest in Government bonds, saying, "They will be issued at par, and in a few years they will be worth a great deal more"—some said 5 per cent, some said 10 per cent; I do not know what the limitation was. This was the causa causans of the unemployment, because it took up the surplus money of the people generally. People who had small investments, or money in the bank, at home, or elsewhere, hastened to invest their money in Government bonds.

Then, everybody was an extortioner. The farmers were extortioners in the prices they asked for their products; the merchants were extortioners, because they could readily sell their goods; the retail merchants were extortioners, because they put on 200 or 300 or 400 per cent; employees of all kinds, down to washerwomen and charwomen, were extortioners, because they all wanted increased wages. The consequence was that there was extortion all round. The only classes exempt from this category were the lawyers and the plumbers, and the reason for that was that they had taken everything that was in sight before.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. LYNCH-STAUNTON: How about shipping agents?

Hon. Mr. ROCHE: They were all at sea. But the hard fact remains that the ready money of the people was absorbed, and householders and others realized that their money was inadequate to procure for them even the necessaries of life, let alone the luxuries and the ornaments of life; and consequently the volume of sales was diminished. People curtailed their pur-

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chases and did not buy anything that was not absolutely necessary. In place of buying ornamental and other articles, their money was absorbed in the purchase of the necessaries of life; so those who were employed in the production of other articles found the demand for the products of their labour diminished to a great extent, and consequently they were out of work.

Workmen and others thought they would restore conditions by limiting the hours of labour. That was no palliative; it was only a very slight expedient to remedy the evil, because it kept up the prices of the commodities produced. If a man worked only three days in the week, receiving a wage per day, the employer had the expenses of his workshop and his clerical staff going on, and the price of the article was not diminished and the labourer got no more money.

Then, again, there is a large class of people who have no representative: they are not represented in this House, they have no spokesman, they cannot come before the public and state their case, and they must naturally suffer—those who perhaps are living on the income from a little invested money, or the rent of a house, or something of that kind, and who have no employment. These are the real sufferers—not the abject poor, and those who live on charity, whom we call poor. Those people, who perhaps formerly belonged to a higher class in society, and whose means were diminished by every change, were suffering; and their minds were all turned to the object lesson of the high pay of the labouring man. For instance, I have heard of ladies in moderate circumstances who went to buy an article of household use, of common necessity, and were amazed at the high price charged; but a labourer's wife would come in, and without demur would buy the article and walk off with it. That created a vein of envy in the feminine mind. These women thought: "We were well off once; we could buy these things; now they are artificially boosted by a certain class of public opinion."

The tidal wave was created and started, and it now overwhelms the whole community. For instance, some labouring men obtained \$60 a week, for time and overtime, and they were able to flourish, while a large class of the community were in a state of comparative poverty and had to abstain from the use of ordinary and perhaps necessary articles. All this produced the opinion that the cost of labour was too high and should be diminished; that there should be a new level estab-