

interest on his capital. Labour is entitled to such wage as the capitalist, allowing for his risk, can afford to give. A strike is a legitimate engine for enforcing the concession of such a wage, though not for any exaction beyond. Further exaction must break the trade. The capital which the employer puts into the trade, you will observe, is not a thing alien to labour, but its accumulated fruit.

It has been questioned whether, if the employer increases his profit by adding to his risk of capital or by an improved policy, the fruit of his own brain, the wage-earner becomes thereby entitled to an increase of wages, supposing his part in the production to remain the same. The question is rather subtle, but the plain answer is that in this as in all cases wise policy as well as good feeling will lead the employer to give his men as much interest as possible in the prosperity of the concern. Want of inducement to improving effort on the part of the workman in the shape of a tangible reward is, it must be owned, a weakness in the factory system. He would be a great benefactor who could find the cure.