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King seems to be made, or at least trained, to settle the form of dissension we call a strike. As a deputy minister, in 1906, he had settled a coal-miners' strike which threatened a fuel famine throughout Western Canada, not as a Deus ex Machina with police and machine guns, but as a mediator who was seeing to the interests of all parties. In those early days he had already put forward these principles: "In any civilized community, private rights should cease when they become public wrongs....." "Who begins a coal strike in winter must give in to government decisions, or make way for others who are prepared to do so." This was the theory upon which, on his return from the strike, King drafted the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act.

That such principles - commonplaces today - were carried out of the theoreticians' books into living realities forty years ago is of historic importance. That the young man, doing this, succeeded is due to three facts: He never favoured capital, but always remained an honest umpire between the parties. He had the scientific education that enabled him to argue with the help of lists, numbers, statistics, instead of demagogic speeches. Thirdly, he was qualified, through his work among the labour classes, and also in remembrance of family struggles, to feel warmly for the rights of the