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The Medallist's Speech

"Labour Unions are more detrimental than beneficial to society."

While beforehand friendly relations may exist between masters and men, the introduction of labour unions is sure to breed trouble. They uphold the doctrine that employers and employed are merely two contracting parties, and that the one should show no deference to or admit the superiority of the other. Gentlemen, I say in this they are wrong; no matter who our masters may be, or what their characters, the fact still remains that they are superior to us, and as such ought to be treated with certain distinction. Thus antagonism spreads opposition where concord should exist, and then the result of this trouble — the havoc-laden strike comes and spreads strife and confusion where before was all serenity. As an institution which stirs up discord and trouble, anarchy and socialism, which makes the people discontented and greedy, I say labour unions ought to be entirely abolished. Labour unions, in many cases unconsciously, arouse among the lower classes a feeling of resentment against the rich, a hatred of the man who controls their income, and little by little the smouldering flame grows greater, and finally bursts forth into a blaze of fury. I here speak of Socialism, one of the greatest evils with which a country could be attacked. I do not say that unions directly produce Socialism, but I do say that so great is their tendency towards such, so great is the influence