

or for all time, by some wide understanding, it will be a ghastly conclusion should each nation go on settling questions of wages and working conditions in vital industries by the rule of the strongest as established by a perpetual war of strikes.

Those leaders of thought and action who can find a more just and simple, more friendly and human, more prudent and wholesome method will take rank among the great reformers and pioneers of progress. For a generation past the tendency has been to separate employers and employed into different camps, the one openly teaching and promoting a class consciousness of its own, the other promoting such a consciousness without openly teaching it. The doctrine that the class should include the proprietors and workers in the same industry, and that they should share in determining the conditions, rewards and domestic control of the business, may not be acceptable to those employers who think that they have a right to dictate everything in the shop, or to those workers who wish to abolish wage service altogether. But for the present it is the way of peace.

Need of Conference and Good Will

From The Vancouver Daily Sun,
Sept. 24th, 1918.

Sir John Willison's address to the Canadian Club yesterday was a thoughtful and timely exposition of the most vital social and economic problem with which modern civilization must deal—and deal adequately—if it is to survive.

No fault can be found with his statement as to the causes of the existing differences between capital and labor. On this point he was clear as well as temperate. Nor did he commit himself to any patented cure. What he did was rather to explain what has already been achieved along this line and to call

attention to the elements of promise in various experiments now being tried.

At bottom, what he had to say was that confidence and good will must somehow be established between employer and employee. Where there is mutual trust, there will be comparatively little difficulty. For this purpose both sides must be, not only permitted but encouraged to organize. Business must be conducted on the assumption that it is a common interest, the employer as well as the employee being entitled to a reasonable return, which neither can be very sure of getting unless they pull together.

Sir John's account of what has been done by certain great corporations in the United States and by the industrial councils which are being set up everywhere in Great Britain, was probably new to most of his hearers.

He gave the impression that these schemes have many hopeful features, though they perhaps cannot yet be accepted as anything more than partial and tentative solutions. They are moves in the right direction. They have the merit of regarding the workman as a human being instead of as a mere "hand." They foster contentment by giving him some measure of control over his own destiny.

On the whole, Sir John may be described as an optimist, with reservations. He does not pretend to see his way completely through to the inauguration of ideal relations between capital and labor, but he is confident of being on the right road, whatever may be the obstructions to be surmounted before the goal is attained.

For Concerted Action

From The B.C. Financial Times,
Oct. 5th, 1918.

Sir John Willison, president of the Canadian Industrial Reconstruction Association, has been touring