

structed to impress upon the management of collieries that it is in their interests to assist the society, on the ground that it is better to transact business with five or seven men representing the whole, representing a tangible, responsible body, than to treat with irresponsible persons individually. If on the next visit of Pioneer's Committee the management of Springhill should ask: "Why should I treat with you; what guarantee can you give me if we arrange this matter that a section of the employees will not throw the pit idle?" The committee might reply, "We will see to that," and the management could throw back at them the ten days boys strike and say, "Where was Pioneer then?" And that is a question many would like to know. It devolves upon Pioneer through its sec'y and in the interests of the P. W. A. to tell how it happened that Legere was not a member. Was he under 17 years of age? Did not the boys in taking up his case throw contempt upon Pioneer Lodge? Did Pioneer sympathize with the action of the boys, and was it ashamed to own it. Or did Pioneer disapprove of the action and had not the courage to avow it? Of course there can be no boys lodge in Springhill else Pioneer would have avowed its responsibility from the first, as no junior lodge can take radical action without approval of the parent lodge. Whichever way one looks at it Pioneer was remiss in its duty, and as the Herald says it is up to Pioneer to see that means are provided for the prevention of a recurrence of similar fiascos.

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Strikes at the best are terrible things, and those who order or assent to them assume a fearful responsibility. Some strikes may be justified, but many should never be entered upon. Some are unselfish let me admit, and some terribly selfish. If a man by consenting to a strike hurts only himself we may admire his standing up for what he believes a principle, and his self sacrifice but when a man realizes that in consenting to a strike he is sure to inflict injury on others, he is horribly selfish. The Boiler-makers strike on the Clyde is a case of this kind. The strikers knew that while they would get aid from their union, the many common laborers, dependent on the continuation of work, would be irreparable sufferers—and this while, in theory, the unionists called these laborers 'comrades.' I have known of men clamoring for a strike who took no thought of the consequences to others, and I have known sanction to strike being refused, not on the ground that a few might not have a just grievance, but that a great many would be involved in suffering, and distress. There is a time to strike and a time to refrain from striking. There should have been no strike on the Clyde in Nov. the season of the year and the state of trade were unpropitious. Strange that everybody saw that but the chief participants. During the time of the Clyde strike a press representative visited a number of the homes of those thrown out of employment. We sometimes here of women being strong strike abettors, but these women may have full larders. Was the pantry empty they might not be so enthusiastic. Here is an account of one of the press man's visits:—

"Here is another family's story. In this case

the woman was roused to white heat when she began to speak of the strike. "Strikes have sent more men to perdition than anything I know. They say they are striking for more wages. More wages! Why, were their terms granted to-morrow they would never make up in their lives the money they have lost. Look at our case. It is typical of many. My man made good wages, but he spent the half of them in drink. I did my best to save, but its disheartening when you know it may be pounced on at any time. Now we are up to the ears in debt. My two daughters who were out in a laundry, have left us to fight the battle alone. I don't blame them either. There are three young children—I am his second wife—and I can't give them what I have not got. The factor will have to whistle for his rent. My man usually puts in the peg before rent day, so that we can pay up, but this time, of course, he had not the chance. You hear the men blethering of what they are suffering for their principles. A lot they are suffering! It's their wives and children. They always make sure that they have their tobacco and their glass of beer out of the strike alimnet they receive. Then they can take themselves out of the house when the children are crying for a dinner which cannot be made. I have been refused any more credit both at the grocer's and butchers', and I really don't know what to do."

Until there is a better way strikes may have to be employed as weapons offensive and defensive, but all the pros and cons, the possibilities as well as the probabilities should be well weighed and considered before a decision is come to. I do not say that on the shoulders alone of those who ordered or voted for the strike all the responsibility rests. No, it is possible that for the suffering, starvation, perhaps death, that may follow, the employers must be held responsible in that their injustice forced, tempted, the men to resort to 'forcible' measures.

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