

able those demands may be, paramount not only to law but also to every other interest concerned. Moreover, the law is bound to protect itself. It cannot be violated on any pretext without injury to society at large, and to the weakening of its legitimate and necessary authority. It must not allow such scenes of lawlessness as have been witnessed in the streets of large cities, not only because they are a violation of law, but because they let loose passions which give rise to further excesses, and bring about disregard for all lawful authority. For these objects no legislation is necessary. The common law is clear enough on these points, and special legislation always seems to indicate a limit to common law where often no such limit exists.

To write as above seems almost childishly trite and commonplace, but such wild ideas prevail upon the subject of the rights and claims, and still more the power, of labour unions that some kind of protest is needed lest the rights of persons and of the public should be entirely forgotten. Indeed between the great corporations on one side and the labour unions on the other, the public, whether individually or collectively, are being reduced to a condition of impotence pitiable to behold, and intolerable to endure.

There is however one point of importance upon which, as the Courts are unable to agree, legislation may be necessary, or upon which legislation may properly be invoked.

It is a monstrous doctrine that a body like a trade union, enforcing by its own method the collection of large sums of money, and exercising absolute control over its members, can, by unlawful means, work injury to a person or to a corporation liable by common law or by act of incorporation for damages which his or its acts may cause, and yet be free from all liability. To incorporate the unions would be the simplest way of remedying the evil. That of course the unions would never agree to, and it is doubtful whether our House of Commons would pass any measure which would treat the funds of the union as subject to penalty. As the question is now sub judice we may leave it till the points raised have been finally settled.

Though properly considered in connection with trade unions the alien labour law stands upon a different footing, and must