

such a condition may occur in America, a good many believe, unless there is some mode of regulation, other than competition, of the great blessing which Providence has given to mankind in the mines underneath the earth. At the last analysis, competition in an article in which the chief outlay is labor, ends in the wages of the laborer being cut so low as to be insufficient for the sustentation of himself and family. Then he becomes desperate, and desperation knows no right except the right of food and comfort as a return for labor. This seems to be about the condition reached in England.

With an unlimited supply beneath the earth of an article most needed by mankind, and with a demand that is universal to be supplied, it does seem singular that this question of supply and demand cannot be solved without starvation, hardship and universal loss. Yet, at last accounts, coal throughout the coming winter in England was likely to be two shillings per ton higher than last year, which is a calamity in itself to nine-tenths of the people; but, in addition to this, gaunt want threatens hundreds of thousands of miners themselves, and the government, it is thought, must intervene to save from starvation a great section of its most industrious and most dependent constituents.

Convinced that there is something entirely wrong in the modes of business adopted, and that a remedy must be discovered other than that found in competition and combination, intelligent men are intent upon working out a plan in which Co-operation shall play the leading part. What it is proposed to do is shadowed forth in the accompanying cable dispatch, printed in the *Evening Post* of a recent date, and apparently nowhere else referred to:

LONDON, Sept. 20.—After a year's consideration and consultation between coal owners and experts, Sir George Elliott, the originator of the scheme, to-day publishes a proposal that the coal lessees of the United Kingdom shall form an immense