

betterment of conditions governing labour, unionism has to a great extent become an ally of socialism. For dream and theorise as we will, it must be confessed that the equality of all, when applied to labour, be it that of the agriculturist, artisan or clerk, is misleading and, worse still, enervating. A fair wage is a very different thing to an equal wage, and though no man can deny the good work unionism of labour has accomplished, capital, when it stands face to face with the problem of having to pay a high wage to good and bad workmen alike, must either refuse rights it would be willing to grant to those whose work it is profitable to employ, or else seek some less speculative investment.

Another difficulty in harmonising capital and labour lies in the fact that a great deal of labour is casual; that is, it drifts from one form of work to another, seeking the best wage. The capitalist or employer of casual labour is always in a predicament, as he has to take and pay for what labour he can get, and it seems to be the avowed intention of labour leaders, especially in British Columbia, to as far as lies within their power to keep the labour market in a condition of starvation.

To harmonise two despotic influences, which, though dependent on each other, are nevertheless continually at war, some new diplomacy must be sought. That labour as an organised body is capable of extreme despotism is no more to be denied than that capital, unfettered by law, can be, in the hands of unscrupulous men, a terrible tyranny. That they should work together, each for the good of the other, is only possible when each recognises the fair demands of the other. Labour, unfortunately, does not distinguish between the different circumstances surrounding different commercial enterprises. Because one mine can give shorter hours than another, owing to better facilities for its work, it is not necessary to conclude that all mines can profitably give such hours. The refusal of labour to recognise such circumstances, and the attempts to keep the supply of labour far below the demand, is a fruitful cause for the cold shoulder the large industrial investors turn to propositions emanating from British Columbia. Therefore the only practical course that is open to harmonise these two interests is by educating labour to the needs of capital, just as capital has been educated to the needs of labour. Perhaps the best lines on which such education can be given is that adopted by the National Cash Register Company, who have an annual conference of their employees, at which all questions relating to the well-being of the company can be discussed. Most industrial undertakings would find it advantageous to hold such meetings, at which all questions relating to their industry could be amicably discussed. The employer could frankly state the conditions under which his business was being carried on, point to competitive prices, and give reasons for any actions on his part which had affected his employees since their last meeting. This would at once lead to a better understanding between the capitalist and his labour. At present, when trouble threatens between employer and employed, the union steps in and