

When, however, we come to deal with the existing state of things the prospect seems almost hopeless. Every day makes more complete and efficient the organization of the unions. No consideration of humanity—no respect for the rights of others—no regard for the convenience or even the necessities of the innocent public, are allowed to stand in the way of their demands. Flourishing industries are destroyed, business rendered uncertain, trade in many cases paralyzed, the worst passions excited, and that reverence for law and order which is the foundation of all prosperity is uprooted. Anarchy takes advantage of this state of unrest, and lends its aid in promoting a condition of things which nearly approaches revolution. Then the politician steps in. The unionists have votes, therefore their demands, however unreasonable, must be respectfully listened to, and legislation must be framed to carry out their objects.

On the other side employers combine, and an army of "strike-breakers" is organized, and thus we have the two opposing forces face to face with the results already described.

But though the law is powerless to deal with the sources of the evils arising out of the conflict between labour and capital, as it is powerless to deal with other elements in human nature which produce the crimes it is its duty to suppress, yet it is its duty to prevent, and, if need be, to punish any action which violates the law of the land by breach of the peace, or interference with rights of person or property. Law cannot prevent strikes or lockouts, which are not in themselves lawless acts, but it can, and should, at all costs, and all hazards, and by any means that are necessary, prevent strikers or union men from interfering with any person, however repugnant to their views or interests the conduct of such person may be, or however much public sympathy may be enlisted in their favour.

The public also has rights which must be protected. For example the employees on a street railway may strike if they please, but the right of the company to work their line as they choose and the right of the public to use the line must be protected, even though the object of the strikers may thus be frustrated. To view the matter otherwise is to place the strikers above the law, and to make the demands of a few, however equit-