

Pinkertons and the strikers, and was only subdued by a large body of troops; or the Chicago strike of the Pullman employees in '94, which saw twelve deaths and nearly six hundred arrests, trains blocked in every direction, whole lines destroyed, incendiary fires the order of the day and 14,000 troops and police engaged to preserve life and property; when we but consider the enormous losses to the workmen and the employers, the widespread misery and privation among the laborers' families, much of which can never be repaired, shall we not unanimously conclude that the strike of this nature has no economic character? During a strike, no means are neglected, on the part of the men, to distress the capitalist, but which side suffers more? The masters lose in profits and upkeep of capital only, but on the other hand they gain in ridding themselves of accumulated stock at high prices, which condition lasts until some time after the strike. So while the masters' chief loss is in profits, which in fact they never had, the workmen suffer an absolute dead loss. Their lost time can never be returned, and even if they now obtain higher pay, it takes a very long time at the small increase to make up the difference. Besides, the few extra comforts the higher wage will purchase are not for a moment sufficient compensation for the suffering and privation while they were in idleness. From an economic standpoint, then, the strike does not redeem itself, even so far as the striker himself is concerned.

In all things, the remedy should never prove worse than the disease. For, just as it would be unlawful to decapitate a man in order to save his life, so would it be unjust for a trade or labor union to order a strike, when the result would be proportionately disastrous.

The affirmative would justify the strike upon the ground that it is the only sure means of settling the differences which arise between capital and labor. This I dispute. To offer arbitration as a means to peace and prosperous relationship between them seem to meet with rejection. But there is a form of arbitration which is giving unlimited satisfaction at the present time both in England and America. This is the Conference Board System, which provides a committee of conciliation consisting of members from both sides, men who fully understand the condition and needs of the parties they represent, and not as