

things. Because with many strikes have been associated the worst of crime and misdemeanor they judge them to be intrinsically bad. From many particulars of their evil effects they conclude, illogically, that strikes must be wrong. That the great strikes of the world were responsible for much crime, the destruction of property and even loss of life we won't deny; that the individuals who perpetrated these outrages acted unwisely we as readily affirm. But, are the principles for which they were fighting to be so lightly surmounted? In no instance—I challenge the negative to cite one—has a strike occurred in which the fundamental reason for such a measure had not been that of bettering the condition of the working-man. By this I do not mean that for every petty grievance, real or fancied, a cessation of labour would constitute an action in keeping with right wisdom. To my mind, the man who labours should receive that remuneration which shall keep him free from want, in comparatively frugal comfort, and provide some means for a little diversion. That is, he must obtain a just compensation for the work he performs, which compensation must be sufficient to provide the ordinary necessities with a small balance for the comforts of life. With these denied him the working-man is justified, even in the extremity of denying his children food, in joining and going out on strike; for, does it not logically follow that man may suffer a temporary loss to obtain a permanent good?

The three conditions and the only ones that would make a strike unjustifiable, are, first, when they violate the right of property; secondly when by intimidation, operatives prevent those from working who desire so to do; and lastly when there is no possibility of success. With these three conditions present, a strike would be in keeping neither with justice nor charity. Regarding the first I might say, that when, during a strike, the right of property has been violated, it is the result of ungovernable individuals and not in accordance with the end desired; and this purpose, the betterment of the workers in regard to wages, is a real aim of a strike. Consequently when private right has been infringed it must not be confounded with the object of the strike; it is accidental to it and nothing more.