

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN

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FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER AND HIS FAMILY

Published Weekly by The Curtis Publishing Company, Independence Square, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Subscription \$1.00 the Year. Five Cents the Copy of All Newsdealers. Entered as Second-Class Matter July 7, 1911, at Post Office at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Under Act of March 3, 1879. Additional Entry at Columbus, O., St. Louis, Mo., Chicago, Ill., Indianapolis, Ind., Saginaw, Mich., Des Moines, Ia., Galveston, Tex., Portland, Ore., Milwaukee, Wis. and St. Paul, Minn. Entered as Second-Class Matter at the Post-Office Department, Canada. Copyright, 1922, by The Curtis Publishing Company in the United States and Great Britain

Vol. LXXXVII

PHILADELPHIA, PA., NOVEMBER 18, 1922

No. 41

STRIKES MUST GO TO COURT

Kansas Points With Pride to Her Record in Settling Industrial Disputes

By Henry J. Allen

Governor of Kansas

ONE of the greatest needs of this country is a fair and just way of settling disputes between labor and capital so that strikes may be done away with. That need has been borne in upon all of us more strongly in the last few years than ever before. No class needs this more than the laborers themselves, whose leaders, pursuing the archaic methods of the strike, have brought upon them untold hardships and miseries.

In this country there is work enough for every able-bodied man, trained and untrained, at a wage that will supply all his needs and be fair and just to him and to his employer. Notwithstanding this fact there have been 25,000 strikes in this country in the last three years and they have affected,

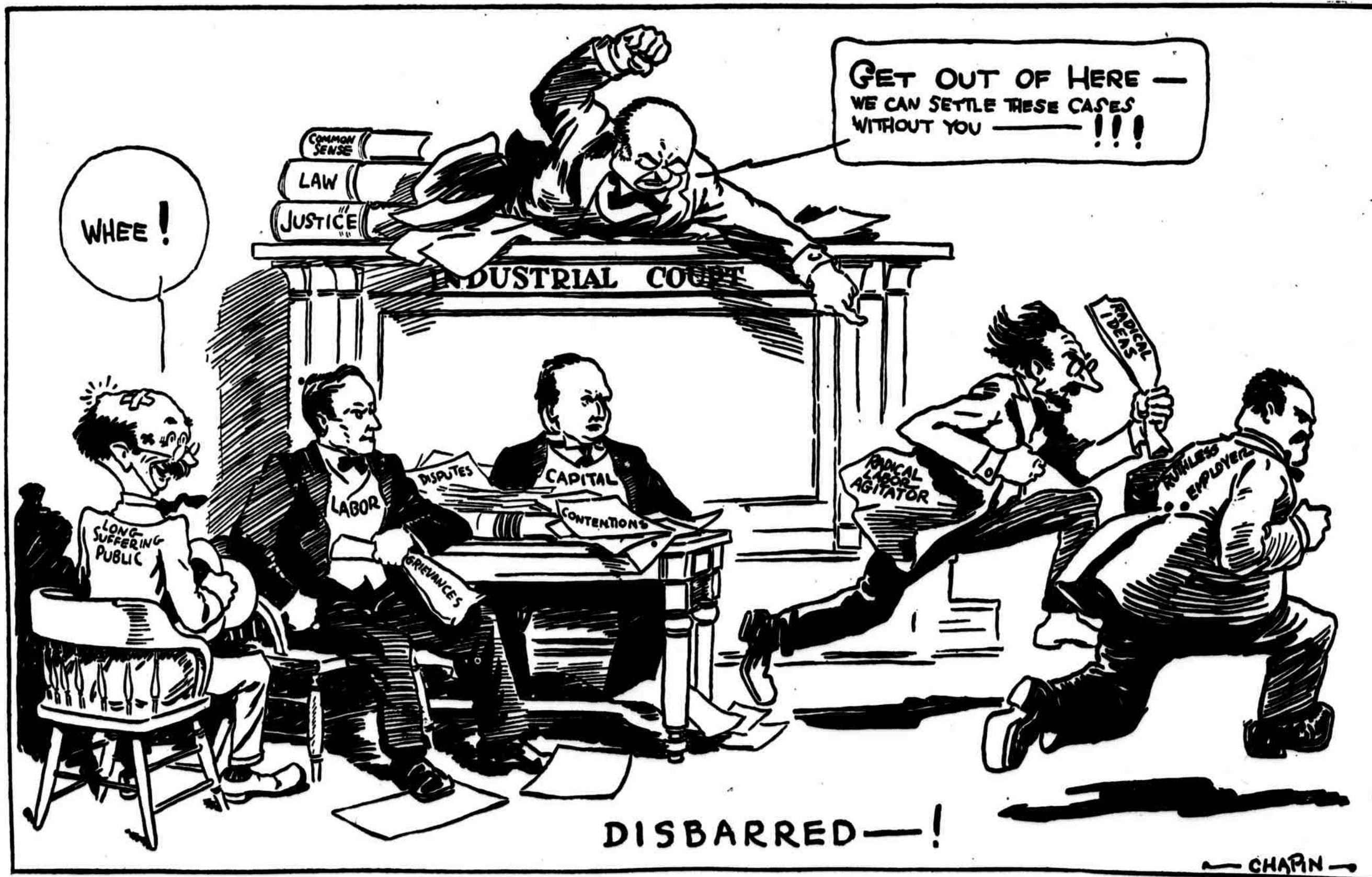
directly or indirectly, millions of people and have been productive of enough sheer waste to buy and pay for a comfortable home for every man who went on strike.

Not only that, but over 90 per cent of those strikes failed of the purposes for which they were called and the less than 10 per cent of so-called successful strikes did not produce enough from their victory to pay back to the laboring men what it cost them to be on strike.

Not only are strikes costly to the men who engage in them but they lay a heavy burden on the public. In the Middle West today the farmer is suffering from the waste

of the railroad strike, which has retarded the movement of his farm produce and affected his marketing conditions. He had already been paying a great toll to the transportation companies in high freight rates. The coal strike slowed him down, too, and today over all the Middle West the farmer, brought into grim contact with the waste of labor strikes, is demanding that the ever-recurring quarrels between labor and capital shall be solved through some other method than the strike, shall be taken in charge and settled by responsible government that will give justice to all parties affected by the controversy, including the public.

The Kansas Court of Industrial Relations is an arm of government which is settling labor disputes in that very way. It was created out of the emergency of a coal strike, which left the people of Kansas the helpless victims of a conflict in the bringing on of which they had no part. The question arose as to whether the state had the moral right and the power to mine coal. I believed it had, and I asked the state supreme court to turn over to the state 60 or 70 million dollars' worth of mining property. The chief justice, surprised at my request, pushed his glasses up on his forehead, looked at me in wonderment and asked: "On what allegations?" I replied: "Well, judge, on any allegations you think would work."



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Circulation 845,000

THE CURTIS PUBLISHING COMPANY, INDEPENDENCE SQUARE, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

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