

If a nation is to remain in a state of prosperity, it must make continual progress,—progress in the arts, in the sciences, and in the industries. But industrial progress is impossible without industrial stability, and the industrial stability of a country depends on the efficiency of its laborers and on the existence of friendly relations between them and their employers. But are proper relations likely to be found when every avenue through which man can earn a livelihood is being controlled by capital, whose power over the workingman is almost absolute? Is the efficiency of the laboring class likely to be high when it is hemmed in and crushed by the restrictions which are imposed upon it by capital? Can one hope for continued prosperity when such conditions exist? Assuredly not, and upon this fact rests the solution of the whole problem. The most learned students of this question have been baffled on every hand in their attempts to discover some means for preventing such injustice.

The settlement of many other controversies, even war in certain instances, has been effected by a carefully constructed system of arbitration which has been upheld by public opinion till it has acquired a weight equal to that of a public law. But in labor disputes, some of which during the last century have left on the pages of our country's history, blots which can never be effaced, and which have caused many a loyal citizen to blush for shame, the state takes no part whatever, until, as the laborer gathers his forces for the last supreme effort, it crushes him to earth, takes away his weapons, yes, deprives him of his rights as a citizen, all in the sacred name of law and order. There is, for him, no tribunal to which he can resort for the readjustment of his wrongs; there is no legal recourse by which he can assert his rights. When he must suffer such treatment as this, is it to be wondered at that he resorts to violence in attempting to enforce his claims?

The advocates of socialism suggest a total reconstruction