

ence, we cannot help viewing with suspicion the change of front on the part of these gentlemen. This much may be depended on with certainty: that the capitalist class is not likely to manifest any great anxiety to acquaint the workers with the best method of improving their position at the expense of capitalism. Surely the wolf is the last creature we should expect to supply the sheep with good counsel as to the best manner of avoiding his clutches.

Through the influence which they have brought to bear on Parliament the Trade Unions have been able to accomplish much that would have been impossible of attainment by their ordinary tactics of strikes, intimidation, picketting, rattening, and so on. But it will be observed that the proposition we have to consider is one which asserts that they are capable of securing an eight hours day without legislative assistance.

Well, can the Trades Societies, by means of strikes, secure an eight hours day along with the present rates of wages? There is every reason to believe that they cannot. We find that in an increasing degree strikes are unsuccessful. There are always large bodies of unemployed workers so pressed by poverty that they are ready to step into the places vacated by the strikers. If these are not to be found near at hand, they can be, and frequently are, imported from a distance; though in most cases it is not necessary for the employer to put himself to that trouble, as he can afford to wait the short time requisite to starve his refractory hands into compliance with his terms. Many of our largest manufacturers have factories abroad; and, in the event of a strike occurring, the orders which cannot be completed at home can be sent there. Any concessions gained during the past fourteen or fifteen years have been gained because they did not think it worth while to make a determined stand, because there may have been a temporary inflation or "boom" in the particular industry where the successful strike occurred, or because in some way or another special circumstances favoured the strikers. The enthusiastic Trades Unionist who cannot see beyond his cult will say that Trades Unionism only fails because the workers do not more largely embrace its principles and practices, and he will comment with some little heat and a good deal of pardonable contempt, on the behaviour of the rats or scabs who refuse to join the union, and the many classes of unorganised workers who stand at the mercy of capitalism through their want of combination. I submit, however, that no matter how extensive and inclusive the combination may be, it is incapable of