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The cost of the strike as a method of redressing wrongs has never been thoroughly grasped by industry or by the public. What happened in this country in 1919 - and here I am using official figures, those of the U.S.Labor Bureau - there were 3,253 strikes. In 9 of them 60,000 or more persons were concerned. Along the Atlantic Coast there was a strike of longshoremen which involved 100,000 men. At one time in New York City there were 125,000 out in the building trades. The steel strike took 367,000 out, and the mill strike, 435,000. Over 4,000,000 persons were involved in these strikes. The majority of them were out for 20 or more days. There were 115 strikes lasting from 50 to 60 days - 137 that lasted for 100 or more days, and 18 that lasted over 200 days. The cost of all of these, according to the Labor Bureau's estimate, was over $800,000,000 to the employees and $1,300,000,000 to capital, in New York State.

1920 has not been so serious, for obvious reasons; and yet New York State estimates that strikes have caused 10,608,483 idle days. With an average wage of $3.00 - and that is low - you have something like $32,000,000 loss to the wage earners of a single state.

But you cannot estimate the cost of the strike by money alone - or principally. The disorganization of the industry, the scattering of workmen and the consequent breaking up of homes, the irresponsibility engendered and the life-long bitterness on both sides - these are the real losses in strikes, as they are

in all appeals to force - moral, social and intellectual effects vastly more important than money losses.

One serious danger in the whole matter is that the freeer the appeal to force as a weapon of getting changes - just or unjust - is the fact that the strike as a weapon comes to be the accepted thing, The worker resents the idea of this weapon being taken from its hand or in any way made less dangerous. He is like the man that resents the gun being taken from his person. And yet the worker and his family are the ones that, when you come to count the cost, suffer most. It is not saying that some gains have not come to him in the long run through strikes. It is not to say that conditions at times become so intolerable that there is no other method; but it is true in the strike as in the case of war, that it is a brutal, stupid and frightfully wasteful method of redressing wrong. Relation to War Spirit Attitude of Women

If no machinery had been suggested, if no other machinery was in action in many places which had proved itself effective, the case would be different.

No estimate was made by the Labor Bureau of the cost to the public of the labor wars. My secretary, taking these notes, stopped me to say that in a strike involving both elevated and surface cars, it cost those in the upper Bronx anywhere from 50 cents to three dollars to go to and from work. During the longshoreman's strike in 1919 fresh vegetables for some time were

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