Strikes:

There is another particular in which strikes are at war and that is what it does to the man in the ranks - cannon fodder - we call a common soldier. A striker, too, is fodder. He is an individual loss in a strike, not merely in money but in craft - skill - in temper - co-operative collective ability. ~~It is not only this individual but his family~~ It is compelling men by the thousands to sit around demoralizing, de-energizing. If the Union that called the strike had some way of putting the men into work where they would preserve their desire and their power to work, but that cannot be. They sit around demoralizing their morals and demoralizing the family.

Has the world abandoned, this over-idealistic ~~this~~ idea which swept it at the close of the Great War, the abandonment of wars, the finding of a way by which its difficulties could be settled without destroying men, homes? In this country there has not, to my mind, been so strong an assertion of the revolt against peace as too slow, too impractical as the outbreak of strikes which have swept us in the last few months. There is a bitter irony in the epidemic for they grew out of national measures, taken primarily to help the present striking class. Workers have been walking the streets for many months and have suffered. Twelve million and a half of them were unemployed and those employed in almost no case have anything like the wage of four years ago.

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It was to the relief of these workers that the Government came believing that if they could be put back with fair wages, fairer hours, that once more the necessities of life could be bought at fair prices.

Very obviously the remedy, the simplicity, also aroused the country that it would take time, /every sensible person realized that it would take patience, co-operation. Indeed the essence of the thing was co-operation. Boycott, /force could have no part in it, it /took the heart, the meaning out of it. A measure was launched - NIRA-they called it, the National Industrial Recovery Act.

It went sweepingly for days and how labor was heartened - reasonable hours began to take the place of long uncertain, interminable days. Starvation wage was outlawed - no more sweat shops - no more women making dollar dresses at forty cents a day, no more White Feared children in mines and factories - a minimum wage higher than had ever been dreamed. This was the intent of to make this the measure/a reality. Labor was asked to join fully, patiently, to co-operate, to settle by adjustment, and the machinery of adjustment began to be put in order, a court of appeal declared, a court of appeal to which the worker might go and before a body on which he - the President of the United States representing the public, - the employer was equally represented, settle his complaint when he had one.

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That is, the whole undertaking was set up with the purpose of wiping out certain grievous wrongs ~~thexindustrialxworld~~ on the labor side of the industrial world giving a fair show to everybody - a court of complaints for troubles.

But labor inpatient to have at once the full measure of success, not realizing that the undertaking was no cure-all, immediate in effect, is today not far away from destroying the whole structure by an appeal to force. For what is the strike, but force. The right to say yes, it is the right to go to war, the right to revolt. And the strike, doesn't it appeal to force. And nothing but war is left to appeal too. If men revolt and attempt the upsetting of the Government it is because they have long tried to receive justice and there is no justice, that they must destroy. The strikes have had their justification - no other way could they get justice, but the old argument does not hold in the present case. It is a government enterprise; it insures negotiation; it insures the theory in any way that the laborer chooses to make it through an elected representative, as an individual. He has a right to choose his form of negotiation and if that is not satisfactory he has the judicial body of those directing the National Recovery Act to appeal to. They have guaranteed him by the government, he has his hearing.

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But he strikes, strikes before he has used the co-operative machinery set up which is an integral part of the machinery set up to wipe out certain of these long-standing wrongs and give him a fairer deal in wages and hours and the right to bargain than he has ever had before.

What seems to be happening with labor? Is it like nations that they have abandoned the idea of peace as a possible end. An expensive decision for labor if that be true. The idea that the war,,the revolution, the strikes, paid those who employ them is one of the great illusions of the world. They may, and they do, bring great changes; they may, and they do, destroy violent abuses, but they set in motion other evils, such monstrous means that it takes generations to over-come them. They do it at an expense which in itself is an injustice to all since all must pay. When the factory strikes of the '80's and '90's - trace not only their effect/on the individuals who were connected with them,/the individuals who made them, but on the communities where they occured, and probably no greater disaster could have occured before the year.The strike has hung like a cloud over the sea of communities - the steel industry - not denying at all the injustices which led to it, that violent appeal to force produced in management,a bitterness so deep that all these years have not wiped it out.

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It has left behind a fierce determination to never again ... deal with organized labor. That might have dropped away if it had not engendered at the same time a suspicion which still endures on one side or the other.

There has never been a time when the other alternative of co-operation was not possible by patience and intelligence and through the Union one can put their finger all over this country on coal mines, railroads, industries where at various times where co-operation of the completest sort exists unionized /on the ground between the/men working in the industry and the heads of the factory. One can put your finger all over the country on scattered independent plants ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ where through some form of employees representation the completest co-operation is carried on. They are laboratories in that system which we had hoped was to succeed the old military basis. And now in this new era where labor suddenly has blossomed into a position which the country long has desired for it, a position where we did have fairer wages, fairer hours, courts of inquiry into its troubles, the old military feature reinstates itself. Mr. Green declares out and out that destroying for the time being that dream of peaceful a/industry based on justice is not peace co-operation, a fair voice in the management of industry that has caused this outbreak, much to be fear/with politics ed

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political ambitions, clinging to the old dogma that force alone can secure justice in the world.

Can there be a more disheartening thing to those who would like to see this a peaceful world, for if with machinery of peace undertaken by a government with the full promise/intention, and no one from what has already been done can doubt the intention, of putting men to work. There are men, leaders, unwilling to give up force in industry. What they do is to give arguments, give more reason to the public and the employer who respects them, who claims that you cannot work on reasonable terms with labor. All over the land, as I have said, there are spots where it has been proved again and again that you can so work, but that proof has not come out of strikes, that proof has come from reasonable men on both sides sitting down together and solving the particular problem.

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