

remembered that there is no finality in the reduction of the hours from ten to eight. With the further development of machinery, the increase of the working population, and the improvements and greater economies in methods of production, an unemployed class will again arise if the hours of labour be not reduced in conformity with the growth and progress in other respects; and if the Individualistic System lasts long enough, it is not difficult to foresee that a necessity may arise for reducing the hours to seven a-day. Although the labour market would be temporarily cleared by the statutory limitation of the hours of labour, yet, if it were to become again overstocked, the capitalist could reduce wages, and justify his action by saying he could not afford to pay more. There are many specious pretexts for lowering wages; the workers in a concern have, as things are, very imperfect opportunities of definitely ascertaining the state of their employers' profits; and they will suffer much rather than come out on strike. But I am now to submit a scheme by means of which, if adopted, the workers might readily ascertain what wages their employers were able to pay, and at the same time secure the maximum reward of their labour under the eight hours system, without having recourse to strikes.

At given centres of industry let Labour Bureaux be established for the collecting of trade statistics. Render it compulsory for every employer of labour to make returns to these Bureaux of the profits made and the wages paid by him during each half-year. Should any employer refuse to furnish such periodical statements, or should he be detected supplying false information, let a fine or other penalty be imposed upon him, and grant powers to the Chief Labour Commissioner or his agents to demand inspection of the books of any concern at any reasonable time, so that assurance might be obtained that the statistics supplied to the Bureaux authorities represented the whole truth. Having in this way got your information, the next step would be to establish Labour Courts to work in concert with the Bureaux, fixing what the Chartists called a fair day's wage for a fair day's work, but what might more properly be described as the most that the employer could in the circumstances spare as wages. With properly organised Bureaux, with Labour Courts not wholly constituted of employers of labour, and with full publicity given to the work done by both classes of organisations, the maximum reward of labour could in most cases be secured.

But much more might be accomplished by these institutions. If they performed their work efficiently they would of necessity