

THE general sentiment that men, in any number, great or small, who desire to work shall be protected in so doing is stronger than it has ever been before and municipal and other authorities everywhere are more disposed to extend such protection. A pathetic figure has appeared in these hard times, the starving wife and mother with her baby in her arms asking that the husband and father may be allowed to do the work he is willing to do for bread. Against this appeal all the arguments of labor theorists are urged in vain. All the stormy declamation about the rights of labor as against capital seem to have nothing to do with the case when this woman speaks. When the question is resolved to whether a man whose wife and baby are hungry shall be permitted to go to work when and where he pleases, there is but one answer. If there is such a thing as a natural right in existence it is the individual right of every man to earn his bread, and there is a growing feeling in favor of the assertion of that right and the protection of men who in the face of odds demand it. If that right is denied men, if by force they are deprived of it, the last and worst trouble will be that of the men who thrust themselves between the willing laborer and his work.