

WHERE THE STRIKE GRINDS.

LAEOR DAY was a very different affair in Los Angeles and about here from what the conspirators hoped to make of it when they began their strife back about last April Fool's Day. They have been April, May, June and July fools all through the summer, and they have probably realized at last that Los Angeles cannot be unionized and will not be ruled by mischief-makers from San Francisco or elsewhere.

The strike failed from the beginning because of the intelligence, spirit and courage of the community in which the disturbance was attempted. It never seriously affected the great industries of the city and has no effect upon them at the present time. One of the old mischief-makers years ago told the labor bosses back East, "You can as well unionize Los Angeles as drown a duck by pouring water on its back." The new elements of industrial strife that have been trying to make trouble during the summer have probably found this true, as the old ones did.

But undoubtedly there were instances here where the turmoil of the summer did strike deep and do cruel injury. This was in a number of small concerns engaged in the metal trades, and other similar branches of industry, in cases where there were only half a dozen or half a score skilled men in a little independent shop engaged in the manufacture of a single article perhaps used in the building trades. When even half or two-thirds of this little band struck, the whole small plant was practically put out of commission. The proprietor had his all invested in the little concern. He was making a living or something better out of it, paying fair, good wages to his men, who were satisfied until the alien trouble-makers came in. Crippled by the strike of three or four or half a dozen of his men, his money was tied up in the plant; his rent accounts ran on, he had contracts to furnish his output in given quantities to builders and others, and his trouble has been grievous under the burden he has had to bear. Some of these employers of half a dozen or half a score men, who were able to find skilled workers to take the place of those who struck, have for weeks been compelled to maintain vehicles at heavy cost, to get up at unseemly hours in the morning and drive far around the city, picking up their men and carrying them to the shop in order to protect them from the annoyance and assaults of the pickets employed by the strike-fomenters.

Many of these small concerns would have gone to the wall, had it not been for the kindly consideration and leniency of all with whom they had business relations. The building contractors who had placed orders for product waited. Landlords in many instances have not pressed for the rent on the first day of the month, and so these employers, manufacturers, have been able to squeeze along under all the difficulties.

Some of these are still handicapped and it is only right and proper that the leniency and kindness extended heretofore should continue—builders waiting patiently for their work and landlords for their pay. It is not probable that this trouble will last much longer. The conspirators have been foiled in their main attempts. The funds will not hold out, and without pay the picket will not do his work. The spirit of Los Angeles is for all to hang together and for each employer and proprietor of a shop to help all the others who are in trouble. Let this continue and let the landlords look leniently and indulgently upon their tenants if they are delinquent a little in the payment of their rent. Indeed it would be the part of wisdom as well as of humanity to remit part of the rent bill in view of the trouble the tenant has been under and the extra expense imposed upon him.

Every property owner in the city has a vital interest in maintaining the city's industrial freedom—and all can help in some way. It is a time for patience and considerateness.