

**THE CONTROL OF STRIKES  
IN AMERICAN TRADE  
UNIONS. A DISSERTATION**

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The Control of Strikes in American Trade Unions. A Dissertation by George Milton Janes

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**GEORGE MILTON JANES**

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THE CONTROL OF STRIKES IN AMERICAN  
TRADE UNIONS

# THE CONTROL OF STRIKES IN AMERICAN TRADE UNIONS

BY  
GEORGE MILTON JANES

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A DISSERTATION

Submitted to the Board of University Studies of The Johns  
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BALTIMORE  
1916

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## PREFACE

This monograph had its origin in an investigation carried on by its author while a member of the Economic Seminary of the Johns Hopkins University. The chief documentary source of information has been the collection of trade-union publications in the Johns Hopkins Library. This study of the printed material has, however, been supplemented by personal interviews and correspondence with both national and local trade-union officials and with employers of labor in a number of industrial centers.

The author would record here his appreciation of the helpful criticism of Professor Jacob H. Hollander and Professor George E. Barnett, under whose guidance the study was undertaken and carried on.

G. M. J.



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## INTRODUCTION

Strikes have been a marked feature of American industrial life during the last fifty years, and this period has been characterized by the rise and growth of trade unions in this country. The two facts are closely connected. The purpose of a strike is to enforce the demands of the men who engage in it by a withdrawal from work. To make this device more effective, the trade union endeavors to organize the workmen. By means of organization three results are accomplished. In the first place, the strike is made more comprehensive and therefore is more likely to succeed. Secondly, the strike is more efficiently financed and the strikers, therefore, can stand out longer. Finally, the advantages won by the strike are better retained when a permanent organization of the men is accomplished.

It is a popular fallacy that trade unions foment strikes and that striking is their reason for being. To this the trade unionist says: "Young and weak unions have many strikes; old and strong ones have few. If unions were mere striking machines, the opposite would be true."<sup>1</sup> The importance of moderation is insisted upon by most labor leaders. Collective bargaining is the ultimate goal of nearly all trade unions, and to reach it not only organization but discipline is needed. Strikes are dangerous to the organization and costly. Hard experience has taught trade-union officials that something more than enthusiasm is necessary to win a strike; and, while it may be true occasionally that a union thrives on opposition, a strike is not to be considered an end in itself. If the strike is

<sup>1</sup> *Painter and Decorator*, April, 1910, p. 262.