

WAITERS' STRIKE ILL-TIMED.

**Just When High Cost of Living Ruins
Restaurants.**

To the Editor of The New York Times:

The present strike of the hotel waiters in New York seems to me to be very ill-timed and ill-advised. My observation of the bankruptcy notices has been that a great many of our New York restaurant men have gone into bankruptcy during the past year or two, one such notice appearing on the same day as the account of the present strike.

The reasons for these business failures have been, first, the increasing cost of food, and, secondly, the overhead charges for music, display, &c., which have grown so enormously during the past few years. To meet these increased charges, the proprietors increased their prices and a large part of the public, in consequence, remained away. In some cases to dine more at home, in others to patronize plainer and more moderate restaurants.

The result of the present dispute will be probably an increase in wages to the waiters, an increase in prices to the patrons, a further decrease in patronage by the public, fewer tips to the waiters, which will easily eat up the few dollars' increase in wages, then further bankruptcies and fewer restaurants of the best class, with probably more of the plainer and more moderate ones. In either of these cases the waiters will be among the ultimate losers.

Far be it from me to blame them for getting all they can—everybody's doing it—but I am convinced a strike at present is no means to that end.

The best thing for the waiters to do is to go back to work, as the public also has an interest in this strike.

J. H. F.

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