

## BLOW AT FREEDOM

Compulsory Arbitration a Peril  
to Avert.

WOULD TIE LABOR'S HANDS.

**Proposed Law Would Make It Illegal to Quit Work—All Such Legislation Should Be Opposed as Detrimental to the Workers.**

We have previously called the attention of the members to the desire of some employing interests to have laws enacted which would tie the hands of labor and make it an offense against the law to quit work under any circumstances unless a commission had first investigated and reported upon the dispute.

Perhaps the most noted instance of this sort of legislation in this country was the introduction of the Luce bill, so called, in the legislature of Massachusetts last year and which is to come before the legislature of Massachusetts this year on reference, says the Shoe Workers' Journal.

The experience of this union has proved that in our arbitration contract we offer a fair basis of settlement of all disputes with those employers in our trade who desire to be fair in treating with their employees, but legislation of the character of the Luce bill would tie the hands of labor in dealing with employers who are not disposed to deal fairly with their employees and who could and doubtless would take advantage of the delays incident to the proposed investigation and report to disorganize their employees by discharging them one at a time for alleged "poor work."

We believe most trade unions are willing to make fair arbitration contracts and to live up to them as we do, but to make them it is necessary the employers should be equally fair minded.

The employers who are not disposed to deal fairly with labor or to make a voluntary arbitration contract should not be assisted by a law which seeks to enforce involuntary servitude upon the employees of an unfair employer for a period which may be used unscrupulously by such employer to crush the union of his employees.

All such proposed legislation should be opposed, and our members in Massachusetts and elsewhere are urged to be on the alert against it wherever it may show its head and regardless of any source from which it may profess to emanate.

There are those professing to champion the cause of labor who will advocate anything the employers want.

A notable instance of this is the Knights of Labor Journal, which in its issue of October, 1910, says that Taft's announcement that the Sherman law will be enforced against corporations and unions alike ought to satisfy everybody.

This requires some nerve after the fight labor made to secure the adoption of the Hughes amendment to exempt the unions from such persecution.

The Hughes amendment was defeated, but its defeat caused the retirement of some members of congress who opposed it.

The same paper expresses satisfaction that the miners are being sued for \$1,000,000 in Westmoreland county and that the American Federation of Labor is a defendant in Post's suit for \$750,000.

The same paper also editorially supports the enactment of laws providing for compulsory arbitration.

It is true that the Knights of Labor

Journal only represents a mere handful of members in the whole country, but as an alleged labor paper it will be quoted in favor of the enactment of such laws wherever they are introduced.

Workingmen should beware of the kiss of Judas.

Oppose compulsory arbitration!

### Label Department Officers.

The new officers of the label trades department are: President, John B. Lennon of Bloomington, Ill.; first vice president, John F. Tobin of Boston; second vice president, Owen Miller of St. Louis; third vice president, J. W. Hays of Indianapolis; fourth vice president, Jacob Fischer of Indianapolis; fifth vice president, T. A. Rickert of Chicago; secretary-treasurer, Thomas F. Tracy of Washington city.

### Trade Union Briefs.

The sheet metal workers of New York have come to terms with the employers.

The receipts of the United Mine Workers of America for the fiscal year ending Nov. 30 were about \$2,000,000.

The eleventh annual meeting of the National Civic federation will be held Jan. 12, 13 and 14, 1911, in New York city.

The Woman's Trade Union League of England, organized in 1874, has a total affiliated membership of about 185,000. The model for the first woman's trade union was found in America.

Thomas L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, who is a candidate to succeed himself, predicts that he will be re-elected this year by a majority twice as large as that he received a year ago.

The San Francisco Labor council has passed resolutions denunciatory of the lynching of two striking cigarmakers at Tampa, Fla., recently and calling upon President Taft and others in authority for a full investigation of the crime.

### Not a Savant.

A Harvard man told at a dinner in Cambridge a story about ignorance.

"Some sailors were being banqueted in Philadelphia at St. George's hall," he said, "and a young bluejacket, pointing to a superb silver caster, said: 'Waiter, bring up that 'ere chandelier.'"

"That ain't a chandelier," the waiter answered, laughing. "That's a cruet."

"Well, never mind what it is," said the sailor. "Bring it up. We ain't all been to college."

### Both Affected.

"Whenever she gets to thinking how much they're in debt it affects her nerves."

"Huh! The way it affects her husband is singular."

"How singular?"

"Just singular; it affects his 'nerve.' He tried to borrow a hundred from me today."—Catholic Standard and Times.

### The Language of Love.

"Has he proposed yet?"

"Not in so many words."

"That's no answer. Proposals never do come in words. They consist of sighs, 'hem, haws and gurgles.'"—Cleveland Leader.

### His Wife's Mother, of Course.

Mabel—If your grandma has lost all her teeth, how does she eat? Willie—I heard pa say she had a biting tongue.—Boston Transcript.

Education begins the gentleman, but reading, good company and reflection must finish him.—Locke.

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