

THE DOOM OF THE BOYCOTT.

(By James W. Van Cleave.)

The United States Supreme Court has recently rendered several decisions involving issues of vital consequence to capital, to labor, and to the American people in general. Two of these are especially important. One of them declared that the Erdman act of 1898 was unconstitutional. The other set forth that a boycott by labor unions against a producer doing an interstate commerce business violates the Sherman anti-trust law of 1890.

The Erdman law forbade railroad companies engaged in interstate trade from discharging an employe on the ground that he was a member of a labor union. When a case under that act reached the Supreme Court that tribunal decided that a road has the same right to discharge an employe for any cause whatever as the same employe has to leave the service of that road for any cause or for no cause. Therefore the Erdman law, which was one of the pieces of demagogic class legislation which from time to time get on the statute books, was declared null and void.

It is the old story of a labor union (the Danbury, Conn., branch of the United Hatters of America in this instance) which attempted to destroy the trade of an employer (Dietrich Loewe, of Danbury) who refused to allow the union to run his shop and to dictate who he should, and who he should not, hire to do his work. The Danbury case, however, had two features which deserve special notice. One was the promptness with which the American Federation of Labor went to the assistance of its local branch, the Hatters' Union, the original offender. The other was the audacity and the confidence with which the federation confessed that the boycott was its principal weapon in its wars on American employers and the American people.

In its defense the federation set forth that "a decision herein in favor of the plaintiff in error would seriously obstruct and hinder the said American Federation of Labor, petitioner, in carrying out the purposes for which it was organized." And it further declared that "the constitution of said American Federation of Labor, petitioner, makes special provision for the prosecution of boycotts, so called, when instituted by a constituent or affiliated organization, as is described in the complaint in the District Court by the plaintiff in error herein."

Confident in its power to coerce the courts, as it has for years been coercing thousands of employers and millions of people, the federation arrogantly admitted the boycott which had been charged against it.

The rebuke came quickly. In a decision which was notable for its promptness, and was still more notable for its unanimity, the Supreme Court decided that the federation's boycott was not only a conspiracy in restraint of trade, as defined in the Sherman anti-trust law, but that it was of such an odious character that it comes under section 7 of that act, which renders its perpetrators liable for three times the damages which the assailed employer sustained.

It is further stated that the boycott was not only contrary to the Sherman anti-trust law, but that it was contrary to common law.

This decision bears out the most important claims in a case before the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, where Justice Gould granted a temporary injunction, restraining the American Federation of Labor from boycotting the products of the Buck's Stove and Range Company of Saint Louis. In granting the restraining order Justice Gould characterized the boycott as an "unlawful conspiracy," and declared that it was "such a conspiracy as has received the condemnation of every federal and state court in the country before which it has been brought for criminal action, legal redress, or equitable injunction."

I cite Justice Gould's words here for the benefit of those laborites and politicians who intimate that they will work to get the Supreme Court packed so as to reverse the decision against boycotting, as rendered in the Danbury case. Every jurist in the United States who would have any of the qualifications which would suggest him for appointment, by any president, for membership on the Supreme bench would take exactly the same ground against boycotting which has been taken by Chief Justice Fuller and all of his learned associates.

Our Federal judiciary, and especially the Supreme Court of the

United States, can be relied upon to stand between the Constitution and popular passion, and let me repeat here what I have said repeatedly about the various forms of boycott. "When I condemn the boycott I condemn it in all its forms and ramifications, including the blacklist, which is only the boycott in another form. Whether used by the labor unions to hurt employers, or by the employers' associations to hurt workers, the boycott and blacklist are un-American, immoral and vicious, and have no place in a country like ours."

In the country where the boycott originated threats to pack the House of Lords by the appointments of new members committed to certain policies have more than once forced that chamber into submission. But the country from which the federation borrowed the boycott, and that and the other European and Asiatic countries which have furnished the federation with its other vicious practices and with all its class spirit, are not good guides for it in this extremity. The correct course for the federation would be to obey the law, and not to attempt to bulldoze an American Congress into repealing it, and not to endeavor to browbeat an American president into a useless search for judges who would ignore the law or evade it.

For years past the country has been applauding the president and the courts for attacking the industrial and commercial trusts which have been violating the Sherman anti-trust act. The country's applause will be equally emphatic for the courts which are invoking the anti-trust law against the labor trust.

The Supreme Court's sentence of death on the boycott is one more evidence that America has one law for rich and poor alike, for high and low, for capital and labor. And regardless of their station and their affiliations and pretensions, the men who violate this law do so at their peril.

A more adroit, a far more popular and an immeasurably more powerful personage than anybody connected with the law-breaking American Federation of Labor once acted on the presumption that he was above the law. This was William M. Tweed.

"What are you going to do about it?" sneeringly said Tweed one day to a delegation of the New York people who protested against his dictatorship and his methods. Two lines on the blotter of the Ludlow Street jail, one telling of his entrance there and the other telling of his confinement and death, furnished the answer.

QUAKER MEDITATIONS.

The dead sure thing is often more dead than sure.

Truth often takes the form of things we would rather not believe.

Lots of people live and learn the things that are of no use to them.

People who continually find fault seldom find time for anything else.

A man makes a hit with a girl when he tells her how much he misses her.

Tell your troubles, and your friends will see that you have plenty to tell.

The young man who is looking for an opening might try the oyster business.

If money talks it must be in silvery tones, for we are told that silence is golden.

When the nervous man reaches the top he is apt to look around for the fire escapes.—Philadelphia Record.

THE EARS OF ANIMALS.

The hearing apparatus of animals is like that of human beings, but modified to suit the conditions of the animal's life. Deer, horses and horses, like all animals whose life necessitates keen hearing, have ears shaped and set in the best way to catch faint or far-off sounds. The ear of the fish is a membranous labyrinth connected with the bladder by a series of little bones.

Though the sense of hearing is perfect only in the higher animals, even the animals that have no ears perceive sounds. Instead of ears they are supplied with fine nerves whose function is to note and to respond to every touch; nerves whose receiving centers are different from the centers of the purely tactile impressions. All animals, including insects, have an apparatus which enables them to distinguish the approach of an enemy.—Harper's Weekly.

ADVERTISING MEN ACTIVE

Seek Convention for San Francisco, and Strong Committee Is Appointed to Work for It.

Following their recent entry into civic affairs as boosters of San Francisco's interests and the Panama-Pacific Exposition, members of the Advertising Association of San Francisco have organized a subsidiary body to carry out a campaign and achieve an object directly connected with the city's future welfare. The advertising men of San Francisco, after having practically assured themselves of the 1915 convention of the National Association of Advertising Clubs, are determined to win the convention of 1913, and to bring about this result have nominated a dozen of their most active members to compose the "On to Dallas 1912" committee, with Nolan Davis as chairman and Albert L. Hall as secretary.

The national association convention to be held in Dallas this year will last five days, three of which will be devoted to business sessions. Dallas has raised \$65,000 as an entertainment fund, and it is expected that 6000 members will be in attendance. At the present rate of growth, the association, which is in its eighth year, will be represented at the 1913 convention by nearly 10,000 members.

The members of the San Francisco committee are: Nolan Davis, chairman; Albert L. Hall, secretary; Rellin C. Ayres, Arthur J. Brunner, Frank J. Cooper, George H. Eberhard, J. Charles Green, Arthur J. Hill, Louis Honig, R. C. Jewell, Frederic S. Nelson, George H. Tooker, Fred L. Wheeler and William Woodhead.

A CALM POLICEMAN.

Empties a Theater of People During a Fire Without Any Excitement Till the End.

Chicago has a policeman whose knowledge of human nature ought to make him the envy of the shrewdest politician. Upon being assigned to the duty of getting the audience out of a crowded theater, in the rear of which a fire was raging, he climbed upon the stage, raised his hand for silence, and delivered the following address:

"Ladies and gentlemen, if you want to see one of the greatest fires in years, go outside and look to the south, half a mile away. Take it easy as you go out. Don't break up the furniture, because the management says you can come back when you've seen enough of the fire, and you'll want to use your seats again."

Moving pictures lost their attractiveness, and as rapidly as it could well manage it, the throng worked its way to the street. But the officer's task was not completed. Some two dozen individuals, for whom a conflagration had little interest, remained in the theater. To them, as soon as the rest were out of hearing, he gave, not an invitation, but a command and a warning: "Say, you fellows, beat it. There's a big fire in the barn back of this place, and you'll be burned to death if you stay a minute longer." Rhetoric-makers will look long for a better set of examples of the adaptation of style to varying kinds of audiences.—New York Press.

AN EXCEPTIONAL SCOTCH-MAN.

Summoned to serve upon a special jury in the King's bench division today, Sir George Douglass of Springwood Park, Kelso, who has a town house in Ennismore Gardens, asked Mr. Justice Darling to excuse him from service on the ground that he had not occupied the latter place for a year and a half. He said he had come from Scotland in answer to the summons and wished to return at once.

Mr. Justice Darling—Have you served on juries in Scotland?

Sir George—I have never done so, but I am liable.

Mr. Justice Darling—Do you want to go back to Scotland?

Sir George—Yes.

Mr. Justice Darling—When do you want to go back?—because I thought that Scotsmen never wanted to go back to Scotland. (Laughter.)

Sir George—I want to go back immediately—tomorrow, if I can.

Mr. Justice Darling—As a temptation to stay you may earn a guinea if you care, but in the circumstances—a Scotsman wishing to return to Scotland when he might make money in England being so exceptional—I think I will excuse you. (Renewed laughter.)—Pall Mall Gazette.

THEIR FIRST THANKSGIVING.

"I went to a Thanksgiving dinner in Paris last November," said an American who had just returned from a year abroad. "Most of the guests were Frenchmen, Germans, Italians and Russians. The hostess was an American, a New York woman who has been living abroad for several years, and who entertains lavishly in the French capital."

"On the table were all sorts of things to remind one of home. There were lights in pumpkins on the table and all sorts of American dishes, including a turkey, which the hostess announced she herself would carve on the table in the American fashion. But the majority of the guests failed to grasp the significance of the feast, and sat about trying to veil their astonishment at everything, even to the pumpkin pie, which they could be induced to attempt with difficulty. None of the foreigners seemed to know what Thanksgiving was."

"Zankseeveeng fery nice," remarked a German count on my right, leaning over to me. "I never eat vone before."—New York Sun.

A SAMPLE STRIKE.

"An excellent illustration of this is afforded by the machinists' strike in three machine shops in one locality in the spring of 1907. These men demanded, among other things, an increase of twenty-five cents per day in wages and a reduction in hours from ten to nine. The machine shop proprietors, with more orders on their books than they could fill, found it impossible to grant the reduction in working time, though perfectly willing to allow the increase in wages demanded. The men held a meeting, national officers appeared with the regulation brand of speeches, some one started off the bosses a lesson."

course, was to strike and 'teach the street for a year or more, a very few of them getting odd jobs of some sort at much lower wages than they had been making. Take the case of the majority, whose wages had been \$2.50 a day, or \$15 a week. Deduct the strike benefits of \$7 a week and we have a net loss of \$8 per week per man, or \$416 for the year, and, adding the union dues of \$20.80, a total cost in dollars and cents to each union machinist of \$436.80. Had these men won their strike at the end of the year and returned to work at the increased rate of \$2.75 a day it would have taken them just a little over four years, working every day, to make up their actual losses, and be right back where they were at the start of the strike. But they did not win the strike, and some of them are still out of work, with the strike benefits long since discontinued."

The above is no exceptional experience; further, it is a growing experience. Strikes are more and more a matter to be avoided, for times have changed, and are still changing. Less than five years ago working men went out on strike throwing their hats in the air with a shout and hurrah, boys. This was so for two reasons: First, employers were unorganized and were like a flock of sheep, waiting and expecting to be shorn. Now employers and employees meet on more even terms; it means a fight, with great uncertainty as to the outcome, and by hard experience the married working man has found that while the "bhoys" of the union can manage to live and exist on strike benefits, the married man finds that to maintain himself and family in accordance with years that have past soon eats up his little savings, and in many cases protracted strikes leave him in debt. Also many men left in idleness find themselves more and more inclined to loaf; they, out of sheer loneliness, begin to spend their time in the saloon, and they soon begin to tittle, which, joined with their enforced idleness, soon holds them in its vise, helpless to help themselves, and they are loafers that love loafing, in which condition their fatherly love freezes out of them. They go to their home half tipsy, and their wives regard them askance. Their little children steal away from them, and they know why, till it angers them and they push them with scowls and curses. Strikes don't pay.

THE KISS IN THE DARK.

A distinguished novelist recently found himself traveling in a train with two very talkative women. Having recognized him

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from his published portraits, they opened fire upon him in regard to his novels, praising them in a manner which was unendurable to the sensitive author.

Presently the train entered a tunnel, and in the darkness the novelist raised the back of his hand to his lips and kissed it soundly. When light returned he found the two women regarding one another in icy silence. Addressing them with great

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suavity, he said: "Ah, ladies, the one regret of my life will be that I shall never know which one of you it was that kissed me!"—Ideas.