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LABOUR LEGISLATION.

The whole system of the so-called "labour legislation" including that monument of legislative imbecility, the alien labour laws, and of trade-unionism generally, has such inherent defects that nothing but the clearest necessity can justify its existence.

And, again, if the system is bad in principle, the methods adopted to carry it out are worse. If a man is willing to work for ten hours instead of eight in order to earn money which he greatly needs to feed and clothe his family, or in any way to promote his own interest, it seems to be in accordance with the universal law of liberty that he should be free to do so. Or if it suits him to work for one dollar per day instead of one dollar and a half, why should he not? Or if I, an employer of labour, find that Smith can earn two dollars a day, while, at the same work, Brown can only earn one, why should I be obliged to place both men on the same footing, and either pay Brown for work that he cannot do, or not pay Smith the wages he can honestly earn? It is the enjoyment of such simple rules of liberty that trade unions deny to their members, and the tyranny of their rule is one of the weapons employed to coerce those who refuse to obey their behests.

Of the results of the working of the system in starvation and suffering, in riot, lawlessness and brutality, we have had of late abundant evidence, and they are practically the only results, for in scarcely a single case has the workman really gained anything more than the unalterable law of supply and demand would have given him.

But let it be understood that we by no means intend to imply that labour unions are alone to blame for the disputes that have arisen, and the crime and suffering that have followed. The personal relations that formerly existed between employer and employed exist no longer. Corporations consisting of shareholders