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## A Call for Justice.

A conflict between the United States Government and its postal employees, which began in the Presidency of Theodore Roosevelt, has lately been brought to an end. It involved the rights of the Post Office men to organize and to petition Congress regarding matters affecting their class. These privileges were curtailed by Roosevelt. His successor, Taft, amended the restriction, and under Wilson the postal employees have been given their liberty once more.

An echo of the matter was heard in Congress a short time ago when the Post Office Appropriations Bill was before the House of Representatives. Representative Sisson (Mississippi) harshly criticized the postal employees and drew forth striking speeches in their behalf from Representative George F. O'Shaughnessy of Rhode Island and Representative Madden of Illinois. The stand taken by these two men for justice and fair play has earned for them the gratitude and admiration of public service reformers everywhere.

Representative O'Shaughnessy said, in part:

"Heretofore it has been my pleasure—and I considered it my duty—to take exception to the autocratic and despotic order issued by Theodore Roosevelt, when he was President of the United States, putting a gag in the mouths of the postal employees of his country. I wish to reaffirm to-day my opposition to that kind of conduct on the part of any President of the United States. A modification of that order was made by President Taft, and as a Democrat, I glory in the fact that to a Democrat Congress was accorded the privilege of liberating the post-office employees and permitting them as free citizens of this Republic, to bring their complaints to Congress. This is the place for them to bring their complaints. We may as well bid good-bye to republican institutions if we can say that any set of men are to be denied the right to petition. As an old post-office clerk myself I can bear testimony to the efficiency of these men who give faithfully of their ser-

vice and who perform their duties to the satisfaction of the people. I do not believe that their salaries are any too large, and, as the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Madden) says, the way to secure legislation is not by the petty petitioning of a single individual but by the united petition of these post-office employees. God speed their efforts; make them all the bigger in number, just and reasonable in their nature, and bring them here to Congress to get what they believe to be their rights.

"Standing upon this floor, I take pleasure also in commending the efforts of the postal employees, that great body of American citizens, to bring about a change in the way of compensation for their labors. One of the most heart-rending sights, I think, that comes to the eyes of any man is to see an old, faithful letter carrier or clerk, perhaps of 50 years' service, told that his services are no longer required. I believe they should be pensioned, and I hope the senti-