

quit work at the command of a few labour leaders.

The most ardent advocate of trade and labour unions may well pause to reflect when he reads the following:—

"As generally known, the vast majority of the men now idle were not members of the United Mine Workers when the strike began. Many of them are not now members, and they quit work only under compulsion. Although they are glad to reap the benefits of the strike, they would return to work tomorrow if they believed they could do so in safety.

"The women in particular were opposed to the strike at the outset, and those who cannot supply their children with proper food are hard to convert. It was truly pathetic to watch the faces of women living in the patches when they are attracted to their front stoops in the early morning, often before the break of day, by the invasion of a marching army of strikers, who give the command that work must cease.

"Such orders usually have been obeyed, but wives whose husbands are satisfied to work, often stand with tears in their eyes, indignant, but helpless. Protests are unavailing. The collieries must be forced to close."

The women were opposed to the strike! If the miners of Pennsylvania know what is good for them, they will take the advice of their wives in all the important affairs of life, instead of submitting to the tyranny of some designing leader of labour.

SPECIAL EDUCATION OF BANKERS

The proposal to found an institute for the education of young bankers is referred to by a leading New York financial paper as "an important step in the movement towards placing American banking upon an equal plane of efficiency with banking competitors abroad." Our neighbours, in fact, freely admit that they have in the past been inclined to think that any shrewd man of business was fit to assume the control and management of a bank. But at the periodical meetings of bankers held during the past few years, the advantages of special education has been made apparent to them. We are told by a prominent writer on financial subjects that banking is "a science which embraces in its scope almost as varied and quite as thorough a knowledge as that of the lawyer, and involves more serious consequences for the decisions made than almost any other profession." Banking in the United States has heretofore been too often of a provincial character. There have been men of wide know'edge, thorough training and conspicuous ability at the head of some of the great institutions, but in too many cases the head of a bank has been a man with but limited knowledge of the causes which regulate the ebb and flow of money and produce changes in economic conditions. The country banker has often looked to some leader in the city for his guide on economic and financial questions, and has contented himself at home with his knowledge of personal character as a guide to the safety of loans. He has lived a hand-to-mouth existence—not in the sense of going

without adequate resources in money, but in the sense of trusting to luck rather than knowledge for the broader facts and currents of financial progress.

The same writer says:

"These conditions must give way to a thorough training, both scientific and practical, if the American banker is to do his share in the future in the contest for American commercial supremacy. The fact that this country has entered upon a new phase of commercial development, in which banking is casting off the swaddling clothes of locality, and conducting transactions with all the world, is an important reason for a broader education and more careful preparation for his duties on the part of the banker."

How this broader education is to be acquired is set forth by Mr. William C. Cornwell, of Buffalo, in his recent report to the Committee on Education of the American Bankers' Association. He proposes to follow in the footsteps of the British Bankers' Institute, which has done much valuable work in educating British bankers in the methods which have made them masters of the world's exchanges. The importance and motives of this new movement are thus explained by Mr. Cornwell, who has many friends and admirers among Canadian bank managers:

"Here then is a work of the most practical character squarely in line with the aims of the American Bankers' Association, entirely feasible, involving no large outlay of money, and calculated, if successfully conducted, to do an amount of good which cannot be measured and which will influence favorably the lives and fortunes of hundreds of young men who are growing up in our banks. They, themselves, have appealed to you through your committee, for encouragement and guidance. It is a cry out of Macedonia—will this great association with its ample means and its vast influence take up this work, which means so much for the future success of the bank clerks of this country, means so much for improvement in the work of that splendid staff of young men on whom we rely for the safe, honest and successful conduct of our business?"

The importance and value of the proposition commended themselves so strongly to the Executive Council that \$10,000 was devoted to the work for the ensuing year. It is intended to put a competent man upon the work of organizing institutes in each leading city. The institutes are expected to be self-supporting after the work of organization has been fairly well advanced, and will not, therefore, form a permanent burden upon the American Association. The scope of the work, as outlined in the report of Mr. Cornwell, is as follows:

"There is no question that the formation of a chain of bank clerks' associations throughout the United States is perfectly feasible, and that, conducted on proper lines, it will do a vast amount of good, that, after the first year or so, it can be made, entirely self-supporting, and that, if it is not done by