

## ARTICLE II.

### MACHINERY OF PRODUCTION AND ITS RELATION TO MAN.

*This article applies to every line of industry,  
as well as that of brick manufacturing.*

THE hydraulic brick manufacturing company installs the improved brick machine, because it improves the quality of the output and increases production enormously, and because it is a great labor saver; it enables the company to put out as many brick in one day with only ten men, as would require one hundred men to produce in the same time, with the old style machine. By the use of the new machine ninety men are discharged.

In another part of the city there is the Jones Brick Manufacturing Company, which is unable to compete with the modern improved brick machine; therefore, the Jones Company is compelled to install the new machine, also. Otherwise, the company would be undersold and put out of business. Ninety more men are discharged by reason of the installation of the machine by the Jones Company; hence, because of the installation of the two modern machines, 180 men lose their jobs. In the course of a short time 1,000 of these machines are installed throughout the country. The result is that 90,000 men lose their jobs.

The effect is, the more men out of jobs, the lower they are compelled to bid against one another for work, which determines and sets the price of wages. The men out of work are placed in a desperate position; they are sentenced to starvation, and that is the real factor that sets the price of wages, regardless of what unionists may think. This is what creates strike-breakers.

Have not the tractor, harvester, cultivator and many other kinds of machinery brought nearly the same displacement of labor and increased production on the farm? Have they not created a condition which forces men to bid against one another to rent farms, which raises the prices of land, and at the same time lowers the earnings of the farmers, even of those who own their farms clear? This is what is driving men from the farms to the cities, which are already overstocked with unemployment, and then back to the farms, again, bidding against one another to get jobs or to rent farms, and thus driving up the price of land and driving down wages to lower and lower levels.

Under wrong, inequitable methods of taxation, the more productive machinery is brought into use, the lower will the price of labor go, and the higher will be the price of land. Because of this increase of production, which should go to wages, all, now, under wrong taxation, goes to land rent. Then it is taken away from the land owners, by large financial interests and combines.

Taxes, of themselves, do not amount to much, but the effects amount to more than those of any other question with which men must deal, as equitable taxation is the holy ghost of justice and full life, both of the individual and of the nation.

When those who work in factories, stores, railways and mines are not getting full reward for their services, how can the producing farmer prosper and live, as those upon whom he must depend to consume his products are not being paid a full reward for their labor? This curtails consumption. The farmer is producing what those living in the cities must have, and those of the cities are producing what the farmers must have; and under present conditions the two are unable to co-operate.

The effect of inequitable taxation is to cut down the earnings of both the working farmer and of the laborer, in all lines of industry, more than 60% of what it should be under equitable methods of taxation. Now, this increase which machinery and chemistry bring, only causes an artificial value to land, which is the foundation and asset in which big banking, trusts and combines plant and rest their feet. And the big interests get the larger portion of all this abnormal land rent, from ocean to ocean. This keeps the circulating medium continuously flowing into the great bank vaults, in the name of interest on mortgages and investments. This is unnatural and therefore is truly usury; it is not interest, but

is the natural tax, and when land rent becomes abnormal, then it also absorbs the wages of all farmers, laborers and business. All of the legislating in the world cannot keep this from being usury. Disobedience of the natural law is what makes this usury. Legislating can never make a wrong thing right. We may be able to fool others and ourselves, but never the natural law. Every disobedience will be paid for with a penalty, of that we may rest assured.