

JOBS

★ THE SLOGAN USED after the Civil War, "Five acres and a mule," betrayed the perception that land is the basis of employment. But today many people have forgotten this connection, and jobs and land seem to have no necessary connection.

And so Mr. Ralph Hendershot in his financial column in the *New York World-Telegram*, commenting upon Vice President Wallace's speech on jobs for returning soldiers, stated that he had been informed by experienced executives that ten to twenty per cent of the working population cannot be absorbed by private industry and that the government must take care of this surplus.

Later President Roosevelt said, "I am certain private industry will be able to provide the vast majority of those jobs, and in the cases where this cannot be accomplished, that the Congress will pass the legislation which will make good the assurance of jobs."

John Curry, former Tammany Hall leader, in a newspaper interview once claimed that he rose to power in his district through getting jobs for constituents. He didn't mean only on the city payroll, but in neighboring factories as well. With the federal government as an employer, the extension of political patronage may be enormous.

What are we all facing? What are our children facing? Must a man who has faced death in the far corners of the earth or on the high seas pull political strings for the right to earn a living, and in addition be heavily taxed for the privilege? What a prospect for a country with the unlimited natural resources, vast industrial machinery, and scientific productivity of the United States! What a future for the world, where the earth, allowing five acres to each person, would be able to sustain three times its present population!

—KATHERINE BUCKLEY