

have been faulty and are definitely abandoning the so-called 'one crop' system." That is the finest thing that has come out of Louisiana since the Civil War. That is the way men talk. That is the kind of Americans we like to have Europeans think of when they turn their attention this way. But how long would it have taken those Louisianans to find their manhood, with their hands full of public largesses? This will explain the Doctor-Jekyll-Mr.-Hyde citizen who at one moment boasted that Louisiana had the richest soil and finest climate in the world, and at the next pleaded with Congress for sufficient bounties to enable him to live. It was this pernicious, un-American commercial charity system that did the mischief. Louisiana is a fine state, and her citizens, with the exception of those who have fed on public bounties until their muscles have grown soft and flabby, are good Americans. Now that they have been thrown upon their own resources we shall soon see them all walking upright, and looking the world in the face like men. Never did Congress do a better turn for any state than it did for Louisiana when it put sugar on the free list.

s. c.



Confusing Cost and Price.

The Chicago Evening Post, in a labored editorial intended to show the iniquitous nature of the new tariff law, because the first few months showed an increase in imports and a falling off of exports, says:

If wages and working conditions in Europe were uniform with those in America, no regret might be necessary over this deflection of a part of our home trade. It might act simply as a stimulous to greater enterprise and efficiency of American industries and contribute to lower prices for the consumer. But since the competition of Europe is based on cheaper labor, the tendency is to force a reduction of wages in this country.

Where did the Post learn that labor is cheaper in Europe than it is in America in any goods that come into competition with our manufacturers? Is it not thinking of wages, instead of the cost of labor. The price of labor there is lower than here, but investigation has almost invariably shown that the cost of labor is greater there than here. That high wages mean cheap labor is shown from the fact that it is from the highest waged countries in Europe that we have most competition. If low wages meant cheap labor we should need tariffs against China and India, rather than against England and Germany. Is not the Post encroaching a little on the time limit for the use of the "cheap-labor" argument? It is no longer

considered good form in the more enlightened circles to argue that the earth is flat.

s. c.



More Topsy-Turviness.

When Henry George suggested as an alternative to the plan of the good woman who spilt a pot of grease on her kitchen floor—in order that she might give a poor woman fifty cents to clean it up—that she might have accomplished the same result by paying the poor woman fifty cents to make her husband a shirt, he did not qualify himself for an editorial position with the London Nation. That generally excellent journal is cautioning well-meaning citizens who are prompted to relieve the stress of the poor who are suffering on account of the war, lest they do more harm than good. "The first impulse of a man or woman," says the Nation, "who lives a comfortable and leisured life in a time of national emergency is to turn his or her hand to some job for which others are paid, without reflecting on the consequences." Thus they are cautioned against offering their services to the farmers to get in the crops, lest they deprive farm laborers of a job. Women of leisure who have set about making clothing are warned that to do this will be to take jobs from shop assistants who are out of employment. It is announced, however, that this latter nefarious scheme has been checked by protests, and that the Queen has invited the War Emergency Workers' Committee to appoint five representative women workers to serve as an advisory committee to suggest and organize suitable schemes for unemployed women.



It is to be hoped the Advisory Committee will be able to find jobs for everybody, without taking a job from anybody. But in order to do this the leisure class will have to exercise its utmost self-restraint, and refrain from doing anything useful itself. The problem seems really to be one of gymnastic charity, that is, of keeping the people at work without letting them produce anything, after the manner of the poor woman who earned her fifty cents by scrubbing up the purposely-spilled grease. The Committee is, indeed, face to face with the problem that Bolton Hall presented to the Conference of Charities and Correction at New York. "You get a man a job," he said, "— you do not make a job—you cannot make a job. Whose job do you get for him? And having got that man a job, you then have the displaced one—a little less efficient, or a little higher