

to my mind of the incompetence which is frequently characteristic of those accustomed to think extremely well of themselves and to wield much power. I doubt very much if even the I. W. W. would assert that the terms of labor should be entirely a matter of dictation on the part of the employe. I believe even they would be willing to admit that the prospective employe should be subject somewhat to the law of supply and demand! It pains one of a judicial temperament to see such a careless thing coming from the pillars of society and constitutional liberty. Perhaps they are equally muddled in some of their other "fundamental ideas," and perhaps security of constitutional institutions does not after all rest exclusively in their hands.



Of course the coal mine managers' committee does not mean what it says. To its members the "constitutional privilege of every man to work," etc., means nothing more than the privilege of a crowd denied their natural rights, to scramble for whatever jobs may be left open for a few of their number. Every attempt in Colorado to take any step towards opening to all labor the unused natural resources of the state has failed to get anything but bitter opposition from the interests represented by the coal mine managers' committee

S. D.



Suppressing Freedom of Debate.

There is no more effective way to stimulate interest in a subject than to prohibit its discussion. So the Seattle Board of Education, in prohibiting school debates on the Singletax, probably accomplished the reverse of what it intended, if it was moved by a desire to suppress knowledge concerning that subject. In spite of the teaching of experience, it seems very hard for bourbons to grasp the fact that suppression does not suppress.

S. D.



Driving Wealth Away.

The conscientious Indiana assessor who listed at \$20,000 a blooded stallion that had been imported at an expense of \$20,000, by a horse-breeder, and saw the animal taken to an adjoining county where a more discreet official listed him as a "horse," is not the only man who has discovered that zeal may be tempered by wisdom. In commenting upon the ceremony in New Orleans that marked the hauling down of the English flag on an American-owned ship, and the raising of the American flag, the Times-Picayune said that since the vessel was plying between that port and Central American points, it was to be regretted that its American registry had not been taken out in

New Orleans instead of New York. The explanation offered for this humiliating fact was that New Orleans taxed ships like other property, while New York exempted them. The Times-Picayune expressed the opinion that the advertising value to New Orleans from having the vessel hail from that port would be worth more to the city than the amount of taxes that might be derived. The ship plies regularly between that city and Central American points, and to have its name read "Cartago of New Orleans" would give Central Americans a better opinion of that city, than to see the name reading "Cartago of New York."



It is a mark of the stupid conservatism of present day business men that the leading citizens of New Orleans, who are so eager to recover for their city some of its lost prestige, should cling so tenaciously to one of the chief causes of its undoing. That they are not insensible to the effect of taxation as a means of encouraging or discouraging enterprise is shown by the fact that when a few years ago a steamship line was proposed between New Orleans and Brazil, a special law was passed by the legislature exempting the company from taxation for a term of years. Yet, in spite of this momentary interval of sanity, and notwithstanding the fact that its Chamber of Commerce numbers among its members men who understand the incidence of taxation, and who have been tireless in trying to open the eyes of their fellows to the light of reason, the city persists in its folly. If a single legitimate reason could be offered for its course in driving industry from its doors, and tying its own hands in its struggle with competitors it would not seem so strange. That there are narrow-minded and selfish persons who are willing to lay the burdens of government upon one set of citizens, while another class receive the benefit, may not seem strange under our topsy-turvy industrial system; but that the major part of the community should persist in a policy that defeats its avowed purpose passes understanding.



The Indiana assessor who sought to penalize his enterprising neighbor for devoting \$20,000 to improving the breed of horses in his community, not only did not receive the tax on \$20,000, but he lost the tax that he might have received on a "horse." And in addition to that he was the means of depriving his community of all future gains from blooded stock. It would have been an act of sound business policy had that town-

ship bought by public subscription such a blooded stallion, for the increase in the value of horses would soon have exceeded the outlay. Yet, when one of its citizens at his own expense attempted to do what they all knew should be done they layed a penalty upon him as though he had done a wrong to his fellows. That is what New Orleans continues to do. It fines men who will bring ships to its harbor. Upon one hand its "booster" citizens are loudly proclaiming the city's advantages as a business point, while upon the other hand they pounce upon and fine everyone who brings business to it. So great are the city's natural advantages, and so much has the Federal Government done for its harbor in deepening the mouth of the Mississippi, that some new business does come to it. The city does grow a little. Yet, though every new enterprise that comes to the city adds to the value of its land—and to the land only, for increasing population and business do not add to the value of houses and goods—the city levies upon the new comer, rather than upon the lands that have been increased in value because of the new business. No, the Indiana assessor is not the only man in this country who is standing between his community and prosperity.

S. C.



Striking at Symptoms.

The owner of a dilapidated building in Chicago, condemned by the sanitary bureau, was fined \$100 in the Municipal Court on September 19. When one considers, however, that he would have been fined much more than that had he torn the building down and erected a sanitary modern structure, the disposition of the case does not seem at all impressive. A system that punishes a man regardless of what he does can reform nothing. As long as builders are subject to fines—technically known as taxes on improvements—the most that can be accomplished by fines for maintenance of unsanitary dwellings is to stimulate the vacant lot industry.

S. D.



Encouraging Industry.

One of the chief functions of the Congressman is to "encourage industry." And the most approved method is to clothe the constituent who is unable to stand upon his own feet, with power to tax his fellow citizens for his own private benefit. The most popular form of tax-farming heretofore has been the protective tariff. But it is now discovered that there are other ways of encouraging industry; and incredible as it may

seem, one of them is to remove tariff duties. For fifty years the sugar growers of Louisiana have been allowed to tax the people of the United States to raise their income to what they thought it should be; yet, they were more helpless at the end of that half century of public aid to private business than they were at the beginning. But since the passage of the Wilson tariff bill there is a possibility that the Louisiana sugar planter will be able to lift himself out of the eleemosynary class.



The New Orleans Times-Picayune—than which there has been no louder voice raised in behalf of public largesses for sugar growers—notes the fact that the "better farming" movement in Louisiana is one of the "most important signs of the times." The paper adds:

Perhaps the most striking developments, for reasons which have to do with recent Federal legislation, are those noted in the sugar parishes, whose agricultural leaders have resolutely set about the task of reorganizing their farming systems. Sugar planters of national prominence, who refuse to be driven by adverse tariff laws from the culture of cane, frankly admit that their farming methods have been faulty and are definitely abandoning the so-called "one-crop system." By addresses and by practical example, moreover, they are winning the smaller farmers over to adoption of the same policy. The better-farming campaigns planned in Iberia and St. Mary parishes, for example, contemplate the continued culture of cane, with a rotation of crops that will rebuild their cropped-out soils and increase their yields, the production at home of adequate supplies of foodstuffs and forage, and the development of live stock and dairying industries to supplement the farmers' cash returns. Agricultural "rallies" were held last week in several "strategic points" in Iberia parish. A creamery has been established at New Iberia, and the work of tick eradication is well begun. Activities of much the same sort are reported from St. Mary. Unless all signs are utterly deceptive the years just ahead will witness a wonderful, and wonderfully helpful, reorganization of Louisiana's farming industry. In no other State of the Union, we venture to say, has the "better-farming" movement made greater headway during 1914. And the campaign is only well begun.

That is the voice of a man, as distinguished from the whine of a beggar. As long as the sugar planters were permitted to tax the rest of the people of the United States they whined, fawned, and grovelled before any one who would conserve their privilege. But now that they have at last been shaken loose from the public teat they stand up like men. "Sugar planters of national prominence," says the Times-Picayune, "who refuse to be driven by adverse tariff laws from the culture of cane, frankly admit that their farming methods