

of Colorado, and by the President of the United States, to establish peace and harmony between the Colorado miners and the employing companies. The men have agreed, but the companies refuse. The companies take the stand that they have a right to do as they please with their own. This is sound ethics, if subject to two qualifications: First, that the property is really their own; and, second, that it be not used to the injury of others. That the companies really own their tools and equipment may be conceded; but that they own in the same sense the minerals in the earth is impossible. The earth belongs to the people, and if their agents, acting in the name of the state, give certain portions into the possession of a part of the people, they still have the moral right to direct its use, and they have the legal right to tax it. If the state were to tax at its full rental value unused as well as used land, it would be impossible to hold valuable lands out of use. If idle lands be put to use there will be a greater demand for labor, and an increased supply of goods; which will result in higher wages and lower prices. Greater demand for labor will not only raise wages, but it will enable the laborer to exact better treatment from employers. And with higher wages, better treatment, and lower prices the unrest of labor will disappear. But this solution strikes at the foundation of the Rockefeller Foundation. Have the trustees the courage to face the issue?

S. C.



How Public Improvements Increase Rents.

The part played by public improvements in increasing land values is shown in the city of Cleveland. According to Building Inspector Virgil D. Allen, since 1911, the time of the last quadrennial assessment, land values have increased from \$400,000,000 to \$600,000,000. At the same time population is estimated to have increased from 580,000 to 650,000. So with a fraction more than twelve per cent increase in population, there has been $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent increase in land values. To what is the difference due? Mainly, Mr. Allen holds, to three-cent street railway fares, by which car riders save \$2,000,000 a year, or would save if rents had not increased proportionately. Under a proper system of taxation this rent increase of \$2,000,000 a year, instead of going into the pockets of private individuals, would have gone into the public treasury and an equal amount of taxes now levied in Cleveland on labor and its products would have been abolished. One of the objects Tom L. Johnson had in view, in working

for three-cent fare, was to teach Clevelanders this economic lesson. Have they learned it? S. D.



Which Is the Greater Crime?

Morally it is sometimes a greater crime to enforce a law than to violate it. The Chicago Tribune of October 2 publishes a pathetic picture of a mother and two small children destitute, because a judge gave a six months' sentence to the father who, being out of work, stole some food. Unfortunately the Tribune draws no other moral from this incident than to make it the basis of an appeal for charitable contributions. There is not a word about the great wrong committed by the incompetent judge, who knows no other measure of right or wrong than statute law. And there is not a word about the more fundamental wrong which deprived a man of employment in a land teeming with opportunities withheld from use. It is not improbable that the selfrighteous judge who sentenced the man was himself an upholder of the very conditions that deprived the man of employment and drove him to the crime for which he was punished. The very fact that stealing of food is a more or less reprehensible act, makes far more reprehensible the perfectly legal act of upholding conditions which drive men to theft or mendicancy.

S. D.



The Whole Truth.

In the Joliet Prison Post of October 1 a prisoner writes as follows:

Any man who has brains enough to be a successful criminal, has certainly the makeup in him of a successful man of business.

A rather trite remark this, but a prisoner's view of matters may easily be obscured. So the prisoner is not to be blamed for failing to give the logical and not so trite addition to that remark: "If society did not make opportunities for crime so plentiful and opportunities for useful industry so scarce, most of those who have become successful criminals would, instead, have devoted their efforts toward becoming successful men of business."

S. D.



"Regularity" and Principle.

Illinois Democrats who opposed Sullivan's Senatorial candidacy at the primaries, but who hesitate to vote against him in the coming election, are trying to salve their conscience with Mr. Sullivan's declaration that he will support President Wilson. Support Wilson, yes, on the open polls

of the Senate where a vote means a record, but what of his action in committees and in caucuses and behind closed doors? It is there that the real legislation of Congress is effected. And it is in this quiet hand to hand work that Mr. Sullivan excels. Is there anything in his political career from first to last that would indicate a support of policies looking to the elimination of monopoly and privilege? Has not the man been all his life a dealer in as well as an upholder of privileges, and a beneficiary of monopoly? Mr. Sullivan is known as a man of his word, and a man who sticks to the friends who stick to him. It were easy for such a man to maintain the appearance of good faith in the open, while using all his great power in opposition in secret.



Were there but the one alternative of sending to Washington Sullivan or Sherman, the democratic Democrat would still be confronted by a plain duty; for an avowed opponent in the open were to be preferred to a false friend in secret. But the voters of Illinois have another alternative. They can, by electing Raymond Robins, send to Washington a man who not only will act wholeheartedly with Mr. Wilson's friends, but who will lead those friends to a still more advanced position in the realization of democratic principles. As Frank H. Bode so well puts it in his address to the down state Democrats: "The election of Robins to the Senate will strengthen the hand of Wilson tremendously. The election of either Sullivan or Sherman will seriously undermine Wilson's influence." Office seekers have given hostages to fortune, and must maintain at least the appearance of regularity; the unthinking rabble are regular because they know no better; but men who are really men cast their votes for principle and for such men as will carry out that principle.

S. C.



Construing Language to Conceal Thoughts.

Chicago's contract with the Illinois Telephone and Telegraph Company provides for forfeiture of the system to the city under the following conditions:

If at any time after June 1, 1911, the company shall not have in operation or shall cease to operate a telephone system serving 20,000 bona-fide subscribers,

The company has never served 20,000 bona fide subscribers. Under this clause therefore, the meaning of which seems about as clear as the English language can make it, very few persons can see any reason why the city's right to take

the plant should be questioned. But unfortunately for Chicago, one of these few happens to be its corporation counsel, William H. Sexton. Mr. Sexton holds that the clause does not mean what it says. He holds that the word "serving" does not mean serving, but means that the company must have a system ready to serve 20,000 subscribers provided that many want it. Since the company had the system he holds that, in the meaning of the contract, it was "serving 20,000 bona fide subscribers" even though that number of subscribers never existed. He further declares that this is the kind of reasoning in which the courts will indulge. In other words, if Mr. Sexton's opinion is correct, the city was fooled into accepting an agreement which did not mean what it plainly said. If the courts should uphold such trickery, as Mr. Sexton thinks they will, then once more convincing evidence will be furnished of the folly of any city placing any confidence in the good faith of any privilege-seeking corporation. Why accept agreements which turn out to mean something different than represented at the time of contract? Why depend on courts to uphold agreements if they must sustain quibbles of that kind?

S. D.



The Railroad Rate Case.

Are the railroads still paying interest and dividends on the stocks and bonds with which they have been loaded, as the result of such transactions as were disclosed in investigation of the New Haven, and of the C. H. & D.? Are they still paying monopoly prices for supplies to the Oil Trust, Steel Trust, Coal Trust and similar monopolies which their own managers are helping to uphold? If they are, then there is not the slightest justification for allowing an increase in rates.

S. D.



Dr. Andrew A. Forsythe.

The death of Dr. Andrew A. Forsythe, mayor for sixteen years of the city of Monroe, Louisiana, marks the close of a career that made a distinct addition to American government. For it is due to the executive ability, the personal integrity, and unremitting persistency of this remarkable man that the city of Monroe stepped direct from the status of a country village to a thriving city without experiencing the trials of franchise monopolies in private hands. The street car system was built by the city and operated by the city, and it was a complete success from the first. The question of