

declaring that criminals lacked moral courage or a proper education, the Judge told, to illustrate another point, about a university professor who came to him to see about his son who was in trouble. The Judge seems to have got rid of one fallacy only to fall into another. Probably the principal cause of crime is the fact that too many people cannot refrain from it without either becoming paupers or corpses. If the opportunity were open to all to earn an honest living crime would certainly be considerably reduced, even if it should not be entirely abolished.



Even if a large proportion of criminals should be feeble-minded or ignorant, that does not relieve economic conditions of responsibility for crime. Ignorance and vicious environment are equally the result of economic conditions, as also, to a large extent at least, may be feeble-mindedness. That in the struggle for jobs the feeble-minded should fail is only natural, and, having failed, should be pushed into crime, is also natural. Until all who desire opportunities for work shall be assured of them, crime will continue in spite of all superficial tinkering.

S. D.



### A Big Country.

Statistics given out by the Department of Commerce in its pamphlet "Statistical Record of Progress of the United States, 1800-1914," convey some idea of the material stupendousness of this country. It shows that the best workers in Europe transplanted to the richest country in natural resources, have produced inevitable results. Our population exceeds 100,000,000, and our wealth \$140,000,000,000. In 1850 the population was less than 25,000,000, and the national wealth \$7,000,000,000, which makes an increase in sixty-four years of fourfold in population and twentyfold in wealth. Commerce has grown from \$318,000,000 to \$4,259,000,000. The money in circulation has increased from \$279,000,000 to \$3,419,000,000. Children to the number of 19,000,000 are enrolled in the public schools, with 200,000 students in the colleges, and a total annual expenditure for education of \$500,000,000. Other interesting statistics are given, such as the increase of farms and farm property from \$4,000,000,000 to \$41,000,000,000, and the growth of manufactures from \$1,000,000,000 to \$20,000,000,000. The number of miles of railroad in operation in 1850 was 9,021, as against 258,033 in 1912.



As totals these figures make a splendid showing.

It may be doubted if the world has ever before seen their equal. The general average, too, is good. No other country as large as this can show a per capita wealth of \$1,400. So far as the production of wealth in this country is concerned, we have made a good showing, an exceptionally good showing. But unfortunately we have not the same cause for congratulation in the individual acquirement of wealth. A few have gone so very far above the average of \$1,400 that others are a long way below that amount. The recent report of the Chicago superintendent of the department of social survey, gives some startling data regarding those who fall below the average. Upon a single block were found 1,596 persons living in 137 delapidated houses, three rooms to a family, three to eight persons sleeping in one bedroom. It is scarcely likely that the eight persons sleeping in one small, poorly ventilated room were possessed of \$11,200. Yet, while it is not in the nature of things that each should have his \$1,400, it does lie within the realm of possibilities for any working man or woman to earn enough to obtain better accommodations than appears in the report of the department of social survey.



It is not the part of forward-looking minds to carp at what has been done; but rather to see that future action has a firm foundation in the present. The men and women of the past did according to their light; we must do according to our light. They were no more to blame for the unequal distribution of wealth than they were for not flying; the means was not known. But the law governing the distribution of wealth is now known, and the responsibility rests upon every one who understands it to make it known to his fellows. When society has mastered this law it will be held responsible for its application. This is not optional. Natural economic law, as well as natural physical law, works its will whether or not its victims understand it. And just as gunpowder will destroy the child or fool who applies fire, so does the economic law, when disregarded, oppress the innocent and wreck society. It is good to know the country has accumulated so much wealth, for it proves that we have solved the problem of the production of wealth. We can now give our attention to its distribution.

S. C.



### Automobile Franchises.

When the automobile first came into general use there were some enthusiasts who thought that they could see in the new invention the means of put-