

public places." So, in spite of all Constitutional guarantees, men may only say on the highways of Tarrytown what its landowners permit to be said. Trustee Pierson calls attention to a practical illustration of despotic power in this country which landlordism confers. Henry George suggested the possibility of such tyranny as one reason why landlordism should be abolished. Now Trustee Pierson—unconsciously probably—confirms his reasoning. He makes clear that the most extreme possibility of land monopoly, preventing the exercise by landless men of any natural right, is not merely theoretical. Tarrytown will serve as a horrible example of what land monopoly can do.

s. d.



### Wages and Efficiency.

The minimum wage idea receives novel support at the hands of H. A. Millis, in the *Journal of Political Economy*, where it is claimed that a minimum wage would benefit employer as well as employe, because it would compel both to adopt more efficient methods of production. Manufacturers, the writer holds, often fall into and continue slovenly methods of production when labor is cheap, and will not of their own initiative adopt improvements that will permit of the payment of higher wages. When, however, wages are arbitrarily raised, as they would be under a minimum wage, law, the employer would be compelled to adopt better methods or go out of business.



This is the very point made by the trade unionist. Raise wages to a living point and business will adapt itself to it. To advance wages twenty-five per cent does not necessarily mean paying twenty-five per cent more for labor. It means in most cases improvements in method that soon meet the increase in wages, and often result in cheaper labor than before. High wages stimulate discovery and invention, and make the cost of high priced labor cheaper than low priced labor. A business that must depend upon low priced labor, either in the form of child labor or Oriental labor, rests upon a false basis. Wages constitute Labor's share of production, and must in all reason advance as production advances; but too often contented Labor means indifferent Capital. Hence, as long as we persist in maintaining an unnaturally restrained system of industry it will be necessary for Labor to arbitrarily advance wages from time to time, not alone as a means of obtaining its share of increased production, but as a spur to lagging Capital. s. c.

### WHY LABOR ORGANIZATIONS EXIST.

Labor unions have been Labor's only weapon against organizations which have been more tyrannous and longer established and are deserving of as much denunciation.

That labor unions exhibit many of the weaknesses and worse, which their progenitors, i. e., organized capital, have possessed, is but natural, but should not excite a capitalist.

Labor unions will some day disappear, but probably no one will be able to kill them off. They are unnatural, just as other conditions in capitalist quarters are, and both will have to go along together until they can both together commit hari-kari.

In the meantime the "ceaseless conflict" to which Lincoln referred must doubtless continue. Adding to this conflict is very poor business and business men had better forget as much of the crimes of labor unions, and the crimes of organized capital as they can and get along with labor as well as they can until economic conditions are such that Labor can deal with them on something like an equal footing, and will not have to try and enforce its demands by strikes, dynamite, etc.

Fundamental to all of the above are, of course, some notions of what the remedies are, but that's another story and a long one.



But bring facts like these to the attention of the bitter opponent of existing trade unions and how does he reply? Here is what a very active and prominent one had to say:

"I know that you act from the best of motives but you do not realize the falsity of your position and the harm that is sure to grow out of it in case your expressions are extended to the ears of volatile and wilful men.

"The laws of this country provide for equal opportunity and protection for every man, and when a few men band together and parade the streets and attack other men who want to work, and destroy property because they can't rule it, the time to settle the question is *right then and there*, and not have a lot of soft heads excusing them over and over again, until they think they have a right to do these things.

"Perhaps I might add that I am in sympathy with organized effort, not alone among workingmen but also among other men who may perhaps work with their minds, as well as their bodies. I insist, however, that one law shall apply to them