

pavements, and all manner of governmental services. All confer a value upon land owners in addition to what is conferred upon other citizens; and this special interest constitutes one of the chief sources of political corruption, and inefficiency of public management. Remove this special interest of one class of citizens, and the way will be cleared for the legitimate extension and operation of all kinds of public service. Continue this special interest, and public service will be clogged and stalled in spite of all the good intentions in the world.

s. c.

Exploiting Misfortune.

To engratiate themselves in public esteem newspapers are ever ready to demonstrate their faith in the virtues of advertising by seizing upon every striking event. Oftentimes these enterprises are of public benefit in righting wrongs and in relieving suffering. But occasionally they are of questionable merit. The keen rivalry between the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Herald is responsible for a venture whose wisdom may be questioned. When the Herald hit upon the idea of sending a Christmas ship to Europe with presents from the children of America to the children of the war-afflicted countries it caught the public imagination. The press throughout the country took up the idea, and the response has been such as to warm the heart of the veriest cynic. But now the Tribune, eager to do something to offset this happy stroke of the Herald's, launches a plan to bring the "war orphans" to America. It proposes to send to Europe "a corps of physicians and nurses who will see that no children are accepted except those free from taint of every sort—strong, sturdy, bright-eyed, clean-limbed children such as can be welcomed in the Tribune homes with safety."

Without questioning the motives or the propriety of such an undertaking, its justice and wisdom are doubtful. If the act be urged in behalf of the unfortunate children of Europe who have been orphaned by the war then no discrimination should be made against the ill-favored, the sickly, and the crippled children. It is, indeed, these doubly unfortunate little ones who should receive first consideration. Were the Master who so long ago cried, "Suffer little children to come unto Me," to carry physical succor to the war orphans there is little doubt as to which He would select first. But if the act be urged on behalf of families in this country who are in need of chil-

dren then it is of doubtful wisdom to deprive those countries of their "strong, sturdy, bright-eyed, clean-limbed children," and leave the others. The greatest of the hardships to the warring countries will be the lowering of the standard of the physique of their people. The strongest, sturdiest, brightest-eyed, and cleanest-limbed men are being killed off at an unprecedented rate. The general size and strength of the races are being lowered. The proportion of defectives will be much greater than they were before the war. It is not to the interest of this country that those nations should deteriorate. On the contrary, it is of the utmost importance to the world at large that they recover as quickly as possible from this awful calamity.

How ill advised, then, would be a movement to bring to this country the finest of the children. That the children, both the favored and the ill-favored, should be aided to the utmost power of our resources goes without saying; but the best way to help all the children is to serve them in their own lands and among their own people. One dollar will go as far there as three dollars here; and every sturdy son and daughter matured there will to that extent help to redeem the blighted nations. Let the Tribune do its utmost to save the war orphans—and may great success attend its efforts—but let it do so with a view to saving the unhappy nations as well as the children. And should it be found that the warring nations object to our sifting their seed and culling the best, as they might most naturally do, let not the generous hearted Americans, who would help the best of the children as their own, withhold their hand from the less favored.

s. c.

Observing Treaties.

Some of the Americans who are pointing the finger of scorn at Germany for disregarding the treaty with Belgium should pause now and again to recall the effort required to keep this country from repudiating its treaty with Great Britain regarding the Panama Canal. When we had throttled the Philippine Republic, we were estopped from protesting against England's destruction of the Boer Republics. Had we exempted American ships from Panama tolls in defiance of our treaty with England, we should have had to be silent in the presence of the invasion of Belgium.

s. c.

William Denison.

A quiet and unobtrusive, but none the less effi-

cient worker in the cause of democracy passed away at Chicago on October 4. William Denison died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. J. Laurence Hewitt in his seventy-first year. He was born at South Shields, Durham County, England, on July 17, 1844. For the past forty-four years he has been a resident of Chicago. For a long time he was a writer on political and economic subjects. Under Governor Altgeld's administration he was superintendent of West Park Boulevards. Three years ago he designed and laid out Riverside cemetery at Fargo, N. D., since which time he had retired. He is survived by a widow and four children.

S. D.

RESTRICTION CAUSES THE RUM PROBLEM.

We can't get total abstinence—as yet; we have tried our best—by force, and we can't. Do we want it now? Would it be any good if we got it before we got something else? Let us look at the evident facts.

Total abstinence brings a better way of living which creates new demands for goods—it can bring new expenditures only if some one will “give” the reformed men work; that is, give him permission to work on the land. This the lord of the land, being a good business man, will do only on condition that the landless men pay him, directly or indirectly, all that they get over a mere living. If a man saves by not buying rum, he can live on less than before, and there being more men than there are places, he bids lower than before to get work. There are men waiting for every place; even for every job. No one can work unless he gets space on the earth to live in, and materials from the earth to work on; consequently, where all the resources of nature are owned, competition for the use of them brings wages down.

It is true that in general any individual will get higher wages after his rescue from drink, but the total amount of wages paid out for the same amount of work will be no larger than before. To double the skill and industry of all men at once, in the absence of any free land, would only increase the amount of rent and would enrich no one but the owners of the land. It is no more the quality of work done than it is the number of workers that determines wages. The amount of opportunity to work fixes wages.

Millions of people need the products of work, yet the amount of work that can be done at present is limited, because all the opportunities of labor are held by a few; a part is held out of use for speculation and the use of other opportunities

is discouraged and limited by the exorbitant rents asked for land.

At the same time the ability to pay for the product of the labor of others is limited; because nearly every man has to pay out a large part of his earnings in rent, or in interest or purchase money of land, for the mere privilege of working.

If a man gets higher wages than others, it is because he does more work or else he does better work; but whether he does more work or does it better, he takes the job away from some less vigorous or some less skilled competitor.

The increased wages which a reformed man gets will reduce both the pay roll and the rate of wages. For four dollars a day to a man who hangs seventeen doors a day is lower wages than two dollars a day to a man who hangs seven. If living was easier in Prohibition towns they would be swamped with immigrants. That's the reason living is no easier in Prohibition states than in license states. That's the reason “the Interests” and employers in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, are satisfied with closed saloons.

Temperance is a benefit to the man who reforms; but to make individuals better workmen is no benefit to society, as long as all the places and all the means of work are in the hands of others. No matter how much more sober, how much more industrious, how much more skillful you make the mass of men, the results of it all go to the world owners.

We put such high license and excise taxes on drink that only those whose big capital can pay the Government charges, get control of it: so we make a practical monopoly of it for the great brewers and the Whiskey Trust, who are the landlords, or who pay tribute to the landlords.

Then they can afford to take three corners of a street and fit them up magnificently for saloons—run free clubs practically to get men to drink.

The price of liquor goes up to some hundreds per cent profit (a \$1.50 bottle of whiskey costs only about 13 cents to produce), then men “treat” because it is generous.

There is more milk sold in New York today than there is liquor; but nobody “treats” to milk, because it costs only three cents a glass. Competition keeps it there and it does not pay to advertise and push the sale of milk.

To make liquor free would destroy the treating habit, which starts more men toward the drink habit than anything else. We could decrease drinking by abolishing the laws that put a premium and an extra profit on pushing the sale of