

so as to make it unprofitable to withhold from use land that is needed for stockraising. They can further help improvement of such land by exempting all improvements, live stock and all other personal property from taxation. That will help the stock raising industry without taxing any other industry. The butchers should insist on such legislation.

S. D.



A Bishop's Opportunity.

Bishop Busch of Lead, S. D., knows that the miners of that locality are not free men. He realized this when the employing corporation kept them from attending religious services. His protests have brought about an investigation by the Commission on Industrial Relations. According to newspaper accounts the bishop confined his complaints to the fact that the men were denied Sunday rest. Surely he must see that the wrong done is far more serious than that. If, as a result of his complaints the mines hereafter shut down on Sunday, he will surely not consider his duty done. He must realize that Mrs. Hearst and the Homestake Mining Company are not so much to blame for conditions at Lead, as the monopoly of natural resources through which they control the men who must use these resources in order to live. Through similar monopolies workers throughout the nation are deprived of freedom to the same extent as at Lead. Monopoly's power is not always used to interfere with church attendance. Ordinarily that would be poor policy. Very frequently the monopolists are kind and generous to their men. This the manager of the Homestake Mining Company at Lead claims to be in denying Bishop Busch's charge. Does the Bishop merely dispute his statement, or is he able to see that even though the industrial despotism at Lead be a benevolent one it does not justify a system that gives some men control of the livelihood of others? Does he ask that the monopoly be destroyed on which the Homestake corporation's power is based, or does he only ask that it be forced to be less harsh in the exercise of its power? The Bishop is in a position to do a great service, not merely to the miners of his own denomination at Lead, but to wealth-producers of all denominations or of none, throughout the nation. Let him make clear to others—what must be plain to him—that wherever natural resources are monopolized, as at Lead, there the workers must be enslaved. Let him use the influence his position gives him to help in abolishing this wrong. Perhaps he will.

S. D.

Business and Privilege.

There are many business men whose economic education has been so badly neglected that they mistake attack on privilege for an attack on business. Monopolists may be and frequently are business men also, but it does not follow that all business men are monopolists. On the contrary to the extent that a man is a monopolist, to that extent is he an impediment to business. Information along this line was given recently to a group badly in need of it, by a leading manufacturer of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Mr. Theo. F. Thieme. The information was imparted by Mr. Thieme to the National Association of Manufacturers in the following letter:

Your circular letter, with assorted lot of stickers, received. These, in connection with certain impressions I gained while attending the United States Chamber of Commerce meeting at Washington in February of this year, suggest to me that the line between "monopoly" business and "competitive" business is as marked as the line between the corrupt machine politician and the sincere, honest citizen politician. Competitive business suffers from the misdeeds of monopoly business, the same as the honest politician suffers from the misdeeds of the corrupt machine politician.

The government is not after such business as I am engaged in, nor the 95% of retail and wholesale merchants who are in competitive business, but it is after "big business," which is monopoly business, i. e., public utilities, railroads, trusts, etc., and it is these perverters of the word business who are asking honest, competitive business to protect them in their exploitation of the public. I am commencing to realize that it is not a matter of too much interference, but not enough, and of the right kind. Any thinking man must realize by this time that we must curb monopoly business, which is today operating its gigantic financial deals at the expense of the manufacturer and the "competitive" business man.

Unless I can be shown differently, I am opposed to all this agitation for inveigling competitive business into a scrap to protect monopoly business. I appreciate also that, as a result of monopoly business owning the government, we have corrupt politicians, and are strangled with all kinds of fool legislation against business of all kinds, small and large. But, after all, the real issue is the curbing of "big business," something entirely independent of and separate from business which is competitive business.



If the members of the National Association of Manufacturers, most of whom are engaged in competitive business, would carefully consider what Mr. Thieme has told them, they will realize that abolition of privilege is as much to their interest as it is to the interest of other wealth producers. Useful business works against itself when it tries to defend monopoly.

S. D.