

of Manitoba. The voters of Winnipeg have had the good sense to choose F. J. Dixon as their member by a large majority. Mr. Dixon has for years been an active propagandist of democratic principles. His campaign was energetically carried on in behalf of such measures as Initiative, Referendum, Recall, Home Rule, Woman Suffrage, Public Ownership and Singletax. His work in the legislature—in which there is an almost even division between the two parties—will be to push these measures forward, and may reasonably be expected to hasten their final adoption. Winnipeg has done the province of Manitoba a splendid service.

S. D.



### Economizing in the Wrong Place.

One might have more respect for the Senators who tried to cripple the work of the Federal Commission of Industrial Relations if they had not offered the plea of economy for their action. The sincerity of that plea may properly be questioned when one considers the vast sums wasted in pork barrel appropriations, and worse than wasted in large army and navy appropriations. The Commission has done good work in putting the stamp of an official investigation on facts of which too many Congressmen and Senators prefer to be ignorant. The conditions disclosed were pretty well known before, but an official investigation was necessary to make voluntary ignorance less excusable. Further investigations are sure to make more disagreeable truths officially known. To prevent this was probably the true reason for the attempt to cut down the Commission's appropriation. The economy plea, if sincere, would mark the Senate as being as foolish in practising economy as it is in authorizing waste. The sum of \$150,000 which Senator Martin and other Senators said they wanted to save could have been more properly taken off of the many millions appropriated for battleships.

S. D.



### Buncombe and Prosperity.

A rather obscure press dispatch of July 17 from Philadelphia says that "the Pennsylvania railroad has quietly ordered all the men laid off in its various departments several months ago to return for duty." Considering the noisy manner in which the laying off of these men was announced, one wonders why their return to duty was not considered equally deserving of prominent mention. Not that it is at all important that it should be loudly proclaimed or even publicly announced at

all. But the loudness of the laying off and the quietness of the reinstatement show a desire on the part of railroads and press to spread a false impression in regard to industrial conditions. This desire is due to the false notion that people can be made to believe themselves prosperous or otherwise by merely insisting, regardless of fact, that they are or are not so. It is this same false view which induces Republican Congressmen to waste breath, printers' ink and valuable time in calamity speeches, and causes Democratic Congressmen to make themselves ridiculous through still more preposterous and wasteful talk concerning alleged widespread prosperity. A little more reliance on natural law and less on buncombe would lead to wonderful improvements in economic conditions.

S. D.



### Hard Times and "Fool Law Making."

Frederick D. Underwood, president of the Erie railroad, stated a fact when in an interview published on July 17, he attributed hard times to "fool law making." He went astray, however, in naming the particular laws he had in mind. The anti-railroad laws to which he objects may be properly classified by him, since they are efforts to avoid the consequences of railroad monopoly without abolishing it. Yet they can not be justly blamed for bringing on hard times. Control of public highways is a proper public function. It is legislation of a far more foolish nature that deserves first blame. There are, for instance, the fool laws levying tariffs and other taxes on labor and its products; the fool laws that farm out to private corporations, functions which properly belong to the Government; the fool laws by which the Government, in endeavoring to escape the consequences of other fool laws, enacts set after set of arbitrary and unreasonable rules for business men and other producers; the fool laws that even now make appear to poor perplexed congressmen as a deep, abstruse problem, the very simple question of how to permit laboring men to combine to better their condition; the fool laws under which Government meddles in all sorts of affairs that do not properly concern it and keeps hands off of matters that should have its attention; and the fool laws that make a boon to be thankful for of what should be a right to be exercised by every man as a matter of course—the right to earn his own living regardless of the permission of others. Let President Underwood put some of his energy and talent at work attacking these fool laws and he will help to abolish the cause of hard times.

S. D.