

of Colorado, and by the President of the United States, to establish peace and harmony between the Colorado miners and the employing companies. The men have agreed, but the companies refuse. The companies take the stand that they have a right to do as they please with their own. This is sound ethics, if subject to two qualifications: First, that the property is really their own; and, second, that it be not used to the injury of others. That the companies really own their tools and equipment may be conceded; but that they own in the same sense the minerals in the earth is impossible. The earth belongs to the people, and if their agents, acting in the name of the state, give certain portions into the possession of a part of the people, they still have the moral right to direct its use, and they have the legal right to tax it. If the state were to tax at its full rental value unused as well as used land, it would be impossible to hold valuable lands out of use. If idle lands be put to use there will be a greater demand for labor, and an increased supply of goods; which will result in higher wages and lower prices. Greater demand for labor will not only raise wages, but it will enable the laborer to exact better treatment from employers. And with higher wages, better treatment, and lower prices the unrest of labor will disappear. But this solution strikes at the foundation of the Rockefeller Foundation. Have the trustees the courage to face the issue?

S. C.



### How Public Improvements Increase Rents.

The part played by public improvements in increasing land values is shown in the city of Cleveland. According to Building Inspector Virgil D. Allen, since 1911, the time of the last quadrennial assessment, land values have increased from \$400,000,000 to \$600,000,000. At the same time population is estimated to have increased from 580,000 to 650,000. So with a fraction more than twelve per cent increase in population, there has been  $33\frac{1}{3}$  per cent increase in land values. To what is the difference due? Mainly, Mr. Allen holds, to three-cent street railway fares, by which car riders save \$2,000,000 a year, or would save if rents had not increased proportionately. Under a proper system of taxation this rent increase of \$2,000,000 a year, instead of going into the pockets of private individuals, would have gone into the public treasury and an equal amount of taxes now levied in Cleveland on labor and its products would have been abolished. One of the objects Tom L. Johnson had in view, in working

for three-cent fare, was to teach Clevelanders this economic lesson. Have they learned it? S. D.



### Which Is the Greater Crime?

Morally it is sometimes a greater crime to enforce a law than to violate it. The Chicago Tribune of October 2 publishes a pathetic picture of a mother and two small children destitute, because a judge gave a six months' sentence to the father who, being out of work, stole some food. Unfortunately the Tribune draws no other moral from this incident than to make it the basis of an appeal for charitable contributions. There is not a word about the great wrong committed by the incompetent judge, who knows no other measure of right or wrong than statute law. And there is not a word about the more fundamental wrong which deprived a man of employment in a land teeming with opportunities withheld from use. It is not improbable that the selfrighteous judge who sentenced the man was himself an upholder of the very conditions that deprived the man of employment and drove him to the crime for which he was punished. The very fact that stealing of food is a more or less reprehensible act, makes far more reprehensible the perfectly legal act of upholding conditions which drive men to theft or mendicancy.

S. D.



### The Whole Truth.

In the Joliet Prison Post of October 1 a prisoner writes as follows:

Any man who has brains enough to be a successful criminal, has certainly the makeup in him of a successful man of business.

A rather trite remark this, but a prisoner's view of matters may easily be obscured. So the prisoner is not to be blamed for failing to give the logical and not so trite addition to that remark: "If society did not make opportunities for crime so plentiful and opportunities for useful industry so scarce, most of those who have become successful criminals would, instead, have devoted their efforts toward becoming successful men of business."

S. D.



### "Regularity" and Principle.

Illinois Democrats who opposed Sullivan's Senatorial candidacy at the primaries, but who hesitate to vote against him in the coming election, are trying to salve their conscience with Mr. Sullivan's declaration that he will support President Wilson. Support Wilson, yes, on the open polls