

It is the remedy which the Society for Lower Rents in New York City is endeavoring to partially apply, and which The Allied Real Estate Interests bitterly opposes, meanwhile pleading ignorance of the awful conditions it is upholding.

s. D.



The Conference on Unemployment.

It is to be hoped that the National Conference on Unemployment, which meets at New York City on February 27 and 28, will not shrink from demanding removal of the fundamental cause of unemployment—monopolization and withholding from use of valuable natural resources. It is to be hoped that it will not be misled into avoiding such a course by the fallacious excuse—"we must do something now." To do "something now" does not mean that we must avoid taking immediate steps to abolish what has caused trouble in the first place. According as the conference may perform or neglect this duty will the time spent upon it be time put to good use or time worse than wasted.

s. D.



Russian Poverty and the Czar.

Czar Nicholas of Russia, according to news dispatches of February 12, is imitating some of his smug plutocratic brethren in this country. He announces great interest in the welfare of the poor. He is said to have "experienced deep grief at the weakness, poverty and economic desolation which were the inevitable results of drunkenness." No one disputes that drunkenness is an evil, but the trick has been worn threadbare of making it the scapegoat for results of more fundamental evils. Nicholas places himself with those whom his countryman, Tolstoy, described as "willing to do anything to help the poor except to get off of their backs."

s. D.



Still True to Privilege.

Former President Taft takes good care in his Saturday Evening Post article of February 14 to say nothing that would tend to destroy confidence in the saying: "The Bourbons never learn and never forget." His political experience has been such as ought to teach anyone—at least anyone not a Bourbon—but he has passed through it unscathed. The Progressive party movement is, to him, still nothing more than personal loyalty to Theodore Roosevelt and a protest against the conduct of the Republican National Convention. All dissatisfaction with economic conditions means

nothing else than a purpose to "create a socialistic democracy." The future he outlines for the Republican party is that of opponent of every change worth while, and of advocate of palliative and makeshift substitutes for justice. The party must sternly oppose all interference with predatory Privilege, it must not allow Poverty to be abolished, but it must take a paternal interest in the poor and see that they are not too harshly abused. In short, it must endeavor to perpetuate economic slavery, but also try to make of it the patriarchal institution which prevailed on some Southern plantations in ante-bellum days. Of course, he does not use these words, but they convey the true meaning of his article. The Republican party is to remain Tory.

s. D.



Weighed in the Balance.

The London school board, which found it necessary to give the children breakfast in order that they might study, has discovered that it is cheaper to feed them during vacation than to build them up after the opening of school. So it has come about that in the largest and richest city in the world, and after science and invention have multiplied the power of labor many fold, the laborer is unable to feed his own child.

s. C.



Purblind Ship-Owners.

The employer of labor who, as a wheel in the great industrial machine, finds it necessary to pay low wages or give up his business, may salve his conscience with the thought that low wages are better than no wages; but what shall be said of employers who have it in their power to pay living wages, yet persist in ways and methods that keep wages down to the lowest possible point? Such is the role now played by the American ship-owners. If conditions were such that the American ship-owners had to meet the competition of foreign ship-owners with cheaper crews, they could not be blamed for their opposition to the demand of the Seamen's Union for higher wages. But the Seamen's bill, now before Congress, provides a means for equalizing wages on American and foreign ships. Why the ship-owners' opposition to that bill?



The disappearance of the American ship from the deep-sea trade has been attributed to three principal causes: Lack of subsidies to off-set foreign subsidies; dearer ships made in American yards; and higher wages of American seamen. The