

many of us, sensible and businesslike. To these it sounds absurd to suggest that it would have been better to have changed the two ships from menaces and destroyers into useful and productive merchantmen. But we have not yet become sufficiently civilized to even consider such a proposition. We have made the two destroyers a means of creating a third destroyer, when we could have changed them into aids to production of wealth. Such is the statesmanship of today. S. D.



George Fred Williams' Great Service.

George Fred Williams found the regulations of the diplomatic service obstructing his duty to Humanity. Thus, forced to choose between red tape and a useful action, he chose the latter. He lost his office but he gains instead the satisfaction of having done more for his fellows than he could otherwise accomplish. Whatever may be done about the Albanian situation, the excuse can not be urged that the powers responsible are in ignorance of conditions there prevailing. Williams shed light on a situation which needed light badly, and which powerful interests wished kept in darkness. He did well. S. D.



Do Circumstances Alter Cases?

Suppose a labor paper were to announce in the case of a strike something like this: "The strikers are confined to the choice of seeing others take their places or forcing the strike-breakers to refrain from work. In some cases they will let their places be taken, but in many cases they will attempt coercion. The coercion of the strike-breakers may be silent and bloodless, or it may be violent. In either case it will be coercion." Would there not at once be a loud demand for protection of the strike-breakers in their right to work? Would not the militia be ordered out, deputy sheriffs sworn in and injunctions issued? Experience shows that that is what would happen. Well, no such announcement has been made in any labor paper. But "Babson's Reports on Labor Legislation and Other Social Matters, Particularly for Men of Wealth," in the June issue, announces that in case of a strike of harvest hands the farmers will attempt coercion in many cases in preference to paying the prices demanded, since they cannot let their crops rot while waiting to starve out the workers." "The coercion of the harvesters may be silent and bloodless," continues the report, "or it may be violent. In either case it will be coercion." Does not a threat of such coercion justify

the same protective measures as would be resorted to were the threat the other way? If not, why not?



It is due Mr. Babson to say that he only announces the prospect as a matter of news and the announcement does not by any means imply an endorsement of coercion. In fact, he declares it to be his "long life dream to help bring about the peaceful settlement of those differences that now exist between the employer and employe." There is much in his reports to show his sincerity in this wish, but little to indicate possession of the knowledge as to how to bring about its accomplishment. S. D.



The Cause of Depressions.

Much is being said of a conspiracy to bring on a panic and depression in order to discredit the party in power. Perhaps the reports are true. At least there is nothing in them at all contrary to human nature. But the danger of such a conspiracy is a just penalty that must be paid by every party in power which through ignorance or lack of courage refrains from attacking the fundamental cause of panics and business depressions. Business depressions come without help of any conspiracy, and in spite of all optimism, whenever land speculation so inflates the cost of access to nature's resources that production of wealth becomes too difficult. While such a possibility is allowed to exist, it is vain to try to stave off a depression by urging confidence, or to escape responsibility therefor by pleading conspiracy. With the cause of depressions removed neither conspiracy nor universal pessimism could bring on a panic or industrial depression. S. D.



Again, the Law and the Poor.

The announcement that some of the Chicago judges were willing to forego their summer vacation in order that persons unable to furnish bail might not be needlessly held in prison, serves to call attention to a glaring defect of the law. Not only is the law outrageously slow at all times, but there are times when it stops entirely. That courts should have seasons of rest, when all activities are suspended, is no more logical or necessary than that railroads, or butchers, or cooks, should suspend service. To the person who can give bail the delay matters little, but to the man who can furnish no security save that of his own body, it is very serious. A man, suspected of having committed a crime, is arrested the next day