

telephones, etc., that exist only by special permission of the state, must be controlled by the state; but all free businesses, whether shoe-shining or the great trading companies, can have no other restraining influence so effective as the competition of their rivals.

S. C.

Organized Labor's Case.

Prejudice against labor organizations is by no means confined to monopolistic quarters. Even many workers for social justice, who realize that existing conditions are unfair, withhold their sympathy. They find cause for this in the misconduct of individuals connected with trade unions and in enforcement by the organizations of unjust and tyrannical regulations. That such evils exist is undeniable, but their existence is more an indictment of the system that forces laborers to organize for self-protection than of the labor organizations. So long as the number of jobs is less than the number of men anxious to fill them, so long must it be to the interest of laborers to organize. To make such an organization even partially effective, some if not all of the apparently absurd and certainly oppressive rules are necessary. Industrial warfare is as incapable of refinement as military warfare. Labor organizations can be rendered unnecessary for the protection of labor only through abolition of monopoly of natural opportunities. If that were done there would be jobs open to all and laborers could get their entire product without organization. As long as monopoly of Nature's resources is allowed to exist laborers will be driven to organize and to do much that is unethical in self-defense. These facts must be borne in mind in judging the labor unions' case.

S. D.

Distorting News.

The movement by Denver's so-called Law and Order League to recall Judge Lindsey is thus explained in the Chicago Evening Post of May 27:

The interview on Colorado which Judge Ben B. Lindsey gave the Post during his recent passage through Chicago reached Denver in a distorted form. Upon this inaccurate report Lindsey's old foes decided at once to start another movement for his recall from the bench.

This is an explanation that needs explaining. What news agency was responsible for reprinting the interview "in a distorted form"? It is quite possible for a correspondent to misunderstand spoken words and to unintentionally misrepresent what he has heard. But this does not apply to a report of a published interview. How can a

news agency which sends such a distorted report clear itself of suspicion of intentional coloring of news?

S. D.

Amortisation and Farm Tenantry.

Speaking of the increase in farm tenantry, so noticeable in Kansas and other States, the Omaha World-Herald of May 25 says: "This increase in the number of tenant farmers must be stopped and the only scheme that promises to do that so far advanced is the long time amortisation plan, which enables the landless to become landowners." What the World-Herald seems to overlook is that the introduction of a plan to encourage buying of land without discouraging speculation must further inflate prices. In order to succeed, the amortisation plan must be coupled with a plan to discourage withholding of land from use. There is an additional reason in so coupling it in the fact that such discouragement would probably make the amortisation plan less necessary than it now seems to be.

S. D.

Iowa's Lost Population.

Speaking of Iowa's loss of population the Chicago Record-Herald remarks, "how rising land values can drive out farmers who own their acres no one has explained." This may be because many of these farmers move out voluntarily. Congressman Vollmer of Iowa in a speech in the House on March 19 said: "There is not a town of any size in the Middle West which has not its quota of retired farmers who have grown wealthy by reason of the increase in the value of lands. In my home town we have one street on which the residents are mostly of this class." Of course some of these retired farmers must have been replaced, temporarily at least, by rack-rented tenants or mortgaged purchasers. Why these should sooner or later feel encouraged to emigrate must be evident, even to the Record-Herald. As land values increase universal experience shows that ownership of land becomes more concentrated. There is nothing particularly strange or surprising about Iowa's loss. A similar tendency is observable in Missouri's agricultural districts, and in other places also, though perhaps not to the same extent as in Iowa.

S. D.

The Poll Tax in California.

The Los Angeles Graphic of May 23, in arguing against the proposed abolition of the poll tax, says "the class that will thereby dodge about the

only contribution it makes toward the expenses of the State government will be entirely immune." Is it true that non-property-owning poll-taxpayers pay no other taxes? Is there not included in the rent they pay, taxes on the houses in which they live? Is there not included in everything that they buy, taxes that have been previously advanced by others? Do not California landowners charge them more rent for the privilege of enjoying the benefits of California's government than they would charge if these benefits were non-existent? If all this is so, then is not the poll-tax a charge for services for which these poll-taxpayers have already paid? If this is not the case then conditions in California are very different from what they are elsewhere. In fact California's government must be one that could, without loss to any interest, be entirely dispensed with if it does not furnish benefits for enjoying which tenants can be made to pay in rent, full value to landowners. The Graphic pays California a very poor compliment in assuming a position, the acceptance of which, logically leads to such a conclusion. S. D.



"Real Estate Day" in Chicago.

A new holiday is suggested by the Chicago Record-Herald and Inter Ocean—one devoted to the glorification of Chicago real estate. The Record-Herald's argument is as follows:

Chicago real estate! Pay dirt the equal of any that ever came from a mine and surer pay than 99 per cent of all the mines. . . . Chicago real estate! The foundation of prosperity and the basis of thousands of fortunes. Chicago real estate! As Chicago grows the hem of its spreading skirts touches with alchemy the land that comes within the golden circle.

One objection to the Record-Herald's suggestion is that it proposes an injustice. It would give credit to Chicago "real estate" which belongs solely to Chicago land. "Real estate" includes buildings. There are as good and better buildings in other cities as are to be found in Chicago, and there is no building in Chicago which can not be duplicated elsewhere. But these outside-of-Chicago buildings have not brought to their owners such gains as have come from ownership in Chicago. The proposed holiday would consequently be based on a fallacy. The objection could be surmounted, however, by calling the holiday "Chicago Landlordism Day." That would make clear just where the credit lies. Does the Record-Herald and Inter Ocean accept the amendment?



Further consideration of the proposition will

make one question whether after all this holiday should not be made a day of mourning instead of rejoicing for most Chicagoans. For while it is true that Chicago land is "the foundation of prosperity and the basis of thousands of fortunes," it is also true that Chicagoans who have made this prosperity possible and created the fortunes have not received them. For nine Chicagoans out of ten such a celebration would be as rational as rejoicing over the burglarizing of one's house. There will be better reasons for making the proposed holiday one of widespread joy when values created by the people of Chicago become the sole source of public income. Until then only the individuals need rejoice who have been permitted to reap where others have sown. S. D.



Burdening Business.

Chicago papers announce with much satisfaction the sale last week of an eighty-foot lot on Wabash Avenue for \$850,000, that was bought in 1876 for \$54,550. No labor was expended on the property in the meantime, save enough to make habitable a building of such slight value today that it did not enter into consideration in fixing the price of the lot. Yet, although the building is worn out, the property is worth nearly eight hundred thousand dollars more than it was thirty-eight years ago. The property is worth more because the tenants pay more rent; the tenants pay more rent because they can do more business; and business has increased because the city is larger. The increased value of the lot is due to the growth of the city. But all this increase goes to the particular person holding the title to the lot. The citizens at large receive no benefit whatever. All the advantage of doing business in the midst of a large and active population, which, because of this advantage, should have led to cheaper service, has been absorbed by the owners of the land on which the business is done. S. C.



Preparing Trouble for College Professors.

Some of the high school students of Chicago and vicinity, who continue their studies in the higher seats of learning, are likely to ask embarrassing questions of the dry-as-dust professors of political economy. The Chicago Singletax Club, acting upon an idea worthy of a wider application, has undertaken to extend its propaganda by offering to the high school students of the third and fourth years small money prizes for the best addresses delivered before the Club the last Friday of each month. The money prizes are not large enough