

LET'S PASS A LAW ABOUT IT

A century or so ago a pious monk, the Abbe Mendel, made a series of experiments on sweet peas. By crossing peas of various colors, and then re-crossing the hybrids, he obtained data which led him ultimately to the formulation of the laws of hereditary transmission; laws which are known by his name to-day. Father Mendel founded the science of genetics. He discovered that inheritable characteristics are transmitted by carriers called genes, that a child gets genes from both father and mother, and that the child's inheritance will be a probability function of its parents' transmissible traits.

In recent newspapers, however, we read that the Mendelian laws have suffered a severe setback. In Soviet Russia it has been discovered that they are anti-Marxist and have counter-revolutionary implications. For example, if a capitalist father and a proletarian mother have offspring, it is not, according to Mendel, possible for the offspring to be true proletarians; they will be half-breeds. And crossing such half-breeds is certain (again according to Mendel) to result in children of which one in every four will be an outright capitalist. Obviously, such a state of things cannot be tolerated in a worker's republic, and the U. S. S. R. has taken the perfectly natural and obvious step of rescinding, repealing and abolishing the Mendelian laws, and rendering them null and void.

Why have not we in America taken a fuller advantage of this direct and efficacious method of dealing with difficulties? We have made a beginning, to be sure, but only the barest beginning, entirely inadequate to the task of accomplishing any real reform. In Tennessee, for example, the theory of evolution is outlawed, and in Michigan the value of pi (the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter) is fixed by statute as exactly 3.14 (The saving to the automobile industry by this contraction of the circle must run into the millions.)

But what we really need is something fundamental, something basic. Here is a law which should be passed

by every legislature. Send copies to your congressmen and your senators. Forget all about land reform; we were dopes not to spot this simple, easy way long ago.

"WHEREAS: the marginal law of wages operates to diminish, reduce, impair, mitigate, abate, lessen and make smaller the return enjoyed by laborers, workers, producers, employees, farm hands, factory hands, domestic help, and all persons dependent on wages whatsoever; and

"WHEREAS: such a diminution, reduction, impairment, mitigation, abatement, lessening and making smaller of wages operates to increase poverty, unemployment, distress, hunger, homelessness, etc.

"Now therefore BE IT ENACTED, that on and after the blank day of blank, wages shall no longer be governed by the margin of production;

"BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that the law of rent, in so far as it conflicts with the present enactment, be, and the same hereby is, repealed."

PAUL PEACH.