

is a question to which there seems no other answer than that of Henry George: "He can do nothing at all except to use his strength for the abolition of the great primary wrong that robs men of their birthright. The justice of God laughs at the attempts of men to substitute anything else for it."

S. D.



COINCIDENCE OR CONSEQUENCE?

On the night of April 18 the "Breadline," New York City's most characteristic "exhibit," stretched nearly a thousand feet along the sidewalk turning the corner of Eleventh street and Broadway.

It has become an institution; and as do all institutions performs a function vital to the community in which it exists. Several hundreds of men stood, two by two, awaiting the signal to march. We had forgotten time and place, in contemplation of the spectacle, until the boom of the midnight chime of Grace Church startled us and sent a bracing quiver through the "line." Grace church windows saw it all; have seen it every night since it began. The north end of the line extended past the door of a restaurant on Broadway—a restaurant distinguished by a glaring uniform of white enamel, that is known to travelers from one end of the land to the other. The restaurant is popularly understood to be the latest enterprise appropriated by the Rockefellers, to find employment for surplus capital.

There may be nothing more than an accidental coincidence in the merely local proximity of these three factors; but their economic and social relation is as evident and unequivocal as that of the upper and nether millstones and the grist that sifts between them. A grim, a tragic pantaloone set Fleischman's restaurant so near to Rockefeller's; but a more grisly Mephisto put them both under the eaves of that fane where its votaries partake in His remembrance of the body of their Lord—while, nightly, sheltered from the idle gaze of the curious by midnight shadows, the hungry hundreds slink from unnumbered kennels to get the bread of charity.

And people are beginning to talk. They are asking how much longer these men, and the multiplied thousands they represent, will continue to "take it lying down." These questionings are heard afar, even in the cloistered offices of a National Civic Federation. Immediately, professional secretaries become energetic, a definite campaign is begun to silence questions, to limit the

exercise of free speech, of a querulous, inquisitive sort. The press, the pulpit, the school, the court with its retinue, all fall into a line, until one wonders where the Breadline begins, or which end is the beginning. Is it a coincidence or a consequence?

WESTERN STARR.



THE PAST DANGER AND A FUTURE ONE.

Welcome indeed was the news that mediation in the Mexican trouble had been offered and accepted by both sides. That President Wilson accepted the proposition was a matter of course. An administration committed to a policy of justice and good will could do no less. There was not the same confidence concerning Huerta. But since he has also consented there seems to be a reasonable prospect of settling all differences with him without further bloodshed.

In the meantime it would be well to take precautionary measures against further efforts to involve us in war. It is intolerable that medieval notions of national honor or dignity, on the part of such an official as Admiral Mayo, may bring about a war. Naval officers, whatever their rank, should no longer be permitted to take such a stand as Mayo took at Tampico.

But it would also be well to adopt precautions against possible stirring up of trouble by others than admirals. With the outbreak of trouble came an insistent demand from the jingo organs that a criminally aggressive war be waged, not against Huerta alone, but against Mexico. They demanded nothing less than obliteration of the international boundary. What influenced this demand was well put some weeks ago by Herbert Quick: "Owners of great newspapers are also the owners of great estates in Mexico, which will be tripled in value the day the Stars and Stripes wave over the land." Mediation of the pending dispute is a disappointment to these interests. With such great financial gains in view is it reasonable to believe that they will make no further efforts to involve us in war? It does not seem so. If at any time in the future some Mexican leader should act in a way to indicate that he is inviting trouble, it would be well to consider whether he may not have entered the service of these American interests. Owners of papers which raise the loudest shouts about patriotism may not be too patriotic to incite foreign insults to the flag. Just as patriotic gun makers of Germany were found to have incited anti-German feeling in France, so there may be patriotic American newspaper own-