

of what would happen to us if we were to act as if we were born free. Where, if a self-reliant man contemptuously dare to a bleak and perilous extremity, he makes all his lawful fellows in-draw their timid breaths; that land where even a reward has been instituted, as for merit, for uncomplaining endurance under life-long hardships, and called an old-age pension."

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"Thrift and abstinence! They begin to look the most sniveling of sins as I watched, with spacious leisure, the near procession of gigantic trees, that superb wild which did not arise from such niggard and flinty maxims. Frugality and prudence! That is to regard the means to death in life, the pallor and projecting bones of a warped existence, as good men dwell on courage, motherhood, rebellion and May time, and other proofs of vitality and growth. Now, I thought, I see what to do. All these improving lectures, reform leagues, and other props for crippled humanity, are idle. It is a generative idea that is wanted, a revelation, a vision."

Wanted—A Synchronization

IT is so easy to write words—easy if you do not stop to think, which takes more time. Hence the dreary deluge of books, pamphlets, magazine articles, etc., dealing with causes of business depression and plans for business recovery. If there were any agreement between any two of them we would hail it as a genuine discovery. But for the most part there are no two alike.

Some future Isaac D'Israeli may produce a new "Curiosities of Literature" containing these wonderful statements on the economic phenomenon of unemployment. And it should be vastly amusing to future generations. To the enlightened even of the present such a collection would be food for both wonderment and laughter.

Before us as we write is the following from the *Herald-Tribune* of this city: "We produce more wheat, more cotton, more agricultural products than we can at present use either at home or abroad."

And so because of this over-abounding wealth we suffer, or millions of us do, for want of the very things of which we have too much! Not to see that something is wrong with distribution is to argue a topsy-turviness of intellect, reason grown suddenly fantastic, mind dethroned. How a view of this explanation of the cause of the present distress could a fall of manna from heaven help us? That could only add to the amount of wealth, further accentuating the evils flowing from "overproduction." Does not the *Herald-Tribune* see that this reductio ad absurdum leaves naked the fallacy of its own reasoning?

A recent symposium, the inspiration of Edgar I. Bernays, called forth the opinions of 100 business men on the present depression. There was an utter want of synchronization. Some of those questioned confessed their bewilderment and helplessness. Typical of these was the reply of one man, who said: "My interest in international finance is like my interest in astronomy. It is engaging to watch,

but I feel in the one case as much as the other an overwhelming sense of impotency."

Another put it this way:

"I sincerely hope you will hold me excused if I refrain from joining the grotesque and fantastic discussion which serious minded men are putting forth today."

Lawrence B. Elliman, president Pease & Elliman, says: "In view of the fact that many of our ablest economists are unable to suggest practical remedies to end the present depression, I do not see how I can be of any service in the matter."

Mr. L. P. Loree, president Delaware and Hudson Railroad, says that there have been twelve influences nominated as the causes of the present depression. None of them appeal to me."

And there you are. Turning from these opinions, or confusion of opinions, to an economist we have this verdict from Prof. Thomas N. Carver. Needless to say we are now relieved. Nevertheless, it is news that we are seeking the kingdom of righteousness. There is no particular evidence of it. But let Prof. Carver speak:

"Prosperity is coming to us precisely because our ideals are not materialistic. It is coming because we are pursuing the exalted ideal of equality under liberty, as it must of necessity come to any nation that pursues that ideal whole-heartedly and enthusiastically. . . . All these things are being added to us precisely because we are seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, as they are always added, and must of logical necessity always be added, unto the nation that seeks those ideals of justice which are the very essence of the Kingdom of God."

How reassuring!

Valets of the Landed Interests

THE Taxpayers' Defense league proposes an initiative measure to exempt from taxation \$3,000 in actual value of all improvements made upon land, thereby handing the small home owners and the farmers the biggest share of the benefits. Heretofore, all so-called tax reforms have been aimed at easing a little more of the burden off the big fellows and handing it down to the little fellows.

The Taxpayers' Defense league points out that there is great need of equalizing the assessed valuations of property. Favoritism toward the big land interests in all cities has resulted in low valuations in districts where the valuations are high, and high valuations in the residence and farm districts, where values are low. In this county this has been carried so far that valuations in the very heart of the business district are lower than they were 10 years ago, though rents have doubled and trebled.

If the league can put through its reform programme, home owning and home building will be stimulated, and the farmer will get a square deal.

But, oh, what a yell is going to come from the fat lawyer valets of the landed interests.

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