

that the tariff raises wages very much and that it raises prices but little, if at all, must have been deliberate falsehoods. Well, even though laborers do believe that an immigration law will benefit them—though the Times-Star's confession stamps it as an untrustworthy guide—they can get along better without the tariff than with it. The Times-Star confesses that it only decreases the purchasing power of wages, and this confession is all there is in its statement that may safely be believed. Protection was long ago proven to be a fraud and a robbery. Those who would successfully advocate it need a much better memory than the Times-Star seems to have, in order to keep from tripping over their own deceptions.

S. D.



Free Trade and High Wages.

Endorsement by Henry Ford of absolute free trade should set to thinking those who still believe a tariff necessary for "protection to American labor." Ford probably pays the highest wages in America, and at the same time sees that his employes, in common with all other citizens, would be better off under free trade. In the face of such a fact how much attention is due the plea for protection presented by a Steel Trust magnate who pays his labor less for working twelve hours a day than Ford pays for an eight-hour day? And what need is there for investigation by a "scientific" non-partisan commission when Ford's object lesson points the way more clearly than any amount of statistics?

S. D.



Mars' Toll.

When the American Government undertook to fortify the Panama Canal, for the purpose of arbitrarily dominating an international waterway that should be open to all comers, it did not include as military expense all the money that is to be spent for that purpose. In addition to the great forts and huge guns at each end of the canal, and a standing army sufficient to police a nation, it requires the buying and fortifying of neighboring harbors and islands. Not only must the Government construct elaborate and costly defenses for the Panama Canal, but it must prevent any other government from constructing a second canal. Hence it proposes to lay out millions of dollars for rights of way through Colombia and through Nicaragua and Porto Rico. But why such an act? If the American Government handles its canal properly, there will be no occasion for the building of another. And should there be another built,

would it not be an additional accommodation to trade? Earthquakes are not infrequent in that part of the world. A canal might be put out of commission for years from such a cause. If there were two, the danger would to that extent be lessened. But because we have declined to neutralize the canal, and have undertaken to fortify it against the world, we are compelled to guard ourselves against the construction of competing canals. Fortifications are like lies, in that the first one may seem of small consequence, until it is found necessary to support it by another, and those two by still others; and so on until they overwhelm their creator. S. C.



Reassuring the Timid.

Public enterprise on the part of wide-awake newspaper managers has resulted in many benefits to the citizen; but it may be doubted if anything quite so ambitious has been attempted as the scheme announced by the Chicago Tribune. This militant paper, in order to set at rest forever the whole question of military preparedness, has employed a "well-known writer and former war correspondent, to make an original investigation into the entire question of possibility of war, necessity of preparation for war, experience of the past, our present state of preparedness for war, and what, if anything, should be done to increase the efficiency of our army and navy." The result of these researches "will be printed in the Tribune each Sunday until completed." This will be of inestimable value to President Wilson and his Cabinet, to say nothing of the members of the House and Senate. That "The World's Greatest Newspaper" should thus generously have undertaken to relieve the citizens and their representatives of all further responsibility in the matter, demonstrates anew that America is not without those who can and will protect her from the savage Christians of Europe and the terrible Shintoists of Asia. Meanwhile, the rest of the country can give its attention to the comparatively insignificant problem of why the mass of the people cannot secure as much food and shelter as their ancestors did before science had added so much to the power of labor.

S. C.



Lords and Landlords.

Knowing the reckless bravery of British officers, and the consequent high rate of mortality among them, the presence of 178 Peers at the front might suggest the thought that the war may cause a falling off in the number of British landlords. But