

ciently as would result under free competition, when monopoly privileges have been withdrawn. With this fair and even relation between employer and employe—and the terms will be interchangeable, for it will be as proper to call the present employer the employe, and the employe the employer—the so-called wage earner will be working for himself. He will joy in his work, and “handicrafts, trades, and mechanical arts” will be raised to the highest degree of excellence. S. C.



### Rebates and Service.

An interesting point came to light recently when a Chicago business man related his experience with the railroads. In the good old days when the freight solicitor called, there was never any question about the rates, but much haggling over the rebate to be allowed; and the solicitor who could give the largest rebate got the freight. When rebates were prohibited by law, the roads offered other inducements to get the freight, the chief of which was better service. So long as the shipper's chief interest lay in securing the largest possible rebate he gave little attention to service; and two weeks was good time to make between New York and Chicago. But no sooner had rebates been denied him, and he found himself upon the same footing as other shippers, than he listened to the man who promised to shorten the time of freight delivery. The competition of roads that had formerly run rebates to such a high point now reduced the time of delivery to the shortest interval; and the same shipment which before had taken two weeks was now delivered in three days. No sooner had rates and fares on the roads become uniform, than there was competition as to speed in freights and safety in passengers. S. C.



### Trying the Same Game Twice.

That the eastern railroads practised deception when asking for permission to increase freight rates, should now be clear even to the gullible ones who believed them. They promised that the increase would be followed by general prosperity. Of course nothing of the kind has happened. Now they are trying to have repealed the full crew laws that several States have enacted. It may be that there are facts which show that these laws should be repealed. But if so there should be others than railroad representatives to vouch for them. Having made misstatements to get one concession how can anyone be sure that the same policy is not being pursued by the same interests

to get another concession? Legislators should beware. The same applies to the effort now being made by the western roads for a rate increase. The Interstate Commerce Commission has allowed itself to be deceived once within the year by the railroad corporations. Perhaps that was the railroads' fault. But it will be the Commission's fault if it lets itself be fooled twice by the same interests. S. D.



### How Some Railroad Income Is Used.

That the railroads worked against a change in railway mail pay legislation during the recent session of Congress is the charge made by Postmaster General Burleson. Mr. Burleson undoubtedly has good authority for the statement. The railroads succeeded not only in preventing any change in the present unscientific method of fixing compensation for carrying the mails, but defeated the entire post office appropriation. Work of that kind is expensive. Now the railroads are putting up a poverty plea before the Interstate Commerce Commission and some of the State public utility commissions, claiming big expenses and insufficient income, and asking power to increase rates. A sufficient answer would be that since they are using their present incomes to defeat necessary reforms and to embarrass the Government, it would be contrary to public policy to increase their income that they may have more to spend for such purposes. S. D.



### Criticizing the Press.

The flare-up of Charles R. Miller, editor of the New York Times, before the Ship Purchase Lobby Inquiry Committee, is in questionable taste, even if it does not contravene good morals. His objection that inquisitorial proceedings of that kind would have a marked tendency to reduce the press of the United States to the level of the press of some of the capitals of European countries does not seem to be well taken. It should not be within the power of the Government to suppress a newspaper, or to compel it to publish this or that piece of news or editorial opinion; but it may compel it to display its colors. A paper, for instance, that advocates sugar bounties, might be required to show whether it was financed by the Sugar Trust, or other financial beneficiary. A newspaper is not a private institution in the sense that a store or a factory is. It is in a sense a public agent, subsidized by the Government with a nominal rate of postage. It is one of those forces that grows with the growth of society, that may be restrained by

society. It would not be practical, without destroying the freedom of speech, for the Government to investigate the source of all criticisms, but it is conceivable that there might be occasions when it would be well for the public to know the financial interests behind a newspaper. It is a question of honest labels; the average reader has as little means of knowing whether or not his news is tainted as whether the milk and potted ham are what they purport to be. Mr. Miller is asked to surrender an individual right in behalf of social freedom. s. c.



### Simplifying Election Machinery.

It is becoming more and more evident that representative government is still in the process of development. The principle is sound, but the earlier applications have been crude and ineffective. Irresponsible representation led to the introduction of the initiative and referendum as checks. The tyranny and corruption of political conventions have compelled a resort to primaries. But a brake on the wheel, however useful in time of emergency, may be a waste of power when set all the time. The present primary system is equivalent to an election, and double elections tend to exhaust the wholesome spirit of political campaigns.



River Forest, Illinois, one of the villages that made a contribution toward the solution of the problem of municipal government by employing a business manager to run the affairs of the village, has taken another step toward efficient government by instituting a post card primary. Stamped post cards containing the names of candidates suggested by the committee in charge, and spaces for the naming of others, are left at the house of each voter by responsible persons. This post card primary, coupled with the proposition to vote by mail, may embody the germ of our future election system. An objection to the post card system will be made by some because it either is not secret or may be open to fraud. There may be legitimate reasons why a voter does not wish his or her choice to be known publicly. This objection, however, may easily be overcome. The voter's ballot may be enclosed and sealed in a plain envelope, and that in a second envelope, which is identified by the voter's signature, and such other marks of identification as may be found necessary. When the mailed vote is received by the election officials the legality of the ballot is determined by the outer envelope; after which it is opened and the inner

envelope containing the ballot is thrown among other similarly accredited votes. Such a system might be charged with facilitating bribery, but this should not be serious in small communities. The present cost of carriages and other means of getting out the voters militates against those with little money to spend in the election. The mail ballot, with the transferable vote, would remove this difficulty, and still further simplify matters by combining primary and election in the one act. s. c.



### If Not, Why Not?

Would the Chicago clergyman, Dr. James Gray of Moody Bible Institute, who quoted the Old Testament in behalf of retaining capital punishment, be ready to urge application of the principle involved in another passage of the same book: "The land shall not be sold forever"? s. d.



### Time to Abolish Capital Punishment.

In urging the Legislature of Illinois to abolish capital punishment Governor Dunne asks abandonment of a relic of barbarism. Experience has long ago refuted all the arguments advanced in behalf of legalized murder. Those who bring them up at this late date, in opposition to Governor Dunne's suggestion, only show that they have been asleep while the rest of the world was studying the question. s. d.



### Mothers' Pensions a Menace to Charity.

Four years ago a mothers' pension act was passed in Illinois. No mother deprived of her husband's support was excepted from its provisions. The State which had so legislated as to create poverty and distress recognized to that extent an obligation to care for the victims. Two years ago the Legislature saw fit to debar from the benefits of this law deserted mothers and alien mothers. It left, however, all laws intact responsible for the poverty of this class of mothers, as well as for the poverty of others. Unless the present Legislature sees its way clear to put an end to poverty-creating laws, the least it can do is to pass a pending bill which provides for the restoration to the benefits of the mothers' pension act of the classes debarred by its predecessor. An unlimited mothers' pension act has something in its favor which other superficial reforms do not have. Its defects and bad results fall most heavily on those most responsible for the conditions that