

power of two-bits paid in wages for making artificial ice in the hot spots of the sizzling South.

Natcherally, selling ice aint goin' to be what it's cracked up to be.

Two-bits the hour is the "rigid wagherate" in the minimum of the minima for the first year. Thirty cents is the minimum for the second year, whilst 40 pennies the hour is the least pay not later than seven years from the date of the Act, *but* 40 cents "may be ordered at once under certain conditions."

The plot thickens.

The administration of the Act gets real money—\$10,000 for the Administrator and civil service salaries for all the boys and gals in his office. The inquisitorial Board *may* boost the 25-cent jackpot to 40 cents the very first year if its suspicions are reasonable. For the first year, the maximum of the maxima hours is fixed at 44—the second year it is 42—and 40 hours is the minimum-maximum of the maxima from the third year into eternity. This makes everybody even-even *if* the A. F. of L. remains satisfied and *if* the Solid South doesn't get onery and *if* the Supreme Judicial Court doesn't toss a constitutional monkey-wrench into the Act.

"Company unions which try to pull the boss' chestnuts won't be recognized." That's settled.

Child labor under 16 years (18 years in hazardous jobs) and age and sex discriminations are *out*. Workers may sue employers for *double* the wages due, *plus* attorney's fees, *plus* litigation costs; and the several unions may handle the suits and sue the sues in behalf of the suers.

Labor laughs loud, but the crepe-sole-shod collector of the unearned increment in site-values softly folds up a large wad of gold bills in the night (as well as in the day) and, like an Arab, quietly steals away the fruits of labor without even snorting a snicker.

"Both"

STROLLING around the town I was amazed to see the large number of buildings being demolished in various parts of the city. Some of the structures should have been torn down long ago, since they have outlived their usefulness and the owners would not make them habitable as residences nor fix them up for commercial uses.

On the other hand, a very large number are being torn down for the purpose of saving taxes. This makes some of the sections look as though a cyclone had struck them. The sites at once become depositories for all sorts of rubbish. Many of these buildings have been taken under foreclosure and the mortgagees could not see their way clear of continuing them and so they were demolished with a big saving in taxes.

A third type of buildings are being partially demolished, that is, in tenements all stories above three are being

removed, one of the factors being that to make them comply with the present housing standards will be expensive. In removing the upper floors, however, the cost is equal to what the legal requirements will entail. The owners, again, will save in taxes. Under our taxing system, property is taxed in accordance with its usefulness and income. A six-story tenement is supposed to bring in more than one of only three stories high. Here we have three illustrations of a bad taxing system; owners, to save themselves from the increasing burdens of taxation are either demolishing their buildings or reducing the height. The question may be asked, "is our taxing system stupid or just plain dumb."

THE STROLLING REPORTER.

THERE have been civilizations seemingly as stable as ours, whose achievements and conquests were greater than ours. The winds of centuries have swept their desolated cities; the melancholy birds wheel and circle over the ruins of their proud palaces and at the gates of their once populous street-ways the beasts of the forest peer curiously in. Where is the Egyptian glory, where the grandeur of Nineveh, of Persia and of Babylon? Is there not for all these dead civilizations the same secret and identical cause of decay?

BOOK REVIEWS

MAN AT THE CROSSROADS

BY FRANCIS NEILSON

C. C. Nelson Publishing Co., Appleton, Wisc. Price, \$2.50. 272 Pages

In the dilemma in which the world finds itself, "Man at the Crossroads" offers a way out. It is not a new way to the Georgeist but those readers who look for a constant reiteration of the Single Tax idea will be disappointed. Yet, underlying the entire book is the vibrant philosophy of Henry George and the historical data and contrasts illustrate how far the world has disregarded economic law, and the consequent evil results.

"Man at the Crossroads" is written in the author's usual flowing style. It is easy and interesting reading for the layman and an intellectual treat for the trained economist of any school. For Georgeists it gives a much needed historical perspective, the realization that world as it stands is the cumulative product of the ages and even at the Crossroads we have a long way to go. It will not diminish the zeal of the Georgeist but it should make him more tolerant under existing conditions.

The material and scope of this work is so extensive that it cannot be reviewed in detail. From prehistorical ghost fears and theories through discourses covering inherent rights, and the abuses of powers by States, it treats of the mistakes of organized labor, the difficulties of the politician, the nature of the political machine, and the destiny of spiritual man. In his treatment of the State the author considers the actual not the ideal and outlines its evolution and the effort of society, through the State to obtain its natural rights.

With other thinkers the author feels that the time has come when society (Man at the Crossroads) must choose whether man is to be the servant of the State or the State is to be the servant of man.

C. H. K.