

opportunity for some of the owners of great fortunes to perform a most valuable public service by endowing an Institute of Economics, charged with the duty of ascertaining all the essential facts, and disseminating through the press, the colleges and other channels, the conclusions reached, to the end that an enlightened public opinion may guide State and national legislatures in the enactment of such remedial legislation as may be found necessary. In furthering the pursuit of science in the interest of humanity, the science of a just and harmonious social order should not be neglected.

Another Prosperity Restorer

MR. FRANK A. MUNSEY, nationally famed as a magazine and newspaper proprietor, told the American Bankers Association in convention assembled that there could be no return to permanent prosperity until there is a deflation in wages, and as a step in that direction he urged the repeal of the immigration-restriction law, so as to provide an increased supply of workers. Whether the newly arrived immigrants would long continue to work for low wages is a question which Mr. Munsey did not attempt to answer. Judging by the experience of past years it seems probable that the foreign worker would soon be found uniting with his native-born or naturalized associates in a demand for the living wage, for in many of the recent great strikes and lockouts the foreign-born have taken a foremost part in protesting against wage reductions. The problem, however, is purely an academic one, since it is not conceivable that the Congress, having enacted an exceptionally high tariff law to exclude foreign goods from the United States, professedly in the interest of American labor, will legislate to permit the unrestricted immigration of competing workers.

Even though it were possible to repeal the existing immigration law, it is by no means certain that there would be greater prosperity for all the American people. If the expected result of a general wage reduction would follow an increased supply of labor, the consuming power of the workers would, of course, be correspondingly decreased. The American merchants who have been complaining of trade depression and the "consumers' strike" will not welcome the suggestion that millions of their customers shall be forced to buy less goods. Although a part of labor's earnings may be used to buy silk shirts, about which there has been so much talk on the part of the advocates of wage reduction, this gives employment to labor and trade to the merchant. The more wages the more spending.

A much simpler and more effective remedy, but one that would hardly be favored by Mr. Munsey, would be for all the merchants and manufacturers to stop advertising. This would result in a lessened demand for goods, and for labor in making them, so that there would be a surplus of workers to take the places of those who might strike for

higher wages. If the business interests of the United States can be converted to this original suggestion it would be an interesting experiment for the newspapers.

The New Altruism

REPORTS by impartial visitors to Russia continue the enlightening process of showing the true character of the small group of despots who are in control of that great nation. For a time the peoples of Western Europe and America were convinced that the leaders of the Soviet Government were a band of unscrupulous fanatics who were using their power for selfish aims, without regard for such abstractions as liberty, truth or justice. Judged by all standards of what the experience of the ages has agreed upon as civilization, the actions of the Bolshevist authorities were those of men in a delirium of rage against anything that savored of reason, order and freedom. The outward manifestation of society as re-created by Lenin and Trotsky was evidently that of materialistic power actuated by the spirit of hate.

It now appears that the world outside of Russia has been mistaken all along. The motives actuating the Soviet leaders were not, as it seemed, selfish and tyrannical, but wholly inspired by the newer altruism that has been evolved out of the conflict between communist theories and established facts. The old altruism taught that the higher happiness was to be attained through giving up opportunities for selfish pleasures in order to be of service to others. Messrs. Lenin and Trotsky have gone one step further. If, they seem to have argued, unselfishness is the way to nobility of character, those who sacrifice the highest rewards, achieved through self-denial, must be greater than even the altruists. Whereupon they decided that they would refuse to find pleasure or exaltation in unselfish devotion to the welfare of others, and have gone on strengthening their military hold upon the Russian people, to the end that the latter may be forced to obey the orders of the men who, through control of the army, are temporarily their masters.

To the uninitiated the position of the Soviet rulers may not appear one whit different from all the other tyrannies and despotisms which have afflicted mankind. The lives, liberties and property of more than 150,000,000 people are controlled by a military oligarchy. This is due, as can be explained by any western apologist for Bolshevism, to the desire of the Soviets to encourage the growth of the higher altruism, that may seem to be plain ordinary selfishness, but is transformed by the logic which disregards facts into a justification of the most glaring violations of human rights that have ever been known in any country pretending to be civilized.

RENT is wholly a social product and should therefore go to its creator, the community.—PROF. JOHN GRAHAM BROOKS.