

Dorothy Worrell writes from Cape Cod:—

The utterly stupid fiasco of the Old Colony Railroad which serves south-eastern Massachusetts has brought sharply to focus something I have been noting for several years. As civilization expands and our communities grow, public service becomes less and less efficient and more and more nearly inadequate. Isn't it somewhat like the rich growing richer and the poor growing poorer as inventions increase and civilization advances? I think so. Examples:

1. The railroad situation mentioned above. With railroads the best method of public transportation, we give them up and resort to inferior and less satisfactory methods.
2. As a child growing up in Boston, I recall three mail deliveries daily at our home. Now, there is but one.
3. Snow plowing in the cities seems less complete and less thorough than formerly.
4. Help of all kinds is less helpful and more independent (independent meaning indifference toward duty and customer). Thinking particularly of restaurant service. (Of course, there are exceptions.)
5. We all know quality of goods and workmanship has declined noticeably. (Again, exceptions, naturally.)

If a proper economic system prevailed, we could envision faster and

more trains, equipped with unbelievable service facilities for the convenience and comfort of passengers; underground mail tube service into every home at frequent intervals; underground heating of road beds to melt snow immediately at its fall (too expensive to do it now); sharp precision service from workers in all lines, and they would have the incentive of short hours and good wages, but could not hold jobs if work were not done well. Employers could be independent, as could workers, for both workers and jobs would be plentiful. Both sides would have to be fair and reasonable. And quality would have to be on a high standard for similar reasons.

Would that we could bring about such an economic system! Living would be so much easier, whereas now it is getting harder and harder for everyone. Many have to engage in two separate lines of work to support their families, with every moment taken night and day on their jobs. No family life. No time for recreation. Work, work, work for money, money, money.

We, who understand Henry George's philosophy of economic life, long to see in actuality the kind of life such a system would give us. But, because our leaders, so-called, do not see this, we must continue to stumble and struggle to eke out a living.