

which attempt to force abnormal value, demand condemnation, as they retard a natural operation of natural law, and will ultimately fail. Combinations formed for the individual and independent development of character and skill, or for economy of production, have reason to exist. At this point they cease to be combinations, technically, and develop into *co-operations*.

Magnitude or great wealth is no argument against commercial association.

Retribution, resultant upon the transgression of natural law is sure and effective and, therefore, no permanent fear of combination of any character has a moral right to exist.

Great emphasis is placed upon the necessity of bridging the chasm which exists, personally,

**A Social Chasm.** between employer and employee.

This is not an unexpected or abnormal condition, as the multiplicity of labor divisions and modern extensions of industries have forced a condition more rapidly than it could effectively be met. Some substitution of the primitive social relationship, between the two commercial forces, is now necessary. The cultivation of good fellowship and co-operation is suggested, but profit-sharing is given as the necessary final outcome. Combinations of labor with labor, and capital with capital should be destroyed, and the two parts which make the unit, capital and labor, should combine and co-operate. Upon this basis, can capital and labor be unified. They are already in harmony, as inharmony would have prevented the immense production of wealth so evident everywhere.

"The Economy of Humanism" will have earned an enduring popularity and respect if its teachings, along the line

**Governmental Arbitration.** of governmental arbitration can be

realized. The freedom of individual contract is guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. Therefore, it should be denied, that any force, outside of voluntary and mutual concession, has a vestige of authority to fix the price of labor.

Compulsory arbitration is a curse. Conciliation is better and harmony with natural law is ideal.

To what extent a state shall properly interfere with industrial freedom is a perplexing conundrum. It is admitted that a local

**Economic Legislation.** natural monopoly,

such as the providing of water and light, if not operated by the municipality, ought, at least, to be firmly regulated by it. This, then, is one introduction of legislative privilege into commercial life.

Mr. Wood suggests, first, that no leg-

islature ought to interfere with any enterprise which can be as efficiently carried on by private control, and, second, that the question of prices, rates, wages and hours should be left to the natural regulation of free and untrammelled conditions. The threatening evil of the present time is excessive economic regulation. Excessive rates, referring to railroads, as an instance, will fail because of the approach of a gradual understanding among the managers of railroad organizations, that a large traffic at a normal rate is more desirable than a restricted traffic at an exorbitant tariff.

In the matter of a working day, it is ingeniously intimated that both rich and poor are endowed equally in respect of time. Time is the poor man's capital, in a greater degree than the rich. Therefore, an appeal for shorter hours is, virtually, a request for the diminution of labor's capital. Legislation, fixing the frequency of pay-days is equally as antagonistic to economic principles as the instance given above.

The prevalence of alien ideas, paternalistic sentiments and liberty experienced here, in comparison with native restrictions, not only tends toward making foreigners a dependent class, but tends toward a rapid dissemination of such ideas among the illiterate American born. American character must be strengthened in weak places, must be taught and infused.

Poverty cannot be alleviated or destroyed by advertising its misery, neither vice. Exploitation renders them inevitable in the popular mind.

Charity must be temperate and practical, and not intemperate and extravagant. The law of supply and demand applies equally as well to charity as to any other social or commercial condition. The greatest boon to the dependent is practical encouragement, commencing at that point in every man which is commendable.

Socialism cannot possibly solve any existing difficulty, for socialism depends upon legislatures, and is not only contrary to natural law, but will ultimately fail. Ideality can never be realized by legislation. It may be assisted, but, in most instances, it is retarded.

Capital and labor are already in harmony, as stated above, but there is a prevalent belief

**Harmony.** that they are in discord. Merely

a social misunderstanding prevents the greatest degree of harmony between them. They are in harmony because necessity demands it, and not because of a mutual desire. The mutual desire for closer relation should be stimulated by teaching interdependence, coöperation and profit-sharing.

The great desideratum of an ideal cur-

rency is steadiness. A constant shifting of public sentiment destroys confidence, and a destruction of confidence leads to commercial collapse.

A system, once tried and found adequate, even though it be faulty in parts, is more desirable than the introduction of a financial plan, the mere suggestion of which, destroys confidential relations.

A very unsatisfactory feature of such questions is, that they are made partisan policies, and, in a large measure, partisan belief deadens the free and unobstructed opportunity for dispassionate thought and unbiased study.

This is also true of the question of tariffs and protection. All tariffs are artificial, and all are, in a measure, hindrances to the free courses of trade and commerce. Whether or not a temporary obstruction to trade is beneficial to native interests, is suggested as a theme for experience, rather than a subject for partisan and theoretical disputation.

The intricacies of the tariff question, would, under normal conditions, render the selection of an intelligent and non-partisan board, a splendid substitution of the present methods of making and changing tariff schedules, and, even then, it would be doubtful whether all the complex interests of commerce would be satisfied.

Mr. Wood also treats lightly upon the evolution of the modern railroad, the abuses of corporate

**Conclusion.** management, and the result of social experi-

ments in Australasia.

Undoubtedly, this work will do more towards the ultimate consolidation of all present crude conditions, than any which has appeared for some time past.

The book is well and strongly written. It is concise, practical and temperate. It is sociological in its nature, and, undoubtedly, sociology embodies the solution of the industrial problems of today.

## STATE EXPERIMENTAL STATION.

The New York State Experimental Station will have a splendid exhibit at the Pan-American Exposition. In the fruit department there will be 281 varieties of apples, 39 of currants, 105 of gooseberries, 150 of plums and 56 of cherries.

Mr. S. D. Willard, of Geneva, who has in hand the work of collecting the exhibit, says he believes it will be a complete and elaborate one in every particular. There has been allotted for it 3,000 square feet of floor space, and more has been asked for.

The commissioners are arranging to have the exhibit conform to the time of production, beginning with strawberries, and continuing on with all the small fruits, until the time of closing the exposition.