

explain this trouble to some degree. One sewing machine will do the work of fifteen people, and thus muscular toil has been reduced by mechanical production. Not only is machinery swifter than fingers, but it is very much cheaper and more untiring. Owing to its high cost, however, production by it can only be carried on by great capitalists. Small producers are being squeezed out to make room for wealthy syndicates and limited liability companies. The employer and the employé no longer know each other, society has become conscienceless, and the soul of the laborer is killed out of him. The toiler is no longer a man and a brother, but is simply a "hand" which must do the bidding of the shareholders. He can read and vote, it is true, but his hands, feet, heart and eyes are all bound to the rushing car of Mammon. Thus, fewer producers are needed, lower wages are paid, and thousands walk the streets unable to find employment.

But

THE GIRL CLERK

is no insignificant factor in this connection. We hold the right of every girl to make the best she can of life. At the same time, while she is doing this, she is taking possession of the office stool, the counter and a hun-

dred other positions formerly held by man. She does her work as well as her predecessor, and at very much lower wages. Consequently she is in much demand by the employer, and sits, a spinster, at her new duties, while the man who would gladly marry her is walking about the streets, unable to obtain either money or work. If something could only be done to turn her energies into domestic service, where they are in such demand, and where they command fifty or a hundred per cent. higher remuneration than she is now selling them for, not a little would be done to relieve the present congested state of the labor market.

Another source of relief would be the

COMPULSORY CULTIVATION OF LAND.

Men hold land in this country for speculative purposes. But why not impose upon it a high taxation, which would compel the owner to cultivate it in order to make it pay? Such a method would provide employment for many thousands who are now idle; and while it increased the productive forces it would, by the same means, increase the ability to consume. Land ownership, under our present system, shirks its legitimate share of public burdens, and unrighteously imposes that share