

a year, the alienation of so many wage-earners, not only from the church, but also from the ideals for which the church stands, are facts which do not make for optimism.

On the other hand, a very significant sign of modern times is the awakening of the church to the social question. Christian men in increasing numbers are beginning to see that the social problem is at heart a moral problem, that it is not simply bread and butter, shelter and clothing, and that even wages has its ethical aspect. We are recognizing that most of the greatest evils of life are rooted in economic soil. One of the greatest curses of modern civilization is the drink traffic. No one can thoughtfully study that subject without discovering that economic causes are responsible for a great deal of drinking. Wages are in many cases so small that the wage-earners are compelled to house themselves in cheerless and squalid quarters. From such surroundings issues forth every night an army of men who find a refuge and the gratification of their social instincts in the saloon. The same thing may be said with regard to that appalling modern evil, the white-slave traffic. Tear up that sinister thing by the roots, and you will find them well down in economic soil. Thousands of girls and women are working for wages that are barely sufficient to keep body and soul together. In such cases they must either suffer want and deny themselves certain pleasures craved by young life, or supplement their wages by occa-