

LESSON XIII.

The Wages of Labor.

Incomes from labor are classified as wages and profits. By wages we mean the remuneration for labor under direction. In economic discussion the term wages is taken to include salaries. The distinction in general usage between the two terms, wages and salaries, is a rather loose one, being sometimes said to be the difference between payment for white-collar and for overall jobs, but perhaps more accurately reflecting a difference in the degree of executive responsibility delegated to the employee, and also a difference in the period of engagement and frequency of payment.

Pursuing the method adopted in connection with incomes from property, we may ask, what are the factors which make for strength or for weakness in labor's bargaining for its share in distribution? Obviously the most important considerations are, (1) numbers, (2) organization, (3) standard of living, (4) state attitude. These points will be considered in turn.

Numbers.

The relations between supply of and demand for labor have long been recognized as the most important factor in determining wages. "When two masters run after one man," said John Bright, "wages will be high; when two men run after one master, wages will be low."

By the supply of labor we may, in the first place, mean the total available working force of the country. This, in last analysis, depends upon the total population. What, then, are the forces determining the amount and the rate of growth of population?

Facts as to Total Population. We may first consider the facts as to the growth of population, for a few typical countries:

Population (in Millions).

Country	1800 or 1801	1900 or 1901	1910 or 1911
Europe	172.2	405.0	447.0
Great Britain and Ireland	15.6	41.5	45.2
England and Wales	8.8	32.5	36.0
Scotland	1.6	4.4	4.7
Ireland	5.2	4.4	4.3
France	26.8	38.6	39.5
Germany	25.0	56.4	64.9
Italy	17.5	32.5	34.6
Austria Hungary	25.0	45.4	49.4
European Russia	40.0	112.8	124.0
United States	5.3	75.6	92.0
Canada4	5.3	7.2