

light is thus suddenly turned on, we recognize not mere speculation, but the grim face of that specter which confronts the unemployed, tramping hateful streets in hope of food and shelter.

We cannot adapt our conditions to our future by restricting the growth of population. The natural increase by birth will continue. We may not, did we wish it, interfere with the immigration movement except perhaps to enforce a more careful scrutiny of the moral and industrial fitness of these newcomers. Notwithstanding the addition of more than a million people a year from abroad, nearly all of them men and women who must work for a living, labour outside of the cities was never as scarce or wages as high as at the present time. Immigration lingers in the great centres and adds to the difficulties attending employment.

The farms stretch out their hands in vain. Railroads have to get labourers for building extensions at the highest market price, and find a large percentage of those whom they employ mere hoboes who desert as soon as they have succeeded in getting transportation from one part of the country to another. Farmers besiege the employment agencies in vain, and offer the lazy tramp a sum for a day's work in the field unheard of in any other country in the world. The situation grows more embarrassing yearly. Hours of labour are being reduced in some of the states for farm as well as shop hands. Men are scarcer as the movement of population to the cities grows more pro-