how much in profits to entrepreneurs. These amounts are ascertainable with some degree of accuracy.

Shares Not Immutably Fixed in Amount.

The amounts of these respective shares may be largely modified by any independent society, and have, as a matter of fact, been very greatly modified during the evolution through which society has passed since the time, let us say, of the Norman Conquest. And it is not to be supposed that during all the centuries to come the distribution of wealth will be just what it is to-day.

At the present time we hear very often that the actual manual laborer does not get a share proportional to his merits in the distribution of wealth, and, to take one instance, Great Britain has recently passed a law establishing what is called a minimum wage in the coal mines—enacting, that is, that no one working in a coal mine shall be paid less than a certain wage. Whether such a law will lead to an increase in the amount of wages going to the wage earners of England as a whole is a very debatable question, but the intention at least is to raise the wages of the laborer. Another way in which this same end may be effected, is for the Government, which may perhaps be considered as a silent factor in production, to step in and take in taxes a portion of the shares of the other three partners in production, while leaving the wage-earner untaxed, or even providing him with various utilities out of the taxes collected from others. Thus in England of late years old age pensions have been provided for the poor, mainly at the expense of the wealthier classes.

These facts, then, that the laws of wealth are not immutable, and that its distribution may to some extent be changed by human progress and legal enactment, have led to bitter controversies between those who claim that our present system of the distribution of wealth treats all classes with substantial justice and does not require modification, and those who assert that at the present time the wage-earner in particular is not getting a fair share of the wealth that he produces, while the other sharers in that