

A Privilegist System

THE monopolies or privileges are not given to Labor and Capital, but to individuals, who are thereby enabled to take wealth they do not produce. Let's get that straight., and think clearly. These individuals hold up Labor and Capital until they pay the price. Our laws discriminate against workers, both of hand and brain, and favor the grabber. Isn't that so? Sometimes the grabber is poor; sometimes he's rich; but the effect is the same on society. We know a man who had nothing but nerve and a strong distaste for work of any kind. He induced a city council to grant him a street railway franchise. Labor and Capital had to give him \$1,000,000. or guarantee him interest on that amount, before they were permitted to build and operate the line. There was a poor man who secured title to some cheap land, which was later found to be full of the choicest iron ore. His descendants are among our wealthiest citizens. Surely, it is an abuse of words to say that that land privilege was given to Labor and Capital. The privilege made it harder for both, and rewarded and encouraged idleness. Large fortunes are mainly due to legalized monopoly or privilege. Joseph Dana Miller points out that our industrial system should be called the "the privilegist system" rather than "capitalist system."—HOWARD M. HOLMES, in *Cleveland Citizen*.