
Statistics afford much fuel for controversy, and here is another fire. Dr. Rubinow takes Professor Simkhovitch to task for statistical errors concerning the Marxian maxims, concentration of production, disappearance of the middle class, and increasing misery of the masses, which appeared in the latter’s book Marxism vs. Socialism. Many of the criticisms are valid. Professor Simkhovitch did not bring his figures up to date; many of the data are of little statistical value; in several instances the conclusions are of doubtful validity. On the other hand, Dr. Rubinow does not disprove the contention that the foregoing developments have not proceeded so comprehensively as the Marxian vision presaged: and this is essentially all that Professor Simkhovitch maintained. Moreover, some of the interpretations of the critic himself are of an exceedingly questionable character. Nevertheless it must be admitted that, even though Rubinow does not vindicate the prophecy of Marx, he does point to very real defects in the statistics of his opponent. There is in the book another invective of an unscientific order that is rather more amusing than instructive.


In this treatise the author seeks “to answer the question, whether it is possible to raise agricultural wages in England without the advantages of the change being outweighed by disadvantageous consequences.” After a brief survey of the conditions determining agricultural wages today in England, and of the expectations of profit which obtain in agricultural industry, the author tries to show that agricultural labor in England is peculiarly cheap, and that “the dearest labor in agriculture is cheaper than the dearest labor in other industries” (p. 64). His conclusion is definite and positive. The increase in wages must be based on the legal minimum rate, because of the lack of bargaining power and of the excessive supply of agricultural labor. The evils arising from the establishment of minimum wage by law may be mitigated by the introduction of supplementary measures. Although the author does not try to solve all the difficulties arising from the minimum wage-rate by law he well supports his points with both facts and arguments.


The only changes the author has introduced in this new edition are reports of two or three recent court decisions, and a résumé of the Covington and Clayton bills pending before Congress at the time he wrote. He puts the stamp of his disapproval on the “class legislation” of the latter, and advocates legislative definition of “restraint of trade.”