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EDITORIAL

## GO TO THE FACTS.

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**I**N the past week the newspapers of this city have recorded six persons as committing suicide due to unemployment and destitution. The six are typical of the surely six thousand who have gone the same way since the present hard times hit the country.

There are two ways of going about all sciences. One is by idle speculation and theorizing, spinning beliefs out of one's inner consciousness, confusing sound with thought, building vast and glittering systems upon preconceived notions. In astronomy this method led to the now exploded idea of a fixed, flat, square-cornered earth, the center of the universe, with petty sun and planets dancing attendance upon it like lantern-bearers around an Oriental potentate. The other method is by rigid investigation, experimenting, searching out the truth, building no hypothesis save on ascertained facts, maintaining no hypothesis any longer than all known facts tally with it. This system has led to the modern vindicated conception of a small, globular earth, revolving about a vast central sun which holds it in its course. When the clash between the two methods occurred, the upholders of the first, feeling their universe had forsaken them, were plunged in consternation and bewilderment.

In sociology also these two diverse methods obtain. Starting with the preconceived notion of the correctness of things as they are; trusting in the myth of prosperity; evolving out of sheer supposition the idea that honest toil will yield a life of plenty, the exponents of the first method start in by individual effort to attain to comfort. In the measure that they are honest and humane, they fail. The facts refuse to bear them out. Their glittering paradise crumbles about their ears. What wonder that so many of them seek the desperate solution of self-destruction?

Had they first gone to the facts, instead of inventing the facts to suit themselves, they would have found that honest individual toil can not, as things

now stand, ever yield a life of plenty and comfort. It can not because the tools of labor are owned by an idle class which bleeds the toiler of four-fifths of his produce. Starting from this solid basis, it is evident that individual salvation can only be found in collective salvation—in the overthrow of the toiler-bleeding class. That is the lesson of the second sociologic method to the workers.

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