FARM AND TRADE.

Anyone who has studied the conditions under which workers, say miners during a long strike, live cannot but be appalled at the lack of foresight in the leaders of the organizations that have called them out, in not interesting them in some kind of activity. I do not know a more depressing sight than an industrial community where for weeks and sometimes months, men have been on strike. Several months ago I spent a week in a section where the men had been out of work for a year. These men had had, in that period, no regular occupation. It was not the loss of earning power which appalled me. It was the general deterioration of manliness. They loafed, whittled, lay about, from morning until night. They had even lost the desire or ability for vigorous expression of their feelings and they were dull even in their sense of wrong. Now and then a man, I was told, had left the community, sometimes left wife and child, sometimes left a note saying that she was better off without him. Sometimes he had gone away, found work in other quarters and then sent for his family. That is practically what the Union, to win their point, was asking its members-sit around without doing anything for a year. They were undermining their institution in this,

And yet this was going on in ~~the~~ a country where there were acres upon acres of untilled land; where the Union itself might have arranged that every man could have had a piece of land to till, if he were willing to do it.. But their imagination and interest seemed never to have gone so far. They let the vigor and capacity of their force deteriorate in doing this. The point is that if a Union feels that it must strike to remedy conditions which it believes wrong, it should not ask men to sit idle during that time any more than it should ask them to go without food. A regular task is the food of the will, the food of the brain and it is not impossible for the far seeing Union leaders to make tasks, particularly in connection with the land, in many many cases; we may say in all cases that it is miners that are striking.