

"SYNDICALISM"

A Clear Exposition of this Unionism and the Minimum Wage

IN the introduction to his "Minimum Wage and Syndicalism" James Boyle explains that they are separate questions linked only by the fact that they are manifestations of the same spirit of discontent. It is not a very large book, but it is a valuable one for those in search of the cases for and against wage regulation and the new fanaticism known as syndicalism. The writer puts himself in the position of an expositor solely and leaves the reader to draw his own conclusions. He quotes extensively from specialists who have studied the minimum wage in various countries, and while the condemnation must appear as overwhelming to all save emotionalists and interested politicians, he might have made the case against even stronger.

He could have pointed out that in places where the minimum wage has been established great hardship has been wrought among aged and slow workers. A man who in his day might have been the fastest at the bench and who is still a good though slower worker for whom there would be a place at a reduced wage, must be turned adrift. In Australia, where such laws are in operation, these old workers have an old-age pension law to fall back on.

As for syndicalism, Boyle explains that it is revolutionary industrial unionism—a conglomeration of Socialism, Anarchism and Nihilism, with special vices of its own. It professes to have a philosophy, but as nearly as one can judge its principal tenet is the Proudhon pronouncement, "All property is theft." It proceeds by "sabotage," or the willful destruction of property, if that is considered in the interests of its apostles. Strong in France, the movement in the United States is confined to the I. W. W. or I WON'T WORK party. (Cincinnati: Stewart and Kidd Company; price \$1 net.)