

waged, for whom you have to get somebody else's job."



A strange state of affairs it is. Men suffer for want of food and shelter. All the food and shelter there is or can be is produced from the earth by human labor. And it has come to pass in times of peace, and still more in time of war, that the men of leisure have more food and shelter than they can use, while the men of labor cannot get enough for comfort. If the men of leisure give to the men of labor they pauperize them. If they work for them they take jobs from others. And so they hire the women to wash out artificial grease spots, and employ the men to pound sand. It is hard sometimes to say when society looks the more grotesque, when it is engaged in-war, or when it is pursuing the paths of peace.

S. C.



Democracy and War Taxes.

It is sixteen years since a war tax was levied in the United States. That is long enough for even a party symbolized by the donkey, to make some progress. Yet the Democratic majority of the Ways and Means Committee reports a bill levying the same unwise and unjust taxes that were levied to pay the expenses of the Spanish War. They even imagine that in reporting such a bill they have committed a shrewd stroke of political policy, inasmuch as by accepting the old Republican war measure, they feel that they have blocked Republican criticism. Perhaps it will block Republican criticism—provided Republicans are willing to admit that they have learned nothing since 1898. But it will not block the criticism of genuine democrats, and Democratic Congressmen must answer to these democrats when within a few weeks they come up for re-election.



What should be the position of the Democratic party on this question, or of any party that claims to be democratic? In a letter to President Wilson, Mr. Charles H. Ingersoll, known as a democrat as well as a watch manufacturer—put the case clearly as follows:

Cannot we (you, the Democracy and the American people) add to our laurels by departing from beaten paths in choosing our War Tax?

Why must the costs of war be ever laid at the humble doors of those least able to pay—piled on the backs of the consumers, who are also the workers?

The drones make wars—why not let them pay for them?

Taxes on industry are everywhere piled so high that it cries to Heaven for relief, while real privilege tightens its death grip.

And now, when emergency overtakes us, we look for some place to lay the tax, and can see only the same long suffering common people—and put it on them because they are the only ones who cannot make a noise and rebel!

More than one-half the wealth of this country is in the form of land values, created by all the people, but owned by a relatively few of them. Drawing on this common fund would not be taxation at all, and would affect only a parasitical class whose privileges have long been recognized as having no basis of justice, but as being the basis of all other privilege.

There is incongruity in a war tax in a peaceful country, and consistency may only be established by recognizing unearned increment, as the cause not only of active war, but also of the passive unending warfare on justice—and taxing it.

Such a tax will forestall war in this country; it will restore financial and commercial balance; it will inaugurate the first great measure of democracy; it will lead the whole world toward freedom; it will be the first direct attack upon the citadel of monopoly, around which are clustered every form of privilege now being treated ineffectively.

Such a move would entrench you and our Party in the hearts of the people, and insure our opportunity to further serve them for a decade.

All over the world this great fundamental reform is being recognized, in municipalities, states and countries; Lloyd George is preaching it; Carranza and Villa are agreed on it; Roosevelt has recommended it for Alaska; you have commended it in New Zealand.

Now we have the opportunity of advocating it before the whole world as the next great forward step.

We should not miss this opportunity.

The details are covered in the bill of Congressman Warren Worth Bailey of Pennsylvania.

S. D.



Lungpower Wisdom.

Certain cities of Ancient Greece are said to have chosen their officials by having the candidates pass over the stage of the amphitheater, and allowing the judges, who were in a closed room, to decide the popularity of each by the volume of the shouts of his partisans. The method, slightly modified to suit modern conditions, is still in vogue in the United States Senate. The filibuster against the River and Harbor bill once more calls attention to the fact that reason often plays an inconsequential part in the most dignified deliberative assembly in the world. Men have been chosen to that august body on the assumption that they had reached years of discretion, and that they knew at least enough to go in when it rains. Being charged each with his individual responsibility for the making of laws, it was supposed