

have and giving to those who have not." Will the Senator maintain that none of those who have wrongfully obtained it, and that none who has not has been wrongfully deprived? If he will not so maintain, then he must knowingly and deliberately have assumed the position that those, who have wrongfully obtained, should be allowed to keep, and to obtain more in the same way. Was that his position while writing "social justice" statutes? If he does maintain that no one has more nor less than is due them, what was the object of his statutes? Was he endeavoring to take from those who have what honestly belongs to them, and give to those who have not what was not theirs?



Concerning the principal statute which Senator Sherman helped to put on the books he is discreetly silent. This was the infamous Allen law which took from the people of Chicago the right to their own streets. Incidentally it was a case of taking from those who had but a little and giving to those who have much. It was taking from the people what belonged to them and bestowing it on some predatory corporations to whom it did not belong. That kind of taking and giving was clearly not objectionable to Senator Sherman. His objections seem confined to the return of legally stolen property from possession of the plunderbund to its rightful owners.



What can only be excused on the plea of ignorance is Senator Sherman's reference to Singletax as "a leveling of possessions." Before the campaign is over, if he has the courage to continue the Singletax discussion, he will contradict that statement more than once. In fact, he did contradict it in his very next statement: "It is an equality of economic opportunity." How can there be "leveling of possessions" with "equality of economic opportunity," unless all possess equal ability? Even Senator Sherman should be able to see the absurdity of the position he assumes. Is this lack of knowledge concerning Singletax a fair sample of the Senator's information on other public questions?

S. D.



### Taxation in Ohio Political Platforms.

Both the Progressive party and Republican party of Ohio have taken advanced ground on taxation in their State platforms. The Progressive party declares unequivocally for county home rule in taxation and a partial exemption of per-

sonal property. The Republican party's declaration is not so flat-footed. It is "we pledge ourselves to home rule in the valuation and assessment of all property for taxation." Considering the source, such a pledge is gratifying indeed. Although it only speaks of "valuation and assessment" and is silent on the question of a tax system, yet this omission is not as serious as it may seem. Home rule in valuation and assessment is all that the city of Houston, Texas, has, and Houston's right thereto lacks even legislative approval. But the city has made good use of home rule in valuation and assessment. It has assessed land values at 70 per cent, improvements at 25 per cent, and personal property at zero. Given the right pledged to them by the Republican convention, Ohio cities can do the same.



The Democratic party's platform is silent on the tax question. Two years ago it declared unequivocally for home rule in taxation, but the pledge has not been kept. Possibly that explains the silence of this year. To have repeated the pledge would have directed attention to the failure to keep the previous one, and resulting questions and comment might have proven embarrassing.

S. D.



### Progressivism in Delaware.

On State issues the Progressive party of Delaware has taken advanced ground. Besides declaring for the Initiative, Referendum, Recall, woman suffrage, municipal home rule, and the commission form of government, it adopted a taxation plank which deserves the approval of the State's thoughtful citizens. The plank denounces the tax system which handicaps the improver and encourages the land speculator, it declares inimical to progress the fact that so much unimproved land is held by persons who are making no use of it, and it advocates remedying this state of affairs by empowering counties and cities to untax labor and increase taxes on land values. These planks embody a policy that would be extremely beneficial to the State, and citizens of Delaware will do well to elect the legislative and executive candidates who honestly advocate this program.

S. D.



### Using Vacant Lots for Propaganda.

A propaganda idea that might well be followed in other cities is that adopted in Chicago by Mrs. Annie Wallace Hunt as chairman of the Taxation Committee of the Woman's party. She is re-

questing owners of vacant lots to allow signs to be placed on their property reading as follows:

Everybody works but the vacant lot. I paid \$— for this lot and will hold until I get \$—. The profit is unearned increment made possible by the presence of this community and the enterprise of its people. I take the profit without earning it. What are you going to do about it? The chairman of the taxation committee of the Woman's party of Cook County has the remedy in pamphlet form. Send to Mrs. Hunt, Room 214, Hotel La Salle, city, for a copy, and then get to work.

This is an extension of the methods followed by J. J. Pastoriza in Houston, Laurie J. Quinby in Omaha, Fay Lewis in Rockford, Illinois, L. D. Beckwith in Santa Margarita, California, and probably by other equally candid land speculators elsewhere. But Mrs. Hunt has improved on the idea by endeavoring to enlist land owners to whom such use of their lots would not otherwise occur, or who, if they favor such use, would neglect to attend to the matter themselves. S. D.



### Suspicious Silence.

The City of Chicago has the opportunity to take possession of an automatic telephone system. The system belongs to the Illinois Telephone and Telegraph Company, the franchise of which provides forfeiture of its system to the city whenever the number of its bona fide subscribers falls below 20,000 or whenever it may agree to sell out to another company operating in Chicago. Both of these conditions have come about, but so far from taking advantage of the terms of the franchise the city council is actually considering seriously a proposition to allow sale of the plant to another corporation, and this proposition does not provide any consideration whatever to the city in return for its permission. Why council should consider such a proposition has never been explained. Equally mysterious is the explanation of the silence on this subject of every daily paper in Chicago with the exception of the Day Book. S. D.



### WAR—AND PEACE.

Human nature is prone to magnify the details of war into events themselves of importance—forgetting that war is of importance only in so far as it retards or accelerates the progress of civilization, and that any battle, or any deed in any battle, is of importance only in so far as it contributes to the best settlement of the war in the interest of mankind as a whole. It is this dwelling on the details of war, and the honor

paid to the heroes of war, that is so largely responsible for keeping alive the war spirit in our "human" hearts—that makes so grievously apparent the "thin crust of civilization." When war is done, if only its horrors be remembered, then is the world nearer to lasting peace. And evidence is not lacking, despite the present war, that the masses of men grow always nearer to this belief.

In this war, even though—because, indeed—our sympathies are with all of Europe, we of America cannot but hope for a decisive overthrow of military autocracy, and for a general disarmament. The plea of the military autocrats, for the need of "expansion," in the sense of forceable occupation of additional territory, is only too apparently false. Break down the barriers of race and international hatred that spring from armed "peace", from a constant exaltation of national valor in past wars, and, more than all else, from international trade restraints, and "expansion" will come, as nature intends it should come. Given only a single international or inter-racial marriage annually, and it is only a matter of time until races and international hatred shall disappear. Tear down the artificial barriers that prohibit community of trade-interests, and you hasten the day when Europe shall be as truly one nation as the Caucasian element of our own country is, or is about to be.

Expansion? Has not every German as true a natural right to every foot of French or English soil as any Frank or Briton? And ought not every Briton or man of France beneath God's sunlight, be just as truly at home "where e'er the Rhine grapes purple bloom" as in his own native land? Hasten the coming of peace, Peace!

HARRY W. OLNEY.

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## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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### COMMUNITIES IN MEXICO.

Monterrey, N. Leon, September 21.

Mr. B. F. Butterfield of California has ably described the land communities of the Indians in the States of Sonora and Sinaloa. It would be a mistake to suppose that that is the only kind of land communities in old Mexico.

In the State of Nuevo Leon, settled in the beginning mostly by Spanish families, exist large estates, the bulk of their land taking most of the area of the State, which are inheritances handed down for one or two centuries to families and their descendants in common. Their original owners, mostly favored by the Spanish crown, were never careful to make a will relating to their estates. According to Mexican law, as long as the absence of a last will