

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