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DRAMA LEAGUE CHIEF TALKS OF LEAGUE OBJECTS

A very interesting address on the drama and the work of the Drama League was delivered at the public library last night by Percival Chubb, vice-president of the Drama League of America.

Briefly the aims of the Drama League as expressed by its vice-president are these:

1. To organize audiences for good things.
2. To forward the movement in favor of the Little Theater and the community pageant and drama.
3. To raise the technical and ethical quality of contemporary plays.
4. To encourage playwrights (by providing them with audiences) to write those better plays and acceptance of which on a commercially controlled stage would be dubious.
5. To prepare the way for a national theater which shall exemplify the Drama League's highest ideals in the theater and the establishment of which was necessarily delayed by the war.

As to purpose No. 1, Chubb, who is the leader of the Ethical Society of St. Louis and a member of the directorate of a similar organization in New York, says that the organization of audiences competent to appreciate good things and eager to hear and encourage them must begin in the schools.

To that end he and his organization assist in every way possible such schools as are alert to the value of the drama as a cultural and educational institution.

The measure of the value of an education is not in the mass of assembled facts carried by the graduate along with his diploma. It is found in the kind of patronage the student will give to the arts—the kind of books he will read, the kind of plays he will want to see, the kind of music he will love, and the kind of pictures which will delight his eye.

Mr. Chubb believes, in reference to Aim No. 2 of the Drama League, that the hope of the theater-loving public lies in the Little Theater and that a proper concept of drama in its historic and national relations lies in the pageant drama of the Community theater.

Miss Louise Burke, president of the Drama League president and introduced the speaker. After the address refreshments were served and a reception tendered to Mr. Chubb and Mrs. Chubb who is accompanying him on his coast trip.

AMERICAN FLIER FORCES HUN DOWN

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Tuesday, May 21.—(By the Associated Press.)—Captain David Peterson of Honesdale Pa., after a long chase sent down a German two-seater airplane wobbling and diving to the ground in the neighborhood of Chateau Salins today. The American aviator pursued the enemy machine for 46 kilometers along the battle line and then chased him 12 kilometers behind the German lines before he succeeded in attacking him from beneath. The German's dive to the ground followed promptly.

THE NON-PARTISAN LEAGUE.

THE "Non-Partisan League" is the name of a new political party, originating in North Dakota, having for its object, legislation bettering the condition of the farmer. At the last general election, the league swept North Dakota, electing a complete ticket, and has now spread through all the northwestern states.

The league is bitterly opposed by business interests, big and little, because it advocates a program of state socialism as a cure for the ills which have impoverished the farmer and fattened the grain speculator. It is fought by the grain dealers, the millers and elevator owners, who, if the league succeeds, will find their profits gone and it is dreaded by the merchants and bankers because of its threatened co-operative chain stores and its financial experiments with public funds.

The lukewarm attitude of some of the league officials in the early days of the conflict towards the war has furnished the excuse for a concerted attack all along the line on the patriotism of the league. Yet investigation by the federal government does not show any disloyalty or sedition in the league. As practically all the farmers in the central northwest belong, it is folly to declare the league unpatriotic, for farmers are all doing their share in winning the war.

Mob violence and outrage against league organizers is not made to defend the flag—but to discredit the league in public opinion. Profiteers of the existing order, through the press and otherwise are vigorously opposing the league and its revolutionary policy. They are using Old Glory as a shield just as the tariff beneficiaries used it so successfully for many years in bunking the people to perpetuate their privileges.

We can best judge the league by its work in North Dakota. The main program, state built elevators and flour mills, has not yet been accomplished because the holdover members of the state senate blocked it at the last session and prevented the necessary constitutional amendments. Much legislation, both political and economic, beneficial to the state was enacted, which is summarized as follows:

- A grain-grading commission has been formed.
- Rural schools have been standardized. Rural schools have been given better teachers. They are having better attendance and better health.
- An inheritance tax was levied on large fortunes. Votes were given to women.
- Money was appropriated for experiments at the agricultural college, by which it has been proven that low-grade wheat selling at 70 cents per bushel was worth, for making flour, pound for pound, as much as high grades selling at \$1.70 per bushel.
- New taxation classifications were adopted, which reduced the rate for improvements upon farm lands and passed part of the burden of taxation on to the corporations that had been dodging taxation since the beginning of time.
- A dairy commission was provided.
- A license system for creameries was established.
- Guarantee of bank deposits was provided for.
- A welfare commission was created.

In all 32 remedial steps are taken to benefit the people, especially the farmer, and it is estimated that each farmer has saved thereby from \$800 to \$1,000—so the league continues to grow despite its assailants.

Conservative business interests are justified in their alarm over the extent of the league's program. The league proposed to remove the limit of indebtedness that might be incurred by the state or any political division thereof. It proposed to exempt farm improvements from taxation and to authorize the issue of currency by state banks. It proposed state ownership of flour mills, terminal elevators, railroads, packing houses, and to allow the state to engage in any and all for most business and industry. It proposed that "three bona fide farmers" should be elected to the supreme court of the state. It proposed state socialism on a scale never before attempted in this country and never attempted anywhere except recently in Russia.

The league, like all other political parties, is not destined for long life, but will probably live to see part of its program enacted—and lessen the notorious graft of the producer by the parasite, which has made millionaires out of brokers, buyers, speculators and millers and kept the farmer impoverished. It will take more than the mobbing of league organizers and the indictment of league officials, and the tirades of the reactionary press and the screeches of scared politicians to kill the Non-Partisan League. Its message is too vital—it has a real issue and offers a remedy. The way to kill it, is to end the abuses that created it, for present political parties to cease ignoring economic ills and look forward instead of backward.

WAR TAX UPON BASE BALL PERCHERS

WASHINGTON, May 22.—Persons who sell seats in any roof or structure overlooking a baseball park will be obliged to pay a war tax for each "percher" to the government, according to an announcement issued today by the bureau of internal revenue.

The bureau also announced that admissions to outdoor amusement

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parks are not taxable. The tax does apply, however, to amusements within the grounds such as side shows and moving picture theaters.

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FIVE KILLED BY WISCONSIN TORNADO


MADISON, Wis., May 22.—Five persons were killed and 30 injured, a number of whom are expected to die, when the village of Lone Rock, 44 miles west of Madison, was partly wiped out by a tornado Tuesday night.

The dead and injured were found from where their houses stood.

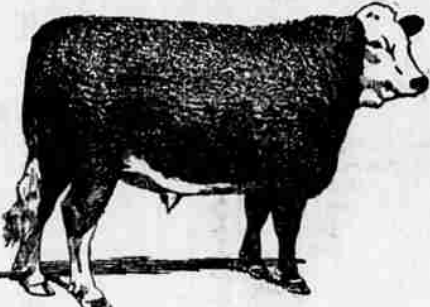
AUSTRIAN EMPEROR VISITS CONSTANTINOPLE

AMSTERDAM, May 22.—Emperor Charles and Empress Zita of Austria-Hungary arrived in Constantinople Sunday. They were met at the station by the sultan and were formerly received at a ceremony in the Yildiz palace.

With Medford trade in Medford made

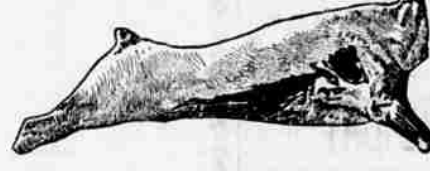


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