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What the Editors Say

After a man acquires a home and a little bank account by hard ticks you never hear him talking any more about wanting to take things away from the other fellow and dividing them up.—Itemizer.

It remained for Senator Owen, a Democratic supporter of the unamended covenant, to explain why the president has to stand pat against reservations. Mr. Owen says that the president is under obligations to European statesmen so that he cannot. Perhaps that is right. But may we not suggest, that the president is also under some slight obligation to America to see that the sovereignty is not transferred to a foreign council?—Gazette Times.

After we get a few of our labor men and industrial slaves freed, suppose we start in to free a few of the women industrial slaves—the ones who have to work about twenty hours out of every twenty-four in their household duties in addition to looking after four, five or six small children. When it comes to real industrial surfeit the hard-working housewife has all the other industrial slaves backed clear off the boards.—Telephone Register.

The representative of the Grange at the organization of the new land and labor party at Salem last week was shrewd enough to see thru the sugar coating and vagueness of the plank advocating a tax on community made values and detect single tax which the farmers have consistently beaten every time it has appeared in different guises in past years. He told the convention in plain words that the greatest difficulty the farmer had was selling his products at a fair price, and if it was really the desire of the convention to aid the farmer in gaining industrial freedom as the plank pretended, energy should be directed instead to the perfection of the distribution system and against the manipulator.—Independent.

Too Many Church Buildings.

The New Jersey clergyman who pleads for organic union of twenty-two national church bodies mentions as one ground for its need that the physical property possessed by the churches is greatly in excess of requirements. Thus, he points out, 86 per cent of the Protestant churches in the United States have a seating capacity of some 53,999,000, while, as was shown by the report of the federal council of churches recently, there are a few more than 25,000,000 communicants of Protestant churches in all the country. The seating capacity of the churches to which the Rev. Mr. Peach alludes is fully three times their total membership. This is providing for future growth with a vengeance, but the trouble seems to be that they give small promise of growing in membership in proportion to building capacity.

It is in particular a problem of the rural community and the country town. The principal churches of the larger cities are apt to be taxed to capacity frequently enough to justify their existence; this is probably not true to one per cent of the towns of less than 3000 population in the United States. Occasionally, as those who have lived in a smaller town will be reminded, one church to which the community inclines will be fairly well crowded, while other ministers preach chiefly to empty pews. Communities keenly feel aspirations on their generosity when they are charged with not supporting their churches as they ought to do, and then start new buildings when in the judgment of a good many they ought to be devoting the money to development of the human side. If the Rev. Mr. Peach's estimate that there are probably 100,000 superfluous churches, built at a cost of \$500,000,000, is approximately correct, it represents a sum which, invested at only a per cent could yield \$20,000,000 annually for other departments of church activity. For one thing, it would provide each minister with an increase of salary of more than \$100, and each one now receiving less than \$1000 a year an increase of more than \$200. The psychological aspect of the almost empty church is probably also of some importance. There is reason to suppose that church-going would be more popular if it were not sometimes so depressing. The inspirational effect on the preachers of fewer church buildings but better-filled ones is well worth taking into account.

The survey of church conditions in Ohio, the result of which has been summarized in a volume published by Charles Otis Gill and Clifford Pinchot, and which showed that in one part of the state, consisting of a block of eighteen counties, although the churches have been organized for more than a century, "no normal type of religion is really flourishing, while the only kind which during the past fifteen years has been gaining ground is the cult of the Holy Rollers," reveals a condition probably by no means confined to the Ohio backwoods. It is due at least in part to faulty distribution of financial resources, and to a considerable extent to expenditures made for lumber that ought to have been made for men.

A point that some critics will overlook is that with a multiplicity of denominational groups in a rural neighborhood to want a home of their own as it is for housewives to want pictures on the parlor walls. But the rivalries engendered in this manner have been largely productive of waste without noticeably increasing efficiency of any of the churches. The Ohio survey revealed among other things that in the region already referred to the death rate from tuberculosis is excessive, the number of illegitimate births is on the in-

crease, and illiteracy is far above the average for the country as a whole.

The writer declares that the statistics "do not overstate the urgency of the appeal from the unfortunate over-churches and under-ministered communities of this section." The need obviously is for men, rather than for a surplus of buildings. More than 4500, or 66 per cent of the churches in the entire state have a membership of 100 or less, and 37 per cent have fewer than fifty members each. "Over considerable areas many of the ministers are uneducated; often they are entirely illiterate and entirely unfitted to render service acceptable to the more intelligent of their people."

There is waste not only in the surplus investment involved in unneeded buildings, but also in the cost of their upkeep. The "great Protestant order of mendicant pastors and sisters, unincorporated," to which Dr. Peach alludes, has been another result of the kind of bad business management that has permitted duplication of churches to go on. The call for a greater degree of organic church union seems to have the support of material as well as spiritual considerations.—Oregonian.

Should They Be Disfranchised?

The persistence of certain Wisconsin socialists in their efforts to compel the House of Representatives to accept Victor L. Berger as member from the Fifth District, together with the decision of the Governor Phillips of that state not to call another special election to fill the existing vacancy, is operating to deprive nearly 20,000 loyal Americans of representation in the House.

The House, of its own motion, could not have seated Victor Berger as member from the Fifth District, together with the decision of the Governor Phillips of that state not to call another special election to fill the existing vacancy, is operating to deprive nearly 20,000 loyal Americans of representation in the House. The House, of its own motion, could not have seated Victor Berger as member from the Fifth District, together with the decision of the Governor Phillips of that state not to call another special election to fill the existing vacancy, is operating to deprive nearly 20,000 loyal Americans of representation in the House. The House, of its own motion, could not have seated Victor Berger as member from the Fifth District, together with the decision of the Governor Phillips of that state not to call another special election to fill the existing vacancy, is operating to deprive nearly 20,000 loyal Americans of representation in the House.

These being the facts, it is at least a reasonable assumption that if the proper Wisconsin court were asked to issue a certificate of election to Bodenstab, the appeal would be granted, and that Bodenstab could present himself at the door of the House asking admission on the ground that he had received the only valid votes cast for a Representative in Congress of the fifth Wisconsin district.

It may be argued that there is, contrary to the British practice, no precedent for seating a candidate who has received less than a majority of all the votes cast.

But it may be argued with even greater force that the ballot cast for Berger, in the light of his constitutionally established disability were not votes at all—that, being, in the language of the court, null and void, they cannot be held to effect the majority of the valid votes cast.—Harvey's Weekly.

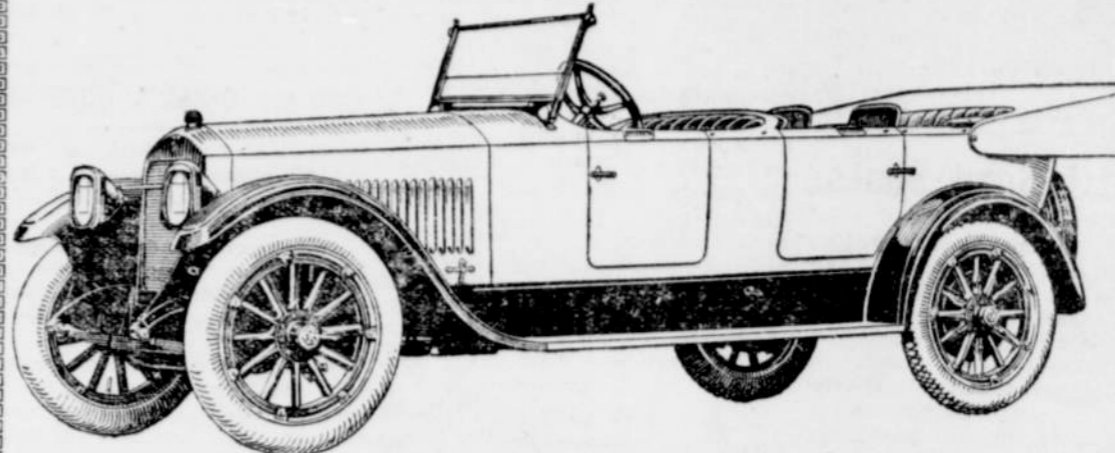
Democrats Making Odd Noises About Fiscal Problems.

Some strange doings are afoot with respect to the country's fiscal affairs as they are being expounded by certain leading Democrats and as conditions regarding these fiscal affairs are being depicted or procedure by Congress is being advocated.

It is all to the end of trying to make the country hold the Republican party responsible for not reducing taxes and for another great issue of bonds, if such an issue can be made; also to deflect attention from democratic waste, inefficiency and mismanagement, from gross extravagance, and keep the Democrats through the campaign from having to stand on the defensive for their financial sins of omissions and commission.

The president has held out the idea taxes can be reduced. William G. McAdoo is openly blaming the Republicans in Congress for not reducing the taxes.

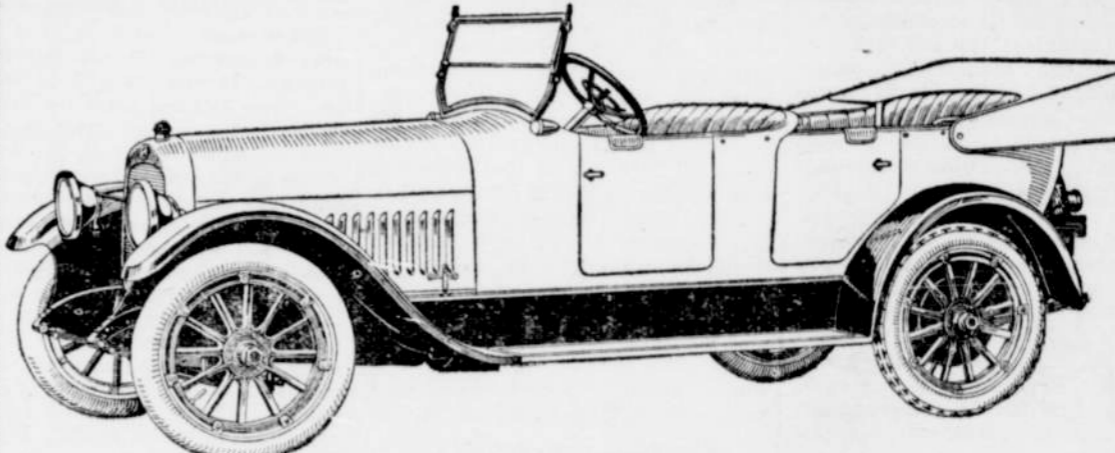
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known the Treasury income this fiscal year will fall far short of meeting the demands on the Treasury and attempts to camouflage the real situation will hardly succeed.

He Keeps Us Out of Sugar.

Mrs. L. M. Johnson, Selma Va., asks the National Republican to state the cause of the present soaring sugar prices. This is due, primarily, to the failure of the Sugar Equalization Board to secure the approval of President Wilson for the purchase of the Cuban sugar crop last year. The matter was delayed until this crop was sold in Europe instead of the United States as has been customary. The sugar production in the Philippine Islands was sold in the Orient and the United States has been dependent upon the Porto Rican, Hawaiian and domestic supply. President Wilson recently vetoed the McNary bill intending to control the wartime control of sugar prices. It is suggested that the Democratic campaign slogan in 1920 should be "He kept us out of sugar."

President Wilson writes: "Germany is beaten, but we are still at war with her." Mr. Wilson's attitude toward the war is like that of the calf toward the milk the farmer was trying to feed it the first time. The farmer said: "First I had to nearly pull the blame thing's ears off to get it up to the pail, and then I had to nearly pull its tail off to get it away from it."

One can readily understand the indignation of Secretary of the Treasury Carter Glass, over the intimation of Chairman Hays that there has been some politics in the management of the Treasury department. As Mr. Glass says, he and Secretary McAdoo are entirely out of touch with politics. They have never even known, except by rumor, that there is such a thing as a Democratic national committee. Hence the indignation of our non-partisan Secretary of the Treasury, as he jumps three feet in the air and yells "liar," "horse thief," "scoundrel" in his little controversy with the Republican national chairman.

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