

LIKE FLEAS ON A DOG.

It is interesting to read the production figures in the field of industry and agriculture in the United States. With a population of 1,748,000,000 individuals, our total output is all the more astounding. The application of electric and steam power as an aid to man power is responsible for such accomplishments. American workmen have more power at their command than the workmen of any other nation. This accounts for their high production and high wages. There have been up and downs in American agriculture and manufacturing, but taken as a whole, it is safe to say that never before did the majority of individuals in the United States have as many of the necessities and luxuries of life as they do today.

As one travels over the country he is impressed by the fact that new farm buildings are being built, old ones are being repaired, the majority of farms have garages, automobiles, modern farm machinery, radios and a constantly increasing number are being equipped with electric light and power. Naturally there are exceptions to this rule in some localities, but no one who takes a fair view of the country can help but say that it has been unusually prosperous. Never in the history of the world have so many homes been built by individual owners as during the last two years in the United States.

But in the face of such unprecedented conditions we find a small but active group that favors socialistic experiments in America. It would fashion our government along more paternalistic lines, such as have restricted ownership, development and priority in many European countries. We can witness the agitation in all parts of the country. Of late, it has been manifested itself most actively along the lines of public ownership of electric power. This has been a feature of the campaign to return Muscle Shoals as a federal playground instead of leasing it for private development under public regulation. We have seen similar agitation for state development of electric power, in New York, in California and in Oregon.

So far all these moves to inject the state into business at the expense and discouragement of the individual, have been decisively defeated.

In Oregon, advocates of putting the state into the power business have just failed to get even enough names on the petition to submit the measure to a vote of the people.

In North Dakota, however, Non-partisan League candidates have recently been victorious in a state election. This is the same league that a few years ago led North Dakota into a maze of socialistic undertakings from which the state has not yet extricated itself. How far it will attempt to go in re-establishing its old doctrines, no one knows. There is some agitation in political circles in several other sections of the country to launch the state into various branches of the insurance business. And so it goes over the country. The agitations which annoy and vex the majority of the people, might be likened to the fleas on a dog—they demand constant effort to counteract their irritating effect.

All business and employment is interlocked, and neither the agriculturist, manufacturer, capitalist or workmen can profit at the expense of his neighbor. Putting the government into business simply piles up the tax bill which in the end is paid by the consumer. If we are wise we will take stock of our exceptionally fortunate and prosperous condition

today, and not be led astray by political schemes which experiment at the expense of business and industry, which means at the expense of the workman and the consumer.

OPERETTA AT LAKE JUNALUSKA.

Lake Junaluska, Aug 10, (Special).—More than one hundred children and grown ups will take part in the operetta, "The Toy Shop," now under rehearsal for production, on the nights of August 20 and 21, according to Mrs. Hortense Reynolds, of Des Moines, Iowa, who will direct the performance.

Probably no event of the season has created so much interest as this entertainment. The operetta is one of seven by the late Jessie L. Gaynor and the libretto by her associate, Mrs. Alice C. Riley of Evanston, originator and president of the first Drama League in America.

Mrs. Reynolds who is in charge of the production devotes her entire time to staging the Gaynor productions. She recently gave a successful performance of "The Lost Princess," one of the best known of the Gaynor operetta, with a cast of 300 at Orchestra Hall in Chicago.

The performance here promises to be a brilliant affair and the cast will

include in addition to sixty or more children a number of professional men and women who are attending the summer assemblies here.

INTELLIGENT REPORT ON POWER DEVELOPMENT.

So many wild statements have been made about launching the state or the government purely industrial undertakings which require the expenditure of public funds ranging from \$10,000,000 to \$500,000,000, that the report just issued by Roy C. Finch, Engineer of New York State, on the proposal to harness the St. Lawrence River, is of great interest. While Mr. Finch's analysis of the situation relates particularly to New York, and is in favor of private development, his line of reasoning is so sound that it can be considered with equal advantage by the citizens of any state, in applying his conclusions to their own problems so far as they relate to the utilization of a state's water power resources. Muscle Shoals and the Colorado River hydroelectric projects have been wallowing in political quicksands for years. Considered under the clear reasoning of the Finch report, rather than as political issues, their immediate development could be secured on a business basis, to the great benefit of the nation.



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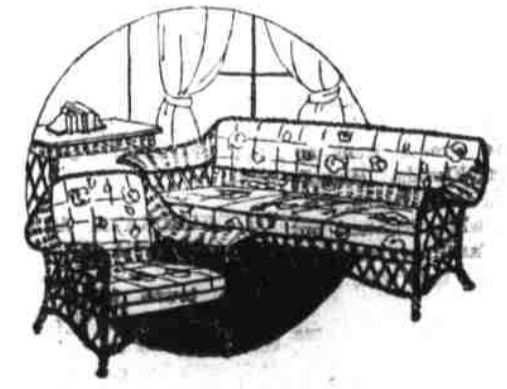
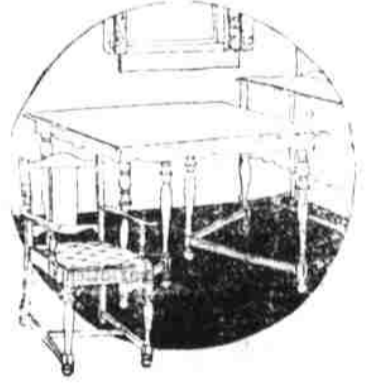


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