

By the time this appears in print the widely heralded and much discussed Bok Peace Plan will have been smothered under a mass of later news, such as Washington governmental scandals, discoveries of oil in high political offices, rumors of another war; and forgotten by a large per cent of the people. It will not matter much however, as only a comparatively few gave any serious thought to the plan.

As a commonsense, workable plan to provide permanent world peace, the one which was awarded the \$100,000 and declared the best, is as practicable and has about as much value as the often discussed scheme for extracting gold from sea water. Both are possible, but not feasible.

In the January-February number of *LAND AND FREEDOM* on page 5, in the platform of the Commonwealth Land Party, one reads these words:

"War and strife, now and always due to economic maladjustment, would disappear with the elimination of private ownership of land, which has ever been the basis and the cause of all the world's economic troubles."

This paragraph contains the fundamentals, the foundation for a worth-while peace plan, whose only fault is its simplicity, and simplicity is something which would naturally eliminate it from the consideration of professional peace-plan juries. Unfortunately, there is much in our modern life which is unacceptable because of its simplicity.

L. R. WADE.

The Common Right to Air

THE Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce has reported favorably on the bill of Senator Howell, of Nebraska, relating to radio communication.

The Bill declares that ether is the inalienable possession of the people and the government. Privileges to enjoy the use of the ether may be granted for terms not to exceed two years. The Bill aims to prevent the monopoly of the air.

This is a revolutionary and radical assault upon private property. Daniel Webster declared that a legal title to land extended to the center of the earth and as high as the heavens, or words to that effect. The possession of the air is claimed by the Landlord as his legal right.

Senator Howell is treading on dangerous ground. If one natural element like the air is the inalienable possession of the people, what about the other natural element, land? If air is common property, wherefor not land?

The *New York Times* seems to scent the danger. It questions if the senators know what the mysterious element, ether, is anyhow, and calls physics to its support. "Ether," says the *Times*, "is a hypothetical medium of extreme tenacity and elasticity supposed to be diffused through all space (as well as among the molecules of which solid bodies are composed) and to be the medium of the transmission of light and heat."

That's the talk! Quote a lot of words at 'em. Try the same thing on the fellows who talk about land being the inalienable possession of the people. What is "land" anyway? Something only a little less tenuous than air.

Enemies of the Farmer

THIS publication has from time to time devoted considerable space to discussions of the present conditions in the great agricultural industry of the United States, which, firmly rooted as it is in the soil, is suffering from a nationwide depression causing great hardships to the working farmers. It is highly important that advocates of Land Reform should clearly understand the farmer's situation, since to the plea for free land to the user as a solution of social and economic problems the invariable rejoinder is: "Look at our farmers; they have land, yet the great majority of them are poor, deeply in debt, and hardly able to get a bare living" It is needless to say that this is not a refutation of the claim that with free land available to all who wished to work upon it involuntary poverty would disappear, but it does mislead the unthinking into believing that access to land would not effect any improvement in social conditions.

What the real causes of agricultural depression are we have frequently stated; the essential facts being that through our present system of privilege the farmers are robbed of so large a part of the products of their labor that they have been impoverished. How this robbery is affected is well known to all students of the problem, yet the farmers themselves seem to have no inkling of the truth, and expend their energies in vain attempts to secure relief through fantastic schemes for government loans, or Socialistic plans for controlling production and prices of farm crops. What is practically the only channel through which they can be released so as to put before them the plain truths that will free them from their intolerable bondage,—the farm journals of the country, are blind leaders of the blind. Circulating by the millions these farm papers are as a rule, mere advertising sheets, whose policy is controlled by the advertisers. There are not in the United States today, half-a-dozen farm journals that dare to tell the truth, even though they know it. Cowardly ignorant and foolish, they are in reality barriers against knowledge of the only way in which the farmers can become prosperous. The most urgent need of the American farmer is a fearless and intelligent farm press, that will tell its readers that the way to help the farmers is to take the burdens of taxation off their backs, and destroy the system of privilege that is slowly crushing them.

WHILE we prate of the rights of man there are already among us thousands and thousands who find it difficult to assert the first of natural rights—the right to earn an honest living; thousands who from time to time must accept of degrading charity or starve.—HENRY GEORGE.