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RAILROAD ASSESSMENTS
 If members of the Iowa Executive Council are correctly quoted, they have assessed the railroads of the state, not upon their present value, but upon their valuation as fixed by the Federal government. Many of the railroads have appealed to the courts for relief from that assessment.

The railroads may not have been over assessed, but if the assessment of railroad property was based upon anything other than its actual market value at the time of the assessment the basis was manifestly incorrect.

The Federal valuation is not the value of the railroads at the present time, but what it would have cost to reproduce the railroads of the country on the date when the valuation statute was passed, which as we now recollect was in 1916.

The actual value of the railroads is published every day, in the market price at which their bonds and stocks are selling. That price would be a fair basis upon which to make an assessment, the same as the market price of hogs and cattle is used to ascertain their values.

The people of Iowa want the railroads to pay their just share of the taxes, no more, no less. What it would have cost to procure, or to reproduce a piece of property five years ago may be quite a different thing from its actual value at the present time.

STILL JOCKEYING.
 Lloyd George and DeValera are still exchanging letters and telegrams, presumably in an endeavor to settle preliminaries before entering a peace conference.

Both parties agree that the only way to end the age-long differences between the two countries is by direct negotiation, and it seems inconceivable that they should fail to come together on the preliminary conditions.

The time is now at hand when it is generally believed that Ireland may take a place in the community of nations known as the British Empire, if common sense is permitted to shape the future relations of Great Britain and Ireland, and the leaders on both sides should not permit formalities to frustrate the plans for a peace conference that may bring about such a desirable result.

BOSTON'S AUCTION BLOCK
 A few days ago the services of men were put up at auction on Boston Common, and according to the newspaper accounts of the affair there were few bidders and fewer still to claim their purchases.

From our viewpoint such an exhibition of lack of employment will be of but little avail. If a great meeting had been held on Boston's historic common to protest against the unnecessary deflation of the country's money supply and the unwise shrinking of credits, which tore down prices and chilled the business lifeblood of the nation, much good might have resulted. The road to business revival is along the lines of an expanding money supply or enlarged credits for business purposes.

AMERICANISM AGAINST SOCIALISM
 Judge Martin J. Wade, of the Federal District Court, delivered a patriotic address in Cedar Rapids on Constitution Day, from which we extract the following denunciation of Socialism:

We hear it proclaimed that socialism is being taught in our schools. I am not afraid of the teaching of socialism in itself, because to the normal mind it soon discloses itself as a chaotic dream. I do not fear the false philosophy of socialism—WHAT I DO FEAR is the preparation of the mind and heart for the reception of the story of socialism. What I do fear is the establishment of the premises for the socialistic argument; because the first thing that is done—THE FIRST THING THAT MUST BE DONE—is to destroy faith in our present form of government. Until the faith of Washington, and Jefferson, and Hamilton, and Franklin, and Madison, and Lincoln, and Grant, and Roosevelt, and Wilson have been crushed, until patriotism and loyalty and confidence have been driven out of the heart, until the words of Lincoln on the field of Gettysburg, proclaiming this to be "a government by the people" has been given the lie, there is no room in the American heart for the hopeless gospel of the socialistic agitator.

"Until the command 'Love thy neighbor as thyself' has been blotted out of the human soul; until the venom of hate is planted there, 'class consciousness' cannot be promoted, and without class consciousness, socialism can gain no recruits.

"I would have socialism discussed in the schools, but only to show its errors and absurdities. I would not have it studied only to be condemned. I would not have in an American college, a teacher or professor who has any doubt in his soul that America will stand the test of time—who even harbors a dream

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that some day this government will fall. I would not hide our defects, but I would not tolerate a teacher or professor who, in the class room, cannot find in discussing problems of American government, more to glorify than to condemn.

The unmasking of the proceedings of the Ku Klux Klan discloses a most impudent challenge to the duly constituted authorities of the country.

A knowledge of the stars in the heavens is not so essential to American manhood and womanhood, as is a feeling of the majesty and the glory of the stars in the old flag which thank God is still high in the heavens.—Judge Martin J. Wade.

CONGRESS AND THE KU KLUX KLAN.

(From the New York World)
 A number of Representatives in Congress, including members of the House Committee on Judiciary, have expressed the intention of introducing resolutions looking to an investigation of the organization and aims of the Ku Klux Klan. When Congress reassembles it is almost inconceivable that it can fail to order such action.

The Klan knows neither State nor sectional lines. Only three of the forty-eight States are without members in sufficient numbers to form local organizations. The Klan is increasing more rapidly in the North than in the field of the original Ku Klux of which it claims to be the successor. It is in its scope as in its subversive purposes a national issue.

A Prosecuting Attorney can within his limits pursue an order that forbids secret conclaves to attack by means outside of the law certain Americans of whom it disapproves; then he runs against a county line. An Attorney General can act; but in New York City, for instance, he finds the Hudson River barring some promising trail. The authority of Congress is as wide as its responsibility, and either covers the entire country.

What remedy Congress might after investigation design for the Klan it is not necessary now to speculate. Let it authorize a proper committee to subpoena witnesses with their books and papers, including the membership lists, and a long first step will have been taken toward scotching the order. Its deeds are of darkness; the light of publicity will itself deliver a death-blow to lawless undertaking.

ARMENIAN GENERAL GIVES INTERESTING ADDRESS

Major General Azagapetian, Armenian, addressed a large number of people at the union meeting in the Congregational church Sunday evening, in the interest of the Near East Relief, and during the course of his address related instances of unusual heroism and true loyalty to the cause of the allies during the World War, while hundreds of thousands of his people were fighting the Germans and the Turks.

Soldier, diplomat and linguist, General Azagapetian took an active part in the recent great war, and had many opportunities to witness the heroic loyalty of the Armenians to the cause of the Allies, their terrible sufferings through hunger, exposure and sickness, and their tremendous sacrifices of life and property. He is now touring the country to aid the struggling Armenians and their quarter of a million orphans, all victims of Moslem brutality.

An Armenian by birth, General Azagapetian is a cosmopolitan by education. The son of one of the best families in Constantinople, he and his sisters had their primary education under private tutors and English governesses. They had the pioneer tennis-court on the shores of the Bosphorus, and his high-wheeled bicycle was the first ever seen in the Ottoman capital. One of the progressive characteristics of their home-life was that the family always dined formally and in evening dress. In contrast to the Asiatic custom around them.

The General is a graduate of Robert college, an American institution on the Bosphorus. He is also a post-graduate of the University of Geneva, Switzerland, and a graduate of Columbia University, New York City. Besides being a student of several ancient languages, he speaks Armenian, English, French, German, Persian, Turkish, Greek and Rus-

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slan. He has also written a number of magazine articles on Near East topics.

While studying in America, he also devoted himself to Armenian patriotic work, and this soon made him such a "persona non grata" at the Turkish Court in Constantinople, that he could not return home. He therefore remained in America, and in due time became a citizen of the United States, and also enlisted in the Seventh Regiment, the crack military organization of New York.

A few years later, he went to Persia, where for ten years he served the Shah's government in a military capacity. Rapidly rising in rank, he was finally appointed Aid-de-Camp to his Imperial Majesty, and promoted to the rank of Major-General. He served there also in the State Department, and in 1904 was sent to Washington as first secretary of the legation. Later, he resigned his post and came to New York, where he was married.

When the great war broke out, General and Lady Azagapetian closed their home and, with a section of the thousands of Armenian volunteers, went over to Russia and there joined the Czar's southern army, which was then fighting the Turks. For two years they participated in that tremendous and victorious struggle, in the Caucasus; in Persia, and in Armenia, against the German-drilled armies of Turkey. They were even about to join the British in Bagdad, when Bolshevism got the upper hand in Russia, completely disorganized the army, and established a reign of murder and persecution, so that the General and his wife were obliged to escape to America.

Since their arrival here, they have been ardent workers in the various American Red Cross, Liberty Bond and other patriotic drives, and now they are devoting their time to the service of the Near East Relief. They always appear in uniform, wearing their medals and stars, of which the General has a great number, received for his various military and diplomatic services.

Such as they are, Even if there should never be another book published, there are plenty of masterpieces already printed to keep the average reader busy for at least 100 years.—Boston Transcript.