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CRIME AND TAXES

If there is to be any real advance toward the reduction of taxation, one of the problems which must be considered is the cost of the care of criminals.

The prisons of the state all are overcrowded, some of them to the extent where the congestion itself becomes a moral hazard and makes repentance or reformation impossible.

The whole system is political, rather than reformatory and because it is political, it is costly in the extreme.

There is something monstrously incongruous in calling an institution a reformatory and then sending there young men with sentences of twenty to fifty years.

There is something more than monstrously incongruous in any institution which does not operate on the principle that society is to be protected and the prisoner returned is an asset and still holds out the theory that reformation is the chief purpose of punishment.

The crime problem can not be handled by sadists or guards. It requires a more scientific and more humane attitude of mind than has been evidenced in recent years.

In the matter of pardons and paroles, the Governor is now compelled to take the advice of trustees of the prisons. The trustees, in turn, are largely influenced by the reports of the keepers, who are generally selected because of political services rather than fitness or capacity for handling difficult human problems.

If they are good business men and keep the contract jobs running, they rank high. Those who leave their custody go back in increasing percentages to crime, does not count against them.

Unquestionably, there are hundreds of men in prison who could be safely returned to society. They made mistakes. Circumstances were responsible for their crimes. Many need medical treatment more than harsh surveillance.

Unquestionably, also, there are many in prison who can never be safely trusted to return to society. They have been untruthful by training or by health, especially mental health, to life in a complex organization.

Before politics under Governor Jackson abolished the old pardon board probably to more securely close the lips of one D. C. Stephenson, there was some semblance of balancing the needs of society and the individual character of the prisoner.

Today the system works harshly and badly and the taxpayer pays a huge bill for which nothing is gained and must be lost.

The state maintains many experts, so that scientific study of prison cases should not be an additional burden.

At the state hospitals it has experts on mental diseases. At the state university it has experts in psychology. At its colleges are also trained men and women in social work.

A central board of pardons, calling upon these experts for advice in mental matters, together with a real parole system that means something more than finding a poorly paid job for an applicant who may be totally unfitted for that job, are worth consideration.

LOCAL ECONOMY

The cry for government economy is directed principally toward Washington and federal expenditures, though local and state governments spend twice as much and take it more directly from men of small means.

The need for reducing public outlays already has resulted in a billion-dollar reduction in the federal government's annual budget. Local and state governments have cut their much larger costs only half a billion dollars. This fact is the heart of the tax problem at the present time.

Local services generally contain more duplication and waste than those furnished by the government in Washington. Many city and county officials are paid for walking around in one another's tracks. Two assessors, two tax collectors are maintained where one could do the work more efficiently.

Small road building units are paid for at heavy cost, when the state could do the work much less expensively and much better.

But, while there is local perception of these facts, little is done about it. Most taxpayers have their noses too close to the grindstone to give the necessary time and thought to organizing successful crusades against wasteful local government.

On the other hand, the men who support the federal government, income taxpayers, have plenty of money with which to carry on the fight for cuts in their tax budgets. Through countless devices the attention of the country is fixed upon this task until even owners of heavily taxed farms and homes begin to feel that the far-off government in Washington is more to blame for their troubles than the nearby government, to which no one is paying much attention.

Federal expenses must be cut, but local expenses must be cut more. Until county government is reformed or eliminated, special tax districts consolidated, cities required to cut out all dead wood, homes will continue to be sold for taxes.

HANDS OFF THE COLLEGES!

Disquieting is the report just made to the New Haven convention of the American Association of University Professors on cases of current tampering with free teaching.

Professor S. A. Mitchell of the University of Virginia reported a large increase in cases of political and religious interference in 1931 and 1932 over 1929. There were sixty-six cases this year, compared with seventeen in 1929.

The most flagrant case was removal of eighteen professors from Texas Technological college. Intimidation there appeared to have been potent enough to frighten all the remaining faculty members from serving on an investigating committee.

Governor "Alfalfa" Bill Murray of Oklahoma is accused of having demanded the resignation of a college president for failure to prevent professors from attending a forbidden political rally.

The chief offenses are reported from the 400 smaller colleges, especially in the south, "where

political and religious prejudices menace freedom and tenure."

These assaults on liberty and science are doubly deplorable at this time. While men like Newton D. Baker are striving to save free education from unwise economies, politicians should be given no spurious excuse to lay hands on the colleges.

Today, above all other times, education and research are needed. Bankers, captains of industry, statesmen, and other guides of the nation are bewildered and helpless before new problems. Where may they turn for objective guidance if not to the institutions of higher learning?

The United States has invested more than a half-billion dollars in its colleges and universities. If any adequate return on this generous investment is expected, these institutions must be manned by free and unfettered scientists and teachers. Otherwise, they will fail the nation in its most serious crisis.

The political busy-bodies and religious Mrs. Grundys should be forced to keep impious hands out of the colleges.

HOW WE HAVE SUFFERED

The dominant note of the depression has been that "we all have suffered." Samuel Insull, for example, uttered such words some months before his debacle.

This illusion of a real democracy of misery in depression America is exploded very sadly by one of the ablest and most distinguished of living economists, Professor Paul H. Douglas, in an article on "Whose Depression?" in The World Tomorrow.

The most crucial item connected with the depression and the possible ways out is the distribution of American purchasing power. Until the masses get the money in their pockets to buy commodities, all talk about gold standards, tariffs, war debts, foreign trade, taxes, bonuses, boycotts, and the like is the merest twaddle, when it comes to any hope of opening our factories and getting business to humming once more under capitalistic auspices.

Professor Douglas' article sticks to this theme with the relentless persistence and the results are devastating. First, he considers the total amounts paid in wages to American workers in manufacturing industries since 1928, using that year as 100 in the index. The following is the story told by the United States bureau of labor statistics:

Year	(1928 equals 100)
1926	100
1927	97
1928	95
1929	100
1930	80
1931	60
1932 (to September)	38

In short, in September of this year, the money wages paid to laborers in all manufacturing industries were only a little more than one-third of what they were in 1928. But many will retort that the cost of living also has declined. True, but to no comparable degree.

Since 1929 the cost of living has declined by about 20 per cent, according to the best index available. After making allowances for this decline, even the real wages (wages in terms of purchasing power) of manufacturing workers are in 1932 only 49 per cent of what they were in 1928.

When one goes beyond the manufacturing workers and brings within his ken all seventeen classified wage-earning groups, the laboring army of the United States, Professor Douglas estimates that their total wage income in 1932 could not have been more than 45 per cent of what it was in 1929.

Here we have the clinical bulletin of the patient whose recovery must precede the revival of prosperity for American society as a whole.

Some thirteen to fifteen millions are out of work and the wage income—the core of American purchasing power—of those working is less than half of the income in wages in 1929.

What about the "fellow-sufferers" who clip coupons and cash dividend checks? Have they slipped comparably? Not unless one concentrates on the misleading figures relative to depreciation of paper values on the stock exchange.

Their income has held up phenomenally. The following are the figures on interest and dividends since 1926, compiled by the august and conservative Standard Statistics Company:

Year	Total dividends and interest payments (in millions)	Relative Amounts
1926	4,391	100
1927	5,571	129
1928	6,028	137
1929	7,598	173
1930	8,578	196
1931	8,228	187
1932 (estimate)	7,000	160

In other words, with wages at 45 per cent of what they were in 1929 and 1929, total disbursements for dividends and interest still are 60 per cent above what they were in 1926, and only 8 per cent below the "New Jerusalem" level of 1929.

Just Plain Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

THE surest way for a man to get married is to join a Bachelors' Club.

The Columbus (O.) Citizen recently carried a story of such an organization which was formed twenty-five years ago, and of which only one unmarried member remains.

Elaborate resolutions denouncing girls and solemn vows of celibacy add lure to the forbidden. The only way to resist women is to cultivate them. Distance always lends enchantment, but to nothing so much as to the feminine half of creation.

St. Anthony, thinking himself protected from women's wiles in the emptiness of the desert, discovered that one can not flee that temptation, and his days were filled with visions of incomparable loveliness and in his dreams he saw more beautiful maidens than any he ever could have found anywhere in life.

Man can not get away from woman, because his own nature betrays him.

And that seriously should desire to do so is an evidence of somewhat limited thinking. In the great and enduring scheme of things, there always must be the male and the female. The one never is wholly complete without the other.

THIS is why, regardless of our specious arguments, it is impossible to plan one's life without including some sort of companionship, legal or illegal, with the opposite sex.

And assuredly the pleasantest companionship is to be found in marriage. All other ways are unsatisfactory, hollow and without meaning. Kingdoms may fall and empires vanish. Depressions may come and go, but marriage remains.

It remains, and survives all the cults and isms of reformers and cranks, all the bestialities of fools, the sophistries of wise men, and the onslaughts of the thing we speak of periodically as modernism.

Sophistication will not be able to overthrow it and revolutions can not destroy it utterly, because it represents one of man's immortal strivings toward perfection.

And it is based fundamentally as much upon the spirit as on the flesh. Often in a world of chaos it is the only enduring reality.

Whataya Mean—No Kick?



It Seems to Me . . . by Heywood Broun

THE scientists who gathered in convention at Atlantic City had good right to be startled at some of the successes of our ancestors which were laid before them.

The fact that the Chinese had a pretty good idea about evolution in 400 B. C., surprised me rather less than the announcement that much of our modern dentistry was known to the wise men among the Incas more than 3,000 years ago.

The gold inlay believed to be newfangled here in 1907, already was old stuff to the pre-Columbian native tribes. They also knew how to transplant and implant teeth, a secret we have lost. In fact, the moderns only are beginning to catch up, for after the golden age of the Chinese and the Incas dentistry fell back upon days of desuetude. It knew its dark ages and also its adolescence.

Suiting Age to Teeth

A GENTLEMAN with a toothache wishing to place himself on that page of history where he might be calculated to get the most relief would avoid with rigor any touch of Cromwell or of Charles. For that matter, he would find slight relief among any of the Louises, and there was no court of George or Henry to provide an adequate haven. Back to the Incas and the colonists of Spain would be much the best bet, in spite of the road work.

There is quite a little literature

about the dental difficulties of one of our great men who and the mixture to live before the moderns and yet too late to benefit by the wisdom of the Incas. It is well known that George Washington were false teeth during his second administration, and they were not without political significance.

He is pictured as stern and forbidding in almost all the later Stuart portraits, and that thin grim line along the mouth represented faulty dentistry.

Secret Was Dental

THE growing friction between the great man and those who once delighted to do him honor may have a definite relationship to the torturing mechanism which Washington was obliged to carry in his mouth. And yet I was glad to learn, rather late in life, of this misfortune of the Father of Our Country.

I read an account by a contemporary of a dinner at the executive mansion, and in it George Washington was not presented in attractive guise. The writer set down the fact that throughout the elaborate function Washington said not a single word and glowered continuously.

And this shocked me, since I had always thought of the gentleman from Mount Vernon as patriot and good fellow as well. But it was my own dentist who set my mind at rest. Dr. K. has a habit of skipping a little, and

so sometimes it is difficult to catch his train of thought until it arrives at some central depot.

For instance, I was not telepathic enough to follow him when he suddenly exclaimed in the middle of some delicate adjustment, "I saw his teeth yesterday!" I managed to indicate by means of violent pantomime with my right hand and shoulder that I didn't have the slightest idea what teeth he was talking about.

Follower of Teeth

"YES," said the doctor, "I was at the museum of the Baltimore College of dental surgery yesterday, and I saw George Washington's false teeth. I've seen them many times."

I forgot to ask him whether he had come to Baltimore just to see the teeth or whether he had some more prosaic business on the trip. Dr. K. is an incurable romantic, and to him Washington's teeth are just what the tomb of Napoleon would be to a grandson of the Old Guard.

"I don't suppose," continued Dr. K., "that they be considered very good teeth by modern standards. They didn't have porcelain then, the dentists didn't—they didn't really have what you'd call dentists. They carved them out of ivory."

"Of course, they didn't know anything about suction. That was a man called Dr. Greenwood. I know his grandson—good man on root canal work. He fastened them in with gold springs—one on each side. I guess they must have joggled around a good deal."

And so now I know that no flaw in character was responsible for the fact that Washington glowered in his later days. No wonder he was silent all through that dinner, as the wild goose and the muton and the venison were passed in front of him. It was neither his manners nor his morale which was slipping.

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People's Voice

Editor Times—Let's congratulate the Indianapolis Street Car Company on its beautiful new street cars, but not on its rates or service.

Of the middle of the worst depression of the century, with labor, steel rails and all other railway equipment at the cheapest price in a decade, with more people riding the street cars than ever before, and paying the same fare charged before the depression, the street car company tries to cover up the fact that it is giving us inferior service on one-man cars with a big ballyhoo about its new street cars and buses.

Of course these are alibis. They claim they will arrange to keep all the men. But let's not be fools, if one man runs a car alone, the street car company has no further use for the other.

Riding a badly crowded Illinois street car recently, which needed a conductor to distribute its load, I saw a woman get caught in an automatic door when the motor-man could not possibly see her. Only her scream and the quick action of a male passenger saved her from becoming a mangled corpse.

We are paying enough for street car service that safety should be

M. E. Tracy Says:

THERE'S HOPE IN NEW YEAR

THE year just ended was a tough old year, but not without signs of hope. The continuance of depression has been marked by a hardening of human character all along the line. Compromising, soft-soap methods of recovery have given way to a more positive attitude.

Not only here, but in all lands people are reconciling themselves to the stubborn fact that their one chance lies in greater exertion, not on the part of a few, but by every one.

The very presence of temper, even though it verges on wrath, is reassuring. There is no danger of a man freezing to death once he gets mad enough to thrash around and talk loud. The same thing is true of nations in distress.

We are getting healthily sore—sore about war debts, prohibition, taxes, credit restriction, the failure of business to revive automatically, and other conditions.

Last summer our two great parties called for repeal of the eighteenth amendment. Last fall we dared to "swap horses in midstream." Just now we are letting European governments know that they can not get concessions for the mere asking.

To sensitive souls, all this may seem rather crude, if not dangerous, but to us common folk it looks like a revival of the old American spirit, and we hail it as marking the end of scientific baby paps.

Situation Calls for Real Remedies

GROVER CLEVELAND once said that we face conditions, not theories.

The things that have happened to us are very real and call for real remedies.

In form, they may have the appearance of novelty, but in principle they are moth-eaten with repetition.

There are no new cures in the glutted markets and restrictive tariffs which have spoiled trade or in the hoarding by which people with cash have sought to protect themselves.

Civilization overproduced in certain lines of endeavor, which means that it underproduced in others.

We were infatuated with the idea that life could be industrialized, commoditized and mechanized. Art, culture and refinement were sidetracked for business efficiency and speculative profit.

Like the chattering hordes of Babel, we tried to reach heaven by building skyscrapers and mistook the discomfort of unnecessary congestion for progress.

Turn for Better Is Marked

GOOD musicians found themselves out of work and good books failed to sell long before some of our great factories closed.

Racketeering was regarded as a first-class job, because so many were in it and because it brought such quick returns. Much crime had to be tolerated and overlooked to preserve bootlegging. It was a grand spree of compromise and makeshift, with America right out in front.

Solemn treaties became mere scraps once more, despite the crosses in northern France. The Constitution was mocked and laws were given hardly a second thought.

This terrible year marked low tide in the ebb of moral stamina, but, by the same token, it marked a turn.

We are about ready to admit that human weakness and human folly were at the bottom of this depression, and that's half the battle won for recovery.

Every Day Religion

BY DR. JOSEPH FORT NEWTON

IS the world growing better?

The question must be answered both yes and no, because the world does not advance in all ways with equal rapidity. Our real problem is to find out in what ways it is moving forward, and in what ways, if any, it is slipping back, or barely holding its own.

The question itself is new, for in ancient times men took it for granted that the race was going down hill to the bad.

In our knowledge of nature and its forces, we are ahead of any age in the past. The race is healthier than it ever has been; life is longer; the great plagues have been defeated, or well nigh so. Humanity is less brutal—it has more social imagination, more pity; it is more sensitive to pain.

By travel, by trade, by art we have a better understanding among the peoples of the earth.

THE earth is a whispering gallery and a hall of mirrors; we know all that goes on—which may be why some folk

think that it is worse than of yore. Yet men now living have seen the downfall of slavery, the rights of children secured, prison punishment improved, and money to dumb brutes; and, greatest of all, the insight that wrong is wrong, whether done by the king, the church or the state. Huge evils which the past accepted as a part of the order of things now rise up before us in horror. War, once glorified with glory, now is a sin in religion and a crime in the public law of the world. If the test of an age is in its tolerance, our time is far in advance of any age gone by. Outbreaks of savagery, of persecution even, are possible today, but the world does not consent. If we measure an age by its moral assumptions, by the things to which it gives its consent, then our age, with all its shortcomings, moves on a higher level than any age gone. If we fall far below our ideal, it is because our ideal is higher and harder to hit. (All rights reserved by Science Service, Washington, D. C.)

Questions and Answers

Q—How old is the earth?

A—A new formula, based on measurements of the constant disintegration of radio active elements, shows the earth to be at least 1,850,000,000 years old, according to Professor Alois F. Kovarik of the Yale physics department. Dr. Frank Schlesinger, astronomer of Yale university, estimates 3,000,000,000 years as the earth's age.

Q—Of what is the centrosphere composed?

A—The actual composition of the centrosphere, or central portion of the earth, is unknown, but from a study of the tides and of the configuration of the earth, scientists have determined that the material in the earth's core must be as rigid as steel.

Q—What is the average hourly consumption of electricity by a toaster compared with that of a seven-tube radio set?

A—The average electric toaster consumes from 300 to 600 watts an hour and the average seven-tube radio consumes from 75 to 100 watts.

Q—How many certified public accountants are there in the United States?

A—About 8,000.

provided for our mothers and wives and children. Let's demand of the street car company that it give work to earnest men with families, who want to work, instead of first thing in the middle of this depression.

JOHN M. O'CONNOR.

DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Notable Physicians Died in 1932

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEN

Editor Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygieia, the Health Magazine.

many physicians and that problems of distribution are particularly pressing. At the same time, it opposes attempts to put medicine on a mass-production basis.

A FEW years ago means were discovered for raising the temperature of the body by passing electric currents through it. This method now has been added with advantage to the control of certain cases of general paralysis, and there is the possibility that it may have value in other types of disease.

Experiments are being made in such conditions as multiple sclerosis and various disorders of slow development and unsuccessful treatment, like paralysis agitans or the shaking palsy.

DURING the year many notable physicians died.

Among them was Ronald Ross, credited with discovering the means of transmission of malaria, who received the Nobel prize for his work.

Others who died in 1932 included Babinski, famous French specialist in nervous diseases, who has a reflex named after him; Dr. Frank Billings, leader of medicine in the United States and a citizen of Chicago who treated out of the notable people of the middle west, and Dr. William Sydney Thayer, emeritus professor of medicine in Johns Hopkins university medical school, a first assistant of Sir William Osier.