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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

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TAXES AND STANDARDS

Just how far will the standards of government be reduced before they meet the capacity of the people to pay taxes?

The question is fast becoming more than an academic one and frantic, even desperate, business men and farmers and home owners are trying to devise means and plans to balance the tax budget with their capacity to pay.

The suggestion that those who have escaped taxation for years through putting their wealth into so-called intangibles instead of real property will strike many as not only just, but necessary.

As against the sales tax, which is wrong, as Governor McNutt declared in principle, it has much to commend it. And, incidentally, any method which is wrong in principle is even worse in an emergency. Then its results mean disaster.

That the business interests of the state look upon any sales tax as increasing their difficulties and inviting bankruptcy for many independent merchants should carry some warning to the legislature.

Above all else, there is a growing sentiment that all tax legislation and appropriations must be reduced to the simple terms of capacity to pay.

The local units of government carry huge bonded indebtedness. The interest charges on these debts take precedence over all other expenditures of government. They come ahead of wages and salaries and services that have become essential to orderly living.

The amount of income of the state, from all sources, has been cut almost in half. Cutting taxes in half would mean more than cutting down half the ordinary functions. It would mean more than cutting out half the teachers, half the policemen, half the sanitary workers and health facilities.

For after the interest charges on debt are paid, there would be only enough left to pay about one-fourth of the ordinary charges.

Poor relief costs are mounting and under the law, these must be met. It would be too dangerous for those who have wealth not to pay these.

In such a situation, it might be the part of wisdom, while trying to decide what to keep and how to pay, to start something to put men back to work.

This city and other cities can borrow from the government for self-liquidating projects. It might be better to pledge the future for such projects and put some men back to work and thus increase the purchasing power of the public before utterly abandoning the standards of government and the educational systems. The policemen, of course, will be kept. They are necessary.

THE STIMSON DOCTRINE STANDS

The state department chose the proper moment to reaffirm the Stimson doctrine of nonrecognition of the fruits of conquest. Rumors were current in European capitals that the United States was withdrawing from its far-eastern policy in support of the treaties.

Significantly, these rumors were timed to coincide with the latest pro-Japanese move of the major powers to prevent effective league action.

The state department has instructed its diplomats to inform the powers that the Stimson policy stands. If the powers decide to continue their treaty-wrecking policy in support of Japanese militarism, they at least will not be able to do so under a pretense of American acquiescence.

Obviously, Japan feels certain that Great Britain and France will pull the teeth of the league. Otherwise, Japan hardly would have chosen the precise time of the meeting of the league committee of nineteen on the Manchurian dispute for her new conquest of Jehol.

In fact, the major powers on the league committee recently sent to Japan a draft resolution, in effect throwing down the league's Lytton report and omitting virtually everything to which Japan objected in the original draft.

This was done even without informing the Chinese delegate, who protested this committee partisanship at the opening session in Geneva Monday. The smaller nations, led by Spain, are in favor of upholding the league covenant and the Kellogg treaty, but to date the big powers have been able to dictate to the league.

It has been said that the powers were encouraged in their anti-treaty tactics by the Washington stalemate occasioned by the change in administrations. That sounds reasonable.

But the small chance that the next administration might join the foreign powers in ignoring the treaties is even smaller, now that Secretary Stimson and Mr. Roosevelt have held their conference.

It is certain that Secretary Stimson would not have reaffirmed the American policy if the President-elect had been hostile to such course.

Indeed, no administration honorably could revoke the Stimson policy without formally abrogating the treaties.

PREVENT ANOTHER WAR

How to cut down governmental expenses is a major problem of the moment. This has encouraged the publication of a revised and enlarged edition of Congressman James M. Beck's "Our Wonderful of Bureaucracy." Beck has been the chief thunder against the evils and expense of what he terms the growing bureaucracy and state socialism in the American federal system.

Mr. Beck presents an impressive statistical picture of our increased expenditures, especially since 1911, interlarded with the piquant rhetoric for which he is so justly famous. He falls into the examples of "state socialism," such as the shipping board, the farm board and the like.

He lambastes the federal government for entering into competition with private business, and even assaults the postoffice department, with its horde of overworked and underpaid functionaries, as "one of the most extravagant of all departments of the government."

The congressman is especially hot against governmental activity which directly or indirectly may benefit the mass of Americans.

Now any exposure of governmental extravagance is especially timely right now, but for two good reasons.

Mr. Beck is not the man to write such a book. In the first place, he and those like him back in 1914-17 were the men primarily responsible for the vast increase in our current federal expenditures which he now so dolorously deprecates.

Beck was probably the foremost of those who misrepresented the issues of the World war and helped us spill our blood and waste our fortunes to restore Alsace-Lorraine to France, to grab the German colonial empire for the British empire, and to attempt to confer the Straits upon the Romanoffs. And he is still regenerate. Not so long ago he definitely asserted that he would do it all over again if he had opportunity.

As a result of this fatal bias, Mr. Beck gives a totally false impression of the fundamental responsibility for alarming growth of federal expenditures. He would shift the blame from his own shoulders to those of men like Senators La Follette, Wagner, et al., who propose to use federal funds to benefit the common people, and to the politicians who are looking for petty jobs for hungry constituents.

More important still, he gives the impression that it is the philosophy of state socialism which is about to undo the solvency of Uncle Sam, when it is actually the philosophy of militarism which has well-nigh ruined him already and may well throw him into pauperism in the near future.

A few figures here will prove illuminating. Back in 1916, the last year before we entered the war, we had a federal budget of only \$782,534,546. Our national debt—\$1,235,145,568—was a mere trifle for so rich and prosperous a state. It was only \$11.86 per capita.

Our federal tax rate was far lower than that of any other great modern nation. We were enjoying a progressive administration which seemed destined to work out a socio-political system embodying some measure of efficiency and decency within the general framework of capitalism. It is doubtful if the United States was at any other time so prosperous and promising as in the autumn of 1916.

By 1930, federal expenditures, to use Mr. Beck's own figures, had skyrocketed to \$4,174,546, and they have shot up still further since. And we have a great national debt—\$16,801,483,143 in 1931—hanging like a millstone about our necks. It will be carried by our grandchildren. It is \$134.40 per capita.

It is not the liberal senators, the "bonus boys" or the "bureaucrats" of 1933 who are primarily to blame. It is the patrioters of 1914-17, of whom Mr. Beck was the drum major.

Further, it is not humanitarianism which will undermine us, but militarism. In fact, it was the surrender to militarism which made it so difficult for us to find money to support humanitarianism.

DEMOCRATIC ECONOMY

The new war department appropriation bill does not augur well for fulfillment of Democratic economy pledge.

The victorious party promised during the campaign to cut federal expenditures 25 per cent. It already is in control of the house of representatives, but on one of the worst swollen items of the budget it recommends economies of only an infinitesimal fraction of 1 per cent.

The Democrats abandon the fight they carried on with so much reason and courage last year for reduction of the officer personnel of the army, and follow the amazing course of increasing by more than \$9,000,000 the amount President Hoover considered sufficient for the national guard.

A year's work has convinced most of those working with the problem that further large economies can not be made in the civilian branch of federal government. When the economy drive began, military expenditures were taking approximately 55 per cent of the annual cost of operating the government. Civilian departments were receiving about 45 per cent of this total. And in the last two years it is this second group—the civilian government—that has borne the brunt of budget cuts.

Little visible progress is being made toward reduction of the staggering annual expenditure for veterans. Proposals to reduce the \$700,000,000 interest charge, by refinancing the public debt at a lower interest rate, are receiving little serious consideration.

And now the third big budget item escapes unscathed from the pruning knife.

If party platforms are to be more than scraps of paper and party leaders more than campaign come-on men, real savings must be made, not sham ones, no matter what obstructive pressure or influence is brought to bear.

It is a strange type of mind that fails to grasp, in these tragic times, that money saved the taxpayer or money spent to assure Americans three meals a day and a chance to earn a living is better national defense than a large, expensive army.

Just Plain Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

NOW and then we must be thankful for inhibitions. I believe I am right in saying that the reading public is bored with the love lives of those individuals who feel urged to set them down in print.

Anyway, it is a distinct relief to get the autobiography of Mary Austin—who grew up in the relict period—and who consequently keeps her love affairs to herself, while she writes entertainingly and often excellently of the profounder things of the human soul.

The trend in literature seems to be away from the sex stuff with which we are all surfeited. And that indeed is a blessing.

How does a person acquire the idea that all the world is interested in his or her sexual reactions? The only love life that could by any stretch of imagination be called by such a name is one that is clothed in decent privacy.

The minute you expose the delicate emotions of the heart to the curiosity of the multitudes, you have not love, but exhibitionism.

AND what a circus parade, what a pageant of heart throbs, we have witnessed during recent years! So continuous and so many have they been that they have left us skeptical of sincerity. We have been so busy dissecting sex that we have forgotten there is such a thing as love that transcends the physical.

We have wallowed in the gutter, and our loves have become gutter loves—vacillating, short-lived, undependable, without meaning and without value. What this orgy of dirt and indecency has done to us, only the future can tell, but that it has not helped our character or contributed to our happiness already is a certainty.

Love that is ballyhooed on every street corner is not likely ever to prove durable or worth having. The truth is that the spasmodic emotionalism so much exploited by a certain type of writer is something far removed from love, so far removed in fact that they who talk about it most are incapable of understanding it.

Their words mean nothing. True love does live in the hearts and souls of men and women. But in its finest form, it always is inarticulate.

Presto—Change—O!!



It Seems to Me by Heywood Brown

I CAN NOT get the point of view of those who wish to retain the Philippine Islands. Once upon a time there was a warlike group which contended that Manila would be an essential cooling station for us if we were engaged in a far eastern war, but now the military and the naval men seem to be agreed that the islands would be a handicap rather than a help in case of conflict.

Nor is there much appeal any more in the cry that the American flag once raised never must be hauled down. Upon the part of the public at least the imperialistic urge which swept the country during the Spanish-American war has slowed down to a walk.

This seems to be an era in which empires fare not so very well, and the American experiment as a colonizer has not been a happy one.

No Profit, No Glory

IT would be overoptimistic to say that dollar diplomacy is dead, but several of our extra-territorial adventures have yielded even less in profits than in glory.

For instance, I do not personally believe that the last marine left Nicaragua because of a united demand of our voters for non-interference. I rather incline to the belief that intervention had ceased to be paying business—if, indeed, it ever was.

Accordingly, I can not join in the horrified protest of those who say we must keep the Philippines

Questions and Answers

Q—How did the abbreviation "Xmas" for Christmas originate?

A—The explanation is that the initial letter of the Greek name for Christ is X, and the coincidence of its cruciform shape led to an early adoption of this letter as the figure and symbol of Christ. X frequently is found on the walls of the Catacombs. When the early Christians wished to make a representation of the trinity, they placed either a cross or an X beside the names of the Father and the Holy Ghost. From this came the shortened form "Xmas" for "Christmas."

Q—How many votes were lacking in the senate to convict President Johnson on the impeachment charges?

A—The vote was one less than the required two-thirds.

Q—Who was Benjamin Baneker?

A—A Negro astronomer.

Q—Are all banks in Italy owned by the Italian government?

A—No.

Q—Does each star in the United States flag represent a certain state?

A—No.

Q—Are there more male than female Negroes in the United States?

A—The 1930 census enumerated 5,855,669 males and 6,035,474 females.

because many of the forces behind the campaign for freedom are purely selfish. I think it is a great evil for any nation to do a wrong thing for its own advantage. But I think it is not only evil, but insane for a country to do a wrong thing which also works against its own best interests.

And so those who fight for Philippine independence because of mercenary reasons should not be denied a place in the ranks.

I think I fairly may assert a claim to being disinterested. Not by the most elaborate system of bookkeeping can I figure that I will be a nickel better off or worse after our divorce from the far-flung islands. And so I think that I am moved chiefly by the notion that the Filipinos should be free because they desire freedom.

I never was much moved by any of the arguments which contended that we should keep tight hold because freedom would be bad for the islanders. That may be so. I don't profess to know. But freedom is bad for many peoples, and yet it is essential.

It's Their Business

GEORGE THE THIRD, with equal logic, might have contended that such things could not be. He would insist on an inflation to four pigs in deference to the sanctity of American womanhood. Or he would abolish pig currency. He even might attempt to make marriage law and custom precisely as it is in America.

And what would happen then? The only result would be that eligible bachelors, a pig clasped under each arm, would tap at basement gates and say: "You know me, I got a wife and last week with Bob and Charlie." (Copyright, 1933, by The Times)

Every Day Religion

BY DR. JOSEPH FORT NEWTON

EVEN as a child, Robert Louis Stevenson was frail, and often had to be kept prisoner in his room. In the twilight he loved to press his little face against the window-pane and watch the lamp-lighter lighting the lamps in the street.

"What are you doing, Robert?" said his nurse, who caught him watching the magic scene. "I'm watching the man knocking 'in holes in the darkness," said the boy.

After all, what is all our education, our science, our philanthropy, but so many ways of knocking holes in the darkness of ignorance, of fear, of misery round about us? Our religion, too, has no other meaning when it is real and works every day—that is what it adds up to in the end.

My late friend General Booth, of the Salvation Army, told me a story about the famous singer, Jenny Lind, which proves the case.

JENNY LIND met an old woman going to the poorhouse, gave her a coin, and talked with her near the gate. The old woman thanked her warmly, and said that people were very kind and God truly was good.

DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

BY DR. MORRIS FISHEIN

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

from the mouth and nose of infected persons to others. Occasionally it may be carried by a healthy person who is not himself infected, and thus distributed to others. There seems to be reason to believe that the overcrowding and the innumerable human contacts associated with modern life aid in the dissemination particularly of diseases of the mouth, nose, throat and lungs.

It has been found that the germs causing pneumonia may be divided into several types. The germs of types 1, 2 and 3, as they are called—which are classified according to the methods of bacteriology and immunology, not easily understandable by one untrained in these subjects—cause about 80 per cent of pneumonia. Type 4 causes about 20 per cent.

A direct injury to the tissue of the lung, such as might occur from inhaling poison gas, or such as might occur from inhaling some foreign body which would cause an irritation, will open the way for infection by the germ of pneumonia.

Next—How pneumonia is contracted.

M.E. Tracy Says:

HOARDERS LOSE IN LONG RUN

YOU can buy about twice as much with a dollar today as you could four years ago. That means that you must give about twice as much to get a dollar.

We are not dealing with a wholly independent law of supply and demand, but with one which can be, and has been, definitely affected by money.

No matter how much people may want a thing, they must do without it if they do not have, are unable to earn, or can not borrow the required amount of money.

No matter how anxious or how willing people may be to produce things, it is impossible for them to do so unless they possess or can borrow the necessary capital.

Money has gone so high in relation to other things that those who have it or can get hold of it are obsessed with the idea of hanging on to it. However unwise such attitude may be from a social standpoint, it is human.

Nine out of ten people, even those who have been hurt and are loudest in their complaints, would do the same thing if they were in the other fellow's place. All of us want something that is up and promises to rise in value.

Owners of Cash Hug It Tight

TWO years ago we heard a great deal about hoarding. If people only would loosen up, we were told, and put their money back in the banks, the credit situation presently would right itself.

I do not know, and I do not believe that any one else knows, how many people took this advice, but it is a matter of common knowledge that banks are hugging their cash as tight as any scared old maid ever did.

Land, buildings, stocks, bonds, and other securities have fallen, and are continuing to fall. Hoarded cash and restrained credit help the process. Those who have cash and who can keep it appear to be making a good profit without effort.

Speaking loosely, the man worth \$100,000 in real estate four years ago is worth only \$50,000 now, while the man worth \$100,000 in cash at that time is worth at least \$200,000 because of what he can buy.

Merchants, manufacturers, farmers, and professional men gradually are being ruined by the shrunken value of the wares in which they deal; unemployment is increasing, and markets are drying up because of reduced buying power.

Only those in possession of actual money are better off, and they won't be in the end unless the tide turns. In the end, wealth must look to work, enterprise, and mass buying power for security.

Critical Point Reached in Decay

WE have reached a critical point in this cancerous growth of economic decay. Something drastic must be done to reduce the value of money to a proper relation with the value of other things.

In 1926, France stabilized the franc at 4 cents in gold, which was about one-fifth of its normal value, and which made it possible for the laboring man, the manufacturer, and the merchant to get acquainted with many francs with which to liquidate debt and transact business as before.

France wasn't forced off the gold standard, nor was her credit shaken to any great extent, but her credit structure and her industrial system made an immediate and favorable response.

Our government could declare an ounce of gold worth \$40 instead of \$20 as at present, and thereby make it twice as easy for the average citizen to get dollars in exchange for work, service, or goods.

Such action would, of course, shrink the dollar by 50 per cent, but that is no more than has happened to wheat, cattle, labor, real estate, and practically everything else.

SCIENCE

Diabetes Deaths Soar

BY DAVID DIETZ

THE death rate from diabetes has been steadily increasing over the last decade and now is the highest that it has ever been in the history of America. That is the conclusion reached by Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman, well-known statistician.

Diabetes is one of the so-called degenerative diseases, that is, diseases which involve the deterioration of an internal organ.

The statistician of ex-President Calvin Coolidge served to center attention on what probably is the most important of this group of diseases, namely, heart disease. But the medical profession today is equally concerned about all of them.

Statistics show an increase in all degenerative diseases and also in cancer. There are two opinions about the subject. Some authorities think that the increase is due to the fact that more people live to old age. They point out that fewer infants and young children are killed by the diseases of childhood.

It is to be expected, therefore, that since more people reach an old age, more of them will die from the wearing out of the arteries or some internal organ, the heart or the liver, for example, or that they will succumb to cancer.

The other school of thought believes that nervous tension, too much speed, living conditions inimical to health, and similar facts, are causing a real increase in these diseases.

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Times Readers Voice Views . .

Editor Times—Regarding the eighteenth amendment, repeal and beer, I wish to present a few salient facts. Paraphrased briefly, the eighteenth amendment reads: "Thou shalt not poison thyself or thy neighbor with alcoholic poisons." And it surely should be amended to include "narcotic poisons," which are the more important, and were outlawed first by statute.

The United States constitutional amendments or the original can not be repealed except by amendment in the regular way of two-thirds of both house and senate separately and three-fourths of the states within a limited time.

The "resubmission" of the eighteenth amendment to the people is contradictory, silly and impossible. This is the confessed loose plank, wet on one side and dry on the other, which pro-tem and burst the reactionary platform.

It will take some time to amend the eighteenth amendment, misnamed repeal, but the Volstead law can and will be repealed quickly and an honest and sincere law put in its place, which will be enforced honestly and obeyed.

It will, in line with the "Thou shalt not poison thyself nor thy neighbor with alcoholic nor narcotic poisons," legalize 2% or 3% or 4% per cent wine and beer as it is now, but will be sold just as is the taxed beer-making malt now in groceries.

Thus the beer and wine will be pure and safe, so that the poison racketeers will be put out of business and strong drink taboo. W. J. Bryan's daughter, Congresswoman Ruth Owen, made the best speech and gave the clearest explanations during all the recent campaign, which hinged on something more important than a substitute for pure water to drink.

The people in this battle of ballots won most quickly and decisively a greater victory than any battle of carnage—yes, as much as any whole war, if not more.