

POLITICS OF THE DAY

WHO WILL PAY WAR TAXES?

Judging from the last report sent out from Washington about the war taxation bill, the corporations will not escape as easily as they expected to. The stamp taxes of the civil war period are to be revived almost in their entirety. Everything in the nature of an order to pay money, or a promise to pay it, is to bear a stamp from two cents up to dollars, as was the case formerly, and new sources of revenue are found in the express business, where each package handled appears to be scheduled to pay from one cent up.

Life insurance corporations also are going to be compelled to contribute to a considerable degree, but that will probably be taken first of all from the policy holders. As the bill is said to stand, it imposes a tax of 20 cents on every \$1,000 of insurance, which is likely to amount to a considerable sum.

Patent medicine corporations are also coming in again for a considerable tax—probably a cent on every twenty-five cents' worth—retail price—of nostrums put on the market. Mineral waters, in bottles—in which a large trade is done now—are also liable to contribute heavily to the expense of the war with Spain. Every pint is to pay a cent.

These taxes will, however, not furnish the bulk of the \$120,000,000 or more a year that it is proposed to raise in addition to what the present Dingley law brings in. The largest amount to be obtained from a single industry is expected to be secured by increasing the tax on beer from \$1 to \$2 a barrel. In this way about \$40,000,000, or one-third of the whole additional revenue, is to be raised. Tobacco, including cigarettes, is to furnish another \$20,000,000 or more.

It is a satisfaction to know that the Congressmen having the framing of the bill in charge are not yet agreed as to the wisdom of taxing tea and coffee. A duty of 10 cents a pound was at first proposed on the former and a duty of three cents on the latter, but the question whether the masses were to be singled out to pay more than their share of the cost of the war has frightened the attorneys of the rich, who have been running this Congress pretty much as they pleased.

There is every probability now, therefore, that the distribution of the burden of taxation for the conduct of the war will be made on tolerably equitable lines, which, under the circumstances, is something to be devoutly thankful for.—New York News.

An Income Tax Proposed.

Hon. Mr. Cox of Tennessee has introduced into the House of Representatives a bill to levy an annual tax of two per cent. upon all incomes. So that the income tax question, which the Supreme Court of the United States equally failed to settle, has again arisen, and stalks abroad like an uneasy ghost.

It has been usual for the opponents of the Income Tax to excuse or account for its adoption by the Federal Government during the Civil War by saying that it was then resorted to in a time of public danger, "as a war power." If that were a good excuse in the war with the South, it might be claimed to be a good excuse during a war with Spain, such as we are now entering upon. But nobody, we suppose, who advocates the Income Tax, hopes to establish it by claiming it as a war power only.

The Democratic platform of 1896 calls for the re-enactment of an Income Tax, and Mr. Bryan ran as the champion of that demand for the Presidency in that year. Moreover, that platform took a direct issue with the Supreme Court of the United States, as then constituted. It declared that to defeat the Income Tax the present Judges had overruled the ablest among their predecessors who had sat on that bench.

And it pledged the Democratic party to the support of the principle involved, "to the end that wealth may bear its due proportion of the expenses of the Government."

The Income Tax in the Civil War was enacted by Republicans. But Mr. Cox is not likely to get many Republican votes in the House for his new proposal.

Passing of Sherman.

There is pathos in the passing of John Sherman, now ex-Secretary of State. The story of his appointment to a position he was not capable of filling is an unpleasant page in the history of McKinley's administration. Through this story runs the plot to make Mark Hanna a Senator of the United States.

McKinley recognized Hanna as the maker of his presidential fortunes and felt under obligations to repay him for services rendered. Hanna would not accept a cabinet position, but had an ambition to go to the Senate. Sherman was persuaded to resign his seat in the upper house and to accept the portfolio of state. This made the way open for Hanna, and Gov. Bushnell of Ohio was forced, much against his will, to appoint Hanna a Senator to fill out Sherman's unexpired term.

As was suggested at the time when this was made, Sherman, through the infirmities of age, was not equal to the task imposed on him. So far as Hanna is concerned, he has proved his unfitness for a Senator's position. He has done nothing worthy since he took Sherman's place, and his election for another term was one of the greatest scandals in the history of scandalous

THE FARM AND HOME

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO FARMER AND HOUSEWIFE.

Much Knowledge Is Required to Prune Trees Properly—Fertilizing Value of Clover, Beans and Peas—New Process for Drying Damp Grain.

Pruning Trees.

At the Michigan "round-up" institute last season, Prof. L. R. Taft in discussing pruning trees, said: "More knowledge is required to prune properly than to till properly. In pruning we need to know the habit of growth of each variety of plants as well as the social environment of each plant. In pruning young trees we strive to develop the best frame work to support the leaves and the fruit, and our pruning is directed to securing the proper distribution of fruit and leaves. We strengthen the stem by cutting back, bringing the head of the tree nearer the ground, giving the sap a less distance to travel, thus forming a thick and succulent trunk."

The trees should have low heads, first, because the trunks are thereby thickly shaded; second, the later pruning is done more evenly; third, the thinning of fruit is done more easily; fourth, the very act of cutting back helps the thinning of the fruit; fifth, the spraying can be much more easily and effectively done; and as the spray must be delivered in the form of a fine mist, the nearer we can get the nozzle to the branches the greater the economy of the fluid and the efficiency of the application. Finally, the fruit can much more easily be gathered from a low tree than a high one.

"For young trees of most kinds of fruit it is wise to head back fully one-half or even two-thirds. Select three to five strong shoots and cut back to five or six strong buds. Leave the center shoot and allow branches to come out, not from one point but at intervals along the upright stem. In that way there is less danger from crotches.

"Adjust the pruning to the habit of growth of the given variety. In spreading varieties have the shoot grow upright; in varieties already too upright have the buds so as to throw shoots to the side. While it is wise in the second spring to head back the shoot, do not carry this practice to excess in the peach tree for fear of forming too thick a head. Seek rather to widen the tree, by leaving the side branches from fifteen to eighteen inches long. After this, as with other kinds of fruit, head back one-half for four or five years. Avoid growing too much brush in the top; cut back so as not to have the head too dense. Prune early, preferably between March 15 and April 15."

Mineral Manure for Barley.

Barley needs to be grown very early to bring the best crop, and though its grain is larger than oats, and the blade of the young grain is broader, it may be greatly improved by putting in with the seed 150 to 200 pounds of concentrated fertilizer. There is little nitrogen in the soil in early spring, and if the barley be stunted it never fully recovers from it. This grain, like all others, depends on its leaves to furnish the carbon which composes so large a part of its bulk. If the leaf is made smaller than it should be it will not absorb so much carbonic acid gas from the air. But if the leaf growth is made rank by stable manure it is very likely to cause the leaf, and perhaps also the grain, to rust. The crop then will be worse than if no manure had been used. Mineral manures make the stalk harder, so that rust will be less likely to affect it, and this insures plump and well-filled grains.—American Cultivator.

Drying Damp Wheat.

A new process for artificially extracting moisture from wheat was put to a careful test in Berlin recently. The trial was carried out at the instance of Mr. Yerburgh, M. P., who sent over fifty quarters of English wheat to be submitted to the process. The result was satisfactory, over 6 per cent. of moisture being taken from the wheat—which was a very dry sample in excellent condition—while the heat to which it was subjected could not possibly affect it injuriously.

The principle of the process—viz., that of drying under a vacuum—has been applied to many articles of commerce, and the result of this trial is to show that it is equally well adapted to wheat. It is hardly necessary to point out that the subject is one of great interest to British farmers, who would be greatly benefited by the provision of facilities for getting their wheat into condition, particularly in a wet season. The full details of the trial will be laid before the agricultural committee on corn stores.—London Times.

Growing One's Own Nitrogen.

Nitrate of soda is extensively used for its nitrogen, and, as it is very soluble, it is at all times available for the use of plants. It contains about 16 per cent. of nitrogen, or 320 pounds per ton of 2,000 pounds. The cost of the nitrogen, at 15 cents per pound, is \$48 per ton of nitrate of soda. The price of nitrogen is not fixed, however, and varies according to the demand and supply. An application of 1,000 pounds of nitrate of soda is considered a large one, and 500 pounds is even far above the average. Estimating 1,000 pounds of nitrate of soda at \$25, and containing 160 pounds of nitrogen, it may be considered a large expenditure for a farmer to devote to one acre, but when the nitrogen is grown on the farm the gain to the farmer may be equal to the value of a crop that is sold in the market. A yield of four tons of clover hay on a farm is equivalent to 1,000 pounds of nitrate of soda in nitrogen, estimating each ton of hay as containing 40 pounds of nitrogen. Such a crop, there-

fore, if not harvested at all, and allowed to remain on the ground to be plowed in, would be equal to \$25 worth of fertilizers purchased for the nitrogen contained. But farmers are correct in utilizing clover hay as food for stock, as it is then not only converted into milk or meat, but that portion not utilized (undigested) is reduced to a more available condition for plants by being passed through the bodies of the animals. It is claimed, however, that the mass of roots and stubble left over in the ground is nearly equal to the tops, and the farmer, therefore, enriches his soil from that source.

Lettuce Preceding Cucumbers.

One of the favorite uses for the hothouse by market gardeners is in winter to grow successive crops of lettuce planting as many as three successions, and then following with a cucumber crop, which may continue bearing until all danger of frost is passed, and when the hothouse may be kept warm enough by the sun's rays shining in on the plants during the daytime. In fact, the sun will heat any hothouse too warm for any vegetable. The windows must be opened for ventilation all through the day. Some bees should be kept by every gardener who grows cucumbers, as they are necessary to carry the pollen from the male to the female blossoms. The male blossoms are the first that appear on the cucumber vine, and they are much visited by bees. So soon as the female blossoms appear the bees also visit them and fertilize the flowers. When cucumbers are grown on hothouses a swarm of bees inside the building devoted to this use is a necessity.

About Bees.

It is always best to start with a full colony of bees, and one that is in every way in first-class condition. It is true that you can buy a part of a colony for less money, but it is the dearest in the long run and more liable to be a failure with you. A full colony of bees in one season is capable of storing 100 or 200 pounds of honey; besides, they may swarm and make from one to three colonies; and more, a full colony of bees are in a condition to take care of themselves, and do not require such difficult manipulation as that of a nucleus, or pounds of bees, and a queen, etc. Full colonies are always sent in the ordinary hive used in the apriary, and are equipped with the necessary fixtures to have everything in working order the moment the bees are located, and the entrance opened.

Regular Feed for Calves.

In the spring the press of farm work is apt to cause neglect of farm stock, and especially in feeding calves. So long as the calf gets its regular feed, it is thought a matter of small moment whether it has this served at the usual hour, or whether it has been allowed to get cold. When the temperature is no longer freezing, the milk pail may stand from morning until noon with the calf milk in it, and, when given, the milk will so chill the calf's stomach as to do more harm than good. There is no surer way to produce diarrhoea or "scours" than to put a pailful of cold milk into the stomach of a half-starved calf. The stomach is immediately chilled, and its first effort is to rid itself, by purging, of the mass of cold fluid he goes to his doctor; the doctor never asks any questions, but just says: "Stop worrying about the laboring men and go to work."—W. J. Bryan.

Rooting Currant Cuttings.

It is very easy to make cuttings of either currant or gooseberry bushes. A foot length of last year's growth, with the end smoothed off and fixed standing in the soil, will put out roots from its smoothed surface. This will make the stem for the future plant.

Poultry Notes.

Feed a variety. Give breakfast at C. Exercise is an egg tonic. Hens won't lay if too fat. Milk is a complete egg food. The starved hen is worthless. Feed the mash warm—not hot. Underfed hens are poor layers. The morning mash is imperative. Let breakfast be only half a meal. Overcrowded flocks give few eggs. Cold quarters check egg production. Boiled wheat is a food much relished. Good stock almost always finds quick sale.

Feed night meal an hour before dusk. Proper feeding means health and profit.

Be very careful to keep the feed troughs clean.

Eggs sell better when sent to market in regular cases.

Beans are a good feed because they are nitrogenous.

The laying hen consumes more food than one not laying.

The early pullets are the profitable winter egg-producers.

Ten hens with one male make about the proper proportion.

Ten weeks from shell to market is the time allotted a chick.

Keep cabbages hanging in the house within reach of the fowls.

Egg shells ground to a powder make a good addition to the mash.

Ten flocks, each consisting of ten hens, are enough for an acre.

Ground oats, cornmeal and bran constitute proper foods for poultry.

Scatter the grain at noon among litter, so the fowls must exercise.

Steeped clover, mixed with the morning mash, is a great egg-producer.

Ten hens in a house 10x10 feet are enough. The yard should be at least ten times as large as the floor of the house.

Tulips are cultivated in Constantine, and there is a tulip festival there once a year in the spring.

THE PEOPLE'S MONEY

Honest Dollars.

You find a farmer that favors bimetallism, and you ask him why. He says: "It is good for me." The farmer is not worrying about somebody else—he has troubles enough of his own.

Find a laboring man who favors bimetallism, and he says he is for it because it is good for himself. Find a business man who favors bimetallism, and he tells you it is because it is good for himself. They all believe it is good for others also, but they believe first it is good for themselves. The farmer tells you he has found that under the rising dollar and falling prices his income is diminished, but that his taxes and fixed charges do not fall.

The laboring man tells you that when dollars are rising in value it is more profitable to hoard money and get the rise in value than it is to invest it and run the risk of falling prices. And the business man tells you that he makes his money not out of those from whom he borrows, but out of those to whom he sells, and he tells you that if they cannot buy, he cannot sell; he tells you that when he has good trade he has no trouble in borrowing money, but when he has no trade, then nothing will keep the sheriff from coming and turning him out of doors to protect the depositors in the bank.

He understands that prosperity comes up to him from his customers, and he believes that bimetallism is good because it will restore prices and thus give to the producers of wealth remuneration for their toil and give them something to spend at the stores in the purchase of other things which they desire. These men all know how bimetallism helps them, and they believe that it helps others also.

But you ask the advocate of the gold standard why he wants the gold standard.

Does he tell you because it will be good for him? You never heard one of them say it.

I know if you take one of the New York financiers and ask him why he wants the gold standard he will tell you he wants it because it is good for others. He will tell you he wants it because it is good for the laboring man. That is the man in whom he feels an interest. Why, it is so universal, that feeling of solicitude among the financiers for the laboring men, that if one of those New York financiers is troubled with lack of sleep or loss of sleep he goes to his doctor; the doctor never asks any questions, but just says: "Stop worrying about the laboring men and go to work."

Done in the Dark.

In the United States in 1873 our currency was paper money. Gold and silver were not used as a medium of exchange. In 1873 an act was passed by Congress entitled "An act revising and amending the laws relative to the mint, assay office and coinage of the United States."

It is charged that this act, which demonetized silver in the United States, was corruptly passed through both houses of Congress. Whether British gold was used to corrupt certain members of Congress is not, and probably never will be, positively known.

But certain it is that not to exceed half a dozen members of Congress knew at the time of the passage of the act that it demonetized silver, and they said nothing about it in public. Certain it is that President Grant, when he signed the act, did not know that it demonetized silver.

Certain it is that the press of the country, which was represented in both houses of Congress by their special reporters, knew nothing about it. Certain it is that the people had never petitioned Congress for any such legislation, and did not know that there had been any such until nearly two years after the passage of the act.

The act demonetizing silver in the United States was the most important and far-reaching in its consequences of any act ever passed by Congress, and yet no paper published anywhere in the United States at or near the time of its passage contained any reference to it whatever.

Silver Coinage.

During the greater portion of the time from 1792 to 1834, silver predominated in our currency, because upon our ratio of 1 to 15, fifteen pounds of silver were equivalent to one pound of gold, while upon the French or European ratio of 1 to 15½, fifteen and a half pounds of silver were equivalent to one pound of gold.

Silver therefore came to this country, and gold went to Europe. In 1834 we changed our ratio to 1 to 16, one-half a point on the other side of the French or European ratio, and as a given quantity of silver would exchange for more gold upon the French ratio than upon our ratio, it went to Europe and gold came to this country and predominated in our currency down to 1873, when the coinage of silver was suspended. Yet during the whole of this time, from 1792 to 1873, our monetary system was bimetallic.

First Scottish Royal Child.

Every one may not know that Princess Anna of Battenberg, whose birthday was Oct. 24, 1887, was the first royal child born in Scotland for nearly 300 years—in fact, since the birth of the ill-fated Charles I., in the year 1600.

Prince Donald of Battenberg is the first royal Prince born north of the Tweed since 1600. He was born in 1892.

At Greensburg, A. M. Hillis was killed by the bursting of an emery wheel.

William Beasley, a land agent of Indianapolis, shot and fatally wounded Henry Darnell at his home, twelve miles south of Brazil. Darnell lives on a large farm which is controlled by Beasley, and there was trouble over the rent.

At Linden is stacked up 22,000 tons of cornstarch, the raw material for a cellulose factory which is now in course of erection there. The farmers from the country have hauled in the stalks when they could not do other work, and were paid \$3 a ton for them.

RECORD OF THE WEEK

INDIANA INCIDENTS TERSELY TOLD.

Death Mystery Solved by an Analysis—Madison County Glass Plants Bought by Pennsylvanians—Decision Against Quartz Shops—Crushed in a Foundry.

Arsenic Found in Stomach.