

## The Income Tax

The readers of The Commoner will, I am sure, join with me in congratulating congress upon the forward step it has taken in the levying of an income tax.

The house bill provides for a rate running from 1 per cent on incomes above \$3,000 to 4 per cent on incomes above \$100,000. The senate bill provides for a tax ranging from 1 per cent to 5 per cent on incomes from \$3,000 to \$100,000 and higher rates upon incomes above \$100,000, so that incomes above \$500,000 bear a total tax of 7 per cent.

When it is remembered that the income tax law of 1894 provided for a 2 per cent flat rate on incomes above \$4,000, it will be seen that a decided advance has been made toward the equalizing of taxation.

The senate schedule is not likely to be materially altered in conference, so that we can now use the income tax provisions as a measure of the progress that has been made in the country in public sentiment toward distributing more equitably the burdens of taxation.

The world is surely moving when congress advances thus boldly in the matter of taxation, and the extent of the revolution that has already taken place in the senate is shown by the fact that it increased the rates fixed by the house.

W. J. BRYAN.

### RESULTS OF THE HOUSE CAUCUS

For many days the democrats of the house met in caucus for the consideration of the currency bill. Great freedom was allowed in debate and the discussion was at times animated, but when the vote was finally taken upon the bill, as amended, only nine members registered their disapproval, and nearly all, if not all, will vote for the bill on its final passage.

The wisdom of the president is thus vindicated, and the passage of the measure which bears the stamp of his indorsement is assured. In this matter, as in others, the president has patiently co-labored with the legislators in the perfecting of the measure—yielding to suggestions where they have been well founded, and standing firmly for the principles of the bill whenever those principles have been attacked.

The democratic members, too, have addressed themselves to the measure with a commendable desire to harmonize differences and to make the bill meet the emergencies for which it was designed.

While consideration of the bill in the senate has not yet progressed as far as it has in the house, there is every evidence that it will be accepted by the majority without material modification. Thus does the president continue to demonstrate his capacity for dealing wisely with the great problems that confront him.

### GOVERNOR-GENERAL HARRISON

The appointment of Congressman Francis Burton Harrison to the position of governor general of the Philippines is a happy solution of a difficult problem. The selection of the right man for that important position was a delicate and important task. It is comparatively easy to find a suitable occupant for the ordinary offices to be filled in the United States, because most offices only require average ability accompanied by honesty. When, however, a position calls for a high order of talent, wide experience and tact, as well as for integrity, the number of men available is not so large, especially when it is remembered that the selection is further limited by the fact that the person chosen must not only possess the qualities necessary, but must have had an opportunity to prove his possession of them to the satisfaction of the public. The promotion of an unknown man to a responsible position subjects the appointing party to a risk that one does not care to take. To still further complicate the situation, the appointee in this case will serve away from home among a people quite different from ours in race, tradition and environment.

In looking over the field and canvassing the claims of those presented for consideration, the president at once recognized the superior fitness of Governor Harrison for the great work which has been entrusted to him, and only a few days elapsed between the suggestion of the name and the appointment, which was immediately confirmed by the senate.

Governor Harrison has won his way to leadership in the house of representatives upon his merits. He was, when appointed governor

general, the second democrat on the ways and means committee and has during the democratic control of congress exerted an increasing influence upon the policies of the party. He has been in hearty accord with the president in the measures which have thus far had the stamp of executive approval, and his appointment was advocated by the Filipino representatives in congress. He will be persona grata in the Philippine Islands and his arrival will mark the beginning of the end of imperialism. The Filipinos will welcome him as a friend and he can advise them as such while he carries out the instructions which he will receive from Washington.

The Commoner sends greeting to the new governor general and bids him Godspeed on his journey, confident that he will intertwine his name with the future of the Philippines and, by his wise conduct, attach those distant peoples to the United States in bonds of lasting affection.

### A RISING STAR

Hon. Carter Glass, chairman of the currency committee of the house, has won new laurels by his management of the currency bill in the house caucus. Few men have been called to undertake a more delicate task and none could have performed it with greater success. The currency question is not nearly so thoroughly digested as the tariff question is and men's views are not so settled on the details. The principles which underlie a great question are, in their last analysis, few and easily understood, but the details of a new subject are often confusing, and the currency question is new. The tariff question has been an issue from time immemorial and the leaders of all parties have been accustomed to discuss it with more or less thoroughness. The currency question, however, has been, to a large extent, kept in the background and an effort has been made by the financiers to create the impression that it is too complex to be understood by the average man.

It is not strange, therefore, that wide difference of opinion manifested itself when the subject was taken up for practical consideration. Congressman Glass mastered the subject for himself and then led the discussion with such ability that he brought the bill out of the caucus with no important amendments added without his concurrence. The final speech which he made in support of the bill was declared by his friends to be the most effective delivered in congress for many years, and it certainly proved potent in molding opinion and directing the course of those who heard him.

Mr. Glass has measured up to the responsibilities of the important position which he occupies as chairman of the currency committee.

The democratic party in the senate lost two votes because of the sugar schedule but it is sweet to remember that in spite of this saccharine defection, the democrats had enough votes of their own to pass the tariff measure.

### PRESIDENT WILSON'S MEXICAN POLICY

The resolution by which the American Bar association at its recent annual meeting in Montreal indorsed President Wilson's stand in the Mexican situation, was drafted and presented by W. A. Hayes, a Wisconsin republican. The resolution, as presented by Mr. Hayes, follows:

"Resolved, That this association hereby heartily commends the policy pursued by President Wilson in dealing with a most delicate and difficult situation in Mexico. The wisdom and the justice of that policy have been such as to command our greatest confidence in the carrying out of that policy in the future, and therefore we pledge to the president our most cordial support in following out his course in dealing with matters in Mexico, whatever that course may be."

In an interview in the Milwaukee Journal, Mr. Hayes said: "The idea of introducing such a resolution came to me on reading press dispatches that Mexico, basing its beliefs on what appeared in the American papers, did not think the United States stood together on a single policy. On questions of this kind the country should stand as a unit, and it seemed to me that being a republican, I might present such a resolution at the Bar association without being suspected of any special motive. I have been through a dozen states in the past sixty days, from Montana to New York and New Jersey and the general feeling is that President Wilson has handled the Mexican situation remarkably well."

## A Great Victory

The Commoner will, next month, publish the full text of the tariff bill which is now in conference. It marks the triumph of President Wilson on the first reform which he undertook. He convened congress in extra session to reduce the tariff and after a parliamentary struggle lasting for five months he is able to present to the country the best tariff measure enacted in a generation. He and the country are to be congratulated. He says of the victory:

"A fight for the people and for free business which has lasted a long generation through, has at last been won, handsomely and completely. A leadership and a steadfastness in counsel have been shown in both houses, of which the democratic party has reason to be very proud. There has been no weakness or confusion or drawing back, but a statesmanlike directness and command of circumstances.

"I am happy to have been connected with the government of the nation at a time when such things could happen and to have worked in association with men who could do them.

"There is every reason to believe that currency reform will be carried through with equal energy, directness, and loyalty to the general interest. When that is done this first session of the Sixty-third congress will have passed into history with an unrivalled distinction.

"I want to express my special admiration for the devoted, intelligent and untiring work of Mr. Underwood and Mr. Simmons and the committees associated with them."

Senator La Follette has again shown his devotion to the public interests by voting with the democrats for tariff reduction.

### A MEASURE FRAMED IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

The administration currency bill involves three fundamental principles.

First: The notes issued must be issued by the government and not by the banks.

Second: The issue must be controlled by public servants and not by private institutions or individuals.

Third: The emergency currency issued must be issued through state banks as well as through national banks.

The bill as prepared observes these three requirements. The right of the government to issue money is not surrendered to the banks; the control over the money so issued is not relinquished by the government; and national banks are not given a monopoly of the benefits flowing from the issue of these emergency notes.

The regional reserve banks will prove of great advantage to business. Each reserve bank will be a commercial center and this center will be much nearer to the extremes than the few large cities are to the banks which have been compelled to reach the public through them. These regional reserve banks will give to the individual banks a security for their reserves that is lacking under the present system—a security which will go far toward preventing panics.

Every Commoner reader may help the president in the good work in which he is engaged by writing to his senators, urging them to support the president in his good efforts.

### FAITH IN THE COMMONER

Editor Commoner: After some weeks of anxious waiting the big monthly Commoner has reached me. I say "big" because it covers the entire political horizon and makes plain every great proposition now before the people. We have pinned our faith in The Commoner and this big number shows that we have not loved in vain. Go on and on! Enclosed find renewal check. Yours for results, D. R. CARPENTER, Editor Dacoma (Okla.) Enterprise.

Senator Poindexter does not affiliate with the democrats but he can tell the difference between the robbery of the Payne-Aldrich law and the relief brought by the democratic tariff reduction measure.

The democrats of the senate and house have done splendidly on the tariff. They stood together—a united party—and the country rejoices. Now for currency reform.