

## Plutocratic Logic

It is doubtful whether plutocratic logic has ever been advanced so brazenly before as it is now. "Take the tax off the profiteer and thus relieve his victim" is one cry; "Reduce the tax on big incomes and the rich will invest their money and restore prosperity" is another. The logic of it is, "You might as well put ALL the taxes upon the poor at once, if you put any on the rich they will shift them to the poor or bring on a panic." The Chicago Tribune has made itself the champion of this piracy. It says editorially:

"What will meet with greater opposition is the proposed reduction of surtaxes on incomes of \$66,000 or more to a maximum of 32 per cent. If such reduction stimulates business sufficiently to increase general prosperity and all small incomes the payers of taxes in the lower brackets cannot legitimately protest. Ordinarily the man of small income—from \$5,000 to \$20,000—does not invest his surplus in industry. He spends most of it. Some, perhaps, he puts into a home, some into life insurance, and some into an emergency savings fund. The capital for industry, new enterprises, and the expansion of old is furnished from higher incomes. The total of such liquid capital is estimated at approximately \$6,000,000,000 a year in the United States. When high surtaxes drive half of this vital fluid of prosperity into the backwaters of tax exempt securities, reducing the sources of trade and the stream of industry by half it is evident that many barks on that stream will go ashore on the sand bars.

"The new tax plan is designed to turn this annual stream of capital again into the main channel of business. That would give us all a chance to navigate. Wise legislators will support such a purpose, regardless of demagogy and the misrepresentation of partisan opponents."

What do you think of that? And it is "demagogy" to advocate justice in taxation. My, what a multitude of demagogues the Republican congressmen will have to meet next year.

W. J. BRYAN.

### THE JEWS

Mr. Myer Block, Talmud Society, Boston, Mass. My dear Mr. Block: If the charges made against the Jews were based upon deliberate and intentional misrepresentation, it would be sufficient to expose the motive and prove the falsity of the charges, but when, as in this case, they are, as I believe, based on prejudice—honestly entertained—they must be met in a spirit of candor and frankness. Wrong doing must be shown to be INDIVIDUAL rather than racial, and, when discovered, must be condemned and punished by all regardless of race. A wrong doer sins against his own race more than against others because of the odium he brings upon those of his blood.

It is well, too, to show the high character, public spirit, patriotism and philanthropy of conspicuous members of the race, like Brandies and Untermyer in the law, the Strausses and Rosenwald in philanthropy and Rabbis Wise and Hirsch in the pulpit. Such names should protect the race from any general indictment based on the acts of individuals less representative.

Your truly,

W. J. BRYAN.

### PUTS IT UP TO RETAILERS

(From the Kansas City Star.)

Figures placed yesterday in the hands of Judge George E. Kimball of the county court by the industrial department of the Chamber of Commerce, show that practically every article sold at wholesale in Kansas City has decreased substantially in value from June, 1920, to June, 1921.

Although the schedules were prepared solely to give the county board of equalization an equitable rule for appraising stocks of goods, they constitute, in the opinion of those who have examined them, a clean bill of health for the wholesaler in the present controversy over whether the retailer or the wholesaler is absorbing the lion's share of the reduction in values known to be taking place. The schedules were compiled by the chamber with no thought of proving any point, and merely as a convenience for the board. E. W. Mentel, industrial commissioner of the chamber directed their preparation.

Striking reductions in the wholesale price of food products have come about. In the case of coffee, it is 63 per cent. Sugar is down 75 per

cent from the June, 1920, level; beans, 44 per cent; peaches (California), 48 per cent; apricots, 44 per cent; rice, 68 per cent; corn, 36 per cent, and tomatoes (canned in both cases), 37. The smallest reduction in that line is chocolate, 31 per cent. Candy was just half its former level, and corn syrup experienced an even greater reduction, 60 per cent. Crackers and molasses both declined 40 per cent, and flour 38. Even the box containers decreased 37 per cent, and paper bags 45 in the year.

Cigars and one type of steel, of all the other commodities listed, remain at the June, 1920, level. There is no change at all in cigars, although the judge's list shows that stocks carried over have depreciated 25 per cent in value. The steel used in making artificial limbs costs 3 per cent more this year than last, but other materials used in the industry have decreased 55 per cent. Next come foundry materials, with an 18 per cent decrease. One of the most surprising showings is that the cost of the raw materials used in printing has declined 60 per cent. The decrease in the heavy chemicals class is 47 per cent.

With one exception, dry goods, the commodities used about the house have declined in price very close to a third. Rugs are down 37 per cent; linoleums, 28 per cent, and window shades, 43 per cent. Furniture generally is down 30 per cent, with the variation ranging from 20 points above that figure to approximately the same degree below. Canvas products, particularly tents and awnings, are down 34 per cent.

General hardware lines show a decrease of 24 per cent, and what might be called the "patented" appliances, washing machines, electrical appliances, sporting goods, door hardware and the like, 26 per cent. Millinery is exactly a third lower, but wholesale dry goods generally are practically half what they were—49 per cent to be exact. Steel products, by which is meant galvanized sheeting, steel plates and sheets, and like articles, are a half cheaper. Paper is 24 per cent below the June, 1920, prices.

The schedules will be used by the equalization board as a "sliding rule" to approximate the present value of stocks on hand in Kansas City establishments. Formerly a concern's assessment was the result of a hit and miss lowering of its declared value on the part of the owner, and a raise on the part of the board. This year it will be possible to attain a reasonable value without the "jockeying."

### NAMES THE U. S. DELEGATES

A Washington dispatch, dated Sept. 9, says: President Harding announced officially this afternoon the names of the four men he has chosen to represent the United States in the international conference for limitation of armaments. They are Charles E. Hughes, Elihu Root, Henry Cabot Lodge and Oscar W. Underwood.

Mr. Root and Senator Underwood have not been tendered places on the delegation formally, but the President has no doubt they will accept.

Each of the five major powers—the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan—will have only four delegates, under the present agreement, but each will bring along advisory commissions much larger in number.

The American advisory mission, as tentatively planned, will number about twelve. On it will be women, labor and farm representatives, army and navy experts and others. The administration stressed, however, that the personnel of the advisory mission would not be chosen solely because they represented groups, the President emphasizing the purpose of the administration to discourage class or group demands, but to select representative Americans.

### REAL DEPRIVATION

This has been a very severe summer in Chicago, the worst since 1916. In 1916 there were 535 deaths in Chicago from sunstroke; this year, up to last Saturday, there have been but 23. Physicians say the decline is due to the absence of beer. That's what the eighteenth amendment has done, gentlemen; it has reached out and deprived the workingman of his sunstroke.—Kansas City Star.

The railroads complain bitterly that the Esch-Cummins law did not bring them the 6 per cent guarantee that it carried because the rates demanded were so high that not enough goods were carried to earn it. Sad, of course, but it is unlikely that the railroad managers expect the farmers who have been selling corn for 40 cents that cost them 80 cents to raise to shed many tears over the condition of an industry that didn't make as much as it thought it would.

## Fighting Enforcement

The wets are now combined to prevent enforcement. They are terribly afraid "personal liberty" is going to be violated by search and seizure. It might ease the matter some if a man who objects to search of his residence would make affidavit that he is not concealing any liquor unlawfully, but the wets who have liquor would promptly object to such inquiries. To object to search of an automobile without a warrant is to advocate unrestrained violation of the dry law; an automobile could get out of the county before a warrant could be issued.

Search does not disturb the innocent and the guilty can not well complain. W. J. BRYAN.

### A PLAGUE OF POLITICS

There are approximately 6,000,000 unemployed in the country today.

For these men and women and to their dependents there is one paramount issue. It is work.

But Mr. Samuel Gompers, Mr. William Jennings Bryan, and other Democratic politicians in House and Senate have begun a beating of the tom-toms, and the tune is an old one. The common people are being betrayed again, and the obvious inference is that they must turn to Mr. Bryan, Mr. Gompers, Mr. Kitchen, and the Democratic leaders to save them.

If it is good sense to trust the same guides who got you into a bog to get you out, the Democrats, including, of course, Mr. Bryan, Mr. Gompers, and Mr. Kitchen, should be called back at once.

Mr. Gompers' organization prejudges the proposed tax revision, which is characteristic of Mr. Gompers' Democratic partisanship. It demands on behalf of the idle workers "something real, something constructive, something that will not add to their burden while allowing the rich to escape," which seems to mean the retention of the excess profits tax and the present scale of higher income surtaxes. The federation views the raising of exemptions affecting the small taxpayer as "a sop thrown to the people."

Mr. Gompers wants the retention of the excess profits tax. He pretends that to repeal it is to relieve the "war millionaires and great corporations." We think Mr. Gompers knows better. If he does not, he ought to make an honest inquiry into the facts. If he will do that, not as a member of the Democratic party machine but as a real friend of the idle workers, he will find that the excess profits tax does not work as he thinks or pretends to think it does. Fair students of taxation, who are as sincerely anxious for a just distribution of taxes as Mr. Gompers or Mr. Bryan, and we think a good deal sincerer, hold that the tax is worse than ineffective, since it resulted in the pyramiding of prices as well as in the encouragement of extravagant expenditure.

We think Mr. Gompers knows it has been a failure, and perhaps Mr. Kitchen does, too. But the temptation to make political capital of the fallacy on which the tax was built is too great to be resisted. There is no respect for the facts shown in the A. F. of L. pronouncement nor in most of the attacks made on the tax revision program in congress. The Democrats are responsible for the present taxation. It is human that they should try to ignore its faults, but they ought to have enough concern for the country, now in a serious condition of business stagnation and unemployment, to drop demagogy and try to work out a revision which will relieve constructive business and stimulate it to go forward.

Mr. Gompers is talking nobly about the 6,000,000 idle workers, but he is acting like a small bore unscrupulous politician. His appeal is not to facts or to reason but to class prejudice and ignorance. The country in the present situation deserves better from him and from the other Democratic leaders who, while pretending to be defenders of the oppressed poor, are trying to block the measures which by stimulating business confidence and enterprise should presently bring relief.

Six million Americans want jobs. They are not going to get them under the guidance of Messrs. Bryan, Gompers, and Kitchen.—Chicago Tribune.

Congress took a recess to give the committee that has the new tariff bill in charge further time to figure out how the United States may continue to sell foreigners large quantities of its food products without making a market in this country for the goods that the foreigner must sell to somebody for money in order to pay for the foodstuffs.