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TAX FACTS FOR THE PEOPLE.

The people are entitled to the fullest information concerning public affairs. Very often their interest ceases with the election of officers, to whom the entrust every responsibility subject to no checking up until the time for another vote arrives.

This analysis of 1921 taxes in Nebraska tells the taxpayer who gets his money and how it is spent. The amount of revenue of each school district in the state is given in one chart. Another interesting table shows the taxes of each incorporated city and village, giving the population, valuation, distribution of the tax dollar and the tax on a 1,000-dollar valuation for general purposes, as well as the per capita local tax.

Of the total taxes levied for general government purposes in 1921, only 19 per cent was for the state government, while 81 per cent was for the local subdivisions of government. This means that of the average tax dollar in 1921 in the 93 counties, 19 cents went to the state, 20 cents went to the county government, 16 cents to the cities and villages, 3 cents to the township organization, and 42 cents to the city and rural schools.

The pamphlet thus shows the way the state spent its 19 cents of the average tax dollar: Roads, bridges and paving, 3 cents; relief of ex-soldiers, 2 cents; new capitol building, 2 cents; state institutions, 3 cents; education, 6 cents; leaving only 3 cents out of the average tax dollar for the support of the general state government, including the supreme court and the district courts. If the state house at Lincoln had been closed during the year 1921, all the state courts disbanded and all state activities discontinued, except the care of dependents, the building of the new capitol, the university and normal schools, the purchase of bonds for the relief of ex-soldiers, and the construction of good roads, the taxpayer's dollar would have been reduced by only 3 cents.

A further analysis of the state levy of \$3.30 on a thousand-dollar valuation is also made in the pamphlet. This analysis shows that of the \$3.30 state levy on each thousand-dollar valuation, 61 cents goes to the university, 47 cents for the road building, 69 cents for charitable and penal institutions, 20 cents for the normal schools; capitol fund, 30 cents; relief of ex-soldiers, 29 cents; constitutional officers, boards and commissions, 26 cents; code departments, 18 cents; courts, 11 cents; aid to local schools, 8 cents, and legislative expense, 6 cents.

In compiling these statistics the state has done a useful service. A full and unbiased statement of this kind should be issued each year for the benefit of the citizens. The smaller governmental districts should make similar analysis of their revenues and expenditures. These facts must be widely known before any great improvement in the methods and amount of taxation can be accomplished.

CHEMICAL PATENTS AND THE PUBLIC.

Demand by the federal government that the Chemical Foundation return the German patents sold by the Wilson administration appears to be in line with justice. Americans hardly will accept the presence of a domestic monopoly which may become as destructive and as oppressive as one of foreign origin. When the German patents were seized by the alien property commissioner, they were disposed of to the American Chemical Foundation, that dye stuffs might be provided for our textile industry. The mistake seems to have been in granting exclusive control of the patents. Since the close of the war the topic has been discussed at length from several angles. Generally, the trend of thought is in support of a protective tariff that put the imported dye stuffs on a parity with those of domestic manufacture. This, however, should not be made to support a monopoly, which is capable of practicing great abuse of its powers and privileges. If the government again acquires control of the patents, it is possible the formula may be devoted to public use, and be made available for any. Then the monopolistic feature will be destroyed, and while a protective tariff will exclude foreign dyes, the home trade will be supplied under competitive conditions, which will insure both quality and price. If this view is correct, the move of the government to recover the patents deserves to succeed.

TARIFF TALK TO CONTINUE.

A move to invoke cloture in the senate as refers to the tariff debate failed for lack of nine votes. In a large sense this is in harmony with the spirit of American institutions, for a free and full chance to debate any question should never be denied. At times, however, the privilege is sadly abused. For many weeks the senate has given up the most of its time to listening to tariff debates. Not only have particular schedules or items been subjected to the most profound of disquisitionary argument, but the general history and theory of tariff and revenue taxation has been many times descanted upon learnedly and at length. Plainly the program of the democratic minority is to prolong the consideration of the measure to the utmost limit, meanwhile taunting the republicans with their failure to enact legislation. In the end the measure will be passed, but none can say just now when the vote will be taken, for the discussion is to go on unremittingly, until the senators tire of the free exercise of the right to talk all they want to. Sometimes the vote will be taken in the senate on the passage of the Fordney-McCumber tariff bill, but that time will only be when the last senator has

had the last word to say, and all his colleagues are weary of a debate that already has sadly tried the patience of a public that is eager to have something settled.

GERMANY'S FINANCIAL PLIGHT.

Stock market quotations support the thought that a show down has come for Germany. It was inevitable when the republic began to issue in enormous quantities fiat money to meet current expenses. Nothing will be gained by discussion of this phase of the question; what is needed is some solution for the problem. Germany is not in the position of Russia; it has a stable government functioning in all the essential ways of administration. German industries are on a going basis, mills, mines, factories, railroads and shipping lines are busy, and wealth is being produced under conditions that normally would be profitable. Germany's trouble primarily arises from the financial plight which has been induced by the emission of such enormous quantities of paper currency as have fairly drowned the commercial and industrial life of the nation. Collapse is imminent, and help must be had or disaster will follow. Where this help will come from, and how it will be applied is yet to be decided.

Suggestions that the Treaty of Versailles be revised and that the reparations requirements be modified have not met a ready response. If the Germans thought they were influencing the Allies to a softening of terms, and such may have been the thought, the fact proves their mistake. Consideration of this, too, may be adjourned until the present crisis has been averted.

Mr. Morgan's expedition to Europe has not ended its work. His first program fell down, because it contained provisions that were not acceptable to either side. It is unthinkable that financiers will stand idly by and see Germany swallowed up in financial ruin, if a reasonable loan to the government will rescue the nation. It is equally out of the line of reasonable expectation to think that outsiders will undertake to support the mark in its present state. Germany will have to drain off the flood of fiat money before the dry land of financial stability will reappear. When the printing presses are stopped, and several huge bonfires are lighted and fed on irredeemable paper money, the Germans will be on their way to health.

SAD SIDE OF DIVORCE.

Frequently a divorce means just a little more than the shipwreck of a matrimonial venture. So long as only husband and wife are concerned, as generally is the case, society can look on with something like complacency, although the frequency of divorce these days amounts to more than a scandal and has become an actual reproach to the nation. When a child is involved, the whole affair takes on a different aspect.

An incident in one of our local courts illustrates the point. The judge had awarded the father temporary custody of the child; the mother started to leave the courtroom with the child in her arms, when her husband sprang and seized it from her. Why should comment proceed further? Knowing nothing of the circumstances, the inference is that the judge knew what he was doing when he gave the child into the custody of the father, but leaves the main question open.

Fathers and mothers show slight appreciation of the responsibilities they have assumed when either gives the other occasion to seek divorce. In bringing a baby into the world they have obligated themselves to that child to cherish and nurture it until it has become able to take care of itself. Evasion of this duty, for any pretext or reason whatever, springs from only one source, selfishness.

Love may die, respect may vanish, but duty remains, and the little one has the first and highest claim on its parents. Baby hands may not always hold a home together, but the thought of losing that baby should be enough to deter any man or woman, not wholly devoted to self-indulgence, from doing those things which will warrant a court in giving the custody of the child to another.

COLUMBUS OR A PEARY.

The little boy who rode his bicycle from Denver to Omaha may or may not get the \$100 prize he set out to win. He did something that is worth while, however, for he bravely conquered the terror and the hardships of the journey. To be sure, no savage men or wild animals beset the trail, as once was the case; at no time was the youthful adventurer out of the reach of civilization.

He even had the advantage of good roads, something denied the wheelmen who made the journey not so many years ago. But he was alone, and must have felt very lonely and inclined to turn back at times. That he could persist, and finally push his wheel into the city of his destination shows he has true courage and determination. He had some adventures on the way, for he reports that he was robbed at Lincoln, where he stopped to rest, and he came to his journey's end famished and destitute. But he won. Columbus did nothing more when he discovered America, nor Peary when he reached the North pole. It was the culmination of a high adventure.

A devoted group of Alpinists for two years assailed Mount Everest and finally turned away baffled. Their disappointment will never be known to this lad, for he goes home with the satisfaction of knowing he reached his goal in good shape. We hope he carries through life the same quality of pluck and sticktoitiveness he showed in this, for such elements make up the useful man.

Will Hays' offer of co-operation with the teachers of the United States supplements his pledge to the women that he will clean up the industry. These pledges are made in good faith, but it still remains necessary for the public to do something, or the best efforts at reform will come to naught.

A French public official sought to learn to play poker. He is now accused of embezzling 40,000 francs. If he learned that much he is ready for graduation.

The anti-lynching bill is put on the list of things to be done by congress, which is warning to the disorderly.

Nebraska may have lost a crop from too little rain, but never from too much.

Russia's "bread loan" is a success, and may supersede the Russian bread line.

If anything can be talked to death, it will be the tariff.

Another thing Omaha can omit is boy bandits.

The franc shivers when the mark shakes.

On Second Thought

Don't get discouraged; it may be the last key in the bunch that opens the door.

OPINION

What Editors Elsewhere Are Saying

Weight Varies With Planet.
Isabella Lewis of the United States Naval Observatory.
The weight of objects on the earth is determined by the same surface pull of gravity that legend tells us brought down the apple from Isaac Newton's head. The strength of that pull depends not only on the weight of the earth but on its density or the amount of matter in proportion to its size. The surface gravity of any other body in space relative to that of the earth is determined by multiplying its weight compared to the earth's density by its radius relative to the earth's radius.

The radius of the moon, for example, is a little over one-fourth that of the earth and the density of the moon is about three-fifths that of the earth, so the surface gravity of the moon relative to that of the earth is the product of the two or about one-sixth. A man who weighs 150 pounds on the earth would weigh only 27 pounds on the moon. It can be found in the same way that the same man would weigh 100 pounds on Mars, 55 pounds on Jupiter, about 400 pounds on Saturn, and 1,000 pounds on Uranus. Neptune has densities that are, respectively, 1.44 and 1.08 times the density of the earth. The surface gravity of the earth is 5.53 times that of water. On the largest asteroid, Ceres, which is 485 miles in diameter, the surface gravity is so low that a man would have no difficulty in throwing a stone with sufficient force to send it into space. Gravity about that of a small asteroid, 20 miles in diameter, he could easily jump off into space himself if he felt so inclined.

The density of the earth is the greatest of the red giant stars. We might expect to find very great densities in the stars, but since its radius is 800 times that of the earth, the weight of the earth is only one-thousandth that of the star at sea level or one eight hundred thousandth that of water, which gives it a surface gravity about one-twelve thousandths that of the earth. So, owing to the extremely low density of this star, we get the surprising result that objects on its surface are held with an attractive force only twelve-thousandths of that of our own planet. A man of 60 pounds weight on the earth would weigh, then, only about two pounds on Antares.

Senators Tackle the Flapper.
From the Philadelphia Bulletin.
Precisely what he means on the duty of ferromanganese has on the dress of the frivolous flapper might be explained by a metaphysician turned wit. He would say that the flapper is the giddy girl's scanty raiment in comparison with the voluminous draperies of her grandmother was sufficient to awake the desire to escape from slumberous inattention to the frothing debate on the Fordney-McCumber bill.

Philosophy benefited by the senatorial interlude by reason of Senator Underwood's portentous explanation that the wicked tariff has made the flapper a pocket handkerchief. Sociologists and moralists who have been theorizing on the significance of the flapper need puzzle themselves no longer. She is a living, breathing, sprightly, mischievous, provocative demonstration of the motive principle.

One who believes like Senator Underwood in the incalculable superiority of the good old days of our grandfathers waiting for a line when they stony-hearted enough to look upon her as a horrible example. As against this jaundiced view is the McCumber view of her as a rare blossom in a beautiful flower garden. If she has been cultivated by the tariff, then, in his opinion, we should thank heaven for the tariff.

Eating Automatically to Live.
From the Brooklyn Eagle.
Not long ago a Russian actress walked into one of our automatic restaurants, ate a meager automatic meal, returned to her hall bedroom and took poison. Poison seemed to her the inevitable result to follow so mechanical a repast.

Here perhaps we have a contrast between American and European civilization. The American restaurant a reductio ad absurdum of our civilization? Isn't it the last word in speed, system and hustle? Do we really know anything about eating?

Men and women of the older European countries are inveterately leisurely. They cannot be hurried. A man to be seen in a restaurant dawdled over and enjoyed, not a mere feeding of the face. The Frenchman sits at a table on the side, walks to the window, he looks like a true epicurean. He takes time to be a gourmet. The German lounges in his beer garden and invites his ease. The Russian, he has all the time in the world for everything, even for thought. But the American snatches his meal and rushes to work. He does not know how to enjoy even food. He eats in a manner calculated to give a foreigner the impression that he is paid for consuming edibles and that he will lose his job if he doesn't show the proper industry.

It is no wonder a Russian woman tries her best to commit suicide after attempting to follow his example. Of what use is life, she must have asked herself, if living is so little fun?

Cutting Out School Vacations?
From the Arkansas Democrat.
Some sort of an efficiency expert— we suppose he is some relative to the man who invented night-saving—has it all figured out that summer vacations for school children are a bad thing, wasteful in time, money and energy. They ought, he figures, to be eliminated or shortened, the time saved being spread out over the year, in shorter school days.

We do not know but what the school day itself might well be shortened so as to provide for a little less indoor cramming and a little more outdoor frolic for the kiddies, but as for cutting out vacations from them, we are going to vote "nay" as long as there is breath in our body.

And if the efficiency experts do not quit trying to take so much joy out of the life of the youngsters with their efficiency theories, based on W.F.O. statistics and psychological and philosophical arguments, we predict that somebody is going to start a little investigation of the efficiency of the efficiency experts themselves, which might be disconcerting to the experts and enlightening to the general public. For we are more than a little suspicious that some of the efficiency experts aren't nearly so efficient themselves as they are trying to look as they are out their theories about how the world should be run.

President's Dinner to the Farmers.
From the Pittsburgh Press.
There aren't many real farmers— that is, men who own the land they farm— in this country. There are many who undertake to compile a who's who for the use of the government, but the real farmers will be very foolish if he leaves them out.

President Harding has entertained the captains of the steel industry and the captains of the railroad industry at dinner in the White House for the purpose of ascertaining their views and urging them to co-operate with the government in efforts to better conditions in those industries and thus stabilize business. But there is a higher industry in this country than either railroading or steel making. The biggest of all is agriculture. So now there is to be a White House dinner for the farmers. Perhaps before it is all over there will be a dinner for plain, everyday wage earners.

Whatever the practical effect of these dinners, everybody should applaud the president's desire to take as many, and as large, as possible groups of people into his confidence and the government. The farther he gets away from the spirit of the two emperors who met on a raft on the river Niemen at Pinsk, the better it will be for Europe. We are Europe, the nearer he will come to the ideals of democracy.

Telephone Fractures.
From the Chicago Tribune.
Our telephone rings. We answer it. A sweet voice asks our identity, and, having established it, requests that we hold the wire for a moment while Mr. Blank finishes whatever is in hand, perhaps gives a word of instruction to his secretary, and finally comes on the wire to find us in no affable mood.

Or, again, not having a subordinate capable to do the mechanical work of getting a number, perhaps we call Mr. Blank ourselves. His secretary answers and has us hold the wire. After an interval Mr. Blank answers. Not having waited any time, he may be in good humor, and we may not, but the call is our affair, not his. If we are wise we will make the best of it.

THE BEE'S LETTER BOX

Endorses the Editorial.
Omaha, July 6.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I want to express my appreciation of the editorial in the issue of The Bee for July 6, "A Stern Rebuke to Loose Talkers." It should make us all think.
J. F. POUCHER.

"Neutrality" and the Primaries.
Omaha, July 7.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I note with some interest that "Brother Charlie" Bryan declares that he is neutral, and thus gets in line with the senator on the main issue, that of befriending the voters on primary day. Is it possible for the cat and the canary to declare a truce? Oh, potent is the pull of the lust for office. How else can we account for the senator having forgotten the "sting of ingratitude" which rankled long and sore? If time has dealt so gently with the senator, how much other and more recent abrasions on the pride of the senator still show a redness that precludes thought of his sincerity in any profession of neutrality. If you are curious as to this, ask some of the loyal Hitchcockians who it was held up by the pie wagon from 1912 on for two long and weary years, allowing republicans to hold jobs and draw salaries that should have gone to faithful and able men.

On the other hand, can "Brother Charlie" blot out by a declaration of neutrality all the things the senator and his paper have done to "Brother Will" through long years of partisan bitterness and acrimony? Yes, "neutrality" is a fine thing. Also the primaries. DEMOCRAT.

He Believes in Gun-Toting.
Omaha, July 6.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I am in sympathy with all movements that have for their end the maintenance of peace and good order. But I am not in sympathy with the entire thought of domestic disarmament under any conditions. When a writer says, as one did recently, that "the average citizen has no use for and no excuse for possessing the high-powered rifle," etc., he is making statements that are utterly unwarranted and that are easily capable of being refuted.

"The average citizen" presumably means the average law-abiding citizen, who is usually the victim and not the author of crimes of violence. It would seem that the part of wisdom would be to advocate the training of said average citizen in the use of weapons to defend himself and his home, rather than to advocate the policy of depriving him of them. "Laws enacted for the protection of the public" are all right if they are enforced, but a policeman is not always at one's elbow for the purpose of protection, especially in the rural districts. And, of course, the armed outlaw and crook usually takes pretty good care that the forces of protection are at a distance when he makes his attack.

It seems to the writer that forbidding the possession of weapons would be a case of putting the cart before the horse. Rather advocate that law-abiding citizens be encour-

aged to possess and helped to learn the use of modern weapons, and crimes of violence would be likely to diminish. The National Rifle Association, a government authorized and encouraged body of civilians, and many local rifle and pistol associations are long steps in the right direction.
M. L. WIGTON.

Independence for the Philippines.
Omaha, July 6.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Referring to a letter in The Bee one day recently, in which the question of Filipino independence was discussed, the writer of that letter was under the impression that the United States government is spending a whole lot of money for the maintenance of the Philippine government. Today the Philippine government is paying for every cent it spends for its maintenance.
The writer is in favor of granting the Philippines their independence, because they are a burden, and advise the United States to leave, bag and baggage. The Philippines are well and good whether you leave them or not. But why grant their freedom with apparent hurt feelings? Did you not promise to haul down your flag as soon as a stable government is established there? Why, then, should you leave them with hurt feelings and cast them aside with disgust? If you mean what you promised, fulfill it. If you choose to break it, be frank to say so.
FILIPINO.

CENTER SHOTS.
Wonder what a bachelor thinks about a bigamist?—Flint Journal.
A house without fly screens doesn't need an alarm clock.—El Paso Times.
The helicopter invented in England is a kind of flying corker. Attention: Anti-Saloon League.—Tacoma Ledger.

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