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TAX ISSUE DEFINITELY JOINED.

The tax reduction issue in congress is definitely drawn by the introduction of the minority substitute for the Mellon plan.

As expected the substitute provides for larger cuts on smaller incomes and smaller cuts on larger incomes. Naturally the democrats would not content themselves merely with being against the Mellon plan. They are in a stronger position fighting for a plan of their own.

In truth it is not a new plan. Rather it is a shuffling of the rates on incomes, but it has the virtue of making the lines between the two ideas of tax reduction clean cut.

The crux of the difference is in the rates on the larger incomes. The Mellon plan provides for maximum surtaxes of 25 per cent on incomes above \$200,000, the substitute plan would put these surtaxes at 40 per cent. Under the present law they go as high as 50 per cent. Any scientific income tax must properly put the heavier burden on the larger incomes. But there is a point beyond which the rates will defeat the purpose for which they were desired—the collection of revenue. It is a self-evident fact that the present war-time rates have so operated as to bring a constantly dwindling return from these larger incomes.

Capital has been forced by these surtaxes from productivity into tax-exempt securities. Secretary Mellon argues that his maximum will bring back this hidden capital and put it into the channel of industry-that new enterprises will be started and old enterprises expanded, that the tax burden which is now passed down through increased cost of living will be materially lessened and that the great mass of the people will be the beneficiaries.

The substitute bill is based upon the opposite contention, the democratic argument urging the retention of higher surtaxes.

It may be that both Secretary Mellon and the democrats have set more extreme figures than they expect finally to prevail. The final bill will probably set a maximum rate on higher incomes at somewhere between 30 and 35 per cent.

In the end the chief credit will be due Secretary Mellon and the budget officers for having accomplished the saving in expenditures that makes tax reduction possible.

NEW WONDERS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

Two stories in the news columns make the old timers rub their eyes. One tells of how the radio messages from Pittsburgh reached workers in the tunnel far below the surface of the Hudson river; the other gives a circumstantial account of how at last the phonograph and the camera have been wedded, and pictures on the screen made to speak with the voice of the actor.

This will carry us back almost half a century to the time when Cyrus D. Bell announced that he was able to transmit the human voice by electric current. His proposition was so novel that men of science smiled and turned away. Even after he had proved that it could be done practical men doubted its service and declined to provide capital for its application. Theodore N. Vail, once a railroad mail clerk in Omaha, was visionary enough as they called his conduct to invest all his savings and then, his future prospects in the new device. Billions of investment now stand as the symbol of Bell's dream, realized by Vail.

So it may be with one or the other of the present discoveries. Communication with men entombed in mines or otherwise by disaster is one of the first of the new services which may come through the radio and its uses seem to be on the threshhold of utility. The speaking picture may revolutionize the film industry. One thing is certain, its success will call for real actors, not those who can make faces. Too many are like the peacock, able to present a beautiful appearance, but unable to produce a beautiful sound.

Imagination may follow these discoveries and inventions through a wide realm of possibilities, all fraught with good for the race. Man is steadily overcoming limitations set upon him by nature, working wonders with mighty forces the nature of which still is hidden, but all of which is bringing him nearer his great destiny.

PACKED IN COTTON WOOL.

As might have been expected, the latest Hollywood sensation and scandal brings to the front a proposition for some more prohibitions. Every time something untoward happens to startle the public, there arises some one to demand a law against something or other. In this particular case it is proposed that a law be enacted prohibiting the principals in this Hollywood sensation from further appearance on the silver screen. The idea of this is to save the young girls.

Of course it never strikes these reformers by legal enactment that parents have some responsibility. It never occurs to them that there should be such a thing as parental control, or that mere law enactment will not solve any problem of particular moment. The first thought is to prohibit something. That serves a number of purposes, the chief one being that it enables everybody to shirk individual responsibility and give over to George the task of doing it. It is this penchant for legally prohibiting everything and anything that happens to meet with the opposition of a few that has cluttered up our statute books, made of the United States the most law ridden country in the world, and created a growing contempt for all law-a species of contempt that must be first curbed and then cured, or the country is drawn nearer to the rocks.

The only purpose that will be served by a law or an ordinance prohibiting these Hollywood revelers from again appearing on the silver screen will be that of allowing a lot of people to shirk their individual responsibility. Girls whose morals are likely to suffer from seeing the screen antics of the principals in the latest Hollywood scandal are not

too old for parental control, and if their parents are unable to control them it is a severe indictment of the parents. The remedy certainly does not lie in prohibiting the girls from seeing the pictures. It might lie in compelling parents to do their duty.

If we are to go any further in this matter of prohibition, why not go all the way at once? Why cut off the dog's tail an inch at a time? Why not enact a law prohibiting everything in general, and then put everybody on the public payroll as law enforcement officers? In short, why not do away with individual and parental responsibility and let the government attend to everything?

If the czar of Russia, in the heydey of his absolute monarchy, had attempted by ukase to inflict upon the people one-half the legal restrictions that have been foisted upon the American people during the last two decades, he would have been deposed and banished without recourse, and the world would have applauded the Russian people for their

But we are a most complacent people. Boasting of hard won liberty of thought and action and religion, we have come to be of all people the most restricted, the most law governed. Seemingly it is high time for the American people to pause and take

FIREMEN SAVED THE BEE PLANT.

Many times in the past The Omaha Bee has praised the city's fire fighters because of the intrepidity and efficiency, but not in many years have

we had occasion to thank them on our own behalf. For the third time in its history this paper has undergone the actual test of flames. This time the disaster might have been infinitely worse had it not beeen for the cool and skillful management of the firemen. While the annex in which most of the mechanical equipment of the establishment is housed is of the best approved fireproof construction, a certain amount of inflammable material had to be used in the shape of window and door casings, and other interior finish. Paper stock, photographic material, and other stores contributed to the feast the flames had before them, and splendid progress in the way of destruction was being made when the firemen de-

That the loss was minimized is due entirely to the efforts of Battalion Chief John Covle and the men under him. They kept the blaze confined to the quarter where it started, and by their care prevented the serious damage of much that would have added materially to the total loss.

Typesetting and other costly machinery naturally suffered, but it is being restored to use rapidly, and soon the plant will be running up to the minute as usual. But the obligation to the firemen is none the less real, for it is due to them that a much sadder tale is not here being told.

ONE WAY OUT OF THE MUDDLE.

Nebraska's reaction to the Bok peace plan, so far as it is registered, is generally favorable. Interviews with leading men and women of the state show them to regard the proposals as distinctly in the direction of the goal sought. Marking of ballots will diclose still further the mind of the people on the question.

At Washington, as might have been looked for, sentiment is mixed. Democrats hail the plan as a "forward step in educating the people," while republicans are reported to disapprove the plan as propaganda in favor of the league of-nations.

What will impress most people is that the suggestion appears to be practical and workable. Especially is it notable for its exclusion of Article X and XVI of the covenant of the league of nations, both of which rested on the use of force for the carryinging out of their purposes.

Unless the American people can devise some method for the ending of war, where will we look today for the foundation of peace? Until the whole world can be brought into line with the ideas that prevail here, what will avail?

The Bok plan, by whomsoever it was written, offers a way out of a labyrinth of trouble, and as such should have the serious consideration of all citizens.

PETITIONS AND PETITIONS.

When Gen. Jacob S. Coxey marched his petition in boots to Washington, 30 years ago, he was told to keep off the grass.

A more impressive petition has just been received at the capital. It is said to be the greatest public petition ever received at Washington. Two miles in length, it contains the names of 345,516 farmers from many states, and asks simply reduction in taxes and greater economy in government.

Congress will do well to heed this petition, for it expresses the desire of millions of Americans. Reduction in taxes is possible, and economy in government should be. That is what the people want.

Those striking students at Virginia Military Institute have the same erroneous idea cherished by altogether too many students—that they are conferring a favor on the taxpayers by accepting an education.

Some congressmen and all bootleggers are not interested in Mellon's plan of tax reduction, not pay-

Mr. Hays refuses to talk about the Hollywood situation. Perhaps he figures that there has already

If advice were 3 per cent money the farmers could finance themselves in very short order

One of the needed things in industry is forgeting to listen for the quitting time whistle

Already an alarming mortality is visible among

Homespun Verse

-By Omaha's Own Poet-Robert Worthington Davie

WHEN WARS SHALL CEASE.

In ages past wise men have tried to calm the wrath

In days gone by wise men have asked what nations Inherent greed or human need or basic truths or right, Or for the glorious aftermath when might is proven

As friend forsakes a friend the nations fling their hatred out,

And banners wave, the strong grow brave, the weak and weary shout, And kindly words and friendly deeds of each to each are lost.

And Hades rings in thoughts and things until the goal is crossed

When man forbears his arrowed quips, and when re-When oaths grow lifeless on the lips and smiles come in their stead:

When man is faithful unto man,-then shall the world

By that which sage has vainly sought and seer has

"From State and Nation" -Editorials from Other Newspapers-

Writing smart alec stuff for a news

From Popular Mechanics.

eight times.

In a single year more than 50 ac

Getting at the Truth.

will not put up the cash for its share of the work until it is inspected and

approved by federal engineers and the state has certified it has paid its

share of the expense. . The custom has been for the state

to pay contractors in full and reim-burse the state fund when the fed-

eral government paid its portion. Obivously this would create a deficit

until the federal government paid up.

The governor, however, has insisted there would be a deficit even though

the federal government paid up, and there has been a divergence between

the government's figurest and those of the governor as to the amount due

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V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of January, 1924. W. H. QUIVEY, (Seal) Notary Public

transaction.

Rrom the Neligh Leader.

The Omaha Morning Bee: Wednesday, January 9, 1924-

From the Wayne (Neb.) Herald.

If wealth were equally divided, the equality would not last long. Some who had inherited silver spoons would have to scratch gravel for existence. Some who had inherited nothing would, through alert, resourceful and persevering energy, accumulate abundant riches. have to scratch gravel for existence.

Two men starting in business with equal capital may be far apart in material possessions within a few years. One works early and late and leaves no reasonable thing undone to serve the public and to win confidence and the public and to win confidence and patronage. He builds a fortification of credit and adds to his earthly store. He gains ground steadily and his

growth is permanent.

The one who began with an equal sling most of the time. I've been estegg, has made work second to lay. The lure of society appeals He leans self-pitvingly on the assumprules. One of them is to never roast low it is a natural accompanion that he must have a "little pleasure out of life," and so he loafs and plays while his business suffers ruingly while his business suffers ruinget as much fun out of it as I do. Another is to never roast anyone that won't get as much fun out of it as I do. Another is to never roast anyone that won't get as much fun out of it as I do. Another is to never roast anyone that won't get as much fun out of it as I do. There have been retards in the Missian suits and always means more or less of a deflection of the current.

ous neglect.

Two farmers are living on opposite sides of the road. One starts with no money, but is blessed with invincible our age and determination. He is up other is, in personal allusion, to always exaggerate them so much that no one will take them seriously. Another is to keep away from personal ous neglect.

Two farmers are living on opposite ourage and determination. He is up habits, peculiarities, etc. if I know a man is a regular pa and at his task early. No part of his job is too small to receive due share of attention. His faithful wife marches by his side in turning dairy and poultry products to advantage. Credit comes apace. He owns his farm, and his assets steadily mount. In trying to get started the man across the road spends a small fortune which he inherited. He shies from work. He gives no earnest thought or painstaking effort to details. He regards milk, butter, chickns and eggs as trifles with which no ne of his capital and comprehensive itention should fool away time. He table machines with the machine of his machines with the machine machine the machine machi ets his machinery rust in the open, is hay spoil in the field, and his corn ot and waste through lack of care. fis horses, cattle and hogs become ad and sick and thin over the way e neglects their rations. He loses his little fortune, wrecks his credit and struggles along precariously from It is not so much lack of capital or ack of opportunity, but lack of ambi-ion and too great love of leisure that auses some to fall while others rise.

Foreign Minded "Peers."

ine Speranza in the World's Work. No less a careful and judicial body than the committee on legal education of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, under the chair-manship of the dean of Columbia law chool, has gone on record with this orn lawyers) come to the bar with ittle knowledge of American institurge membership unfitted by educaon or experience to bear its responibilitis and without the inclination which comes naturally from familiary with our institutions, to maintain

s traditions. . . ." But what shall we say of that other arden of alienage upon our legal sys-m—the burden of mental and moral lienage upon the system of trial by ury? Let us bear in mind that the upon the jury box; that under the constitution of every state in the union, no member of the state can be reprived of any of the rights or priviges secured to citizens "unless by
he law of the land, or the judgment
of his peers." It is a serious problem
enough when the "law of the land" is
enough wh enrived of any of the rights or priviecoming subject more and more to 'interpretations" by lawyers and udges culturally allen to our juridic alienage of vast masses of foreign born or foreign minded "peers" who oday sit in judgment in the jury only 60 months' residence in this country (and that residence may be in the non-American environment of a foreign "colony" in our midst), and the most simple of tests in the veneer of "Americanization" to make an Anatolian shepherd or a Pussian multi-simple was cash to not more work than the policy of government by the same not ready to support a policy that will encourage European nations in the policy of government by intracts for that much more work than there was a deficit of from \$250,000 to \$500,000 in the state aid are not ready to support a policy that will encourage European nations in the policy of government by force.

We were lured into was once by the only 60 months' residence in this country (and that residence may be in the ian shepherd or a Russian mujik en-titled to sit in judgment as a "peer" in an American court. It is enough to state it to show not merely the abto state it to show not merely the ab-surdity but the grave danger of such a free and easy system. And those well-intentioned, but thoughtless Americans who are so anxious to "naturalize" the newcomers as quick-ly and in as great numbers as possi-ble, ought to bear in mind that such crude and surface "citizenship" has ts repercussions not only on our polegal sytem which, through the centuries, the Anglo-Saxons have carefully built up as bulwarks of self-government of and by the people.

A Year Full of Promise.

We are now in 1924. It stretches ahead a promising and happy year. We refuse to believe that the future holds dark and foreboding things for holds dark and foreboding things for the state. An inquiry at the treasury in Washington develops there is ury in Washington develops the ury in Washington develops there is ury in Washington develops the ury in Washington develops there is ury in Washington develops there is ury in Washington develops the u holds dark and foreboding things for those who have faith and trust. Yes, we know that there are those who predict the collapse of civilization but they are false prophets. There are those who cannot see prosperity and well being ahead, but they are pessimists without cause. The dark things of the day, the wars abroad and the racked and returned differences which the day, the wars abroad and the racial and national differences which keep the people of the earth in turned in the people of the earth in turned in the second department, which officials in the department deny. People who know the storm. Men with seeing eyes and confident hearts can view the spread of splitting things and the growth of confident hearts can view the spread of spiritual things and the growth of founded faith and courage. The sun of peace and prosperity is always shining. The clouds which obscurs it from the eyes of all the world may seem dark and heavy now but they are not blotting out the sun at all. Happy and rich is the individual who refuses to be ruled by the clouds and the dear public would like to have the light turned on the whole transaction.

The Parachute in Aviation.

Trom the Pittaburgh Sun.

It has been predicted that in from

From the Pittaburgh Sun.

It has been predicted that in from 10 to 20 years the dirigible will succeed the big ocean liner in trans-Atlantic commerce. Nor will its usefulness be confined to overseas trips. According to these prophets, there will be small cheap airplanes as commonly gins."

"You mean 'concussion,' Mrs. 'ignis." be small cheap airplanes as commonly used on land as cheap automobiles of today. Then there will be fleets of large dirigibles crossing the ocean in two days and voyaging around the world. In addition there will be thousands of heavier-than-air feeders of sands of heavier-than-air feeders of airplane tenders to unload and load the dirigibles. A more sober view would place the time needed for such an industrial revolution at half a century at least. Whatever aircraft may accomplish in commerce, a greater degree of safety must be assured to attract passenger travel. Gradually, however, this is being attained. What the life preserver is to the ocean passenger, the parachute will be to the aerial passenger. A few days ago a French girl leaped from a plane traveling 180 kilometers an hour, opened eling 180 kilometers an hour, opened a small parachute and descended gent ly to the ground, where her friends were awaiting to take her to the hos-pital. The girl, who had been a war nurse and were the Croix de Guerre, demonstrated by her daring venture that aerial travel can be made safe. Probably the history of all modes of traveling has had its martyrs. Ocean

"The People's Voice"

Retards to Control Streams. Omaha-To the Editor of The Oma

ha Bee: It is often asked, "What is a retard?" About 40 years ago I read in my school geography a deWhere the ripened fruit is too; scription of the Missouri river where For those newly-blossomed friend it was pictured as a muddy, treacherous stream. It told how its turgid current contrasted with the clear sparkling waters of the Mississippi where they joined and also how snag might, over night, deflect the current thus making navigation very hazardous. So the original retard in the Missouri was a snag stuck in the nud or some other anchored struction. Go up or down the Mis-souri and you will often see a snag, professing to write that sort of junk an old tree perhaps, sticking up hig for a good many years, and during and dry and below it a bar. Such i for a good many years, and during and dry and below it a bar. Such is that time I have worked out certain a retard by accident, but the bar be

souri since the beginning of time. It is astonishing how some of them for peace." stick while man's efforts to get an anchorage have so often failed. Man finally learns some of the lessons nature so plainly puts before his very

something, usually a bunch of trees or brush, that will slow down (retard) the current. This deflects the current and a bar is formed just below the retard. One widely advertised retard has a concrete pile weighing several tons sunk to bedrock, hereabouts some 80 or 90 feet, to this anchorage one taken serious exceptions to any-thing I have written that was not meant seriously.

No doubt others have been temporarily out of sorts but they have evidently thought that the old grouch tuted for the trees. Such retards is only trying to be smart and he is such a liar that no one believes what properly placed are permanent and will control the current of the river he says anyhow. But, at best, it is ticklish business to roast people in print. Things look different and sound different in cold print than they

small expense.

If you want to see the principle of the retard in operation take a walk Dealer, or drive out along the roads or fields do when spoken. Sometimes I think I'll change over and write nothing but as soon as it warms up a little and notice the snowdrifts on the lee side sermons but if I would try that I expect I would get into more serious trouble than I do now. This is surely a troublesome old world. uncut grass along the meadow caught and held the snow. The weeds or grass or corn stalks or brush retarded the wind and it dropped the snow erming a drift. Then notice how dif ferent the snow acts here than it does where the wind strikes a solid of spruce trees, the only kind that produce the quality of pulp desired. body like a building or a haystack, there it swirls and eddys and repounds, an amount sufficient for an sand and mud in the water is droppe issue of 4,150,000 seven-column, 20. in a bar just as the control of the sand and mud in the water is dropped page newspapers, or, if turned into current of the river is a simple and lumber, building material could have comparatively inexpensive matter.

Critic of Bok Plan.

all the stamps used annually were placed in a single strip, they would make a ribbon of color 200,000 miles Hartington, Neb .- To the Editor of ong and would wrap around the globe The Omaha Bee: In your leading Arranged end to end, the usual sheets of 100 would form a brilliant sash 20,000 miles long, or, stacked one above the other, would build a shaft eight miles high. A single day's issue, wealthy growing, it would be ridicular. valued at approximately \$1,000,000, is las should this country decline to 50,000,000 and require 3,000 pounds of take on any part of the burden of

of our people. As though to oppose the league of nation, or the world The truth about the state road the burden of the world.

funds seems about to come out at last, though both the Bryan adminisready, and anxious to support any policy that stands for world peace, or tration and its predecessor are likely to have something to explain. Bryan has insisted there was a deficit of from

force.

We were lured into war once by the slogan, "Make the world possible for there was cash to pay for. As a result contractors who had completed work were unable to get their money. We were lured into war once by the slogan, "Make the world possible for democracy." We will examine a little closer before we are misled by One thing is admitted on both sides, and that is the federal government

Old and New

I like to see a new year come like to waken to new days
And the blessings they unfold; like to watch new sunsets Cast a glow o'er the aged hills,

as each new day of the bright new Some hope of the old fulfills.

ships Will, as the years proceed Be ripened into good old friends That in future years I'll need.

like to bring new strength to bear On the tasks that the old year brought: To bring new courage and effort and

zeal
To the battles that must be fought the new year brings new view

From which we may behold In a broader scope that shall give u For the problems of the old.

BAYOLL NE TRELE.

To have an interest, or a part in the burden of world humanity, does politics would better stop, look and not mean that we should be hung listen. The United States was there for their crimes, or our men slaugh- in 1861 and Europe reached it in the tered in their unholy wars.
DR. W. M. WARD.

Center Shots

singing canaries came into the port world that it is less important to build of New York. American breeders of navies than to be equipped for reis attached strong cables and to the have thus a concrete argument cables several bundles of large trees. in favor of tariff protection—Brooklivn Eagle

A Pennsylvania man cracked a nut with the butt of a loaded revolver, and can be installed at comparatively but he won't eat it until after the but he won't eat it until after the operation. And even then it will look all the time.—Davenport Democrat.

Counterfeit \$10 bills bearing the portrait of Andrew Jackson are being circulated in Chicago. Woldn't that of some meadow or plowed field where the weeds along the fence row or the make Old Hickory mad:—Providence Prohibition Commissioner Haynes

declaration that drinking is confined to New York's elite confirms the theory that the numbers of the famous "400" have been enormously inreased .- New York Tribune. Nations that have reached the no-

compromise stage in their internal

Abe Martin

If President Coolidge does git th for peace."

In my judgment, the foreign solicitation for our part in the world court, arises out of a hope that we may be drawn into a European war of conquest.

In President Coolings does git the presidential nomination, he ought to git the prepared first the prepared for the worst tending appreciate the best.

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> The United States was there summer of 1914. Recovery is slow and sometimes doubtful.—Chicago

There is no assurance that unforeen natural disasters such as Japan suffered do not await in any land mountains imported" birds building cities .- Washington Star.

When an American statesman looks like a 10-minute egg to us, we are to remember that he is acting the traditional role of the American Department of State and thinking of Amer-

It would seem as if the Postoffice necessary roughness when, in addition to the regular Christmas rush, the Congressional Record comes pil-ing on, too.—Kansas City Star.

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