

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 trade 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

proceedings. After forty years of public life Sherman retires under the shadow of failure. It's a sad story, with an unfortunate ending.—Chicago Dispatch.

Government by Injunction.

In a letter to Mr. C. Hammond, written from Monticello, Aug. 18, 1821, Jefferson said: "It has long been my opinion, and I have never shrunk from its expression, that the germ of the dissolution of our Federal Government is in the constitution of our Federal Judiciary, an irresponsible body (for impeachment is scarcely a scarecrow), working like gravity by night and by day, gaining a little to-day and a little to-morrow, and advancing its noiseless step like a thief over a field of jurisdiction until all shall be usurped." The great mind of this man foresaw in advance that the time might come when the enemies of freedom in America would attempt to overthrow, as they have done at last, by declaring that a Federal judge at his pleasure can abolish trial by jury, and keep an American citizen in jail as long as he pleases, without any other form of trial than the mere passing of sentence from the bench—the judge on which in every such case is not only the judge but the accuser. But the same statesman who pointed out in advance the great dangers which have since overtaken us, wrote also, as the fundamental rule of practical government, "Trust the people." We can afford to wait, secure in the belief that no matter how great the wrong, it will have an adequate remedy.

Popular Government Loans.

There is a moral and patriotic phrase to a popular loan that makes it worth more than the money consideration. The citizen with \$50 invested in the nation's paper takes on a new dignity and a new feeling of responsibility. The early Athenians taught us this: When armies were raised and campaigns fought through popular subscriptions it was as easy again as when the same results were sought through taxation. Let this government take the great commonplace into its confidence and make them feel as though they were part and parcel of the momentous affairs which are now developing and which will develop so rapidly in the nearby future.—Kansas City Journal.

Trusts Number Two Hundred Now.

An expert who has canvassed the growth of trusts finds that fully 200 such organizations are now in existence, with a total capital in stocks and bonds of \$3,662,000,000. This does not include many business and manufacturing combinations in process of formation, for there is scarcely a week that the announcement of a new pool or trust of gigantic proportions is not made. The capitalization claimed for existing trusts is equal to 56 per cent. of the aggregate capital credited to all manufacturers in the United States by the census of 1890.—New York Journal of Commerce.

Wanamaker's Big Job.

It now seems certain that John Wanamaker's second fight against Quay will fail as signally as did his first. It appears that the majority of the Republicans in Pennsylvania are not shocked by the exposure of Quay's methods. On the contrary they seem to be highly pleased with them. The downfall of Quay has been predicted in every contest he has had for years, but he is still the boss of his party in Pennsylvania, and he will probably remain so as long as he pleases.—Atlanta Journal.

Valor on Many Fields.

It has been discovered that the southern troops can stand the climate in Cuba better than the rest of the boys. But "climate" is not all that the southern troops can stand. If the experience of the past is worth anything it is certain they can stand a pretty good deal of fighting—"fur off, or close quarters."—Atlanta Journal.

Animal Sharpshooters.

There are several families of very proficient sharpshooters among the lower animals: the most expert, however, of them all is to be found in a family of fishes genera of which are found in several localities both in the Old and New World. These fishes are wonderful marksmen, and seldom fail to bring down the object at which they aim. Their weapons are their long, peculiarly-shaped muzzles, and their bullets are drops of water. The fish, after sighting its quarry, slowly swims to a favorable position within range; it then rises to the surface, protrudes its muzzle, and, taking rapid aim! zip! fires its water bullet and knocks its prey into the river. The struggling insect is gobbled down instantaneously, and the fish then proceeds in search of other game.

British Soldier's Uniform.

The British soldier has not always worn a red uniform. White was the prevailing color under Henry VIII, and dark-green or russet in the time of Elizabeth.

It is a curious fact that the roots and branches of a tree are so alike in their nature that if a tree be uprooted and turned upside down the underground branches will take unto themselves the functions of roots, and the exposed roots will in time bud and become veritable branches.

In Japan children are taught to write with both hands.

OUR NAVY IN A NUTSHELL

Interesting Facts Concerning Uncle Sam's Marine Fighting Power.

The United States is the fifth naval power in the world. The navies of Great Britain, France, Russia and Italy rank ahead in the order named. Germany and the United States are about tied.

Our present effective fighting force consists of four battle ships of the first class, one battle ship of the second class, two armored cruisers, eighteen cruisers, fifteen gunboats, six double-turreted monitors, one ram, one dynamite gunboat, one dispatch boat, one transport and eight torpedo boats.

The Iowa weighs nearly 12,000 tons, and as twenty tons is the average load of a freight car and twelve cars is a good load for a locomotive engine, it would take fifty locomotives to haul the great steel structure.

The powder used is brown and in chunks the size of a caramel. A charge for the biggest guns weighs 500 pounds and is hoisted to the breech by a derrick, the powder being sewed up in burlap bags.

Armor plates are tested by firing steel projectiles weighing from 100 to 1,500 pounds at them from guns charged with 500 pounds of powder and at a distance of about a city block.

The biggest guns in the navy are forty-nine feet long, big enough for a man to crawl into; four feet in diameter at their largest part and weigh 135,500 pounds or thereabouts.

There are six rear admirals in active service. The offices of vice admiral and admiral are unfilled, so there is no head of the navy excepting Secretary Long.

Barnacles form on the hull of a ship, impeding its speed. A six months' cruise will decrease the speed of a ship 15 per cent., and it must go into dry dock.

Sixty-one merchant vessels belong to the auxiliary navy. These ships are subsidized and by contract must be given to the United States on demand.

Some of the guns in the navy can fire a shot twelve miles, farther than a man can see, for the guns are aimed and sighted by machinery.

The amount expended by the navy department in 1897 was \$34,561,546. This is a larger sum than has been expended in any year since 1896.

In a battle the woodwork and articles of wood are either stowed below or thrown overboard lest the men be injured by splinters.

The origin of the navy department may be said to date from Oct. 13, 1775, when Congress authorized the equipment of two cruisers.

The fastest vessels in the navy are the torpedo boats Porter and Dupont, each of which can travel 27.5 knots an hour.

Battle ships cost from \$2,500,000 to \$3,750,000, and cruisers from \$600,000 to \$3,000,000. A good torpedo boat costs over \$100,000.

Battle ships are for the heavy work; cruisers are commerce destroyers; monitors are useful only for coast defense. The Indiana could hit outside Sandy Hook and throw 1,200-pound shots into New York at the rate of four a minute.

Those artists who show smoke in their pictures of naval battles are wholly wrong. Smokeless powder is used.

All of the cruisers are named in honor of cities, and the battle ships, except the Kearsarge, in honor of States.

The "grog" ration was abolished in 1863, and since then the crew has been forbidden to drink while on duty.

Marines are the police on board ship. Originally they were employed to prevent mutiny among the sailors.

The guns of a battle ship can carry from six to twelve miles, hurling a shot weighing half a ton.

Only 60 per cent. of the enlisted men are Americans, and a smaller percentage yet are native born.

Projectiles thrown by naval guns are shaped much as the bullets shot by the ordinary rifle.

A big battle ship has on board an electric plant capable of lighting a town of 5,000 inhabitants.

The boilers of the Iowa have a heating surface of eight acres and hold thirty tons of water.

Great Britain has 294 torpedoes and torpedo-boat destroyers; Uncle Sam has only eight.

Five hundred and twenty-six men and forty officers are required to man the cruiser New York.

Battle ships are covered with armor of nickel steel from five to seven inches thick.

We have four armored battle ships—the Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts and Texas.

A submarine torpedo boat to be known as the Plunger is now under construction.

At present the total enlisted force of the naval militia is 3,870 officers and men.

Behind the heavy armor there is a padding of either corn pith or coconuts.

It costs \$500 every time one of the big guns on board a ship is fired.

The Brooklyn and the New York are our armored cruisers.

Sailors are paid from \$9.50 to \$12.50 per month and board.

An act of Congress in 1872 abolished flogging in the navy.

The American navy has practically all been built since 1883.

A captain in the navy ranks with a colonel in the army.

The oldest iron vessel is the Michigan, built in 1844.

Five battle ships are now under construction.

We have only one ram—the Katakhdn.

The ships are painted white.—Frank Lee in Chicago Times-Herald.

With a Free Hand.

Wonderful are the decisions sometimes made by Mexican justices of the peace, most of whom are meagerly equipped in knowledge. One such ad-

ministrator of the law, after a man had been tried and found guilty of murder, delivered a long lecture to the murderer upon the heinousness of his crime, and warned him never to appear in his court again upon such a charge. Then he impressively pronounced sentence—five dollars and costs—and dismissed the court, his face beaming with pride and satisfaction over his oratorical effort. Before another Mexican justice of the peace there came a Mexican man and maid to be tied in wedlock. The judge looked them over critically, and apparently had doubts about the compatibility of their tempers, for he put a time limit upon the combination, and as he pronounced the words which made them man and wife he added, with emphasis, "For the space of two years only." As they went away he told them if they were dissatisfied with their venture before that time to come back, and he would divorce them for the same fee. Still another of these wise judges tried a man for some petty offense, found him guilty, and fined him five dollars and costs. But this was too much for the prisoner at the bar, who declared that he could not pay the fine; that he had not so much money in the world. The justice looked him over with fine, large contempt for any one so "ornery," shrugged his shoulders, and turned to the marshal with the nonchalant alternative: "Very well. Then take him out on the mesa and shoot him." Many of these Mexican justices cannot speak English. But that is not so much of a disqualification as it might appear, for the Territorial law commands all court proceedings to be carried on in both English and Spanish. Every New Mexican court has its official interpreter, and every word spoken in either language by judge, lawyers or witnesses is translated aloud into the other tongue.



It is said that Mr. Huysmans, the author of that striking novel, "En Route," is about to enter a monastery.

Miss Florence Marryat is publishing a novel with the title "A Soul on Fire." It has in it an element of spiritualism.

A new novel, named "Poor Max," by Mrs. Mannington Caffyn (Iota) is to be issued shortly. She is said to surpass in it all her previous novels, and to have left the sex problem in the background.

The degree of success which has attended the publication of "Like a Gallant Lady," by Kate M. Cleary, sister of the late noted dramatic critic, E. J. McPhelim, has been such as to induce that lady to begin another story which will shortly be given to the public.

Frank R. Stockton's new novel, "The Girl at Cobhurst," is to be published shortly by the Scribner's, and will be the fresher for the fact that it has no where appeared serially. It is a love story, in which a matchmaking crotchety old maid and a French cook attempt simultaneously to lead the hero's affections in different paths, with the customary Stocktonian whimsicality of effect.

Joseph Conrad's new story, published within the last few weeks in England, is doing very well there, in spite of its ungainly title. The Bookman says that Mr. Conrad is delighted with the title given to the American edition, namely, "The Children of the Sea," which fits the book to a nicety, whereas "The Nigger of the Narcissus" means nothing to the average mind. Mr. Conrad was stoutly advocated for the Academy prize which was obtained by Stephen Phillips.

The enterprising new magazine called Success contains an illustrated interview with Anthony Hope in which the English author-lawyer is quoted as saying that he had the usual experience of "wasting good stamps on returned stories" before his writings began to bring him enough to live on. "But after I left the law for literature," he says, "I wouldn't go back; pride alone settled that." His idea of the chief thing necessary for a man's success in story writing is the ability to invent plots. "It's born with a man, of course," he says. "Study will develop and work perfect a style, but it won't give a bent to it. The ability to invent a plot is a gift. I don't believe any one could train his mind to an inventive state."

A Little Dutch Garden.
I passed by a garden, a little Dutch garden
Where useful and pretty things grew—
Heartsease and tomatoes,
And pinks and potatoes,
And lilies and onions and rue.

I saw in that garden, that little Dutch garden,
A chubby Dutch man with a spade,
And a rosy Dutch frau
With a shoe like a scow,
And a flaxen-haired little Dutch maid.

There grew in that garden, that little Dutch garden,
Blue flag flowers, lovely and tall,
And early blush roses
And little pink posies—
But Gretchen was fairer than all.

My heart's in that garden, that little Dutch garden—
It tumbled right in as I passed,
'Mid 'wildering mazes
Of spinach and daisies,
And Gretchen is holding it fast.

—Boston Budget.

When There Was Only One Paper.
In the year 1700 there was only one newspaper in the United States.

ABUSING AN EDUCATION.

The Neglect of Self-Culture Is Ruinous Wastefulness of Advantages.

In a thoughtful paper on "A Waste of Education," in the Woman's Home Companion, Brand Bunner Huddleston speaks of the tendency of women to permit their talents to rust out:

"Mental culture may be the most costly or the most valuable gift of parents to their children just as they care for it after they get it. It is certain that few would equally neglect a material property of like monetary cost as they often do their educations. This, too, when money is the very shortest tape-line by which a mental gift may be measured. Perhaps it is due in part to the mistaken idea that when we have quitted the school-room we carry with us a stationary fund of knowledge that will, or ought to be, sufficient for our future."

"Look at the piles of hard dollars and the inimitable hours of time spent every year in the study and practice of music alone; except for the good they are to teachers and to the makers of musical instruments, the half might as well be wiped out of existence at one clean sweep. A decent little eternity might be made out of the time. And this continues to exist and repeat itself generation after generation in the very face of the fact that music is an incomparable addition to home life, and on that account, if for no more lofty or selfish reason, ought to be perfected and never neglected by women."

"How many of your women friends will undertake to entertain even the family circle with a creditable performance? Usually their pianos stand idle from the period immediately succeeding their marriage until there are daughters old enough to be put at lessons; then the old folly will be repeated. What folly? Not the placing of children to study music or any other accomplishment that is for their good or that the purse will permit. Let them have all the advantages within reach, but also teach them appreciation; the folly consists in fostering through example, and by a tacit acceptance of the existing state of things, the idea that it can be other than a sinful waste of time to acquire a good thing and then neglect it. No one has any business to learn a thing that is not worth remembering. It is foolishness for a merely utilitarian point of view. Thus it may not be possible or desirable for every mother to teach her own children, though some count it a sweet privilege to do so, yet it pays them to keep thoroughly posted, if only to judge of the quality of work being done by the teacher, and to supply that home cooperation which is so needful to the conscientious student and the teacher."

Enforced the Rule.

Among the ironclad sleeping car rules long ago adopted, and strictly adhered to, by the late George M. Pullman, was the absolute prohibition of card playing of any kind in his cars on the Sabbath day. Mr. Pullman took the ground, from the very start, that it would be an insult to a large part of the intelligent traveling public, which does not indulge in or endorse card playing on Sunday, to permit the few who draw no such lines to play on his cars in the presence of the many who would not sanction it on that day. All his sleeping car conductors, porters and other employees were given positive instructions to prohibit such pastime on Sunday, from morning until midnight. And as far as known the rule was always strictly lived up to. Another positive rule of Mr. Pullman was one refusing admittance to a Pullman car of any person known to be under the influence of intoxicating liquors when about to board a car. A case of this kind was thoroughly tested some years ago on a road in Iowa. A prominent official of another road had been on a pleasure trip and was returning home. He had been with some congenial companions and was the worse for the night's outing. He desired to take a midnight train for home, and several of his friends escorted him to the train and proceeded with the official to the sleeper. The porter promptly met the party at the door with "That gentleman can't come in this car." In vain was it pointed out that he was an official and his Pullman pass was exhibited, but all to no avail. "Makes no difference, gentlemen, if it was Mr. Pullman himself—no intoxicated man can occupy this car. It is against the rules." And the intoxicated official sat up all night in a day coach.—Milwaukee Evening Wisconsin.

Titles in Job Lots.

Heretofore American girls have found it a comparatively simple matter to buy titles, but the American men have been compelled to remain plain, unadorned citizens, without handles to their names. All this is to be changed if a bill which the Italian government proposes to submit to parliament becomes a law. According to the provisions of this bill any one desiring to become a prince may secure that title by planking down \$8,000. Five thousand dollars will purchase the title of marquis, \$4,000 the title of count, while titles of baron will be sold in job lots at \$1,000 each.

Here is an opportunity for that class of Americans who pine for the mark of nobility. Perhaps, however, if they wait a little longer other European governments in straitened circumstances will enter into competition with Italy and titles will be sold on bargain counters at big department stores.—Troy (N. Y.) Times.

No Stones in Manitoba.

In Manitoba you can turn a furrow many miles long and not encounter a stone as large as your fist. The earth, for a distance down from three to five feet, is a rich, black loam, made by centuries and centuries of decaying vegetation.

Brain Wounds.

Another instance in which a wound to the human brain did not result fatally has occurred in this State. In Birmingham a man shot himself in the head. He remained unconscious for a week, and the surgeons said his death was a matter of time only. On Saturday his right eye bulged out, and it was removed by an operation. With the eye came a 32-calibre bullet which had been in the man's brain for six weeks. He is on the way to recovery.—Utica Press.

Oldest Throne Left Now.

The oldest throne, or state chair, in existence is that which belonged to Queen Hatshepsut, who lived about 1,600 years B. C. This throne is now in the British Museum. It is made of hard wood and highly ornamented, the carving being very curious throughout. Round the legs there is a quantity of gold filigree work, and from these spring out, as it were, two cobras modeled in silver. The termination of the throne legs are well designed hoofs. The back is inlaid with silver and there are other cobras encircling the arms, which are highly gilded.

Bad Pay and Hard Work.

The bad pay and hard work of trained nurses has often been made the subject of remonstrance by medical men. It is well for an invalid, before he needs a nurse or doctor, to use Hostetter's Stomach Bitters if he has chills and fever, constipation, rheumatism, dyspepsia or nervousness. Use it regularly.

The Banana for Typhoid Patients.

After a long experience of typhoid patients, Dr. Ussey, of St. Louis, regards the banana as the best food for them. The intestines are inflamed, and sometimes ulcerated in this fever, and ordinary solid food is dangerous in his opinion. The banana, though a solid food, is nearly all nutriment, and of a soft nature. It is almost wholly absorbed by the stomach, easily digested, and very strengthening.

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