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Confronting Genoa Conference. Something of the magnitude of the task that is before the economic conference soon to open at Genoa may be gathered from one or two little news items.

The Republic of Germany, which was founded after the reparations as assigned without a foreign loan; at the same time setting up the remarkable claim that its obligations had disappeared because it did not comply with the demands within the time specified.

Another is that the German floating debt on March 20 was 272,000,000 marks, an increase within one year of 106,500,000 marks, while the circulation of the Reichsbank had risen 129,289,793 marks, an increase during March of 7,767,814 marks.

The German funded debt at the end of 1921 was 90,000,000 marks, which brings the total of debt to 362,000,000 marks or well above the estimated value of all the wealth of Germany, which is placed at 340,000,000 marks, or 885,000,000 at par value.

France's debt at this time, translated into United States money at par is equivalent to 365,000,000,000, or 100 per cent of the estimated national wealth of France. It is not easy for Americans to comprehend the significance of these figures.

One thing must be clear to all. The process can not long be continued, or the currency of France and Germany will lose its meaning as completely as has that of Russia. What the conference may do in dealing with the financial juggery that has followed the war is not suggested by any discussion so far presented.

Internal obligations, it has been hinted, will be treated after the fashion of the French revolutionists in dealing with the "assignats" and "mandats." These just evaporated, after being repudiated by the government, and the redistribution of wealth in France was made complete by a process far from pretty.

Reduction of expenditures, with balanced budgets, is recommended to all European countries. It is the way "back to normalcy," which means there is here a return to a sound economic basis.

The United States is not unwilling to aid Europe in reasonable efforts to restore its affairs to a healthy condition. Declining to enter the Genoa gathering, our government has retained its friendly attitude and interest in all the nations that will assemble there, but has left to them the actual control of their own affairs.

It is vital to the future of civilization that our own credit be maintained, and that European nations be lifted from the morass into which they are plunged. That process requires full and complete reorganization of the economic and political programs of the several nations, and when they have agreed as to what they are willing to do in this direction, it will be time for America to act.

Easter Time in the Near East. America has seen, and that not so long ago, drought stricken families fleeing in covered wagons to lands more promising. This is the nearest we have come to conditions that exist today in large areas of eastern Europe.

The imagination of America fails to comprehend the black misery of those regions, although the people here have given more generously than have those of any other country.

It was only a year ago that China had to be fed by our aid. Now it is Russia—and Armenia. This ancient land, home of a Christian race, has been for many years a white chip in the diplomatic game between Turkey and the imperialistic nations of Europe.

Massacre after massacre was allowed simply because of political policy, and today the Armenians once more have been abandoned. It is of no avail for Americans having financial or sentimental ties in Armenia to urge that the United States adopt this territory for expansion of this sort is counter to our democratic tradition. But there is yet much that can be done to lift these people out of their misery.

The Literary Digest, in a moving appeal for the lives of the children of the Near East, announces that if American contributions fall thousands will die. Already the Near East Relief has had to reduce its expenditures one-fourth. "Revoke the cruel sentence!" the magazine urges, "Stop the order to reduce relief work 25 per cent! Thank God it is in your power at this Easter time to give life in place of death, health in place of sickness, laughter in place of tears.

You can speak the word of resurrection which will call back some little child from the dark valley of shadow and flood its new life with sunshine."

Love Laughs at Turnkeys. The story of budding romance in a Delaware workhouse proves anew that stone walls do not make a prison make, nor iron bars a cage. Material for a farce abounds in the account of happenings there—pickpockets in love with a shoplifter, vagrants sighting with affection for lady bootleggers and flinty-hearted kleptomaniacs rebuffing the attentions of tender stickup men.

Love missives were hidden in pies and in clothing. The trustees were bribed to carry notes until they had time for little else, and then the warden established a jail postoffice and censorship through which all vows of affection must pass.

There are some pretty girls in the prison, the warden points out, and it is as natural for sentiment to flow there as out in the open. He even asserts that some of his fair charges have made happy marriages after serving their sentence. The cynic would say that the matrimonial yoke would seem easy after feeling that of the law. It would, no doubt, come easily to former convicts to stay in nights, and the women might indeed be slow to slipping downtown in the daytime.

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America's Merchant Marine.

We must show the possibilities of making money in the shipping business if we are to get the public to invest in it.—Chairman Lasker of Shipping Board to House Committee.

That is just what the American people are trying to find out. All the public knows, even in a detailed way, is that huge sums of money have gone into the project of building up a merchant marine with help from the government, and as yet no end appears. A billion and a half of expenditure for ship yards and ships was charged off as war expense; at least that much more has been carried over to the profit and loss account; many vessels are riding idly at anchor, no employment appearing for them, and now the chairman of the board is before the committee, asking authority to expend more money.

In all the maze of accounting in which the government's venture into shipping is enveloped, nothing is definite beyond the fact that the millions that have been poured into it are lost, so far as returns are concerned. The one hope is that existing vessels may be employed in the carrying trade, and either under public or private management restore the American merchant marine. Even this, according to the chairman, is now problematical. His reference to getting the public to invest in the industry undoubtedly means that the vessels ultimately are to be transferred to private ownership. That, as The Bee sees it, is the purpose of the subsidy suggested by the president.

Nothing could be more desirable than to have the foreign commerce of the United States carried on American bottoms and under the American flag. No explanation ever offered has entirely explained why this is not done. With ships available, and men ready to man them, a way should be found to give the public the benefit of vessels it already has paid for, but Mr. Lasker does not point it out. The proposed subsidy is not popular, nor do the people especially relish the thought that the whole question is being manipulated in interest of certain great combines whose control of the ocean-carrying trade is of long standing. More light is needed on the shipping board's activities.

Books to Read on Taxation.

The public treasury never pays out a dollar that it has not first taken away from some citizen. That Scotchman who inquired where he could find a "reasonable" postoffice has few equals for thrift among a population that considers a million-dollar appropriation by congress as mere chicken feed.

Those who are hard hit by taxation should not strike back wildly, but consider the matter carefully in all its aspects. Public expenditures must be scrutinized, but the methods of distributing the burden and raising the revenue are of almost equal importance.

There is no book giving comprehensive treatment to taxation in the United States. However, there are excellent special treatises that earnest citizens might well consult. If one wishes to read up on taxation, these are some of the books to which he might refer:

Plehn, "Introduction to Public Finance," Seligman, "Essays in Taxation," "Proceedings of the National Tax Association," an annual publication containing the freshest and best material on the problems of state and local taxation, 1907-1921.

Bulletins of the National Tax association. Reports of various state tax commissions. The biennial reports of the Minnesota Tax commission are among the best from the practical point of view. The Wisconsin reports also are good. The report of the Nebraska special commission on taxation and revenue, 1914, may be consulted for information on our own state.

In addition to these are works of a more special nature, such as Seligman's "The Income Tax," K. K. McKennan's "Income Taxation," Max West on inheritance taxes, and F. C. Howe on internal revenue taxes.

Facts are the greatest need of the taxpayer. Through them is the only real hope of lightening his lot. Very few public men have met their responsibility by any study along these lines, and it is accordingly up to the men and women that form their constituency.

How to Answer Thomas Blanton.

If Representative Garner and other congressmen from Texas are sincere in their abhorrence of Representative Thomas Lindsley Blanton, it might not be out of place for them to transfer their operations against him from the House of Representatives to the Seventeenth Texas district. Mr. Blanton may be all the varieties of liar catalogued by the indignant representatives from his state; he may be unlovely in his every aspect, but he is the choice of the democratic party in his district, and at the election in 1920 he received the highest vote cast for any candidate on the ticket. His standing in the congress is indicated by the fact that he was within a single vote of being expelled; unless these things be brought home to his constituents they will probably continue to return him. Therefore, the proper forum in which to call him a liar would seem to be at Abilene, his home town, rather than in Washington.

Strange how little is heard of the long-heralded Brown report on governmental reorganization. Among the recommendations is one that the government buy up and control all liquor now in bond and dispense it. The statement is made that a handsome profit could be made for the government within a year on this, through centralized storage and lowered cost of guarding the precious stuff. The proposed department of public welfare would direct the task of dispensing alcohol for medicinal purposes.

"Shoot to kill" has often been the charge to the police, with no appreciable effect on the crime wave. What might be more to the point would be to instruct the policemen how to shoot to hit.

Rose Coghlan now knows that the human heart still throbs with sympathy for the unfortunate, however indifferent it may seem at times.

Uncle Sam's bank roll continues to attract much attention.

Clean up, and then keep it clean.

THE HUSKING BEE - It's Your Day - Start It With a Laugh

HOUSECLEANING TIME.

The busy housewife soon with objections Upon her spouse, and little quarrelsome scenes, Will silence all his murmured imprecations.

On clean house and tacking on the screens; Will say, "Get busy now, for time is fleeting; Take down those curtains, stick 'em in the tub. Take out 'ose rugs—they need a thorough beating. And don't you try to beat it to the club."

While beating, hubby'll hail a passing croupy, And hopes he'll understand and sympathize, He airs his views on wives and matrimony, And what he should have done, had he been wise;

But croupies are unsympathetic, very, A hard-luck, married story causes smiles, So hubby garners nothing but a merry Ha! Ha! for his troubles and his trials.

But in the basement while the suds he's swishing, He's happier, though he detests the work, He dreams of brighter days when he is fishing Out on the lake where hussy beauties lurk; And in a boat out on the rippling fairway Quite valiantly he's bending to the oars, When wifely voice comes waiting down the stairway.

"Come, hurry! You must varnish all the floors!"

PHILOSOPHY. An opportunity ceases to be an opportunity after it gets by.

Most people hate to associate with a person who is intoxicated, but they will usually stay with him long enough to find out where he got it.

Anything can condemn an evil, but it takes action to carry out the sentence.

Everything from fallen arches to earthquakes has been blamed on jazz, but it has never been refuted that MUSIC "hath charms to soothe, etc."

New York is going to combat the crime wave with music, this summer instead of hold-ups. Your dollar membership in the City Concert club will furnish the music, and a dollar for this purpose isn't a hold-up.

The week's offerings at Omaha motion picture houses indicate that the movies are progressing.

Strung together, the titles go something like this: (Close the box office window, boys, the show is over.) "Smilin' through the lane that had no turning, over the hill beyond the rainbow."

THE PURSE STRING, LIKE THE LATCH STRING, IS ALWAYS OUT.

Margot Asquith's smile was missing when she sailed for home, a news item informs us. Marg. probably felt sad to be leaving the easy money.

A "premier" showing of a picture, whatever that is, seems to furnish the excuse to charge \$5 for a show that will later be exhibited for two bits.

Galoshes may have flopped their last flop of the season, but—

Mere man gives a snort And a couple snickers, When he pips a flapper With bobbed hair and knickers.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES. Sign on North Sixteenth street: "Guttering and Spouting."

On Farnam street: "We will dye for you and do it better."

In front of ice cream stand in South Omaha: "Take a brick home to your wife." —Piped by Scout Frank Carey.

TO THE DYE WORKS. Young lady who had been waiting three weeks for her renovated spring wardrobe to be returned rises to inquire where a dry cleaner goes when he dyes.

See where Mr. Wead bought an auto to go sight-seeing in California. Probably figured it would be cheaper than paying instalments on a taxi line.

THE AYES HAVE IT. Mr. Aye was re-elected mayor of Blair, Neb., at Tuesday's election. The nays lost by 110 votes.

OH, HON! A maiden once said just in fun, "I don't freckle a bit in the sun." But it gave her a pain To stay out in the rain, For she feared her complexion would run.

DARK O' THE MOON. We doff our eye-shield to the inspired make-up man on the W. at Saturday, directly under a funeral notice placed a paid item to the effect that the "Planting Season Is Here."

TODAY'S IDLE THOUGHT. Poverty has no trouble keeping up with a lazy man.

There is little change in men's clothing this season, says a fashion note. The only hope for a man is to wear the fashion of last year. Yeah, that's what the wife opined when she went through the pockets.

'STOO TRUE. Many a bride, as the honeymoon wanes, Looks on the future with heartaches and pains, Looks at the wedding gift silver, I ween, And wishes she'd gotten a washing machine.

AFTER-THOUGHT: Before a woman will darn her husband's Sox she has to patch up a quarrel.

Architectural Jazz. Why shouldn't a "city beaut" come down from the realm of dreamland into the practical idealism that converts beauty into a commercial asset?

The science of architecture is like Greek to a layman. But the architects have a multitude of different ideas and opinions. The only hope for a real "city beaut" is to find some coherent architectural standards and stick to them.

Architectural jazz is just as ephemeral, as noisy and as discordant as the jargon of sounds that profane the name of music.

Yet every American city has lapses from the canons of good taste in almost every block of dwellings. Business architecture has suffered less, because the modern skyscraper era sacrificed everything else to utility. Now that real architecture again shows some signs of renaissance in business structures there may be more danger ahead.—Chicago Daily Journal.

A Victorian Legacy. "The mature female limb," says Mary Roberts Rinehart, "is not beautiful." And what, dear Mary, if you will excuse our ignorance, is a limb?

—New Orleans Times-Picayune.

How to Keep Well

By DR. W. A. EVANS

Questions concerning hygiene, sanitation and prevention of disease, submitted to Dr. Evans by readers of The Bee, will be answered personally subject to proper limitations, where a stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed. Dr. Evans will be glad to make a diagnostic or prescribe for individual diseases. Address letters in care of The Bee. Copyright 1922

PULLMAN SANITATION.

The Pullman company has done its part in making travel free from the dangers of disease. A sleeping car should be a very unsanitary place. With beds closer than 24 people in a limited space, the cubic feet of air space and the square feet of floor space are all that has been proved to be necessary for safety in the presence of bad epidemics of air-borne diseases. The contacts of the toilet room are closed.

Sleeping cars would be disease breeders, and possibly they have been some basis of the cleaner's fear of the end berth because the sick were generally allotted that space and contagion may have lingered.

But now the story is different. Cars are cleaned with vacuum cleaners at all points where cars clean long enough.

Vacuum cleaners were chosen rather than compressed air because they gathered the dirt in bags and in that way protected the car cleaners against consumption and other forms of contagion.

No private residence is fumigated as frequently or as well as a car. A sleeper's room is a chamber that has recently been made bedbug-proof with a mixture of corrosive sublimate, one ounce; alcohol, one pint; turpentine, one-fourth pint.

When a Pullman stands in the station long either the toilets are locked or the cleaner receives the car drainage are flushed.

Fifteen years ago some smallpox was spread by porters. I knew one case in which a porter, broken out with mild smallpox, served his car from Los Angeles to Chicago, and, of course, the case of the porter who carried smallpox from Chicago to Montreal, thus causing a great epidemic, is a classic.

Now Pullman porters are kept vaccinated.

In the recent epidemic of virulent smallpox in Kansas City the only trainman bringing the disease to this city was a noted clerk. All of this is because the sanitarian has experimented on every phase of sanitation and hygiene in relation to cars, and the company has been eager to install whatever was needed for comfort and health.

An writer I have before me two studies by Dr. Crowder of car ventilation.

These studies show just how much fresh air is taken in a crack one-quarter inch wide in a car running 40 miles an hour.

The ordinary room takes in fresh air because of the heat inside as compared with the outside and because of the wind. In the case of a car, however, the heat is in the interior of the swiftly moving car against the air is added as an important factor.

Therefore, getting enough air into the car is an easy matter.

The sleeping car people have made extensive scientific experiments on how much air is taken in through all kinds of openings at all kinds of locations, with all kinds of weather conditions, and at all rates of speed. They have experimented on air intake with relation of intake of dust and cinders on temperature and air movements inside the car.

There may be other people who know as much about the use of fans to distribute heat in the winter and to increase comfort in summer, but no one else employs them so much or so well.

These experiments show the advantage of lower temperatures in winter and more air movement than the cars have, but the porter is compelled to satisfy his passengers as well as his car, and some people want a winter temperature well above 60 and draft cracks senses and kick about very mild air currents.

The company would like to maintain a lower temperature, of course, and it would have no objection to the drafts and uneven temperatures which science says are best for health.

To Save the Children. Mrs. H. D. C. writes: "Our small suburb is inaugurating a campaign against the annual epidemic of children's diseases this spring."

"Can you give us any advice, assistance or encouragement?"

REPLY. Summon the county health officer to a meeting of the parent-teacher association. Have them appoint a committee to sit in conference with him and work out a plan.

Write to the board of education, Shorewood, near Milwaukee, Wis., for their plan.

Wear Broad-Toed Shoes. H. M. A. writes: "Will you please tell me what to do to remedy the disagreeable condition of my feet, which comes on every year with the cold weather? The outside of the joints of both big toes gets red and painful."

REPLY. I wonder if you have bunions? If they only trouble you in winter they are not bad and simple measures might cure them.

Wear broad-toed shoes; separate the toes by cotton or by pads made of wool between the toes, and thereby keep them straight.

Emergency Man's Daughter. "I lost a photograph of the man you were engaged to last summer?" "I think he was the summer before last." "The date's on the back." —Life.

Encouragement. Just as soon as she leather gets back to prewar levels the 5-cent fare matter will begin to take some heat.—New Orleans Times-Picayune.

GULBRANSEN PLAYER PIANO

Nationally Priced

Branded in the Back

Why Haven't You One Yet? \$700 \$600 \$495

A. Hospé Co. The Art and Music Store

1813-15 Douglas Street

Taxation Misrepresentation

In an editorial on taxes published in the Omaha World-Herald of April 6 occurs the following paragraph: Nebraska taxpayers may wonder why state government costs so much more in their state than it does in Illinois and other states. They may wonder why, as shown by Congressman McLaughlin, the Nebraska budget is \$20,000,000, while the Wisconsin budget is \$24,000,000, the Texas budget is \$22,000,000, the Michigan budget is \$17,000,000, the Minnesota budget is \$16,000,000, the Missouri budget is \$15,000,000, and the Iowa budget, \$10,000,000. These states are all older, more populous and richer than Nebraska, and most of them have large and flourishing industries other than agriculture to help bear the burden of taxation.

If these figures were correct, the taxpayers of Nebraska might well wonder. Determined to ascertain the exact truth about taxation in the states mentioned, The Bee sent the following telegram to the respective state auditors:

Please wire collect total amount of appropriations by your legislature for all purposes, including schools, for biennium 1921-1922.

This reply came from Wisconsin: Total amount of appropriations by the Wisconsin legislature for all purposes for the biennium 1921 and 1922 is \$61,034,000.

E. M. ELLIOTT, Secretary of State.

R. C. Chase, state auditor of Minnesota, wired from St. Paul: Sixteen million, one hundred and fourteen thousand and nine hundred and ninety-nine dollars general revenue funds direct and \$10,469,548 from previous legislatures available for year 1922. The auditor general of Michigan, O. B. Fuller, replied: Appropriations legislature Michigan \$55,585,984 for 1921 and 1922.

From Missouri came this answer by George E. Hackman, state auditor: Approximately \$22,000,000 out of state revenue fund; about \$2,000,000 out of earnings of state departments and institutions, also including state school money. Report follows.

Lon A. Smith, Texas comptroller, responds: Appropriations year ending August 31, 1922, \$17,215,500 for departments, institutions and higher education, exclusive of special funds of these. Above includes \$3,000,000 out of general revenue for free schools, which added to special funds makes a total of approximately \$18,000,000 for free schools.

Iowa's governmental bill as given by G. C. Haynes, auditor of state follows: Appropriation by thirty-ninth general assembly for the biennium, July 1, 1921 to June 30, 1922, total \$10,932,933.81. The existing annual appropriation by preceding legislatures and appropriations not specifying a definite amount are not included.

Even less difficulty is found in ascertaining the correct amount of Nebraska's state budget for the biennium. The true figure is \$22,740,500.48. The \$20,000,000 estimate does not take into account the reduction in expenditure accomplished by the special session of

Stubborn Cases of Stomach Trouble Yield Promptly to TANLAC 25,000,000 Bottles Sold

Saturday Special We Will Offer to the Cash Buyers Brand New Victrolas 20% OFF \$100 Victrolas going at... \$80.00 \$125 Victrolas going at... \$100.00 \$150 Victrolas going at... \$120.00 \$225 Victrolas going at... \$180.00 \$275 Victrolas going at... \$220.00 Mahogany, Walnut or Oak Finish OAKFORD Music Co. 419 So. 16th, Omaha

Radiant Block, \$13 Per Ton Arkansas Semi-Anthracite Coal. Give this splendid fuel a trial. It's high in heat units and low in ash. Four Yards to Serve You Updike Lumber & Coal Co. 4500 Dodge Street

Bankrupt Sale! The Entire Stock at 109 North 16th Street

Directly Opposite Postoffice Bought from the U. S. Bankrupt Court Being Sold at 33 1/3, 40 and 50c on the \$1 Men's Clothing, Furnishings and Shoes at Prices Lower Than the Cost of the Raw Material! Lower Than Wholesale!

GROUP 1 Young Men's Suits That were never seen, in recent years, priced below \$40 and \$45. Their tailoring is unequalled, their materials are of pure wool, their style is this season's. Most of them are new spring models. Bankrupt Sale Price \$19.50 GROUP 2 Men's and Young Men's Suits Some with two pairs of pants. Mostly high-grade one-pant suits—the finest suits that ever adorned a man's back. Not one worth less than \$50. A few late fall models. Mostly new spring styles. Bankrupt Sale Price \$24.50

Extra Specials in Shoes at Prices That Cannot be Duplicated at Wholesale. Lot No. 1—Silk Shirts, \$8.00 and \$10.00 values at \$3.95 Lot No. 2—Silk Striped Madras Shirts, \$4.00 values. \$2.45 Bankrupt price... \$2.45 Lot No. 3—Madras and nice Percales, up to \$3.00 values. Bankrupt price... \$1.25 Lot No. 4—Nice Pongee colored Shirts, \$2.00 values, only... 95c Lot No. 5—Good Shirts, \$2.00 values to \$2.00, only... 75c

Extra Specials in Trousers for Saturday Lot No. 1—Blue serges and some fancy stripes \$4 and \$5 values, at \$2.95 Lot No. 2—\$7.50 and \$8 Trousers, a real buy at \$4.65 Lot No. 3—French blue serges and grays, first class make, values to \$12.50; sale price... \$5.45 Lot No. 4—Good Cotton Hose, 7 pairs \$1.00

FULL DRESS SUITS ON SALE These Suits Have Been Rented a Few Times \$10.00 and \$15.00 Open Saturday Evening Till 10 o'Clock Don't Forget the Address—Directly Opposite Postoffice. 109 N. 16th St.