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ENGLAND TAXING THE RICH.

One of Adam Smith's fundamental principles of taxation, that each citizen should contribute to the state in proportion to his ability to pay, is being carried out to a somewhat literal degree in Great Britain.

The income tax has been in force in that country almost continuously since the year 1842; but last year it yielded more revenue than any other form of taxation. The inheritance tax yielded half as much as the income tax. Both of these taxes are levied on wealth, and not on production. They take from those who are most able to pay.

In exact figures, the income tax, for the year 1908 produced for the government \$168,000,000, being levied on a population of 44,500,000, while the inheritance tax yielded \$84,250,000.

Incomes under \$1,000 are exempt from taxation, and graduated abatements are allowed on incomes between \$1,000 and \$5,400. The income tax is levied on the profits accruing from land, tenements, heritages and the occupants of them; on all profits from interest, annuities, dividends and shares of annuities payable to any person or corporation out of any public revenue; on the annual profits accruing to any person in the United Kingdom from any kind of property and from any profession, trade or employment; and upon every public office or employment of profit and upon all pensions paid out of the revenues of the government. For the past few years the rate of taxation has been one shilling on the pound sterling, or nearly 5 per cent.

A deficit of \$80,000,000, however, still faces the government for the ensuing year; and Mr. Lloyd George proposes to make up this by dipping still more deeply into the purses of the rich.

Two of the greater items of increase in the governmental expenditures are those for a larger navy and those for old-age pensions. In the past, the British government has been accused of favoring the great landed class at the expense of the poor and middle class; but the present program is a renewal of this policy. The main features of the new bill are the direct taxation of land, the increased taxation of incomes and legacies, and the taxation of machinery and mining property. A tax is also laid upon automobiles and the gasoline used in their propulsion, and it is further proposed to tax such superfluities and luxuries as are not in the same class as tea and sugar. About as much of the latter articles are consumed by the poor as by the wealthy individual, and the present government of Britain looks with disfavor upon making the poor contribute in equal amounts with the rich for the national defense and the support of the infirm and aged.

The new bill is vigorously and bitterly opposed by the aristocracy. Lord Tildley, who himself owns 10,200 acres, declares that under its provisions "a millionaire will, with death duties and income tax added together, pay a total tax of five shillings in the pound," which would be 25 per cent of his income.

The tax is heaviest on what is termed the unearned increment of land. The rise in the value of land and in its rental yields, from the mere increase of the population surrounding it, is called the unearned increment; and it is proposed to tax very heavily this rise in the value of land, which rise is due to no effort of the owners.

On moderate incomes the tax is light. If a person's annual income amounts to \$2,000, or say \$10,000, his income tax will be only "nine pence in the pound," that is 18 cents in each five dollars of income.

The conservative papers denounce the new tax proposals as revolutionary. The London Times says:

"Taking from the rich never makes the poor richer, but, on the contrary, makes them poorer, in spite of any transient dolo they may obtain at the rich man's expense. What makes the poor richer is assisting the fuller development of industry, the better employment of capital, and the full employment of labor. The tariff reformer knows that taxation may be put on anywhere under any specious form, but that no ingenuity can invent its distribution downward. He also knows that well-paid employment is the only ladder by which every man in his degree rises to a better position, and free-trade finance is doomed to fail just because it refuses to recognize this economic truth."

The Saturday Review makes the following comment:

"Is it really the object of the present Government to crush the landed gentry, all except the big pots, out of existence? It looks like it. If the aristocracy and the moneyed class will stand this budget they will stand anything; if they do not join forces to defeat it, by fair means or foul, their day is over, and they will have a financial earthquake at the hands of Mr. Lloyd-George or his successor."

The Daily Mail speaks indignantly over the fact that so large a proportion of the appropriations is devoted to old-age pensions and comparatively so little to Dreadnoughts.

England now feels one of the first results of preparation for war. The conservative and wealthy classes were those most alarmed at the prospect of war with Germany and they excited the imagination of the common people with the same ideal. But those who

build battleships must pay for them; and the only adequate source of such payment would seem to be the large estates and the great incomes of the rich.

THOSE RETAIL PRICES.

It is not improbable that the question as to the place of responsibility for high prices is to be investigated by the Senate.

Although Senator Gore's resolution calling for a select committee of the Senate to investigate the prices charged for those commodities of the great general use covered in the Tariff Bill, with especial reference to the cost of production, the buying and selling price of the wholesale, and the buying and selling price of the retailer, was defeated, the agitation for such an investigation seems to be gaining in both force and consistency throughout the country.

The New York Post declares it to be understood that Senators Smoot and Flint do not care to let the issue rest undisturbed.

It appears that the retail merchants have not yet had their side specifically stated in the Senate; but some of those most interested have already begun to communicate with the Senators named above. The Post claims moreover, that "Every effort has since been made to put a stop to this sort of inquiry, but at whose behest has not been made clear."

Certain groups of retailers throughout the country, who received inquiries from their customers, hastened to deny the Smoot and Flint charges of undue profits. There was a real issue raised between the retailers and their consumers in some sections of the Central West, and Senator Nelson, among others, has received considerable data on this subject.

The Springfield Republican says, in behalf of the retailers that competition continues to reign with unabated force there; and that to establish unreasonably high prices for any line of commodities, combination and the suppression of competition would first be necessary. The Republican argues that, "No combination for higher prices among such or other stores appears to be possible without bringing into the field the small dealer with his special lines; only through the manufacturing source of supply is it possible to effect any degree of monopoly among retailers or wholesalers."

Nevertheless, the ratio between wholesale and retail prices, and the supposed excessive profits of the middle man continues to figure prominently in the Senatorial debates.

The issue seems to be thus: Is it the middlemen, or the importers, or is it the manufacturers, who are responsible for commodity prices unnecessarily and exorbitantly high? Which particular set of traders is realizing the great profits, if they exist, that result from the operation of the tariff laws?

Senator La Follette takes the ground that in a horse trade even deacons and Senators are fallible, and that, "this whole business of passing the Tariff Bill is one continued horse trade in which the one party is a nation with the eyes bandaged, being jockeyed by a combination of traders and cheated out of its eye-teeth."

Senator Hale recently asserted that "it is the jobber, the retailer, who puts up the price," and that we "are at the mercy of the middlemen and retailers." Later Senators Flint, Smoot, and others returned to the charge, asserting that the retailers and department stores of the country are making exorbitant profits. The Los Angeles Express (Ind.), remarks that the retailers of the country are indignant at this effort to make them the scapegoat for conditions occasioned by the tariff.

A FEW PARAGRAPHS.

No, the "News" did not address any questions to the Tribune, in the editorial of May 27, on the responsibility for the "stockade." We stated expressly: "These questions are commended to the careful investigation of those who are desirous of placing the responsibility where it belongs." That excluded the Tribune, since its only concern is to place the responsibility where it does not belong.

The Tribune did not, as it claims, denounce the stockade proposition. It did protest against a "red light district" under municipal ownership, or protection. If this is not true, will the Tribune, without dodging and falsifying, please quote what it did say. If the "News" is wrong on that point, it will gladly correct the error.

The "News" does not deny the right to ask questions. But if the questions are addressed to this paper, we reserve the right to answer, or not, as we deem best. And when questions are asked merely for the purpose of dodging the main point in dispute, then we refuse to be misled by so crude and puerile tactics. The Tribune denied, on behalf of the "American" party, responsibility for the stockade. We suggested that those interested in that matter seek the true answer to certain questions. The Tribune then tried to draw the attention in another direction by queries concerning subjects entirely foreign to the discussion. But in vain.

The Tribune now denies that so-called "American" party officials "created the situation." It does not give any clue to what it means by this term. But since it has admitted before that an "American" chief of police publicly proposed it, and that another "American" official endorsed the plan, the question whether they "created" it, or not, does not really seem material.

The Tribune says the "News" ignored "the proposition that it was the State that incorporated the stockade." The "News" denied that proposition. We did not ignore it. But, possibly,

the Tribune does not know the difference between ignoring and denying. Charity suggests some such explanation. The State did not incorporate the "stockade." (By the way, is the "stockade" incorporated?) There is a corporation called "The Citizens' Investment Company," but its charter, we dare say, was not granted by the State for immoral purposes. As we have said before, if the whole truth were known, it would probably appear that the "stockade" was not planned until some assurance had been obtained from so-called "American" party leaders that it would be all right. This surmise is justified by the very fact that "American" officials publicly endorsed the infamy.

These are regular old haleyvon days.

Bleached hair in the butter is unhealthy.

Never try to take a muley bull by the horns.

It is the drummer who leads the sample life.

Of course grinding the forests to a pulp destroys them.

Why not christen North Temple street the Fluminian Way?

The creeks are full enough now to drown anybody's sorrow.

There seems to be some yarning about the wool schedule.

Father Time alone knows how to make old men out of boys.

Of the Capitol election it may be said, "All is lost save honor."

The bakers must be very busy men. Their loaf gets smaller and smaller.

Tuesday's election proved that our country friends are not Capitolists.

A man never rises as rapidly in other people's estimation as he does in his own.

Seattle will guarantee all visitors two things: cool weather and a warm welcome.

In the western part of the city the residents do not feel like a fish out of water.

Hereafter, Secretary of the Treasury Franklin MacVeagh, like John Alden, must speak for himself.

Andrew Carnegie is the most bookish man in the world. He has founded eighteen hundred libraries.

Mark Twain's accused of plagiarism by English publishers. Humorist that he is, he fails to see where the joke comes in.

Strange that some automobile company does not make the claim that Christian climbed the Hill Difficulty with its car.

The hand of the law thinks it is about to lay itself on the Black Hand. Before it does, there will be some sleight of hand.

An Astor House waiter worked for \$30 a month for thirty-four years and accumulated a fortune of \$200,000. All things come to those who know how to wait.

In Crook county, Wyoming, the lion and the lamb have lain down together; in other words, the cattlemen and the sheepmen have come to a mutual understanding.

When Professor Lowell has successfully established communication with Mars, he should turn his attention to determining whether or not the moon is made of green cheese.

Postmaster General Hitchcock says the postal cards issued by the United States are inferior to the product of almost every other country. They certainly are a blotter upon our civilization.

"Smoot no match for Mr. Dolliver," says the organ of the Pseudo-American party. Yet Mr. Smoot has been able to fire the Iowa senator's imagination and make at the wool schedule a burning question.

A bill prohibiting the importation of all intoxicating liquors passed both houses of the National Parliament in Iceland on the 1st of May. The vote was 18 to 6 in the lower and 8 to 5 in the upper house. There is not a still or distillery in Iceland.

"There is some incongruity in the proposition to expend \$7,000,000 for the erection of forts to guard the Panama canal and the assumption that we are building it for the benefit of mankind," says the San Francisco Chronicle. Treason! treason!

A CASE FOR INTERVENTION.

Springfield Republican.
The recent session of the Illinois Legislature was one of the most creditable in the history of the state. It opened with the election of a speaker of the House through a coalition of Republicans and Democrats seeking something to devour, and its chief performance was the election of William Lorimer to the United States Senate, after a five-months' deadlock, by means of the same sort of a coalition. The two houses were at sword's points and the governor was at odds with the two houses. The Legislature's adjournment is a genuine relief to the state; and it may be added that if the Cuban Congress should act half so badly, President Taft would seriously consider intervention.

THE FATAL FOURTH.

Atlanta Georgian.
The Fourth of July is still some distance off. But, in advance of the day which is set apart to the Declaration of Independence, it may be of some interest to scan an article which recently appeared in the Atlantic Monthly, showing the casualties which for several years past have been attendant upon our celebration of the nation's birth. In 1908 the number of deaths due directly or indirectly to the use of gun powder and other explosives was

182. But the list of the wounded aggregated 5,460. This reads like the sanguinary account of some disastrous engagement between opposing armies. And the fact is that many a battle which has changed the current of history has been fought with results less tragic. For the past six years the aggregate of deaths charged to the account of the Fourth of July has reached 1,816, while the number of victims who have been maimed and injured for life totals 27,380. There is food for some very serious thought in the story of recklessness which this exhibit unfolds. We are too patriotic to file a bill of complaint against the manner in which the nation's birthday has been observed from time immemorial. But the casualties which have been occurring for several years past sternly emphasize the need of safeguards and restraints, and we must at least curb our riotous demonstrations to the extent that this record of bloodshed shall cease.

JUST FOR FUN

Annoyed.

"Mrs. Brown is terribly worried. Her husband came home sick the other day."

"Is she afraid he's going to die?"
"No, it isn't that. You see, she's afraid he won't get well before Friday, when she's due to entertain the afternoon card club."—Exchange.

An Obliging Sailor.

"I am sure that my American dollars mean very little to you," said Miss Cumrox.

"You are right," answered Count Fucash. "Their significance at present is vague. But it will be an easy matter to translate them into francs."—Washington Star.

Immediate Need.

Kind Friend—Hoppeck, let me introduce you to Prof. Glass, the great hypnotist, who can put any one to sleep within two minutes after starting. Hoppeck—Glad to meet you, professor. Come, let me introduce you to my wife.

A Mistake.

"Walter," said a guest at a hotel as he inspected a bill before leaving, "there is one item omitted."

"What item, sir?" inquired the waiter.

"The manager said 'Good morning' to me yesterday and has forgotten to charge for it!"—Tit-Bits.

OPTIMISM.

"Some fish eat the bait right off my hook," she said.

"Check up," he'll be all the bigger when you do catch him," he responded, encouragingly.—Buffalo Express.

Economical.

Mrs. Knicker—Do you let Bridget eat with the family?

Mrs. Booker—Yes; it's much cheaper than to have her eat with the policeman.—Puck.

Earning Her Money.

"My wife always kisses me when she wants money."

"Well, she certainly earns all she gets."—Kansas City Journal.

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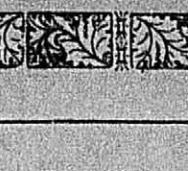
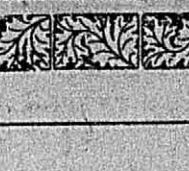
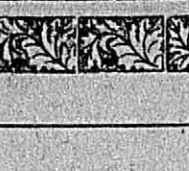
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June Weddings

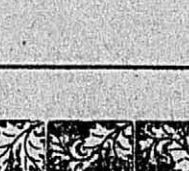
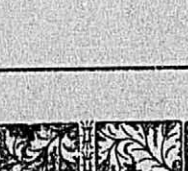
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