

the latter system has been carried into extensive operation. The British legation in the capital of that little republic has lately sent out a report on the workings of the different systems in use; and in it appears much that is of interest and value. In four of the cantons there are complete progressive systems, according to which the tax, as a rule, is restricted to incomes derived from pensions, annuities, usufructs, salaries, wages, and the earnings of labor generally, income derived from capital being fixed on its capital value, either as a general tax on fortunes or as a tax on personality. So far, then, as the wealthy are concerned, the principle of progressive taxation is applied in the shape of a tax on landed property and capital; and it is on the industrial and professional classes that the progressive income tax presses.

But the most thorough application of the principle is found in the canton of Vaud. There the realty is divided into three classes: The first includes properties under \$5000 in value, the second properties between \$5000 and \$20,000 in value, and the third those over \$20,000. The amount of the tax is fixed yearly; and the rate at present is \$5 per \$5000 for the first class, \$7.50 per \$5000 for the second, and \$10 per \$5000 for the third class. Personal property is also divided into three classes—personalty proper, incomes and usufructs, and proceeds of labor; and each of these is again divided into seven classes, the tax per \$500 rising from \$10 to \$40. Thus a man with a salary of \$10,000 would pay \$800, with one of \$2500, \$150, and with a salary of \$500, \$5. The increase of revenue from this tax amounts to some \$30,000, the population of Vaud being about 243,000. Frie de of the system point to the increase as a proof of its successful working and advocate its extension to other cantons. But it is contended, on the other hand, that the fiscal gain is more than counterbalanced by depreciation in land values and injury to local trade. Wealthy families are said to have left the canton, while many regularly close their houses for nine months in the year in order to evade the law. Foreigners, too, are less and less anxious to reside in the canton. The consequence of all this is that many properties have depreciated fifty per cent and that trade suffers greatly.

These objections would seem to be weighty, and to constitute quite an obstacle to the extension of the system in the other cantons; so much so, indeed, that a proposition to introduce the Vaud idea in Berne, the principal canton of the republic, was signally defeated at a recent election. It is understood, however, that the economists and financiers of the nation are conferring with a view to the presentation of a scheme which shall possess all the merits and remove as many as possible of the faults in the system referred to. Their efforts and experiments, whatever the result may be, will not be lost upon the rest of the world, which sees in the question a problem with which all have directly to deal.

THE DIRECTOR of the mint says we have \$1,611,321,753 in money in circulation; and there is scarcely a man who thinks he has his fair share of it.

FOOLISH PROCEEDINGS.

The action of the Chicago city council that enabled Mayor Washburn to quietly and sarcastically rebuke it, is variously commented upon. It will be remembered that by action of the solons the public offices were all closed on St. Patrick's day, and soon after this a member moved that there be a general closing on the birthday of Emperor William I of Germany, and this motion also went through. It seems that this latter proceeding was initiated by one of the aldermen more as a rebuke to the council for its former action than otherwise, but he was taken at his word and the German ruler received the same consideration as the Irish saint.

This proceeding causes a Chicago paper to observe that in this is to be the policy henceforth the Italian citizens, of course, will see that King Humbert's birthday is duly recognized and the English will have a holiday declared when the anniversary of Queen Victoria's birth comes around. The other monarchs of Europe by that time will naturally begin to clamor for recognition from the Chicago city council. It is asked if that very lively ruler William II should be discriminated against, and why his other dead ancestors cannot be remembered. Mention is also made of Barbarossa and Charlemagne, and the way generally opened for a list of defunct celebrities so long that there would not be enough days in the year for them all to have an inning. It is all very absurd if not unpatriotic. Let the different nationalities celebrate any occasion that suits them and do it in their own way so long as they do not violate the law nor get in others' way; but to interfere with the business of the local government in order to do it is asking for a little too much. Besides, we cannot afford to officially discriminate as between citizens.

DEATH AGAIN CHEATED.

There are lines of humor and absurdity running through performances off the stage as well as on. A short time since the newspaper readers of the world were more or less shocked at reading of the assassination of John W. Mackay, one of the earth's colossal millionaires, by a crank in San Francisco. Details were in demand and for a short time serious results were expected. Then the injured man took a turn for the better and is nearly as good as well. But all of the story did not reach us. It seems that the doctors in charge admit that their patient had been nearer to death than was given out. We learn that on Wednesday night last he was stricken with acute internal pains while dressing for the street. His physicians were summoned immediately and found him suffering from a foreign substance "in the vermiform appendix." The foreign body was a green pea. Of this vegetable Mackay is very fond and during the time he was in bed suffering from the effects of Rippey's bullet he ate heartily of them. One of the peas became lodged as stated and caused the trouble. He

sank rapidly and several times the doctors were on the verge of giving up hope. Mackay's rugged constitution, however, brought him to the convalescence stage. He suffered excruciating agony, and was most of the time under the influence of drugs. By his orders the truth was concealed from the public until the news leaked out.

We are also advised that the assassin, Walter C. Rippey, is rapidly recovering from the effects of the wound which he inflicted upon himself. On being informed that Mackay was in the condition above described he is said to have expressed the greatest sorrow and regretted having done the shooting, saying he must have been crazy at the time.

THE DIFFERENCE.

Queen Victoria enjoys a good many privileges which are denied to the President of the United States, though in some other respects he is the more powerful ruler of the two. He can veto a bill passed by Congress, with nonobedience if not impunity; and can enact the role of headman with officeholders while exercising at the same time the appointment of successors with but little restraint in either case. But when it comes to the matter of salary, perquisites, provisions for the family by the government and a few other matters, the British sovereign has the call on the President by several notches, albeit the latter has greater responsibilities resting upon him and more personal work to perform.

Victoria is just now enjoying one of the "other matters" above spoken of, it being a four weeks' outing among the Florentines in Italy. If she saw fit her life might be all but a continuous round of outings, but for appearance sake she must hold forth at certain seasons at the seat of government. Those who scan the landscape abroad during the next four weeks will not, we take it, be able to distinguish the slightest difference in the English part of it by reason of her majesty's absence, nor would they if she were to remain outside the nation more than she remained in; she occupies the same position relative to it that a figurehead does to a ship—she is at the head of it but is silent, goes wherever it goes, is supported by it and is an ornament, but the same routes could be followed and the same pace made if it were not there. However, her majesty is a woman of good impulses though not overly charitable; her private life is most exemplary; she has inculcated integrity, virtue and the domestic qualities in her household, no matter if a few of them have failed to profit thereby; and since Great Britain must for the present have such a head, undoubtedly Victoria could not be improved upon. So let us all hope that she enjoys her Italian sojourn and that her days may be long in the land.

Here it is vastly otherwise. There is an unwritten law, to which our chief magistrate pays as much respect as he does to any that are written, requiring him not to cross the boundary line of the republic during his term of office. Such an act, having received the binding force of a century's ob-