

"To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

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The members of Congress are falling over one another in introducing bills and resolutions to suspend the tariff on coal during the present stringency.

REPRESENTATIVE LOUDENSLAGER, of New Jersey, has introduced a bill amending the act of June 27, 1890, providing that "an applicant for pension or increase of pension shall, upon arriving at the age of 70 years, be held to be wholly disabled for earning a support by manual labor and entitled to the maximum rating of \$12 per month provided by said act."

Why not give it to the veterans now? They every one richly deserve it, and it should be no longer withheld.

SENATOR CULLOM, of his colleague, Senator Mason, who is now having a hard time with his fences in Illinois, makes a long stride toward paternalism by the introduction of a bill providing that whenever any coal mine remains unoperated to the prejudice of the people the Attorney-General shall apply to the court for a receiver, and if the court find it necessary for the general welfare it shall appoint a receiver to operate the mine and turn over all the proceeds to the owners whenever the court shall determine that the public interests are no longer suffering.

There has always been considerable anxiety among financiers as to what can be made the basis of National Bank circulation. The present system of basing the notes upon United States bonds is entirely satisfactory, but the constant tendency is to reduce the public debt and therefore to take away this basis, which would curtail the circulation probably in a dangerous way.

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REPORTS MUST BE OPEN TO CLAIMANTS.

An act making appropriations for the payments of invalid and other pensions for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1904, which was approved Dec. 23, has now been printed. It appropriates for the payment of pensions \$138,500,000; for the salaries of 18 Pension Agents, at \$4,000 each, \$72,000; for clerk hire for the same, \$420,000; for rents, \$10,000; for stationery and other necessary expenses, \$35,000. It prohibits any pension attorney, claim agent, or other person from receiving any compensation for services rendered in securing an introduction or passage of a bill granting a pension or increase of pension. The penalty for this is a fine not exceeding \$500, imprisonment not exceeding two years, or both.

For fees and expenses of Examining Surgeons, pensions, for services rendered within the fiscal year 1904, \$890,000. And each member of each Examining Board shall, as now authorized by law, receive the sum of \$2 for the examination of each applicant whenever five or less number shall be examined on any one day, and \$1 for the examination of each additional applicant on such day. Provided, That if 20 or more applicants appear on one day, no fewer than 20 shall, if practicable, be examined on said day, and that if fewer examinations be then made, 20 or more having appeared, then there shall be paid the physical examinations made on the next examination day the fee of \$1 only until 20 examinations shall have been made.

A SERVICE PENSION IS A NATIONAL DEBT.

If for no other reasons, a Service Pension is distinctly owed to the survivors of the war in satisfaction for the advantages the Government was obliged to take of them in the matter of their pay. The question of pay was of little consequence to most of the young men who flocked to the defense of the Flag. They would have gone all the same had there not been a dollar paid them, and when they were once in the army they would have fought on to the end, though the greenbacks in which they were paid became as worthless as the Confederate money.

They went out to save the Government, and the sacrifice in the way of pay was the smallest of the many that they made in the performance of their duty. But when the country was saved—when the bitter contest was over and peace and prosperity returned to the land—they were not a little disturbed to see that the men who merely lent money to the Nation were repaid to the utmost farthing of the face value of their bonds, while no mention was made of the injustice that had been done them by paying them in money worth frequently only one-third of that which was agreed upon when they enlisted.

The 91,816 men who responded to President Lincoln's first call received \$11 a month in gold or its equivalent. Congress then raised the pay to \$13 a month. Of course, there was no other thought than this would be gold and silver, in which the Government had always paid its obligations. Under the second call 709,680 enlisted for three years, and 15,007 for three months. Under the third call, 421,465 men enlisted for three years. Under the fourth call, 87,588 men enlisted for nine months. Under the fifth call, 16,361 men enlisted for six months. Under the sixth call, 369,380 men enlisted for three years. Under the seventh call, 292,193 men enlisted for three years. All these men received \$13 a month, but immediately after the enlistment of those under the second call the Government began to pay them in paper, which Gen. Scott assured them was as good as gold and presumably would remain so, but which at once began to decline in value, until by the middle of 1864, the greenback dollar was worth only 35 cents in gold. Thus, while every other kind of labor and service at home was bringing immensely enhanced rewards, the pay of the soldier had lost two-thirds of the value originally promised.

The glaring injustice of this was so apparent that May, 1864, Congress raised the pay of the private soldier to \$16 a month, but in the meanwhile the depreciation of the greenback had gone on still more rapidly, until, in July, 1864, it took \$2.85 in greenbacks to buy \$1 in gold. Practically, \$1 in gold was worth \$3 in greenbacks. On this pay the men fought the frightful struggle of the Wilderness, the siege of Petersburg, destroyed Early's army in the Shenandoah, fought for 100 days from Chattanooga to Atlanta, and made the March to the Sea and through the Carolinas, and utterly wrecked Hood's army before Nashville. They accepted this barely pay with patriotic willingness, because the Government was in sore straits for money, and, differing from any soldier in history, they cared only for the reward of victory and to rescue our institutions from destruction. But when they came home and resumed their civil employments, began paying taxes and providing the revenue for the Government, they found that the men who had simply been lending money to the Government at extortionate rates of interest; who had driven the hardest and most unscrupulous bargains, were demanding in gold the hard earned penny of the face of their bonds. Where they had lent \$100 in depreciated greenbacks to the Government—greenbacks worth anywhere from 35 cents upward, and had received an interest in gold of from 12 to 15 per cent—they were now demanding 100 cents in gold on every dollar they loaned. The most unheard of and drastic measures were resorted to in order to pay them this, and for years they received \$150,000,000 a year in gold, more than the pensions are costing today. To meet this the young veterans who had come home and were industriously laboring to build up a war wrecked country, paid taxes on everything, from the matches with which they lighted their fires in the morning to the soothing slumber with which they stilled their suffering babes at midnight. They patriotically endured all this burden as they had the hardships of the field, for they wanted to secure the country with its credit unimpaired and to transmit it with its credit unimpaired to their successors.

"Uncle Sam must be a gentleman," they said, and must pay in full every cent of his indebtedness, no matter how hard a bargain his creditors may have driven with him.

The country was then, relative to today, quite poor, and the whole burden of the taxes fell upon the two-thirds of the people living north of Mason and Dixon's line. The South was prostrate and could and would do nothing.

Now, with the wealth of the country five or six times what it was in 1865, with the Treasury bursting with money for which there is no use or employment, it seems only a simple honor and justice that the Government should make some

LIMITING PRIVATE FORTUNES.

Quite a number of writers of more or less ability have advocated a legal limitation of the amount of money that any man should be allowed to accumulate, but the Government, at least, has not made a serious attempt to embody his ideas in the laws of the land. Now this has been done by some Indiana man, a constituent of Representative Griffith, at whose request Mr. Griffith has introduced the following joint resolution proposing a Constitutional Amendment:

Whereas the private fortunes into which the national wealth is being converted, gigantic though they be, are as yet only in their infancy; and, being transmitted practically unimpaired and intact, these fortunes are in process of re-doubling, by compound interest and compound dividends, from the present hundreds of millions of dollars each into eventually thousands of millions of dollars each, already an offense against public policy, simple justice, vital religion, and common sense; and

Resolved, That the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, as part of the Constitution, namely: "No citizen, nor resident nor investor in any of the States, Territories, or District comprising the United States shall be permitted to possess, in any or all kinds of property, an aggregate value of more than \$10,000,000, which sum shall be the limit of private property in or for any individual, joint individual, guardian, trustee, agent, or other form or device of private estate ownership, or reserved to each inheritor or legatee. And whenever or wherever such aforesaid private ownership, or holding, or trustship, or reservation, shall exceed the limit above named, the excess shall all be condemned, whether or not as a public nuisance, a public folly, or a public peril, as determined by the Congress of the United States, and so forth, shall, each and all, enforce this amendment by necessary or penal legislation, and the Congress shall enforce it."

The first thing that strikes one in this proposition is the very liberal boundary he has placed upon private fortunes. What ever may happen, this country is not likely to be infested, so to speak, with men having fortunes so large as \$10,000,000. If he had made his limitation one-tenth that amount it would have struck the popular fancy a great deal harder.

The next thing is that the proposer has had evidently little experience with the operation of our present tax laws, or he would know how elusive a man's wealth becomes when the Assessor starts out to find it. A man may be rated in the commercial agency, as worth a full round million, while the Assessor, try as hard as he may, can find but a few beggary thousands. It would be interesting to see such a law tried, and a commission named to consider whether such men as Morgan, Carnegie, Rockefeller, Gould, Vanderbilt, et al., shall be "condemned as a public nuisance, a public folly, or a public peril."

The proceedings of such a commission would certainly afford good reading for the newspapers. Of course, there is no probability of the serious consideration of this scheme. It has had all the publicity it ever will have, and the resolution will have an undisturbed sleep in the pigeon-hole of the Committee on Judiciary to which it is referred.

PERSONAL.

Lieut. Wilson Barber, of the 7th Ohio Cav., died suddenly of heart disease, on Christmas Day. Interment was near his old home at New Richmond, O.

Comrade H. C. St. Pierre, who now holds the high position of one of the Justices of the Superior Court of the Province of Quebec, was fully expected at the last National Encampment by a host of friends in the Grand Army of the Republic, and the pressure of business in his court prevented his leaving for so long a time, and, besides, he was attracted to the reunion of his own regiment, the 7th N. Y., in which he held the rank of Captain. He was very thoughtful and the warmth of greeting from his old regiment compensated for his missing the National Encampment.

Mrs. Mary Ann Greenwood Buford, widow of Gen. Napoleon B. Buford, of the Regular Army, died at her home in Chicago on New Year's Day and was buried at Rock Island. She was formerly very popular in Washington society, and personally acquainted with many great men of the Daniel Webster period.

Those who have seen Gen. Fred Grant since his return from the Philippines say that his resemblance to his distinguished father is startling. His hair and beard, formerly reddish, are darker, with here and there a streak of gray, and worn exactly like his father's. He is a head taller than his father.

Maj. J. W. Wham, Paymaster, U. S. A., retired, who was a Sergeant in Grant's old regiment, the 21st Ill., and a personal friend of the great commander, recently gave before the reunion of the Bond County Illinois Veterans a lecture, entitled "A Reminiscence of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Birthplace of Liberty." The papers say his lecture was "a gem" of the classics and abounded in splendid diction and brilliant word pictures.

Trescott Post, No. 10, Salem, O., has put up Comrade A. C. Young, M. D., as a candidate for Commander for the Department of Ohio, G. A. R., and is working hard to secure his election. Comrade Young served in the 14th Ohio, is Past Commander of the Post, and has been Director of the Department, and has been one of the Examining Surgeons for 14 years. He is a man of high standing in the community.

Senator N. B. Scott, of West Virginia, as a member of J. W. Holliday Post, Wheeling, W. Va., as is also Representative R. B. Dorener. Another prominent candidate is Hon. St. H. Heblin, J. D. of the Court of Common Pleas.

On the March through the Carolinas

The strong troops into which Hardee gathered his routed troops commanded the point at which the road running to Bentonville and Smithfield branched off from the direct plank road running north to Aversboro and Raleigh. Through the gathering gloom of the dark, rainy March among the four divisions fought their way forward to the creek valley in front of the works, and went into line ready for the next morning's assault. Kilpatrick's indefatigable cavalry, their horses sinking to the knees in the mire, their dismounted men muddied through the mud and rain to attack McLaw's infantry with their terrible carbines, were doggedly working their way over to the right and eastward, to reach the Goldsboro Road, cut off the rebel's retreat, and establish connection with the trains and the Army of the Tennessee.

So closed down the day, gloomy with Nature's worst moods, but bright with victory. What would the morrow bring forth? Would Hardee be able to maintain him-

self in that strong position, and check the farther advance of the army? "I suppose we might as well go into camp with the rest," said SI. "There's no rebels left this side the creek, and we can't get under the bushes unless we can get a good fire."

"There's some beeches over there that'll shed the coarsest part of the rain," remarked Shorty, pointing to a group of trees. "I don't see how you can get a good fire in a snaky nest."

"There's a big hollow sycamore there, in which we can build a good fire," suggested Sandy Baker. "We can have some of the comforts of a home, in spite of the rain."

"The gigantic sycamore which Sandy had luckily discovered had rotted away under the fashion of those trees, on the southeastern side, until it had left a cavity about the size and appearance of one of the great old-fashioned fireplaces. Gathering up pine-knots and other dead stuff, they speedily had a bright blaze burning under this shelter, to take some of the numbing chill from their hands and feet."

"Well, this is comfort, indeed," murmured Shorty contentedly, looking out at the solid down-pour, and backing up into the fire, after the manner of those days, until the smell of burning wool warned him that the tail of his overcoat was afire. "How I pity the fellows that hadn't a hollow tree to get into on such a night as this, which don't believe no other squad in the army has. The Lord's mighty good to us, and I don't see how in the world we could ever get along without it."

"Come on, boys," said SI. "Let's get out and make our horses as comfortable as possible for the night. Poor things, they have had a hard day, and probably'll lay a harder one tomorrow. Tom, you stay back, and keep the fire burning, and start some water to boiling for coffee."

"They took care of your horse, and they'll take care of the other team's," said SI. "They've had a hard day, and probably'll lay a harder one tomorrow. Tom, you stay back, and keep the fire burning, and start some water to boiling for coffee."

"The act increasing the pensions of maimed soldiers, which was passed by the Senate and amended by the House, is now in the hands of a conference committee, but action upon it is not expected until sometime next month, since several of the conferees are absent. It contains a provision that when any pensioner under the Act of June 27, 1890, is so totally disabled as to require the constant aid and attention of another person, his rating shall be raised to \$30 per month.



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him," said SI, picking up the cups to refill them while the rest resumed their bite of toasting crackers from the ashes and fire. "I ought've known that was a 'coon's' squall when I heard it."

"I want to get some supper, some time," grumbled Shorty, whose cracker had been kicked clear into the fire. "Sandy, if you have any more crusts up there who want to retire into the fresh air, I hope you'll go up and cut a back-door for them, by which they can withdraw without attracting attention."

They rearranged their cups, which were soon boiling again, and with their toasted crackers and meat broiled on sticks, were making a very fair supper, when down fell three or four half-stuffed quirels, which the boys landed to kill to put out of their pain.

"Hello, Sergeant," said Gen. Sherman, springing from his horse, and walking under the shelter of the shack to the fire, and giving the General-in-Chief a hearty hug to bunch them close together. "How far out this road have you been?"

"Only a little ways, General," replied SI, and wherever such men as Sherman and Corporals ought to be about 200 times as big for a couple of Major-Generals," said Shorty, making for a big pine-log which formed a sort of staff, and the General, scorchily-looking Maj.-Gen. Sloum, the Commander of the Left Wing.

"The two snatched and slipped with the heavy log, splashing up to the fire. "Here, don't lay over there. Lay it right on," commanded Gen. Sherman. "It'll mash the fire down," Shorty tried to say, grunting under the weight.

"Lay it over there, and let the fire burn this way," commanded the General with sharp imperativeness. Not in the best of humors—who could be?—wherever such men as Sherman and Corporals ought to be about 200 times as big for a couple of Major-Generals," said Shorty, making for a big pine-log which formed a sort of staff, and the General, scorchily-looking Maj.-Gen. Sloum, the Commander of the Left Wing.

"The boys jumped around, and gathered up every bit of dead wood in sight. "A fire once got going, it's hard to smother, and Corporals ought to be about 200 times as big for a couple of Major-Generals," said Shorty, making for a big pine-log which formed a sort of staff, and the General, scorchily-looking Maj.-Gen. Sloum, the Commander of the Left Wing.

"The probable defeat of Mr. E. O. Wolcott for reelection to the United States Senate opens up another feature of the trust problem. Mr. Wolcott was accused of too close affiliation with one great trust which was at war with another great trust. The latter, therefore, entered the field against him, and has secured his defeat. Are the great trusts to take place in this country of the battles which were fought in former years in the Latin countries by the great families, and in the north of Europe by the dukes and counts?