

THE TONNAGE TAX

Senator Hamer Tears to Shreds the Nonpartisan League Plank Pertaining to Such Tax.

Opines That Mining Industry Under Present Conditions is Making Only a Fair Profit.

The Union gladly gives space to the following interesting communication: To the Editor of the Union:

While a political conflict is on the principal participants therein may perhaps be more interested in what they hope will be the results thereof than in anything else connected with the campaign. On the principle that all is fair in love and war, there is less concern felt regarding the means used than the end sought. Like all other human activities, and because of the fallibility that characterizes our nature, there is an almost certainty of less or more error in the positions and statements of some of the political leaders, at least, at such a time. So far as the influence of such errors is concerned, they cannot be recalled after the campaign is over. Yet it is worth while then, and under the more favorable conditions, to take a more dispassionate view of the real facts and revise our opinions accordingly. A judgment based on facts is always better than one based on error. This is therefore true, in politics, even after election when our revised judgments cannot change the results. These thoughts are suggested by certain features of the campaign just over, one of which I would like to refer to with more extended remarks, viz.,

The Tonnage Tax on Iron Ore.

This was one of the principal planks in the Nonpartisan league platform. If the proposed measure ever got beyond the chaotic state of being "without form and void even of thought" I never saw any announcement of it. Nevertheless it was claimed that this measure, if in operation, would provide for revenue receipts to the amount of \$10,000,000 per annum. It was also claimed that the revenue from this source would be almost equal to the whole cost of the government of this state. As there is at present no provision for such a tax, it was made to appear that the mining companies are operating with enormous profits for themselves and are not bearing their proper burden of taxation.

Now what are the facts? The biennial report of the Minnesota tax commission, recently issued, is authority for the following: "In 1917 the mining companies in Minnesota paid a total in taxes of \$10,395,235. The gross earnings taxes paid by railroads (for carrying this ore) for the same year was approximately \$1,460,033.

If this tonnage tax was to provide for a revenue of \$10,000,000, what about the additional \$395,235 which they paid last year, and which will probably be \$500,000 for this year? If the chief virtue of a governmental administration consists in laying heavy taxes on large corporations, why reduce the tax on mining companies about 500,000 per year as per the league program?

As to the cost of the state government per year—the figures given by the United States census bureau for 1916 are as follows: Total receipts for revenue \$20,441,376 and total governmental costs \$19,409,882. The statements made to the effect that the tonnage tax receipts would nearly equal the total cost of state government must therefore have been made without sufficient knowledge of the facts. This is one of the things that make a checking of the items now of value to the people generally. Another thing that very materially affects the whole question of taxing the ore industry is the fact that in September, 1917, President Wilson fixed the price of ore, pig iron and steel. Mesabi Non-Bessemer ore testing 51.5 per cent was fixed at \$5.05 at lower lake ports, subject to revision January 1, 1918. By such revision the price for the year is \$5.50, and up to \$6.40 for ores of higher quality. Rail and lake freight from mines to the lower lake ports are \$2.10, which amount, deducted from the price quoted, gives the value per ton at the mines.

When the president fixed and revised these prices it is presumed that he did so with due consideration of all the features involved. With all of the counsel available to him it seems incredible that he should allow for a margin of exorbitant profit for the mining companies. I am not making accusations against any, but if the mining companies under existing circumstances are guilty of profiteering, the president of the United States must also be guilty of making the conditions favorable for such profiteering.

Next question—How much did it take to buy him? Reductio ad absurdum. (Reduced to an absurdity).

Will the coming session of the legislature enact a tonnage tax law? I am not a prophet nor the son of a prophet. I do not know. My own opinion is that this mining industry, under present conditions of fixed prices and the tax laws, including that of income tax, must be making only a reasonable profit and paying a reasonable tax. If these conditions should cease to exist, it will probably be necessary to enact such legislation as will meet the new conditions. We shall know more about this later, and it will then be time to discuss it. For the present it should be gratifying that those who have been aching to get \$10,000,000 tax from the industry to know that it has already been paying considerably more than that amount. The volume of business and taxes paid for 1917 are as follows:

Tons of ore shipped	45,398,787
Taxes paid by mining companies	\$10,395,235
Taxes paid by R. R. companies in carrying above ore	\$1,460,033
Royalties received by the state for state lands leased to mining companies	\$876,359

Total receipts \$12,731,627
Of this amount the state received in royalties and taxes \$3,842,153. The balance was paid for school, county and local government purposes.

Yours very truly,
Richard Hamer.

Milaca, December 2, 1918.

Golden Wedding.

Those good townspeople, Colonel and Mrs. Henry Newbert, celebrated their golden wedding at the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Johnson, in Minneapolis, on Thanksgiving day. The event partook of the nature of a family reunion, Mr. and Mrs. George Newbert of Mora and Mrs. J. W. White and daughter of Russellville, Ark., being present in addition to the first named.

There was no wedding ceremony as the Colonel and Mrs. Newbert wished to dispense with all formalities and enjoy a good old-fashioned celebration, and the Colonel tells us this was fully accomplished. There was a feast of plenty and a flow of soul, and the day passed altogether too rapidly for this happy, joyous family gathering. Many beautiful presents were conferred upon Colonel and Mrs. Newbert and this brought forth an address from the Colonel which is said to have been the crowning effort of his life in the speech-making line.

Colonel Newbert was married on November 26, 1868, at Bethel, Anoka county, Minn., to Miss Augusta E. Smith, and in 1880 they came to Princeton to live. Here they continue to reside.

In extending its hearty congratulations to Colonel and Mrs. Newbert the Union hopes that they may live to enjoy many another year of happiness.

Henschel-Heitman.

On Thanksgiving day Miss Anita Heitman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Heitman, jr., and George F. Henschel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Henschel, took the marriage vows at the Methodist parsonage in the presence of about a dozen relatives. Elizabeth Heitman, Laura Henschel, Anton W. Falk and William Henschel acted as witnesses and Mrs. Geer rendered the wedding music. Rev. James A. Geer read the impressive ring service of the Methodist church. The bride was gowned in white silk crepe de chine, carried white and pink roses and wore a veil and orange blossoms. The bridesmaids were also attired in white crepe de chine. From the parsonage the wedding party repaired to the home of the bride's parents, where about 50 guests assembled.

At 5:30 supper was served and at midnight a bounteous luncheon was provided and the wedding cake cut. Numerous gifts were bestowed upon the bride and groom. Mr. and Mrs. Henschel will be at home in Dalbo after December 15.

The Union extends congratulations and best wishes.

A Letter From France.

Rev. Geer.

Dear Friend: It gives me great pleasure to know that my name has been put on the honor roll and that a star has been put on the service flag.

I am now in northern France in training. It is very interesting to travel in these countries, things being much different than we are accustomed to. I have been through Scotland, England and almost over France. It is a trip that has been worth all the hardship and inconvenience that we have had to endure.

The Red Cross has been our best friend in all our travels. The best that can be said for the organization is not enough. I wish to heartily thank the Princeton Red Cross for

what they have done for me.

I extend my wishes to you and to the church. I am very truly,

Wm. R. Wehrend,
326th Field Artillery Band, Army P. O. No. 905, American E. F., France, via New York.

Robert M. Saxon.

Robert M. Saxon died at his home in Greenbush from ailments incumbent upon old age on November 30.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. James A. Geer at the family home in Greenbush on Monday afternoon, and Miss Marie Winsor, Miss Joyce Briggs, L. S. Briggs and Grover Umbecker rendered hymnal selections. The remains were interred in Oak Knoll cemetery.

Robert M. Saxon was born on November 3, 1846, in Brown county, Ohio, and was therefore 72 years 3 weeks and 4 days old at the time of his death. He resided on a farm in Brown county until 10 years of age, when he moved with his parents to Logansport, Ind., where the family resided but a short time, having decided to move to a farm near Delphi. Here he received an academic education and grew to manhood. In 1868 he located in Champaign county, Ill., where he was married in 1871 to Libbie Jane Canfield of Galesburg. He was engaged in the produce business in Galesburg for a number of years and ultimately came to Mille Lacs county. Fifteen years ago he suffered a paralytic stroke and since then has been in failing health. He is survived by his wife and three sons—Edward and Charles of Greenbush and Lewis of Cambridge. He also leaves two brothers and two sisters, viz: James, Blue Hill; William, Mount Pleasant, Mich.; Mrs. Joseph Amberg, Chicago; and Mrs. Rachael Houser, Indianapolis, Ind.

Robert Saxon was a man of sterling character, true to his friends and devoted to his family.

Mrs. Fred Bach.

Mrs. Fred Bach died at her home in Brickton on November 30 following a short illness, and funeral services were conducted by Rev. James A. Geer on Monday morning. Two beautiful hymnal selections were rendered by the Methodist quartet and the remains were laid to rest in Oak Knoll cemetery.

Mrs. Bach, whose maiden name was Luella McCue, was born in Peshtigo, Wis., on December 31, 1891, and at the age of 5, with her parents, came to Princeton. She was married in 1905 to Fred Bach. In 1908 the family moved to Brickton. She is survived by her husband and five children—Dorothy, aged 12; Edith, 10; Bernice, 6; Joseph, 3; and Earl, 8 months. She also leaves her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry McCue; one brother, Harry; and one sister, Mrs. O. N. Vista.

Mrs. Bach was an affectionate wife and mother, and leaves many friends to mourn her untimely taking away. Her death is a particularly hard blow to the family of little children who are left without a mother's care and love.

The family take this means of thanking their friends, neighbors and the nurse for the help and kindness shown them during sickness and sorrow.

Hannah W. Steeves.

Mrs. Hannah Steeves died on Thursday, November 28, following a long illness.

Funeral services were held from the home of Verne Mott on Saturday and the interment was at Oak Knoll. There were many beautiful floral offerings.

Hannah W. Steeves was born at Bangor, on October 3, 1853, and was married on October 17, 1870, to Wm. H. Steeves, who survives her. She also leaves four sons, two daughters and three brothers, as follows: Hugh D., Abel H., Charles G., Mrs. Verne Mott, Princeton; William A., Ogilvie; Mrs. Edward Julin, Stanchfield; Hugh, Oliver and John Dibblee, Princeton.

Mrs. Steeves was a kind neighborly woman who was highly respected by all who knew her.

Merely Did His Duty.

Premier Clemenceau, of France, who, probably more than any other man in the world, is responsible for the defeat of Germany, when given an ovation in the French senate after that body had officially declared Clemenceau "deserved well of his country," protested that he was not "the savior of France," but that France had saved herself. Anyone else, he said, would have done the same thing under the same circumstances: "I have done but my simple duty. Let me tell you that I am proudest that you have associated my name with Marshal Foch."

What would George Creel do with a subject like that?

RED CROSS WORKERS

Despite Influenza Epidemic, Mille Lacs County Chapter Responds Nobly to Call.

Large Consignment of Heavy, Lined Vests Are Now on Way to Soldiers in Siberia.

On November 8 the Mille Lacs County chapter received from the Red Cross headquarters in Minneapolis 300 sweater vests to be made, with the request that all other work be laid aside and that the vests be put through as quickly as possible. Just at that time the Princeton workroom, in common with several others in the chapter, was closed on account of the prevalence of influenza, and this extra task seemed almost too much to attempt, but, as always, the women were not willing to refuse to do anything that was to add to the comfort of our brave fighting boys, so the allotment was accepted.

The usual allotments were assigned to the different branches. This allotting is regulated by the amount in the treasury of each branch, so the burden of expense was distributed as usual, but the vests were apportioned out to be made in the branches where the workrooms were open and where the work could be rushed through.

A second urgent letter from headquarters served to speed up the work. The Milaca and Greenbush branches, in their usual energetic way, assumed a large share of the burden of work and made far more than their quota. Princeton was at that time just in the midst of its epidemic of influenza and few were able to turn out to the workroom, but the few faithful ones who were able responded nobly, so that by working daytimes, and evenings until 10 and 11 o'clock, there were 90 vests made here. These vests are serviceable looking garments and must surely add much to the soldiers' comfort. They are made of heavy double-fleece tarcovot, lined with heavy outing flannel and interlined with heavy lining paper, which latter is all quilted on by hand.

The neat, simple appearance of the finished garment gives little hint of the amount of work—of the many, many stitches involved in their making.

With the exception of 10, which a branch caught in the overwhelming epidemic of influenza was unable to finish, the whole allotment was finished, folded and packed into the required bundles—which in itself was no small job—and shipped to headquarters inside of three weeks time, ready to be included in the big shipment which is by this time on the way to our boys who are helping to restore order in Siberia.

So far as we know none of our Mille Lacs county boys are in that cold desolate region, but we are surely glad to have done our bit toward making the boys who are there more comfortable. The following table designates the allotments assigned according to the expense borne by each branch and according to the amount of work done. No reflection is cast on the branches that could not attempt their allotments. On the contrary, the work of some of the branches, although it appears small in quantity, represents much effort and sacrifice of time by the few who were able to attend to it.

Branch	Sweater Vests Paid for	pleated
Boek	15	10
Foreston	30	10
Greenbush	30	50
Ile	15	10
Long Siding	10	10
Milaca	75	90
Onamia	20	20
Pease	10	10
Princeton	85	90
West Branch	10	10
Totals	300	300

Sullivan Will Probably Land It.

Senator John D. Sullivan of St. Cloud probably will be president pro tem of the senate during the coming session. He probably will be elected at the opening of the session, and will be the recognized floor leader of the majority.

Senator Sullivan is a democrat, and a majority of the senators are republicans, but the difference will not enter into the case because the members of the legislature are elected on a non-partisan ticket, and party politics are not supposed to cut any figure in the deliberations of the senate.

This proposition, however, may prove all wrong if a bill to return to the partisan system of electing legislators is introduced.

The supporters of Senator Sullivan say he is the man for president pro tem, because he has ability, experi-

ence, and is known to be fair. Besides, they argue, the democrats are entitled to some recognition because of the support they gave the republican ticket in the primaries and in the general election.

Mrs. Clare Neumann.

Mrs. Clare Neumann died on Tuesday morning, the cause of death being pneumonia which followed influenza. She had been in failing health for some time and was consequently an easy prey to the disease. By her death three little children are left motherless.

Funeral services were held yesterday morning by Rev. James A. Geer and the remains were interred in the Santiago cemetery. Mrs. Bertha Cullen, Miss Lettie Foltz and Mrs. J. A. Geer sang comforting hymns at the obsequies.

Mrs. Neumann was born in Santiago on July 2, 1885, and when 5 years of age moved, with her parents, to Greenbush and later to Princeton. Her maiden name was Ethelin M. Crossman, and she was married to Clare Neumann on August 25, 1902. Nine years ago, with her husband, she moved to Montana but returned to Princeton in 1913. She is survived by her husband; three children, Clara, Mary and Edith; father, S. A. Crossman; two brothers, Archie and Almond; and three sisters, Ethel, Viola and Clara Bell.

Mrs. Neumann was a faithful, loving wife and mother who never spared herself in trying to care for her family.

The family extends sincere thanks to those who kindly assisted them during the illness and at the funeral of Mrs. Neumann.

The Meat Combine.

In the second installment of its report on food investigation the federal trade commission states that a meat packing combine exists far more powerful than the old beef trust. The commission found, according to its report to congress, that there has been practically no time since 1885 that the packers were not combined despite the antimonopoly crusades of the government.

"The present combination is by no means a mere gentleman's agreement for the undertakings are definite and precise, and it is far superior in its operations to the clumsy 'pools' of the '90s," the commission declared.

The evidence of the present combine among the five big packers is voluminous and detailed. The five big packers referred to, the report explained, are Swift & Co., Armour & Co., Morris & Co., Wilson & Co., and the Cudahy Packing company.

Election of Officers.

The annual meeting of the Mille Lacs County Agricultural society was held at McMillan & Stanley's offices on Tuesday afternoon when the following directors were elected:

Princeton village—E. K. Evens, A. E. Allen, C. H. Nelson, S. S. Pettersen, W. H. Smith.

Princeton town—George Schmidt. Greenbush—Robert Clark. Kathio—A. P. Jorgenson. Milo—N. J. Cederquist. Borgholm—John Asp. Isle Harbor—Nels Berg. Dailey—Frank Robinson. Milaca Village—F. P. Morneau. Bogus Brook—Axel Brage.

Andrew Bryson, president, and C. A. Jack, treasurer, have resigned. A meeting of the board of directors will be held later to elect officers.

Killed in Air Service.

Lieutenant Edward B. Cutter, who was in the aviation service in France, and his pilot, Lieutenant H. Bromfield, were killed while on an observation trip over the German lines on October 21. It will be remembered that Lieutenants Morton and Cutter exchanged places previous to the war—Lieutenant Cutter being transferred to Company G and Lieutenant Morton to Company B. Lieutenant Cutter was a splendid example of American manhood and was fearless in his duty. He had been in many engagements with boches above the clouds and did his share toward bringing about the end of hostilities.

Farmers Asked to Join Bureau.

In a campaign which started Monday and will continue throughout the week every farmer in the state will receive a personal request to become a member of the farm bureau, a part of the federal food administration.

The farm bureau has been organized to assist in working out problems confronting the farmer of today, and to create a greater public efficiency by giving the farmers the use of the experiments and discoveries of the United States department of agriculture and the agricultural college. It

is hoped to raise the membership to 100,000.

Women of the state will be asked to join. It was found through the cooperation of women that many difficulties relative to food confronting this country after the entrance of America into the war were overcome.

Two Nations Could Command Peace.

Sir R. L. Borden, Canadian premier, speaking at the annual Thanksgiving day banquet of the American society in London, approved of the plan to form a league of nations but insisted that England and America are able to command the peace of the world by acting together.

"Let us have a league of nations if it can be realized, but at least let us have that understanding and unity of purpose and action between the two worldwide English speaking commonwealths which will save humanity in years to come from the unbearable horror, suffering and sacrifice of a war such as this," he said.

"United by ties of race, language, literature and traditions, the nations of the Britannic commonwealth and the states composing the great American republic can command the peace of the world. They could have commanded it in July, 1914, if they had given Germany their joint warning."

His Consummate Gall.

One rainy day, when a boot shop was full of customers, a man entered hurriedly and, speaking to an assistant who was fitting a lady, said: "Can you show me some of those boots you advertised? I am in great haste."

Excusing himself to the lady, the assistant proceeded to wait upon the newcomer. Finally a perfect fit was secured.

"Now, what make are these boots?" inquired the man. "They fit me like a glove. Just write down the make, with the exact width and length."

The salesman did as required, and the man drew on his old shoes and started for the door.

"Don't you want the boots, sir?" inquired the surprised assistant.

"Oh, no," responded the man. "I just wanted to get my size. I have a friend in the wholesale business who can get them for me at a much less price than yours."

New Road Plan Proposed.

A movement has been instituted by good roads advocates to build 6,000 miles of permanent, hard-surfaced highways in Minnesota, to cost from \$40,000,000 to \$80,000,000. The success of the plan will depend upon the voters of the state at the next election, to whom the proposition will be submitted. Six thousand miles is practically the mileage of the present system of state roads, which, with the exception of a few stretches, are merely graded and surfaced with clay and gravel. The bond issue plan cannot be put through without an amendment to the state constitution, and amendments usually fall by the wayside when submitted to a vote.

Germany's War Bill.

Dead, 2,000,000; wounded, 4,700,000; permanently disabled and a charge upon the state, 2,000,000.

Interest bearing war debt, nearly \$40,000,000,000.

Commerce absolutely destroyed, and 67 per cent of her tonnage captured or interned.

A permanent annual bond interest payment of \$2,000,000,000; pension roll, three quarters of a billion annually; total, \$4,000,000,000 a year.

Total income of people before the war, \$11,000,000,000 annually.

Cost of after consequences of the war to the German people, nearly 40 per cent of their annual prewar income.—Financial World.

Kwapick Gets Sixty Days.

Walter C. Kwapick was arrested on Friday by Marshal Fox, charged with furnishing liquor to minors. He admitted the offense and was taken before Judge Roeser in St. Cloud, who sentenced him to 60 days in jail, to which place he was accompanied by Deputy Sheriff Tom Yotter and the marshal.

Pay of Disabled Soldiers.

Soldiers disabled during the war, says a Washington dispatch, will be paid \$65 a month during the period of their re-education, which will be directed by the federal board of vocational training. In cases where the soldiers have dependents they will be granted an additional \$10 per month.

Tom Schall's View.

Many views were taken by representatives and senators of the reasons given by President Wilson for going to France. Here is Tom Schall's view: "It was like the man who gave his wife a bolt of cheesecloth for a dress. It was very long but very thin."