The Sun

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TELEPHONE, BEEKMAN 2200.

Secretary McAdoo Begins to Show Mr. Kitchin Why and How.

Secretary McADOO's recommendations to the House Ways and Means Committee throw sunshine upon a quarter of our Legislative Government shrouded in clouds of ignorance and superstition.

To a brain that is balanced and a vision that sees straight there are no deep mysteries about the principles and practices of taxation that, in peace or in war, are sound and successful. Only the man whose prejudices are as impassioned as his intellect is confused can conceive that the purpose of taxation is to punish persons rather than to raise revenues. The war fiscal policy of the Government has been threatened with colossal failure by Mr. KITCHIN because he has aimed "to pay for the war out of taxes raised north of Mason's and Dixon's Line"; because, in a war requiring funds which only a few years ago were unthinkable, he has wanted to raise those taxes from only a few interests and a few individuals.

What Secretary McADOO wants, having to check out for the war bills as they come in, is money—money by the tens of billions. What he knows is that the only place to go for the tens of billions of money which he must have to meet those war bills is wherever that money is—North, South, East, West; big income, moderate income and little income.

Mr. KITCHIN may never have thought of it, but the Secretary of the Treasury knows, for example, that all the dividends paid by all the corporations, gigantic and puny, of which official record is made in the Wall Street dividend lists, amounted last year to exactly $1,062,138,786. So if Mr. KITCHIN took every last penny of such dividends away from those who now receive them—the rich man, the poor man, the widows, the orphans, the public institutions—his conscription of wealth might be enough to grease the gun carriages of the artillery of our field forces for a year, but it would be none too much to pay the war bills of this country for about a fortnight.

Mr. KITCHIN may never have heard of it, but the Secretary of the Treasury knows that in a single business—railroads—the annual incomes of employees ranging from $3,000 down foot up to two and a quarter billions of dollars a year. Merely the employees of the railway industry receive a total income two and a quarter times as great as all those dividends paid out by the railroads themselves, by the great steel companies, the great shipbuilding plants, the great munition plants, the great gold and copper mines, the great financial institutions—the thousand and one corporations whose dividends go to millions of stockholders.

Mr. KITCHIN may never have dreamed of it, but the Secretary of the Treasury knows that unless the Government, wanting eight billions a year in taxes, goes to the whole mass of the American people for it, the Government will never get it, because it isn't anywhere else to get.

Secretary McADOO's recommendations merit from the press and from the public extended consideration and repeated discussion. Mr. KITCHIN, however stubborn in his economic and financial stupidity, must in large measure yield to them.

Barbarous Submarine Warfare.

When Captain RAPHAEL SEMMES of the Confederate cruiser Alabama captured the Hatteras in the civil war every living being on board the United States ship was safely conveyed to the Alabama before the prize was destroyed.

This was done in recognition of the indubitable rule of international law that where circumstances demand the destruction of an enemy merchantman due provision must be made by the captors for the safety of the passengers and crew of the captured vessel and the preservaton of the ship's papers.

"We were making war," said Captain SEMMES afterward, "upon the enemy's commerce and not upon his unarmed seamen. It gave me as much pleasure to treat these with humanity as it did to destroy his ships."

The Naval Prize Regulations of the Empire of Germany, as they existed at the outbreak of the present war, provided that "the captor must before destroying his prize insure the safety of the persons on board and, as far as possible, their effects, together with the ship's papers."

Is the safety of men, women and children insured by driving them from their ship into small boats and casting them adrift in the open sea many miles from land or any prospective succor?

As a result of the German submarine raids on our coastwise traffic sixteen civilians are known to have perished and twenty-four more are reported to be missing.

With this record before us it is idle for their apologists to claim that the Germans are now complying with their obligations under the law of nations. Their submarine commanders have not actively murdered as many noncombatants as usual, by shooting them on deck or in the lifeboats, but they have murdered passengers and crew indirectly by exposing them to conditions of wind and weather which were bound to prove fatal.

To pretend that this is civilized warfare is to insult the intelligence of mankind.

The Marines at Chateau Thierry.

The personnel of the Marine Corps changes with time, its numbers increase with the needs of the nation, but its spirit and skill remain unimpaired. The same zest for duty, the same determination to attain the objectives of their expeditions that have been displayed by the men of this splendid organization wherever fate has carried them in its eventful career are written in the record of their admiration compelling conduct at Chateau Thierry, where their successful advance has won new honors for their colors.

Since the marines went to Europe the necessary veil of secrecy has hidden their activities from their friends at home—and who is not a friend of the marines? It has been known that their first ambition, to close with the enemy, was not gratified as quickly as they desired. But the military duties that fell to them took precedence of their master wish, and these they accomplished with the alertness and thoroughness that characterize all their performances. They did not rust; the proof of that is in the tributes paid to them by the French who stood at their side when at last the command to advance came. In the comments of the veterans there is only one note that might be construed to imply criticism; it is a criticism the marines can bear with equanimity, for it is based on their eagerness to advance. The tendency of American fighters to go beyond the limits decreed by the high command has been discussed in several communications from France; it must be restrained and it will be restrained, for the Americans are as quick to learn to curb their impulses as they are to assimilate instruction in other details of the military art.

The marines have done no less than was expected of them; they could not do more. Their intrepidity and resourcefulness, their quick comprehension, their adaptable genius, have set the standard of public expectation high, but the corps is to-day, as it always has been, completely capable of attaining it.

Dr. Muehlon on the Kaiser's Personal Responsibility.

The present disclosures of Dr. WILHELM MÜHLON, a former director of Krupps, as to Germany's responsibility for begining the war appear to be a confirmation and proof of the truth of his earlier assertions which the German Government undertook to combat in the Reichstag. He gives with more details the interviews with Dr. KRUPP VON BOHLEN and former Vice-Chancellor Dr. HELFFERICH regarding Germany's initiative in precipitating a universal war, and he also quotes from documents and letters in substantiation of many of his statements.

All this may be interesting, but it is doubtful if it is in the least material to the present situation. The allied nations are looking forward with determination to a victorious end of the war, not backward to the intrigues and selfish ambitions that forced it upon the world. The German Government has taken a characteristic method of minimizing the effect of this disclosure. Vice-Chancellor VON PAYER in his statement to the Reichstag said that Dr. MÜHLON was a sick, nervous man, "not responsible for his actions because of his many nervous breakdowns," Prince LICHNOWSKY's case was diagnosed in a similar manner. The former German Ambassador to London should be confined in an insane asylum! AUGUST BEBEL once expressed this method of repression by saying: "Formerly inconvenient people were put into monasteries; today they are put into sanatoriums."

In view of the Kaiser's display of profound sorrow on the battlefields of the west and his eloquent disclaimers of responsibility for the war some quotations from Dr. MÜHLON'S statement are pertinent. Describing the Kaiser's agreement with Austria on the Serbian ultimatum he says:

"I got the impression that the choice of words had not been agreed upon, which was a dangerous omission by German diplomacy in view of the risks Germany was taking. In effect Austria was given carte blanche, and Germany agreed without condition to every thing Austria wrote into the note."

The Kaiser then hurried away on his yacht to Norwegian waters to be surprised by the outbreak of war.

Relating how the Kaiser forced all the German leaders to become involuntary supporters of his war policy, Dr. MÜHLON says he assembled them as his guests and then said:

"'Now, gentlemen, advance, and as we grasp hands promise me you will stand with me to the last breath.'

"The guests could hardly do otherwise when thus bidden by their imperial host in his own castle to shake hands with him, and thus a vow was extorted which would be of value only if given freely."

Dr. MÜHLON puts the responsibility of the "no quarter to prisoners" order in Belgium upon the Kaiser himself. He says:

"I have received a letter from the field which brings me the unheard of information that the Emperor has himself said he had enough prisoners, and has told his officers he hoped they would take good care to make no more prisoners. This news is quite authentic.

"What a complement to the order of the Crown Prince of Bavaria and what a continuation of the Emperor's previous order to troops about to leave on the expedition to China: 'No quarter will be given!'"

Early in the war when the German professors were expending hate on England and the other allied nations, one of them exclaimed, "Let Germany write the history of the war and tell how she was forced into the struggle." In the writing of this history it would be interesting to know how much of the published official documents and how much of the disclosures made by Prince LICHNOWSKY and Dr. MÜHLON will be used.

Our Protected Wild Fowl and Shore Birds.

The passage by the House of Representatives on Thursday, after an all day debate on Tuesday, of the Treaty Enabling act for the protection of migratory birds in the United States, completes the cycle of legislation that has been fought for by conservationists and sportsmen for a period of fourteen years. Previously the Senate had passed the bill, but because of changes made by the House it will have to be repassed again, which doubtless will be more or less of a formality. The House vote was 48 opposed to 238, practically a vote in its favor of five to one.

The act means protection for the migrants from the Arctic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico, with no State in the United States or province in Canada having more than three and a half month's shooting for wild fowl, with a shorter period for shore birds and with absolute protection to the smaller shore birds and certain song and insectivorous birds that aid agriculture.

Some years ago "Our Vanishing Wild Fowl and Shore Birds" would have been the proper title for a discussion of these species threatened with annihilation under State and provincial laws that selfishly permitted the migrants belonging to no one State or province or even nation to be killed during long open periods with a large bag limit or no limit at all.

The birds were bombarded from the time they left the north in the fall until they returned in the spring from the south, the latter gunning killing off the mating birds and stopping all chances for a future brood. The rapid decrease of certain species and the disappearance of others finally aroused Congress to the need of Federal protection for these migrants that belonged to no one section of the country, let alone State.

Although the original bill by GEORGE SHIRAS 3d was introduced December 5, 1904, it was not until March 3, 1913, that the legislation was finally passed, when the national welfare demanded adequate protection for these birds. Incidentally the regulations of the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture, in whose care the birds were given, permitted in all parts of the country a fair shooting time, without showing favoritism to any section.

With the ratification of the Canadian treaty three years later the way was proudly paved; and State after State Legislature has made open and close seasons on these migrants to coincide with Federal regulations and has given protection to species in need of it. Since Federal regulations have been put into effect wild fowl have so increased that the Federal Government proposes to be more liberal and give the sportsmen an additional half hour's shooting before sunrise.

What Lies Behind These Street Railway Troubles?

The striking street railway employees of the Public Service Corporation in New Jersey have returned to work and will accept arbitration of their demands by the War Labor Board. They should never have struck; their act demoralized important war industries for two days, and not improbably for three.

While these misguided men were seeking to repair the damage they had done the nation an equally ill-advised body in The Bronx called a strike on the street car lines of the Union Railway in that borough. According to the latest reports most of the men gave notice of their willingness to continue at their work if they had adequate protection.

We have no doubt this protection will be given by the city.

As for the instigators of these disturbances, which have the look of constituting incidents in a carefully conceived and elaborately planned campaign of terrorism in which innocent and guileless workers are made to serve the purpose of hidden interests, they should be sought out and exposed, and if they have been guilty of any crime they should be punished for it to the fullest extent of the law.

The Emergency Fleet Corporation last month launched 344,500 tons of shipping, or about twenty times as much as the submarine raiders have sunk in American waters.

Chancellor HERTLING will soon make a sensational speech.—*The news.*

He may announce that JEREMIAH O'LEARY has left America to its fate.

Surely nothing could be more satanically wicked than the placing of empty whiskey bottles outside the doors of members' rooms in the House Office Building. Representative RANDALL of California, who shudders even as he rides past raisin vineyards in his State, declares that the empty bottle plot was invented and carried out to defeat the reelection of members who have battled most valiantly against the Demon.

The American troops are bottling them at the Chateau.

In other years the fall of the Giants from first place would have attracted wider attention and more grief. But our real Giants are in France.

Some very sweet language is perfuming debate in the Senate on the proposal to hold talking members during the war to one hour on main questions and twenty minutes on amendments. The author of the resolution referred to "many able speeches" of hours in length, and Senator MARTIN softly says that Senators who have talked hours at a time are not to blame; their language ran on by reason of the "latitudinarian" rules of the Senate. What was it *Dogberry* said to *Leonato* about *Verges:*

"A good old man, sir;
Afflicted with latitudinarianism."

French and British official and unofficial reports praise with very great frankness the splendid fighting qualities of Americans. How odious is this rather bourgeois enthusiasm compared with the masterful, the, as it were, aristocratic reticence shown by official American reports concerning all American fighters!

German army efficiency can tell nothing to the Marines.

When it is recalled that only five or six years ago Congress debated hotly a proposal to build two battle cruisers sharp attention will be aroused, even in these days, by the provision of a bill introduced by Senator FRENCH on the third of this month providing for twenty such mighty fighting ships. In brief, the bill provides for twenty battle cruisers carrying as powerful armament as any vessels of their class, the "highest possible or practical speed" and "greatest desirable radius of action," and ten scout cruisers with corresponding armament, speed and radius. The cost of the larger ships, exclusive of armor and armament, is to be $22,000,000 each, of the smaller ships $9,000,000 each, with the same exclusions. The bill carrying $600,000,000 was read and referred without a word of comment.

A great army of harvesters equipped with the machinery of peace and plenty have begun in southern Oklahoma their long march through fertile fields which will end at the Canadian border. They are garnering crops concerning which the reports to the Weather Bureau, Washington announces, "amply confirm the many private advices that climatic conditions are continuing exceptionally favorable to wheat. Crop complaints are conspicuous by their absence." And so it is throughout the broad land; American grin and bear it has conquered complaints; they are conspicuous by their absence.

The real treat will be the total eclipse of the Hun.

Important Information for Women Born in Alsace-Lorraine.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In regard to the coming registration of German alien females, we would ask you to be good enough to publish the following for the benefit of women born in Alsace-Lorraine of French parentage.

As all women over the age of fourteen who are subjects of the German Empire will have to register in the coming registration, starting June 17, and as women who are natives of Alsace-Lorraine born of French parentage, and who can establish proof of such parentage, by exhibiting credentials from the Association Generale des Alsaciens Lorrains d'Amérique, properly countersigned by the French Consul, will be permitted to change the term "alien female" in the registration to French Alsatian Lorrainer, it would be advisable for women of Alsace-Lorraine unless naturalized or married to American citizens to obtain the card of identification issued by the association.

We would strongly urge the necessity of the women of Alsace-Lorraine born of French parentage to apply as soon as possible for this card at the office of the association, 3 East Forty-fourth street, New York.

FELIX WILDENSTEIN, Secretary.
NEW YORK, June 7.

Shipbuilding on the Pacific Coast.

From Steel Topsides.

A crew of fourteen framers, two foremen and four riggers in the Supple-Hallin shipbuilding yards, Portland, Ore., built and placed in position from lumber in the yards eighty-nine frames in forty and one-half hours. These frames, being double, were built bolted together with sixty-four screw bolts in each frame, and two coats of carbolineum were applied before bolting together.

Two gangs of five men each planked complete a 310 foot hull, including garboard, fifty-three strakes of planking, in twenty-seven days.

The American Soldier.

"The Germans do not care for the American soldier, for he digs in with one hand and fights with the other and smiles all the time."—*An officer at the front.*

Digs himself in with his left
And fights with his right simultaneous,
Sporting the while an infectious smile
And kidding Huns extemporaneous.
Speaks no more German than Greek,
Slings lots of slang through his talk,
But I'm willing to bet he can talk bayonet
And make his machine gun just squawk.

Home in a hole in the ground
Or out in a charge temerarious;
It goes as it lays, and it just suits his ways—
So long as the going's precarious.
Pioneer blood in his veins,
And his arteries run lots of red;
He's white man clear through and he's also true blue—
He's a star spangled banner—'nough said.

That's the American soldier,
Yank, doughboy, freckled and free,
Whatever you name him he's always the same him
At fighting or fooling or tea.
Stetson a-tilt on his bean,
Pack a-back—"hi! cigarette"—
And it's over the briny to hand it to Heiny,
And here are lots more, Lafayette!

MAURICE MORRIS.

THE PAY OF THE SERVANTS OF THE CITY.

From the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Permit me to commend the stand taken by Mr. Frank A. Munsey in relation to the necessity for salary increases for city employees as expressed in his statement published in THE SUN of this date. In behalf of the patrolmen may I express the hope that through Mr. Munsey's aid the people of our city may be brought to a realization of the fact that the cheapest thing they buy is their police and fire protection and that other city employees, facing equally the higher cost of living, are placed in competition with those who receive far more consideration in private corporations.

I thank you in behalf of the patrolmen.

JOSEPH P. MORAN,
President Patrolmen's Benevolent Association.

NEW YORK, June 7.

From County Clerk Schneider.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Mr. Munsey's courageous and timely call to the citizens of this city for increased salaries for policemen, firemen and other city employees I am sure will strike a responsive echo in the minds of all thinking people in this city.

Personally, I am gratified beyond measure that a man of his standing and influence in the community has seen fit to take up the cudgels on behalf of our employees at a time when other interests of grave concern have perhaps detracted the minds and attention of our city officials from the matter which is, or should be, their primary duty. Or is it quite possible that they know the situation as well as any one, but through a false perspective based upon the erroneous premise that the people of this city would not stand for salary increases to its employees, have feared to take the initiative because of its would-be "political consequences"? As an inevitable result of such short sightedness on the part of city officials the city of New York is to-day confronted with the prospect of losing the services of a great number of its ablest employees. They are leaving the service to enter upon mercantile careers with better pay, better chances of advancement and free from the wholly undeserved odium that attaches itself to every one holding a city position.

Many citizens are still of the opinion that a city job is a synonym for "sinecure," and, I am sorry to say, some of our dailies foster that idea. Nothing is further from the truth to-day. The days of sinecures in public employment have long since passed. Every man, with very few exceptions, must do his bit and does it. Man for man, they are as capable, honest and industrious as any other set of men in any other employment anywhere. It is high time that we disabused our minds of the old definition of the public employee and ceased to think of him in the terms of the old time pot bellied policeman and horse cars.

What Mr. Munsey says regarding the terrific increase in the cost of living applies not only to policemen and firemen but to every employee, city and private.

I have noted this tremendous burden upon the men employed in this office. I know from personal contact with them that their condition in many cases is pitiable. I consider it a disgrace and a blotch upon the reputation of a great city like New York that it did not long before this time take cognizance of this state of affairs as regards its employees and make provision to meet it. I have suggested to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to have the salaries of those of my men receiving less than $1,800 increased at least ten per cent. My proposition was not acted upon. (I might state here that ninety per cent. of the men in my office receive less than $1,800, and that there is but one place at $3,500, and not more than eight receiving more than $2,000.

I have called my men together on a number of occasions and spoken to them, saying that as much as I was desirous of bettering their condition I was powerless to do so because of the attitude of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment; and yet these very same men have gone about their work uncomplainingly, giving the best that was in them and making every sacrifice the Government asked of them. Every one in the office bought one or more Liberty Bonds and every one of them pledged himself to a liberal monthly contribution to the Red Cross for one year. They may be called truly 100 per cent. loyal, but I am afraid that the city is not 100 per cent. loyal to them.

The cry raised by the administration that to increase salaries would be adding to the burden of the taxpayer is very true, but in the final analysis I do not believe that the taxpayers of this city, and I include myself among them as a taxpayer for the past thirty years, really would care very much if the tax rate were raised a few points if that raise was to be put to a purpose which is but common justice to the servants of this city.

WILLIAM F. SCHNEIDER.

NEW YORK, June 7.

From Theodore Rousseau.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The article "To the Citizens of New York City" concerning the police force, published in to-day's issue of THE SUN, is so absolutely in accord with my own views on the subject that I want to express to you my warmest approval of every suggestion made.

That splendid body of men, the police force, to whom we look for protection and of whom we expect sacrifice, both of which are unstintedly given, are underpaid in these times of high cost of everything, and as a citizen and taxpayer I heartily recommend an increase of their salaries in accordance with your suggestions.

T. ROUSSEAU.

NEW YORK, June 7.

Topography of the Loveless Path.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It doubtless is true, as Mr. Pratt says, that I am in a wilderness "of my own making," in the sense that every sinner is responsible for the fact that he is a sinner; but then "The Summons" is addressed to sinners, and it cannot help us unless its instructions are within our comprehension. Mr. Pratt interprets it to mean that if we have not perfect love we must go into the "desert places devoid of love" to find it. And if we have got into the desert places by the "loveless path," we must retrace our steps and find the path which is "built of love for all" which will lead us back into it.

Probably this is perfectly plain to saints, but I must very humbly confess that to mere sinners it only makes confusion worse confounded.

J. E. B.

NEW YORK, June 7.

Take Your Choice.

From the Memphis Commercial Appeal.

Here is a law your Uncle Sam
Bids you observe, nor fail:
You've got to work or get to fight,
Or got to go to jail.

RESTAURANT PRICES.

M. Plumepatte Discourses on This Important Subject.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* "It is safe to assume that people who complain of being robbed in the high priced restaurants and hotels on Fifth avenue or Broadway and clamor that profiteering should cease know absolutely nothing of the restaurant business," said Mr. Plumepatte, the chef, after reading your Boston correspondent's letter.

"Thousands of intelligent people know by experience that it is cheaper to live in hotels than to keep house nowadays. Countless others prefer to go out to dine than to eat at home and be the servants of their servants. People who keep help in these troublesome times know that this is no exaggeration. Besides, they find it cheaper that way. Consequently the few discordant notes that we hear once in a while should not be heeded. The sentiment of the great majority should not be judged by the loud croaking of a few.

"In all this turmoil this simple truth remains: That if it was not for the rooms and the bar that make up for the restaurant losses all the big hostelries would quickly be as silent as graveyards. They would have to close."

"But what is the use of talking?" continued Mr. Plumepatte. "These few malcontents believe, and always will believe, that the restaurants are making tremendous profits. Arguments will not be listened to. These people are convinced that they know more about the restaurant and hotel business than the people who run them.

"The only thing that would straighten out their distorted ideas would be for all the croakers to pool together and open and run some first class hotels and restaurants themselves. They would then have the surprise of their lives," concluded the great Mr. Plumepatte.

DAGMAR LESCARBOURA.

NEW YORK, June 7.

ROSARY HILL HOME.

Want Menaces the Work of a Worthy Charity.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The two cancer homes which the Servants of Relief have established and maintained for about twenty years have for their only support the gifts of the public, our patients being destitute men and women, the only ones we nurse. THE SUN has been from the first day of our enterprise a friend indeed, and now that the country house, Rosary Hill Home, has used up its funds we trust that you will let us beg again for help in your paper.

A long term of silence has been possible for us because the blessed assistance of paid legacies has been our portion for over a year.

St. Rose Free Home for Incurable Cancer, housing seventy-five men and women at 71 Jackson street, New York, will for a short time be free from need, but should keep what money it has for the crowd of patients always there and cannot help its sister home. But at Rosary Hill Home, Hawthorne, Westchester county, we are nearing the zone of absolute poverty and must appeal to public power, that we may be still empowered to serve these cancerous sufferers with consolation in every manner that compassion can devise.

These two homes cherish their rule of receiving no paying patient as one of the most valuable for a charitable work, and are the only homes of our work, though we have sometimes been supposed to control another which is differently managed.

We have been eminently successful in our object, the consolation of cancerous poor, for which they thank us in heartfelt words that are sweeter to us than any melody produced by genius. God permit that this state of things may go on in our family of thirty or more patients!

Mother M. ALPHONSE LATHROP, O. S. D.,
The Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer.

ROSARY HILL HOME, Hawthorne, Westchester county, N. Y., June 7.

REAL ESTATE TAXES.

Should Those Paid on Residences Be Deducted From Income?

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In revising the Federal income tax, as is proposed, it would be well to consider the cutting out of certain deductions now allowable, and unnecessarily allowable. This can be done without injustice to taxpayers, but with the result that the taxable income will be considerably increased.

There is a large amount of residential property—real estate—occupied by its owners which contributes nothing by its use to taxable income. Local taxes paid on this kind of property throughout the country must be a very considerable sum. Such taxes should not be deductable, as now, in our Federal tax returns. They are properly a part of the personal expenses of the owner. This is also true of interest paid on a note secured by mortgage on the class of property defined. Such interest is practically rent, belonging to the owner's personal expense.

Local taxes paid on certain classes of tangible personal property should not be deductable. Such is property held for the owner's use and pleasure, like household furniture, books, pictures, &c.; also jewels, horses, carriages, automobiles and other luxuries.

Our present law provides that contributions to charitable organizations up to 15 per cent. of one's taxable income may be deducted. Has it not been reported that some taxpayers have refused to avail themselves of this reduction? Perhaps it is not wholly satisfactory to have one's gifts to good causes rewarded in this way. Anyway it is hardly probable that the repeal of the provision in question would meet any serious opposition or prove any great hardship to charities depending on public generosity for support. Let this deduction be cut out like the other deductions suggested, and so add a very considerable amount to the taxable income.

B.

MANCHESTER, MASS., June 6.

The Mexican Way of Spelling a Great Name.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Now that the Irish have threshed out the question of the "e" in Kearney, please give the Mexicans a chance. In my country we do not bother the "e" at all, but change the "k" to "c" as in chile con carne.

MEXCAL.

NEW YORK, June 7.

In Honor of the Eclipse.

Dear Lady Moon, why should you stand
Between us and the Sun,
Especially at time of day
Before our work is done?
Why not stay home, where you belong?
Your duty there begins;
That is around the Milky Way
To nurse the Heavenly Twins.

FITZ MOLE.

IS THE BATTLE OF THE STANDARDS TO BE RENEWED?

Further Discussion of the Question of Bimetallism After the War—A New "Silver Peril?"

That a man so eminent as Mr. W. H. Allen, who in his letter to THE SUN answers my letter to you on "Our Economic Future," should advocate the restoration of bimetallism shows how great is the danger.

In these days of stupendous news your space is too valuable to enable me to reply to Mr. Allen as completely as I should wish. I shall therefore answer as briefly as possible.

Mr. Allen writes: "There are certain facts which Mr. Vezin overlooks. During the last four years there has been such an enormous expansion in paper money that the world's stock of gold needed to serve as a reserve is wholly inadequate."

That this question was not overlooked is shown by the following paragraph from my article "The Resurrection of the Silver Peril," published in the *Journal of Commerce* last January:

The issuance of paper money in war is a temporary matter provided a nation remains solvent. But bimetallism when once restored would remain. Bimetallism may have to be resorted to to maintain the parity of paper money; it will not maintain the parity of bread, cotton, wool and fuel. And for the benefit of the literal minded, by parity I mean what hitherto has meant normal average prices.

So Mr. Allen will see that I did not overlook that there has been an enormous expansion of paper money, and that I concede that it might be necessary in order to maintain the parity of paper money through bimetallism before we get through. We only differ as to whether that time has arrived and whether it is likely to arrive. And we no doubt also differ as to the effect of bimetallism on prices; that is, the cost of living. I repeat that the issuance of paper money in war is a temporary matter provided a nation remains solvent. The United States will remain solvent at all costs, even if the present war taxes must be kept in force indefinitely after the war. It is better heavily to tax the rich directly even in peace than to tax the laborer, and even more so the salaried class by indirect partial confiscation operating through the medium of impaired purchasing power, better than to tax the rich and the man of moderate means indirectly by driving their investments into receiverships owing to disproportion in cost of operation to the lagging increase in gross earnings.

Mr. Allen says: "To maintain the single standard in the face of this enormous inflation of paper money would be to give an undue value to gold. Therefore I would rehabilitate silver and utilize it with gold to serve as a basis for the growing stock of paper money."

His plan is then not to keep paper money up to the standard of the gold it represents, and which the Government is in honor bound sooner or later to give in exchange for it on demand, but to pull down the standard of values, a different matter from the aggregate value, of the metal reserve by increasing its quantity by the injection of a baser metal. Paper money secured by farm loans on a safe margin, guaranteed by the Government, is better money than silver at $1 an ounce, which is an arbitrary valuation, and which would rapidly drop in purchasing power under the stimulus to production of the metal which bimetallism would give.

Mr. Allen further says: "It is said that the world owes us a lot of money. Well, if it does we must make it as easy as possible for the world to pay."

It is easier for the world to pay in a debased currency founded on bimetallism than in currency based on the gold standard, just as it is easier for a personal debtor to pay with something less valuable than agreed. But this is not sound finance.

Mr. Allen asks: "Will Mr. Vezin kindly tell us why the American dollar is at a discount in the neutral money markets of the world," &c.

The American dollar, represented in person, and not by its paper deputy, not merely represented by bills of exchange, is not at a discount. It is this very question as to what "legal tender" means, whether a thousand dollars may mean a thousand ounces of silver each stamped one dollar or whether it means fifty twenty dollar gold pieces in coin "of present weight and fineness," which puts the "dollar," not American gold coin, at a discount in neutral countries.

Whenever the passage of a bill legalizing bimetallism might appear certain the dollar would sell at a discount in our own country; not measured by itself, for that would be an absurdity; not measured in gold, for that would be treason, but measured in food, clothing and other necessaries of life; that is, a great additional rise in the cost of living. And in my letter to THE SUN which Mr. Allen answers I pointed out that in this lay the danger of economic disaster because the operating cost of corporations would quickly respond to the debased standard, while gross earnings are more or less fixed by law and custom.

It becomes more and more evident that this war will be settled by economic factors and not by military decisions, despite the great victories of our enemy. We must therefore work for economic preparedness.

It is futile to say, as no doubt some of your readers will, that warnings like this may breed a panic. What would we think of a scout who saw the enemy advancing and said: "I must not disturb the sleep of these tired citizens. I must not spoil the pleasure of these merrymakers." Is it not his duty to arouse the sleeping civilians, to alarm the merrymakers and to rally all the fighting powers to meet the foe? Is it not the duty of the economic scout to arouse the economic sleepers, to warn the commercial merrymakers and rally the army of sound money to fight the so far unrecognized foe of inflation which threatens economic disaster?

CHARLES VEZIN.

NEW YORK, June 7.

Is Gold Used Too Much in the Arts and Industries?

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The conclusions of Mr. Hennen Jennings, as stated in an editorial article in THE SUN of May 29 on the possible demonetisation of gold, are interesting but not quite logical.

All students of international finance have expected a decline in the production of gold just as soon as it became evident that the cost of factors entering into the production of the yellow metal was enhancing in value, and we all realized that it simply meant an additional burden upon an otherwise serious problem, that of the rehabilitation of financial conditions after the conclusion of peace.

Gold will continue to be mined notwithstanding the increased cost of labor and materials, if only as a by-product to lead, copper, silver and other metals, and the amount so acquired will still be considerable. It must be remembered that there is no wear and tear to gold under the present system of keeping it on deposit as security for note issues. This practice, moreover, prevents its storing by semi-civilized peoples, and a further restriction will undoubtedly be applied, and that is its limitation in the arts and industries, and particularly in such lines where the metal is irrecoverable; e. g., sign painting, picture mouldings and the decoration of buildings and numerous other purposes for which substitutes can readily be devised. This is a very important item, as the annual consumption in this respect by far exceeds the annual production of the United States and its dependencies.

However, there is a real danger of demonetisation of gold through improper distribution throughout the world, and we have adopted a policy that may readily lead to such a course. Nations will continue to live even if utterly exhausted, and all lines of activity will be fully exploited after peace has been declared. Expediency, however, will be the guiding principle, and where gold does not exist some substitute will be called upon to do the work just as effectively. This condition will unfortunately exist in the majority of the commercial countries of the world with the single exception of the United States, and it can readily be imagined what will happen if some day we should find ourselves in possession of all the gold in the world. This is not such an improbability, as this is the country that will have to provide the world with practically everything that will be needed for a general rehabilitation for a great many years to come.

VERITAS

WEST CALDWELL, N. J., June 6.

THE DRY CAUSE.

A Biblical Excursion Inspired by the Prohibition Campaign.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is not difficult to find the reason why prohibition has made such great strides in the past few years. Most people do not judge an idea on its own merit or lack of merit, but they judge an idea by the standing of its sponsors. Therefore prohibition is favored because ministers, church people and others who are popularly denominated "respectable" are on the side of prohibition, whereas on the other side are the liquor dealers and imbibers, the "publicans and sinners." Truly it is to-day as it was in the days of the Christ.

But what said Jesus to the "respectables"? "Verily, I say unto you, that the publicans go into the kingdom of God before you."

We have not yet fairly entered upon the great controversy concerning wine. There are no men at present among the prohibitionists who are able to argue this question upon moral and Biblical grounds, the grounds upon which the fate of prohibition must be finally decided. It will be noted that prohibitionists mostly confine their activities to the discussion of bills and enactments, to political and legislative bickering, personal recrimination, &c. They assume that wine is an evil. They have by no means proved it to be such. The only arguments they employ in favor of the abolition of wine to which any validity at all attaches are economic arguments. They exalt the material at the expense of the spiritual, forgetting or perhaps being ignorant of the truth that "the life is more than meat, and the body than raiment."

Prohibitionists "make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess." And it may be added that in the process of cleaning the outside of the platter many of these prohibitionists draw fat salaries, a circumstance, indeed, implied in the quotation just given.

Let no one think that prohibition can prevail. For, behold, Christ cometh again! His second coming draweth nigh and He will repeat the miracle that He once worked at Cana of Galilee. For did He not say at the Last Supper, "I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom"? Surely by "that day" He means the day of His second coming, when He will drink wine "new"; that is, "again" after He has overcome prohibition, and brought back to us "wine that cheereth God and man."

CHARLES HOOPER.

SEATTLE, Wash., May 25.

AIR RAIDS.

The Danger Is Too Remote to Justify General Alarm.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* May I call attention to the fact that there is no occasion for alarming ourselves unnecessarily on account of air raids.

Many nervous people, who have become restive on account of U-boat raids off the Jersey coast, were thrown into a panic by the notice to go down into their cellars if they should hear a signal of enemy airships bombarding New York.

We might as well realize that it is impractical for the Kaiser to send any kind of complete airships across the Atlantic for raiding purposes. Aeroplanes stay up in the air only a few hours, and therefore must have a base from which to operate, not far from our shores. If Germany should undertake the extremely difficult task of sending parts of one or at most a few airships to be assembled here for attacking the coast cities, the chances are they would be detected and destroyed before they could ever reach our shores.

It may also be safely assumed that the Federal, State and city authorities are doing everything in their power for the protection of our population and their property.

If additional precautions are deemed advisable, we might mount aero guns on our tall buildings and ask for volunteers over the draft age to train in their use for the purpose of bringing down any hostile aircraft that might venture in their vicinity.

F. M. F.

NEW YORK, June 7.

Snubbing the New Up-State Voters.

Pitcher correspondence Cincinnatus Times.

Several ladies came to the village Saturday to register, but as no preparations had been made and no one seemed to know anything about it, they were obliged to return home disappointed.