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The Worst Kind of Vicious Tax Legislation.

The Ways and Means Committee frankly states its purpose in having a 50 per cent. higher corporation income tax on undistributed earnings than on distributed earnings.

But a Government tax that will drive earnings out of a business where they are imperative to its safety is the most vicious and dangerous tax that can be devised.

Further, only the densest ignorance of business soundness and safety could ignore the horse sense fact that, whatever its capital, any industrial or commercial enterprise must win or lose on the amount of business it does.

A company capitalized at \$1,000,000 might do an annual business of \$20,000,000 a year. It could not profitably turn over that volume of business at less than 5 per cent. profit.

For men in Congress not to know these simple truths familiar to any intelligent clerk in the counting room of a commercial house shows their incompetency to deal with any business question, much less the crucial question of taxation of industry, of commerce, of bread and butter.

of these troops are engaged in the present fighting. One of the great advantages formerly possessed by the Germans was concentration of authority over all the armies fighting against the Entente.

A New View of Don Quixote. Mrs. THURLEIGH in her recollections of Dr. JOHNSON tells us that he knew every adventure in almost every book you could name and quotes him as saying: "Alas, Madam! how few books there are of which one can possibly arrive at the last page."

Considering the number of volumes that have been written on the immortal work of CERVANTES in the three centuries since he died on that memorable 23d of April, 1616, on which SHAKESPEARE also died, it would seem impossible for any one to say anything new upon that theme.

But this seeming impossibility has been accomplished, apparently, and very properly, by a Spaniard. In a recent address by Don RAMIRO DE MAEZTU on "Don Quixote y su influencia en España," delivered before the Anglo-Spanish Society in King's College, London, Señor DE MAEZTU explained that he was his object to consider "Don Quixote" and its influence on Spain from the moral and political point of view.

The "Moors, after a struggle of nearly eight centuries, had been expelled from the Peninsula; national and religious unity had been accomplished; Spanish banners were planted all over Europe; America had been discovered, conquered and colonized; the world had been circumnavigated by Spaniards; the Turks had been finally defeated at Lepanto. The practical result of these great efforts was the impoverishment, exhaustion and disappointment of the Spanish people.

To charge the decadence of Spain upon the head of CERVANTES and the immortal Knight of La Mancha will, we think, be regarded by most students of literature and history as an indictment that will scarcely be allowed to stand. In welcoming Señor DE MAEZTU at the meeting referred to the chairman, Mr. FITZMAURICE-KELLY, himself perhaps the highest living English authority on Spanish literature, referred to the speaker as "a masterly journalist with a more philosophical equipment than is vouchsafed to most knights of the quill."

Nevertheless we cannot agree in the first place with the premises upon which Señor DE MAEZTU bases his exceedingly broad generalization and deduction in regard to the influence of CERVANTES' great story on the decadence of Spain. In the first place, CERVANTES did not live in an age which was tired out and in an impoverished, exhausted and disappointed country. The greater part of his life was coincident with that of Spain at the height of its power and its wealth.

The American Troops in Italy. General MARCHI'S announcement that American troops trained in France have arrived in Italy confirms the popular belief that a movement of this kind was under way. Before the arrival of these forces we had aviators with the Italian army, and the Red Cross has been active in that field in caring for the civilian refugees for months.

transportation, however, presented a problem. She then undertook the development of the aviation corps which she now offers for service. The men, mostly officers in the army, were trained under French and Italian experts, and they have complete quota of airplanes, all of foreign construction.

The Patent Problem. When we urged a revision and reform of the patent laws of the United States to prevent the abuses which have grown up in their operation we recognized the difficult nature of the proposed undertaking and the necessity for careful consideration of all the interests involved.

Our Officers and Men in France. The country learned yesterday General PEARSON'S opinion of the men in his command. They are, in his words, "superb soldiers."

Yankee soldiers run fast.—Newspaper headline. They have to in order not to be displaced by the enemy.

The Emperor WILHELM refused to receive Count Von LUXBURG on that gifted diplomat's return to Berlin. Perhaps the Kaiser was afraid of his bloodthirsty representative.

Stam of Army Aviators. Prince VAIYAKARA, secretary of the Siamese Legation at Paris, announces that more than 500 airplane pilots have been trained in Siam and are now ready for service in France.

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President WILSON'S message to Congress put in words what the Siamese had been thinking, and when the message became known and understood in Siam the place of the country in the war was fixed.

the protection of the patent, as I could show if you had space. But the Supreme Court pointed out that a patentee had a right to prohibit others from using the invention, that was all that was gained by his patent, and that whether he used it himself or not was exclusively his own concern, something with which the public had nothing at all to do.

Another underlying misconception is that patents are all upon specific articles, each of which is made under a single patent, and that when one of these articles is made, the inventor has the right to sue the maker for infringement.

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THE PATENT PROBLEM.

A Serious Discussion of the Difficulties Involved in Changing the Law. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Recently there appeared in THE SUN an editorial article recommending a change in the patent laws by which patentees who did not "use" their patents should forfeit their rights.

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IMPORTANCE OF AUSTRIA TO THE PAN-GERMAN SCHEME OF CONQUEST.

War on Serbia was Germany's Plan to Subjugate South Slavs and to Gain Control of the Key to Dominion in the East. The commencement of the world war had as its apparent cause the death of a prince. The real cause, however, much greater, and they have gradually been coming to light during the struggle.

The second and parallel danger was the evergrowing resistance of the Jugoslavs (Serbs, Croats and Slovenes) to the Austro-Hungarian régime, by which ten millions of German speaking Austrians and nine million Magyars attempted to crush in the most brutal fashion the aspirations of 30,000,000 Slavs.

The present war did not begin by chance between Austria-Hungary and Serbia, but because the Hapsburg empire was indispensable to and Serbia a danger for German policy.

By the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which is to the interest of the majority of the people composing it, all reason for leaning on Germany will disappear and in this way the route toward the east will be closed to Germany; not only the Hamburg-Bagdad route but also the Hamburg-Vladivostok route.

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SAYING FOCH.

A New Guide to a Strange Pronunciation of the Hero's Name. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—The SUN is right in saying that Foch rhymes with Boche, but as the pronunciation may be in doubt, I offer the following versicle as an aid to the memory and a guide to the pronunciation.

While on the subject of pronunciation, permit me to enter an objection to Dr. A. N. Roussel's denunciation of the accent on the words "positive" and "negative" in the broad lexicon of humans, there are many nuances which no arbitrary dictionary or custom may control.

FREE DRILLS.

Fine Chance for Draft Men to Go to Military School. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—The Twelfth Regiment, New York Guard, is offering free instruction in their future military duties to men in the draft, without any obligation or requirement of enlistment in the guard, in order to enable them more readily to qualify as non-commissioned officers when called to the colors.

THE BITING ANTS.

An Experience in Paris Before the Franco-Prussian War. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—A "Spanish War Veteran" experienced a related in THE SUN of July 27, reads an earlier experience of my own when "knee high to a grasshopper" I found and lashed, not from mosquito bites, but from the bites of the mahogany tree-bess the Duke of Argyll for the name—but from the bite of the ant.

New York, July 27.