

FIRE LOSS LOW; REWARD FAILS

District's Per Capita Cost Under That of Fifteen Biggest Cities.

END OF BONUS FEARED

Chief Watson Wants Permanent Pay to Spur Department Efforts.

Washington ranks lowest in fire loss per capita among the sixteen largest cities in the country although having a fire department which is paid less than that of any but two of the other big cities, according to figures made public yesterday by Chief George S. Watson.

Last year the estimated damage by fire per capita in the District was \$1.46. New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Boston, Cleveland, Detroit, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, Buffalo, San Francisco, Milwaukee, Cincinnati and Newark having higher rates.

Other figures, however, show that the Washington firemen receive less money than those of all the above-mentioned cities, with the exception of Philadelphia and Baltimore.

Last January Congress granted the local fire fighters a raise in pay. In June, however, Congress reduced the \$240 bonus by half.

Chief Watson fears that at the next session the half bonus will be discontinued. This will take another \$10 of the monthly pay of District fire fighters.

"All we want," said Chief Watson, "and all the men should get is a substantial, definite raise in pay. I have asked the Commissioners to make the efforts necessary to get it, but cannot disclose just how much the requested raise amounts to."

THINKS LABOR NOT CONTENTED

C. E. Russell Warns Ad Club Of Terrible Dangers of Class Strife.

URGES CO-OPERATION

Thinks Workers Should be Given Say in Running Of Factories.

In an appeal last night to the members of the Advertising Club of Washington to help prevent class strife in the United States, Charles Edward Russell, journalist and author, who was a member of the special diplomatic mission sent to Russia in 1917, declared the same underlying symptoms that preceded the economic collapse of Russia are today "among the workers all around us."

"The greatest calamity that could befall the United States would be a stratification of society—a division into classes," said he.

"We have no such thing. It is folly to talk of such things as they are in the United States. For in a Democracy we are all workers."

See warning to U. S.

"I need not go into the workings of the Bolshevik government. It is insane and impossible. Nevertheless, organized society should take heed."

"The underlying symptoms of what brought on the chaos now overwhelming all Eastern Europe are now among workers all around us."

"The war was a tremendous enlightenment to the working man. He came to realize his importance to the world. And he will never go back to his conditions of life before the war. He is being goaded on by his sense of injustice to he knows not what."

"Your part, my part and the part of our country is to find out what he wants and try open-mindedly to meet and settle it."

"I see growing in twenty-six cities an organized movement of organized labor. That is a deadly practice and will bring good to no one."

Urges Co-operative Plan.

"Co-operative management of industry has been successfully tried in many places. That opens the way for us to national unity, security and peace. Again I say, there can never be such a thing as class strife in the United States, for in a democracy such as ours it is one for all and all for one."

Russell was the principal speaker at a dinner and banquet of the Advertising Club in the Dewey Hotel, during the course of which several prominent business men were "tried" in a "clown court" by Jason Breslau, chairman of the entertainment committee, who acted as judge. Samuel Schwarz was attorney for all accused. Other speakers were Nat C. Wildeman and F. M. Maley, of the Baltimore Merchants and Manufacturers' Association.

LAND OFFERED IN CALIFORNIA

Homesteads for Ex-Soldiers in Mountains Planned by Uncle Sam.

Uncle Sam is still saying: "Go West, young man!" This time it is California.

Despite the popular impression that the State has been well exploited, there remain thousands of acres of government land which will be thrown open to homestead and land-hand by former service men of the world war, beginning December 3, 1920, according to an announcement yesterday by the Interior Department.

The tract comprises 6,308 acres in Trinity, Humboldt and Tehama counties, and the Eureka and Sacramento land districts. These lands are reported to be mountain grazing lands. Former service men will have the first opportunity to make entry. Remaining lands will be thrown open to the general public from February 4 to February 10, 1921.

PRESIDENT TO VOTE FOR COX BY MAIL

Trenton, N. J., Oct. 12—President Wilson will cast his ballot in New Jersey for Gov. Cox, but will do so by mail.

Taking advantage of the State's absentee voters' law, the Chief Executive has applied to the Mercer County Board of Elections for the necessary blank to enable him to register his choice for a successor.

The President maintains a voting residence at Princeton and up to the time he was stricken with his present illness it was his custom to visit the college town on election days and cast his ballot at the fire hall with the other citizens.

Docks at New Orleans Tied Up by Drayage Strike

New Orleans, Oct. 12.—Teamsters, draymen, loaders and unloaders practically tied up river-front activities here today with a strike for higher wages.

The truck drivers and float drivers are asking \$1 more a day and the loaders and unloaders 10 cents more an hour. Truck drivers get \$4.50 a day and the float drivers \$4, and the loaders 40 cents an hour.

ECZEMA IS NOT CONTAGIOUS

Many think that it is and they are afraid to touch anything handled by one "unclean."

Eczeema is easily cured when the proper treatment is used. The remedy must not irritate or burn—it should give relief at once if it is going to heal—Helios heals, use Helios.

For sale at People's Drug Stores or by mail. Sent postpaid upon the receipt of \$1, address

HELIOS LABORATORY WASHINGTON, D. C.



Tags Missing But Tag Day Is Success, Just the Same

This is to prove that you don't have to have tags to operate a tag day celebration.

Miss Florence Sterling was head of the Confederate Veterans' reunion fund at Houston, Tex. Printer forgot to print the tags. "They were to have been little Confederate States flags," said she, "but we sold red, white and blue ribbons, instead. It's all the same and we raised just as much money."

Short Men Given Chance To Join St. Paul Police

Steps are being taken by Commissioner Smith, of St. Paul, to shorten the height of policemen to meet the shortage of cops. No, it isn't a joke at all.

St. Paul's cops, under the present rule, must be five feet eight inches in their socks. There are now forty vacancies, hence the fight for reducing the height standard.

Revenuers Barred Unless Moonshiner Is At Home

You have to be at home to be lawfully pinched for "tikker" making at Frankfort, Ky.

Roy Youmans, summoned to court because officers found a still and whiskey in his cellar, was acquitted because the court of appeals held that it was unlawful for the cops to enter Roy's house while he wasn't home.

Child Banned at Recital.

Mrs. Marguerite Hunt is protesting against the banning of children under 8 years old at San Francisco's Sunday organ recitals. She took her 3-year-old child to the concert and was told to leave.

ENVOYS OF GREAT POWERS HOLD PARLEY ON COMMUNICATIONS



For the purpose of getting a better understanding among nations through the guarantee of unrestricted communications, the representatives of the five great powers are meeting at the State Department. The meetings are preliminary to the International Communications Conference to be called by President Wilson. All nations, including Germany, have been invited. At the preliminary meeting, shown in the picture, one of the important discussions was on the division of the cables taken from Germany by the treaty of Versailles.

Present Law Hurts Thrift and Industry Tax Plan Discourages Foreign Capital

Continued from page one.

It is quite true that, even with strict economy in government expenditures, the burden of taxation must necessarily be considerable for years to come. But every one who has ever had to carry a heavy load knows that the secret of carrying it with relative ease, lies in the way in which it is adjusted. Our tax burden is grossly maldistributed. By rearranging it we can vastly lighten the pressure of the tax upon the backs of the people, and particularly of the so-called middle classes, on whom it now rests with especial and most regrettable heaviness because they are not in the position, generally speaking, to make their compensation keep pace with the mounting costs of living. And among the principal causes for those mounting costs is the tax system.

A good deal may be said for the contention that the system of taxation inaugurated in 1917 was in accord with the prevailing sentiment of the time and had to be given retroactive effect. The theory which underlies it has rightly a strong appeal.

System Thoroughly Tried.

Well, that system has now had a three years' trial. We have seen the theory applied in practice for a sufficient length of time to test it out. The result has been a large increase in the cost of living and other effects hampering and troubling to the nation and burdensome to all, but particularly to those who were not intended to be benefited by that system and that theory, i. e., the plain people. The revenue measure of 1917, re-enacted essentially unchanged for 1918 and 1919, stands out as a monument to the grave harm by the inexorable test of actual experience.

The ideal tax is one that rests where it is laid. That is to a considerable degree attainable in the case of reasonable and moderate taxes but only in that case. In proportion as a tax is grossly excessive or palpably un sound, in that proportion is it liable and likely to be avoided or passed on.

Economists tell us that an income tax cannot be shifted. That is true only in part, and moreover the evils growing out of our present unprejudiced and unparalleled scale of super-taxation far exceed the virtue of what measure of non-shiftable in heres to the income tax. It is still less true of our excess profits tax, the incidence of which is largely loaded on to costs and is frequently several times removed from the first corporation which has to pay such a tax.

What Increased Costs Mean.

Increased cost of manufacture and distribution means increased taxes. It is a simple matter of the necessities of life, increased wages, and, in short, increased cost of living all around.

The social and moral arguments for an unshifting war profits tax are to my mind unanswerable. To permit individuals and corporations to enrich themselves out of the dreadful calamity of war is repugnant to every right feeling man's sense of right and justice and is gravely detrimental to the war morale of the people.

Unfortunately, however, our war profits tax is a large measure of disassociated from war profits in too many cases.

Puts Unfair Burden on Energy.

And as for the excess profits tax so-called, it is altogether a different thing, in spirit and effect. That measure establishes as "normal earnings" an arbitrary, and in case of many industrial activities, an inequitable percentage of return on invested capital, and by a complex, confusing and generally ill-devised system, levies a high rate all earnings above that percentage. It lays a heavy and clumsy hand on successful business activity. It is grossly inequitable in its effects, and, to a large extent, the greater or lesser degree of its burdensomeness is determined by purely fortuitous circumstances. It puts a fine on energy, enterprise and efficiency. It leaves untouched the profits of wealth, who are more nor takes the risks and responsibilities of business, but merely collects his coupons. It is bound to operate unfairly, freakishly and unevenly, and greatly enhance the cost of things.

Let me point out, incidentally, that the spectacular earnings of certain corporations and individuals afford no criterion of the earnings of business on the whole.

As against a number of concerns and individuals who have made exceedingly great profits during and since the war, there are numerous others whose earnings have greatly shrunk, during and since the war.

English Conditions Reviewed.

It may be interesting to quote the results of an investigation made recently in England (where conditions appear to be very similar to those prevailing here) as to

TENANTS FIGHT HOUSE RAZING

Park View Plan to Destroy Buildings for School Annex Opposed.

LIVELY SCRAP LOOMS

Charge That Realtors Back Association Proposal Made at Meeting.

Proposed destruction of seventeen buildings in the rear of the Park View School, Newton and Warder streets northwest, to allow erection of an addition to the school building, prompted two members to attack before the Park View Citizens' Association and occupants of the houses.

Headed by H. Laue, of 3545 Sixth street northwest, ten tenants attended the meeting of the association last night and expressed vigorous opposition to the plan.

Razing Denounced.

Laue denounced the proposed destruction of the houses as unnecessary. He claimed that plenty of space is available on either side of the present structure for an annex.

George H. Russell, president of the association, answered Laue's allegations, that real estate men were pushing the proposed scheme because it would enhance the value of their property. Russell said that there was absolutely no collusion between the backers of the project and realtors.

New Meeting Scheduled.

Upon motion of E. J. Ward it was decided to hold a meeting of the association's executive committee and a committee representing the tenants to discuss the matter. Commissioner J. Thilman Hendrick, Superintendent of Schools, Frank W. Ballou and Municipal Architect Snowden Ashford will be invited to attend.

Following the adoption of a resolution condemning the proposed razing in the gas rate, the president appointed two members to attend the hearing before the Public Utilities Commission October 18.

Twenty-one new members were admitted and the following nominations for officers were made, the election to take place at the next meeting:

President, George H. Russell and Preston Shannon; vice president, Charles W. Gilmore and R. S. Williams; secretary, Miss Edith Shannon and John G. McGrath; and treasurer, A. B. Clark and W. T. Kenner.

PALMER AGENTS HUNT COTTON GIN FIRE BUGS

San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 12.—The government is taking a hand to stop the wholesale burning of cotton gins by night in Texas.

Several Department of Justice agents have been sent to Cameron where a \$1,000,000 fire destroyed 5,000 bales of cotton Saturday.

District agents believed the fire to be the work of a large organization. The fire has followed warnings to gins not to operate until cotton prices are higher, it was said.

Additional fires were reported in Texas yesterday. A small fire at Rock Hill was extinguished before it did much damage. Several bales of cotton were destroyed in a compress fire at Thorndale.

Warden Burns \$3,000 Fish Net.

T. F. Butler, game warden, held a \$3,000 fire in Terre Haute, Ind., the other day. He burned fishing nets confiscated this year. They were taken because they did not conform with the law.

Excess Profit Tax Criticized

The excess profit tax has tended further to increase actual cost of production, inasmuch as costs naturally are deducted before taxable profits are arrived at, and therefore, under the operation of the excess profit tax there is not the same inducement as under normal circumstances to keep cost down as much as possible, but in fact rather the reverse. It is a fact well known to those familiar with business practices that there has been gross wastefulness in certain lines of expenditures since the excess profit tax went into effect and as a direct consequence of it.

Objection to the excess profit tax in peace time rests, in my mind, not so much on the ground of denying the theoretical equity of such a tax, but on the ground that, in actual practice, it does not and cannot accomplish the social purpose aimed at, and that it tends to hurt trade, discourage enterprise and burden the public, and that it presents immense difficulties of administration. Our excess profit tax certainly has not stopped but rather has intensified what is commonly termed "profitteering."

The faultiness, the intolerable complexity of the technical provisions of that tax, its uneven application and its harmful effects in various directions have become so widely recognized that we may, I hope, look forward with reasonable assurance to its repeal or thorough modification in the not very distant future.

But to remove the excess profit tax on corporations without at the same time reducing the extreme rates of individual surtaxes would

Take It from Uncle Eph



MIRRORS an' wives are handy things to tell a feller when his face needs cleanin'.

Hain't it funny how square meals will fit into round stomachs? (Copyright 1920, Thompson Feature Service.)

DISCORD BEGINS IN COAL CASES

Federal Lawsuits on Eve Of Profiteer Probe at Scranton.

(By Universal Service.)

Simultaneously with the joint meeting of anthracite coal operators and miners October 15 at Scranton, Pa., called by President Wilson, Attorney General Palmer will, on the same day, lay the case of anthracite coal profiteers before the grand jury in the same city.

The Department of Justice is said to favor indicating the hard coal trade if it can be proved innocent of profiteering.

This attitude, it is said, was the cause of Daniel W. Simms, special assistant Attorney General at Indianapolis, who was to handle the cases pending against coal operators and officials of the United Mine Workers of America, sending in his resignation to Attorney General Palmer yesterday.

It is understood that Mr. Simms received a letter from the Attorney General placing certain restrictions on the evidence to be used in the coal cases and that Mr. Simms' resignation followed closely upon receipt of that letter.

Officials of the Department of Justice refused to discuss the resignation of Mr. Simms.

Faces "Medicine" in Court.

New York, Oct. 12.—Jacob Hoplak faced his medicine in court today. Police took the same medicine last night—from his saloon. There were 270 quarts of fiery liquid marked "for medicinal use."

Woman, Aged 102, Signs the Voting List

(Special to Washington Herald.)

Silver Spring, Md., Oct. 12.—Mrs. Augusta Lamson, who registered at Silver Spring today, didn't hesitate when the registrar asked her how old she was.

She has seen 102 summers.

There is little doubt that she is the oldest voter on the registration lists of Maryland.

She signed her name without using glasses. Mrs. Lamson was born in Maine, but has lived in this county for several years.

The aged woman announced her intention of voting the straight Republican ticket.

Other aged women who have eagerly embraced the chance to vote are: Mrs. Myers, Silver Spring, Md.; Mrs. Jane M. Gaither, St. Rockville; Mrs. Laura R. Carroll, Ft. Potomac; Mrs. Mary J. P. Waters, St. Charlesburg; Mrs. Mary J. Kirkpatrick, St. Rockville.

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