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THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 1921.

The Fourth Amendment.

A CORRESPONDENT takes The Herald to task as "holding very lightly" the Fourth amendment to the Constitution. He thoughtfully recommends that we "take a course in elementary law before again attempting to construe the Constitution." Yet this comes after this statement: "As a matter of law and fact, except as it is incorporated in the constitutions of the individual States, the Fourth amendment is binding only upon national legislature and the Federal judiciary."

This sounds like a rather extreme statement of State's rights. It would indicate that States in their constitutions and laws are at liberty to wholly disregard the Constitution of the United States. If this is so, we are led to wonder why it is that State courts hold provisions of the national constitution as superior to and controlling where there is conflict in State constitutions or State laws? If the Federal Constitution is the supreme law of the land, it would seem even to the novice, who claims no knowledge of elementary law, that it must be the supreme law of the States. A complainant who claims the violation of a right conferred by the Federal Constitution can go into the Federal courts, but does he have to do so? Is there no such thing known as an appeal from State courts to the Federal Supreme Court in cases involving such Constitutional rights?

The Herald does not hold any Constitutional right lightly. But men have lived to see a civil war necessary to settle some of them and the Supreme Court construe others. Such words as "reasonable" and "unreasonable" seem to depend upon conditions surrounding each case and as hardly capable of exact definition in any case. When automobiles are stopped in succession on a highway and searched without warrant for each or any of them, it is possible a court might consider such conditions.

As example whether or not the police had sufficient evidence that one would pass that way in which would be found bootleg liquor, or game shot out of season, or fish caught out of season, or hunters with their guns out of hunting season; or thieves with their loot, or a wife deserter, or any other class of criminal. Such cases occur every day. The city detectives, without warrants, meet trains looking for suspects. There is not a day in New York City when men and vehicles are not searched without warrant, but no paper of that city makes a fuss about it. They want it done for protection to property, incidentally to their property.

On the other hand there are very many court decisions dealing with the Fourth amendment, in suits brought for search without warrant showing that this is not a new question or one arising only out of the Volstead law. Nor is the Fourth the only amendment with a dubious word demanding court construction. Just what is "excessive bail;" what is an "excessive fine"—Judge Landis once thought $29,000,000 permissible—just what sort of a law "abridges the privileges or immunities" of citizens in States; what does "from whatever source derived" mean as to incomes subject to tax? There are a lot of them, even to freedom of speech and of the press. The Fourth does not stand alone as some Senators and our correspondent seem to think in the righteousness of their wrath as demanding their spiritual devotion.

The only thing which disturbs the usual equanimity and comparative indifference of The Herald, is why the Fourth amendment must be made to apply so extra-rigorously and with superscruplousness only as to bootleggers? Many a home has been entered and many a door kicked in by a ruthless police boot because of what it was believed would be found within the house or back of the door. There was no warrant and the reasonableness or unreasonableness in each case depended upon what was found and how much basis there was for action. But no voice has been raised in the Senate in protest because of such acts and columns have not been filled in the daily press as to the sacredness of the Fourth amendment.

Strangely enough, also, Virginia, referred to by our correspondent, ratified the Constitution in 1788 while the Fourth amendment was not proposed until the following year and did not become a part of the Constitution until 1791. Yet not having had a course in elementary law, we continue to wonder at the sudden solicitude for this amendment just at this time. It would seem that Senatorial thirst, or anxiety for the thirsty, rather than devotion to the Constitution, was the inspiring cause.

It will soon be time for the thrifty man to decide what he will do with that straw hat.

A Sliding Salary Scale.

IN CONDEMNING the extravagance of the former administration, this cannot be made to reach to the holdover employes. The extravagance was at least outside their salaries and indeed outside the established departments save as a continuing condition of a surplus of employes and of petty wastes. There is an interesting table of comparative costs in civil expenditures and the increase in the cost of living, prepared by Dr. Wolf, of the Bureau of Standards. It was used by Dr. Irving Fisher in his testimony at the hearing on reclassification of salaries.

It shows that while civil expenditures jumped from $207,000,000 in 1910 to $366,500,000 in 1920, this was an increase of 160.5 per cent, while the cost at wholesale of the usual commodity list, increased 243.1 per cent and the cost of living 196.9 per cent. The shrinkage in the purchasing power of salaries was given by Dr. Fisher as 50 per cent between 1914 and 1920. On a $3,000 salary during those years, the decrease of purchasing power represents $7,026.

During the war this government began a great many war activities and while some of these were attached to existing departments many were unattached. Salaries for new employes had to be made to fit the market, but the only relief the old employes got was a bonus which did not come within over 10 per cent of equalizing increased costs. Nor have salaries yet been so adjusted as not to make the government, especially in the divisions requiring special training and expert ability, the most unfair and penurious employer in this country.

As a consequence, it is losing and has lost many of its most valuable men. It has kept only those who have long been in the treadmill, or who have families and dare not venture to break away from a sure thing. No one, not living in Washington, and even few here, can begin to appreciate the hardships and near penury endured by hundreds of families because of this reduced purchasing power of salaries.

Dr. Fisher made a suggestion that would seem wise and worthy of adoption. It was that all salaries, after being fixed on a fair basis in ratio to the cost of living, be left for readjustment from time to time on the basis of the cost of living, or the purchasing power of the dollar. This is what Great Britain did as to wages during the war. It is what we failed to do. If government salaries were fixed on a sliding scale as to merit, efficiency and experience, length of service being but one factor, and were also made adjustable to the purchasing power of the dollar, there would be a new inducement for young people, not only to enter the public service, but to stay in it.

As it is, fathers caught between the millstones, warn their sons and daughters against public service and governmnt employment, save maybe, as a post graduate course, for a year or two, in a specialty. Also the labor turnover in the Federal service is a mounting expense quite equal, probably, though hidden, to what would be the increase necessary to pay a really living salary.

Whose Is the Profit.

IN ONE sense the Federation of Labor is right that the rich will profit by the repeal of the excess profits tax and the excessive surtaxes on incomes. But as to excess profits, not only the rich, but a great many below that economic class, will profit. This tax was not wholly a respecter of the persons of any successful business men. It took a piece of the skin from all of them.

Nor did it stop there, for it took a pinch off the backs of every one who eats food, wears clothes and lives in houses. This tax was passed along with an increase. Repeal will take away the excuse for this and the extra profits made through it will soon disappear. For a time the repeal will add to the incomes of those in business; not the rich alone but all of them. And this is all it will profit them. Then the profit will come to the ordinary man whose dollar will buy more. It will be but an incident in the process of readjustment.

It happens that it is not alone the rich who pay taxes. Also, those who pay them may collect from others more than they pay. So ultimately everyone pays them. It is impossible to confine taxes merely to the rich. It is just as impossible to take from the profiteer his extra gains. It is nice to talk about this. It forms several luscious mouthfuls of seeming equity. But as the old man said of something else: "It can't be did." Under any known system of business, under any known social organization, it is impossible. It is a process of discrimination which is beyond taxing powers, or legislative ability.

Income surtaxes apply only to the superrich. But here, also, their repeal will not alone profit those who pay them. Much of them have been passed along in one way or the other, while it is not a theory but an actual condition, that capital is not permitted to lie idle. It always seeks investment. Investment, no matter of what nature, always results in employment. In this country there is no such thing as the rich growing richer while the poor grow poorer.

It is not even true that wealth grows more concentrated in the few hands. If the war has made hundreds or thousands of new millionaires, just so far there has been a redistribution of wealth, and merely the number of automobiles is equal evidence of the still wider distribution of wealth. As a fact no other country has so even a wealth distribution as the United States. It is equally true that the levelling has been continuous for many years and is continuing. It will increasingly continue as thrift increases its grip upon our lives. The federation's pronunciamento is one of those seeming truths; a sort of surface truth which is only skin deep.

Model of Brevity.

IF CONGRESS is desirous of simplicity and conciseness in the to-be-passed revenue and tariff bills these can be found in a measure introduced on request by Senator King. It contains, in but thirty-two printed pages, a complete revenue and tariff bill. It is like condensing the Ten Commandments on one side of a calling card. With it went a statement, explanatory and argumentative, by Samuel Russell who may be, therefore, credited as the author of the bill.

Mr. Russell is a Utah attorney and an expert on legislation. To say the least, his bill is interesting. It frames an income tax based on 2 mills on $1, and "the square of the base so ascertained" is made the tax. There are the usual exemptions. But if a man had a $1,000 taxible income, his tax would be $2. If the amount to be taxed was $5,000 the tax would be $2 on each $1,000 squared, or ten times $10 equalling $100. This increase continues to taxable incomes of $125,000, where the tax would be $62,500 or just 50 per cent and 50 per cent is then made the maximum for all incomes above $125,000.

In the same way $1 or more could, of course, be made the base and the square used to compute the tax rate up to any desired percentage which would then become the rate for higher incomes. Certainly this is simple and ingenuous. There is also given simple methods of computing other than personal incomes.

Turning to tariffs, Mr. Russell would levy a flat ad valorem duty of 30 per cent on all imports except a specified free list, with double duty on specified luxuries. Being, seemingly, a believer in "tariff for revenue only" as well as for protection, there is a long list of specific duties. Rather of an oddity is an inheritance tax, called a "duty on distributions" using the same "base" system as with personal income tax, and a "duty on credits," levied on all debts created, but to be paid by the debtor at the time of the collection of the debt, instead of by the creditor when the debt is made.

As a whole the bill is novel; it is original as to dimensions and in all its features. It may, probably will, be treated as a "freak," but it is worth the reading and experts might find it worth study. New ideas are not so common and sometimes they prove to have merit. Not the least of its merits in novelty is its brevity as compared to the Fordney revenue bill of eighty-three pages all amendments to be unscrambled and applied to the present law, and the Fordney tariff of 338 pages. This is a total of 421 pages as compared to Mr. Russell's thirty-two pages.

New York City Day By Day Impressions

By O. O. McINTYRE

NEW YORK, Aug. 24.—Most of us who are fed to New York from the country towns have the proletariat's tradition of wealth. Dowagers registering ill-bred hauteur with black sequins and with lorgnettes. Butlers in powdered wigs and plush short pants with silver buckles. A flock of polo ponies. Moated castles along the Hudson and Palm Beach villas.

My first disillusionment came one evening when I passed a mansion on Park avenue. There is no entrance from the street save for those who come in motors and drive into the little courtyard. I imagined the owner and his wife dining at the opposite ends of a twelve-foot table surrounded by Louis XV florescence.

A half hour later I saw them dining at a marble-topped table at a Child's restaurant. The truly rich can do such things without the lifting of an eyebrow. New York's show and pomp come from the social muckers who are trying ruthlessly to beat down social barriers and attain the heights.

Headwaiters say that the gilded cafes would close if they depended upon the real wealth of the town for patronage. It comes from the new rich and social neophyte. There is a story of a Bronx wife whose husband made a killing in Wall Street. After visiting a Fifth avenue hotel she went home and cut off her dining room between meals by a red rope cord.

It is a fact that while many are trying to show their Cartier pearls at a Maeterlinck play, the cream of the social register is shrieking with joy at Charlie Chaplin. It is an old tale but a true one of a Tammany politician's wife, suddenly plunged into wealth, saying: "I don't believe in movies for the children, but I am going to take my kiddies to see 'The Doll's House.'"

Pierpont Morgan does not bowl uptown at noon to lunch at Delmonico's or Sherry's. When he does not send out for a sandwich he lunches in a plain little restaurant on Nassau street with one-armed chairs. The social climber gives New York its meretricious brilliancy. The vulgarian spender imparts to the town its razzle-dazzle. Whatever may be said of those born to wealth, at least they do not make a show of themselves in spending it.

Ben De Casseres, the former printer who has become one of New York's literary lions, declares that literary genius is now divided into two classes—those who write for the movies and those who write advertisements. He says: "Today some of the best written matter that is printed in America introduces a new shoe, a tooth paste, a new automobile tire, a new alarm clock, or a rubber heel." It is true that poets, essayists and short-story writers are flocking into advertising offices—and many have moved from the Mills Hotel to the St. Regis.

There is an undercurrent of insistence among New York music lovers for an American-born tenor to succeed Caruso at the Metropolitan. There is no disputing that the foreign-born have been given the preference for years. Frankly, the idea is that they are greater drawing cards, which is manifestly unfair to Americans who support the opera. Of course, Caruso made his own place and filled it creditably, but he was given his chance and that chance is denied American singers in many instances.

When the revenue officers find any illegally held whisky it is amusing the way New York newspapers list the find. They speak of Haig and Haig, Gordon Gin, and Black and White with reckless disregard of "free advertising." New York editors have found that people like to know what brand was confiscated and they want it named. What great advertising it would have been in the days before prohibition, but now it means nothing.

Horoscope For Today

What the Stars Indicate

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 1921.

Again an unusually lucky day has dawned, according to astrology. Neptune, Jupiter and Saturn are all in benefic aspect.

There is a sign that promises calmer judgment on questions affecting the people than has been encouraged in recent aspects of the stars.

Neptune in friendly sway seems to indicate the spread of saner ideas on many problems affecting the everyday life of the people, and this kindly influence may even reach the mind of women who wear immodest clothing.

Jupiter presages increase of foreign trade and revival of many lines of business.

Saturn in benefic power is read as auguring a big movement back to the land. Many colonization schemes will be tried and success seems to be foreshadowed.

Group effort that is wise co-operation is to become more popular this year than ever before.

The conjunction of Mars and Neptune, which falls on this day, is interpreted to be an omen of religious scandals, strikes in shipping industries and a prolongation of heat.

Earthquakes are prognosticated for the South of Europe, and there will be many electrical storms late in the autumn.

With the waning of summer, outbreaks of epidemics, especially fevers, should be guarded against.

Rumania is to be seriously disturbed before the new year for Mars entering Leo will have a sinister effect on this country.

Persons whose birthdate it is may be too susceptible to romance in the coming year. Business and financial affairs should be satisfactory.

Children born on this day have the forecast of success and prosperity. Girls may marry unhappily.

HELPING FATHER.

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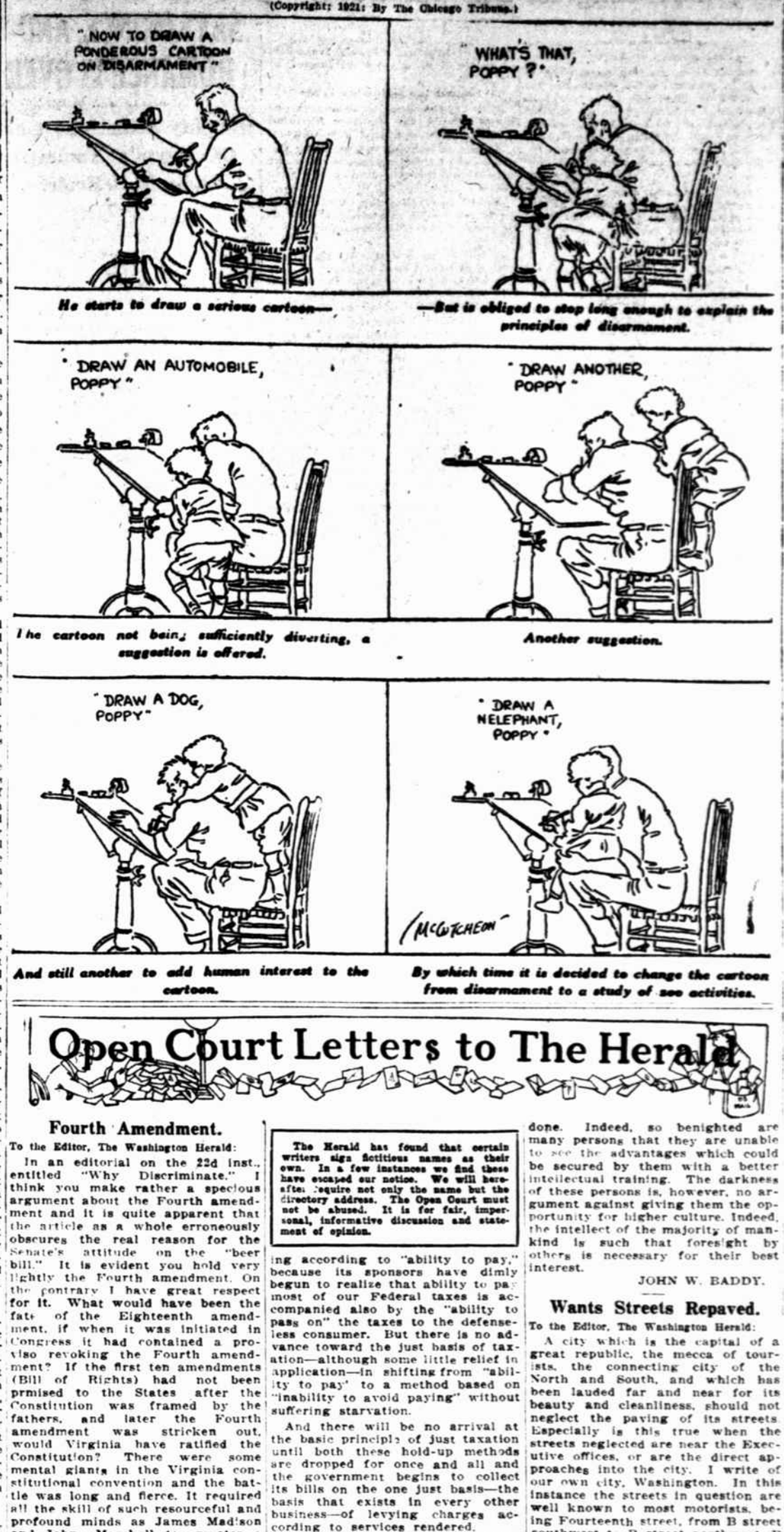

He starts to draw a serious cartoon—

—But is obliged to stop long enough to explain the principles of disarmament.

The cartoon not being sufficiently diverting, a suggestion is offered.

Another suggestion.

And still another to add human interest to the cartoon.

By which time it is decided to change the cartoon from disarmament to a study of zoo activities.

Open Court Letters to The Herald

The Herald has found that certain writers sign fictitious names as their own. In a few instances we find these have escaped our notice. We will hereafter require not only the name but the directory address. The Open Court must not be abused. It is for fair, impersonal, informative discussion and statement of opinion.

Fourth Amendment.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:

In an editorial on the 22d inst., entitled "Why Discriminate," I think you make rather a specious argument about the Fourth amendment and it is quite apparent that the article as a whole erroneously obscures the real reason for the Senate's attitude on the "beer bill." It is evident you hold very lightly the Fourth amendment. On the contrary I have great respect for it. What would have been the fate of the Eighteenth amendment, if when it was initiated in Congress it had contained a proviso revoking the Fourth amendment? If the first ten amendments (Bill of Rights) had not been promised to the States after the Constitution was framed by the fathers, and later the Fourth amendment was stricken out, would Virginia have ratified the Constitution? There were some mental giants in the Virginia constitutional convention and the battle was long and fierce. It required all the skill of such resourceful and profound minds as James Madison and John Marshall to muster a meager majority of eight votes on a final ballot for ratification. If Virginia had failed to ratify in 1788 there would have been no Constitution and probably no United States of America.

I think you are in error in the construction "unreasonable searches and seizures." I infer from the language of your editorial that a search and seizure is perfectly lawful if "reasonable," even without warrant. If it could be depended that a search and seizure would always be reasonable there would be no necessity for the constitutional provision. The requirement of a warrant is a condition precedent to a search and seizure.

Because the supreme law of the land is violated in many instances is a very poor excuse for holding it in contempt.

As a matter of law and fact, except as it is incorporated in the constitutions of the individual States, the Fourth amendment is binding only upon the national legislature and the Federal judiciary.

There is a wide distinction between the right to protection guaranteed under the Fourth amendment, and the instances where it is perfectly lawful to arrest a person without a warrant; or even intrude upon a dwelling-house to apprehend a felon, to arrest one who is in hiding, take a traitor, or even one guilty of a breach of the peace.

It is by just such gradual and stealthy encroachments upon the rights reserved to the States or to the people, and infractions upon the restrictions placed upon the Federal government, and which you would seem to justify, that a nation of free men may, in the future, be reduced to a race of slaves.

I recommend that your editorial writer take a course in elementary law before he again attempts to construe the Constitution.

CHARLES O. PIERCE.

Phoebus, Va.

Sales Taxes and Others.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:

A tax on retail sales to the ultimate consumer would be a great forward step in Federal taxation. At the same time it would be as far removed from justice in principle as the taxes it would supplant.

It is a great forward step because it would bring the present taxation of the ultimate consumer out into the open, where he would know he was paying the bill. He pays it now, and pays it thrice over through the pyramided charges taken by Uncle Sam's involuntary tax collectors—but demagogs and ignorant men have made him believe he doesn't.

It would still be far removed from exact justice in taxation because it is based, like every other Federal levy except the inheritance tax, on the footpad ethics of "getting it wherever the getting is easiest." It marks an abandonment, thank heaven, of the vicious theory of taxing according to "ability to pay," because its sponsors have dimly begun to realize that ability to pay most of our Federal taxes is accompanied also by the "ability to pass on" the taxes to the defenseless consumer. But there is no advance toward the just basis of taxation—although some little relief in application—in shifting from "ability to pay" to a method based on "inability to avoid paying" without suffering starvation.

And there will be no arrival at the basic principle of just taxation until both these hold-up methods are dropped for once and all and the government begins to collect its bills on the one just basis—the basis that exists in every other business—of levying charges according to services rendered.

"That is impossible to determine," you may say. I will answer that an exact measurement of the value of services governments render can always be found in site values—land values according to location in respect to governmental services and governmental protection, the things which make up the cost of government. This is a basis on which to levy taxes the justice of which has been recognized by every able economist since Adam Smith; the justice of which has never been controverted.

This tax is collected now—but it is collected in rents and profits from values created solely by government. Let the government collect this tax and it can pay all its current bills, settle its national debt, put more than 7 per cent of its income into construction and less than 93 per cent into destruction—and at the same time drop its blackjack taxation of those who have the "ability to pay," (who are worth robbing), and those who suffer from the "inability to avoid paying" (who can't rob someone else to recoup their losses).

Let the government collect this tax. The ultimate consumer will pay, of course, but he will pay in accordance with what he receives; and he won't pay twice as he does now—once to the government and once to the owners of the earth, who have a little sales tax of their own that only a disembodied spirit can escape under present laws.

GEORGE G. COLLINS

Washington.

Defends Proper Education.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:

Again Mr. Livesey comes forward with the old-time laissez-fair philosophy of Herbert Spencer and John Stuart Mill. The Towner-Sterling bill is one of the most forward pieces of legislation ever proposed by Congress in the history of America. Mr. Livesey's views appear to be based upon an erroneous conception of the working of the mind force in nature. The views expressed by him contain just such reasoning as that which caused the social philosophy of Herbert Spencer to be static and sterile rather than dynamic and progressive.

Human progress consists of man's organization and utilization of the materials and forces of nature. The material and forces of nature can usually be organized and utilized by man to his advantage, in proportion to his understanding of them. They are neither good nor bad, and man's control and power over them are only limited by his knowledge of their laws.

This necessary knowledge can only be acquired through the proper kind of education. By this we do not mean such training as will enable an individual to pass the Edison test, nor do we confine ourselves to the classics or mathematics. What is needed by each and every person is such mental development as will enable him to so direct the forces of nature as to cause them to do things that would not otherwise be done. Indeed, so benighted are many persons that they are unable to see the advantages which could be secured by them with a better intellectual training. The darkness of these persons is, however, no argument against giving them the opportunity for higher culture. Indeed, the intellect of the majority of mankind is such that foresight by others is necessary for their best interest.

JOHN W. BADDY.

Wants Streets Repaved.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:

A city which is the capital of a great republic, the mecca of tourists, the connecting city of the North and South, and which has been lauded far and near for its beauty and cleanliness, should not neglect the paving of its streets. Especially is this true when the streets neglected are near the Executive offices, or are the direct approaches into the city. I write of our own city, Washington. In this instance the streets in question are well known to most motorists, being Fourteenth street, from B street southwest to B street northwest, B stree northwest through to Seventeenth street, motorists passing through or visiting our city most invariably use Fourteenth street to Highway Bridge. Is it not a pity that several squares of rough cobblestone should greet the incoming autoist? B street, connecting Tenth and Seventeenth streets, is unsightly, dirty, and little used because of its rough, antique cobblestones. I would suggest that our able Commissioners do a little "good roads work" for us in Washington and replace those cobblestones with a modern road surfacing. This I know would be greatly appreciated by the general public, especially by those who, despite its uncomfortableness, must use the above mentioned roadways. Don't you think so?

JAS. WEBB.

COMMUNISTS SEE POWER WEAKENING

BERLIN, Aug. 24.—Speaking before the Communistic convention at Jena, Delegate Henrich, from Cologne, declared the time was approaching when Germany could no longer fulfill the terms of the allied reparations ultimatum. He advised the Reds to mobilize the revolutionary proletariat against such a day. Delegate Maltzahn, a prominent Berlin radical, openly said a crisis had arisen in Communistic affairs and that the party would not succeed if it continued to proceed upon lines hitherto established. Frau Wagner held that economically the life and death struggle of the Communists was coming soon.

The whole tone of the session indicates that Communism is collapsing more and more in Germany. Meantime the Monarchists are becoming more active, as shown by a meeting of so-called front fighters at the Stadium Wednesday afternoon at which Von Hindenburg and other prominent pan-Germans spoke.

CRASH FATAL TO 2 GIRLS AND PARENTS

CLEVELAND, Aug. 24.—Two are dead, two will die and one is seriously injured as the result of a New York Central passenger train striking an automobile near Willoughby late today.

Two daughters of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Chasen, of Parkersburg, W. Va., were killed instantly. Chasen and his wife will die.

Roy C. Uhl was seriously injured but will recover.

Dr. Walter Nernst, prominently identified with Germany's development of chemical warfare during the war, has been appointed rector of the University of Berlin.

The Herald Scientific Notes and Comment

Calendar of Meetings, Activities of Societies in Washington

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 1921.

CREAM SEPARATOR RESEARCH SAVES MILLIONS EARLY.

American creameries are indebted to the laboratory work of a university professor for the machine which has enabled them to save millions of dollars yearly in separating cream from milk, according to the Engineering Foundation, which, with the National Research Council and other agencies, is organizing industrial research on a nationwide scale. The invention of this machine was another striking illustration of laboratory researches carried on with no immediate motive other than the discovering of the laws of nature resulting in inventions of priceless value to this country, says the statement of the Foundation issued from its national headquarters, 29 West Thirty-ninth Street, New York city.

"The immediate suggestion of the valuable invention of the centrifugal creamer came from teaching and laboratory research which had been undertaken to extend the knowledge of centrifugal action," the Foundation's statement said, adding that this, coupled with close observation and an understanding of the needs of the arts and industries, is what often leads to important advances. "Engineering endowments are needed to undertake just such useful researches as this which do not promise profits of the order which tempt industrial corporations to pursue them, those researches which should be made under the auspices of disinterested parties, and those which do not come within the provinces of the governmental bureaus."

"In 1876 while teaching in the Central High Schol of Philadelphia, Professor Elihu Thomson had been using before his classes the whirling machines and models, common in cabinets of philosophical apparatus for illustrating 'the central forces,'" the statement adds. "He had been telling his classes of the applications in the steam engine governor, centrifugal drying machines used in laundries, and the centrifugal draining machines used in sugar refineries.

"While whirling a vessel containing a liquid in which there was a sediment, he was struck with the promptness with which the sediment settled to the outside of the vessel, and it occurred to him that the applications of the phenomena of centrifugal force might be considerably extended, as in the clearing of clayey or muddy liquids, or liquids having materials in suspension; the separation of fluids of different densities, especialy the removal of cream from milk, which, of course, was carried out on a large scale by other methods. With Professor E. J. Houston, who assisted, it was believed that if a continuously operating machine could be devised for separation, especially of cream from milk, a notable step in advance would be made. Such a machine would involve the feeding in of the milk while the machine was kept at high speed, and the delivery of cream and the skimmed milk from separate outlets.

"Experiments were carried on energetically with special apparatus. During these eperiments the form of centrifuge now so common in physiological laboratories for the separation of bacteria from cultures and for other concentrations, was invented. This type of apparatus found application through a friend of the inventor to the concentration of photographic emulsions.

"The development of this type of centrifuge was, however, incidental only to the further and greater application for cream separation. In the meantime inventions which had before then been made in this particular field were looked up carefully; but no example was found of any such machine having been produced, which could be kept running at steady speed, receive a stream of liquid, such as milk, and deliver the streams of seperated materials such as cream and skimmed milk.

"When the inventor's ideas were sufficiently crystalized they were made the subject of an application for patent, which was finally issued, after a contest in the Patent Office, under the title 'Centrifugal Creamer,' dated April 5, 1881. One of the contestants in the Patent Office was the famous engineer, De Lavel, who had before this period developed and patented an intermittent type of centrifugal creamer, in which the machine was stopped between charges and the charge removed before the reception of another.

"De Lavel apparently made the same invention independently later, and in applying for patent found that Thomson & Houston were ahead. This resulted in his conceding priority to these inventors, and a combination of interests soon followed which led to the production and exploitation on a large scale of the earliest types of centrifugal separators used in creameries. The centrifugal type of creamer is now considered an essential in every dairy and creamery."

WILD FLOWER SOCIETY TAKES CANAL TRIP.

The Washington Chapter of the Wild Flower Preservation Society of America took a field trip on Sunday along the towpath of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, starting from Georgetown and ending at Chain Bridge. Many interesting wild flowers were seen, including the rare swamp loosestrife, a shrub with purple flowers in the axils of the leaves; the water star grass, a plant with grass-like leaves which grow beneath the surface of the water, and tiny yellow starry flowers which extend just above the water; and beautiful colonies of the blue-flowered pickerel weed, the pink and white marshmallows and other water plans.

AGAIN URGE ACTION ON NOLAN WAGE BILL.

The patent committee of the American Engineering Council has again urged Congress and Cabinet members interested in the Nolan wage bill to give this measure special status so that it can be considered before recess, the American Engineering Council has anpounced.

The Nolan salary bill has been promised priority, but it appears doubtful if even the legislative priority calendar will permit its immediate consideration. W. F. Brown, chairman of the Joint Committee on Reorganization, has approved the bill and recommends its immediate passage.

W. D.