

NEW YORK HERALD

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1921.

New House Tax Exemptions.

A tax exemption for ten years on new dwellings up to a value of \$6,000 a house or apartment, and constructed within the next year, does mean, we can all agree, a virtual rebate of about 30 per cent on their real cost.

But, of course, as the present tax bills must be passed along in the next few days, the extra tax assessment to cover the amount of the rebate to those not paying any taxes would be added to the already high rents of taxpayers property.

Nevertheless, as the only way to end the housing shortage is to get more houses built, and as the only way to get more houses built is to make the building business attractive to capital, this rebate certainly ought to draw capital to it if anything will.

After having contributed toward the rebate millions the general rent payer might begin to get some benefit himself by virtue of the increased housing supply checking the tendency of rents to keep on going up.

Radicalism Masquerading.

When radical doctrines of any sort are taught in the schoolroom or preached from the pulpit they borrow a sanction and assume an authority which do not rightfully belong to them.

The condemnation of such misleading propaganda, uttered at sessions of the National Civic Federation, is altogether warranted. The State and its people have a right to demand that the public school teacher, who is the very mouthpiece of American civilization, played in a special position of influence for the cultivation of its principles, shall not take advantage of his or her opportunity to undermine these principles and to teach social, moral and economic ideas inconsistent therewith.

In the discussion of radical propaganda in the churches it would seem as if an exaggerated fear was expressed by some of the speakers. The practice is confined to a few spots and probably does not affect many persons save those who already lean to subversive theories. It is undeniable, however, that revolution of any type, using the organization of any church or making any use of the religious spirit of men and women to gain a hearing or to win over impressionable minds, is guilty of sheer dishonesty.

public school teachers. It should defend the schools, including the use of the buildings, against all invasion of non-American theories. As for the churches, they may be trusted to deal with their own obligations. But one of these is to see that the reverence accorded to them, the authority attached to their ministry and the facilities of their organization shall not be used for their own overthrow or for the impairment of that broad public morality of which they are, along with the State, the custodians.

Our Flexible Bank System.

Measures taken to curb inflation have until now failed to make an appreciable dent in the mass of credit and currency outstanding, although the reserves of the Federal Reserve banks have been enhanced by the addition of gold imported from abroad.

Metallic money on February 1 totaled \$1,321,000,000, against \$1,214,000,000 the month before. This increase was partly offset by a decline from \$1,775,000,000 to \$1,715,000,000 in the paper money of all classes in circulation.

The decline was wholly due to the drop in the volume of Federal Reserve notes from \$3,349,000,000 on January 1, 1921, to \$3,104,000,000 on February 1, reflecting the gradual liquidation of commercial and other loans by business interests which enabled member banks to decrease their borrowings at the Federal Reserve banks.

The whole world has had its attention focussed on the Federal Reserve system, expecting it to show in a clear cut manner exactly how far banking machinery could be subordinated to the needs of trade and industry without entirely wiping out banking as a separate entity with an influence of its own.

Inflation after the armistice filled the friends of the system with misgivings. It was not exactly clear how much of the paper money flood was due to the urgent and legitimate call of business, how much to the facile machinery of the new banking system and how much to the mismanagement of that machinery.

Scarcely who after the armistice watched the printing of Reserve notes against no real need believed the situation had entirely passed beyond the power of the banking machinery and that a panic was inevitable. Others believed the system strong enough to carry the load it already had piled on its own shoulders, and to proceed with legitimate expansion along the most conservative and discriminating lines.

Necessary liquidation has been achieved. But between the actual volume of credit and currency outstanding as the representative of high prices and the volume that is warranted by the actual price level brought by liquidation there is a vast vacuum representing nothing and secured by nothing. As nature abhors a vacuum and quickly eliminates it, so a sound banking system will hold inflexibly to an abhorrence of a vacuum in credit values and eliminate it with all possible speed.

Signs of Spring.

What constitutes an infallible sign of the coming of spring? The robin and the wild goose are considered as reliable as any persons who have given the subject close attention over a long period.

It is true that there have been occasions when the redbreast has suffered for what was either his own tenacity or a false alarm on the part of Dame Nature, but with evidences of swelling buds and other signs of spring, such as the generous shedding of winter coats by horses and cattle, it would appear that Cock Robin was justified in tuning his pipes for a roundelay long before Easter, of which joyous season he has always been a delightful factor.

Pruning and Fruit Conservation.

Some of our orchardists prune their trees in a manner not conducive to tree conservation or to fruit supply.

It is a practice not indulged in by those who have given the matter the study it deserves. The removal of much wood at one time is a shock to the tree, and Nature exacts a penalty as a rule by withholding her gifts until the system has had a chance to revive. A little wood at a time is the proper method, but the best plan of all is to shape the tree from the earliest period of its growth that deforming and other severe treatment will never be necessary.

There are few farmers who know everything about the care of orchards. The bulk of their pruning is done by jacks-of-all-trades, who go about the country performing this task when other employment is scarce. It is either this or utter neglect until what should be a source of income becomes an eyesore.

Under the patronage of six of our largest banks the Government of Chile has received a formal introduction to the public money market of America. A loan for \$24,000,000 in 8 per cent, twenty year sinking fund gold bonds is offered to investors.

There are few things more delightful, either raw or cooked, than an apple which has been developed under proper conditions. It affords a gratification to our senses of taste and smell which no other fruit imparts. Is not the culture and preservation of such a product worth while?

To Save a Shoe a Year.

According to the chemists of the Department of Agriculture everybody in the United States wastes a shoe a year. That is, instead of buying 300,000,000 pairs annually, as we do, we could get along with 250,000,000 pairs if we took care of them.

In a pamphlet called "The Care of Leather" the department advises citizens of both sexes on the subject of keeping their footwear up to the peak of endurance. It first suggests that the same shoes shall not be worn two days running; let the leather have a day to dry thoroughly. Wet leather is softer than dry and the stitches cut through it more readily.

It is impossible to have both water proofing and high polish in the same shoe. But if a man or woman wants to treat a shoe with oil so as to keep it pliable, preserve the leather and still make it amenable to the brush that can be done, and castor oil is the answer. It should be applied lightly to a clean dry shoe and rubbed into a clean dry shoe and rubbed into a clean dry shoe.

Every man and woman who farms, hunts, fishes, golfs or merely walks in all weathers wants to know how to make shoes waterproof. The Department of Agriculture's pamphlet gives four formulas as follows:

"No. 1. Neutral wool grease, 5 ounces; dark petrolatum, 4 ounces; paraffin wax, 4 ounces." "No. 2. Petrolatum, 1 pound; beeswax, 2 ounces." "No. 3. Petrolatum, 8 ounces; paraffin wax, 4 ounces; wool grease, 4 ounces; crude turpentine gum, 2 ounces." "No. 4. Tallow, 12 ounces; cod oil, 4 ounces."

Each of these mixtures should be prepared and applied warm, but not very hot. The edge where sole and welt meet should be smeared most generously, as that is the point where shoes leak most. The sole itself can be waterproofed by letting the shoe stand for fifteen minutes in a shallow pan containing the warm mixture.

Poets' Homes.

It is a sign of the revolutionary spirit in literature that the movement for a Poets' Home should begin in Milwaukee. We had never thought of one of Milwaukee and poetry. But now that the gross material thing with which the American mind so long associated Milwaukee is gone what could be more beautiful than to have poetry take its place?

merely a place for the poets to live, but "a meeting ground for the poet and his audience." Why not? In New York we have acres of space devoted to the exhibition of fine decorative things. The Western dry goods buyer comes here and looks at samples of all the art in the cloak and suit trade. But when the poetry buyer arrives looking for a nice lot of spring poems, a couple dozen fifty ballads, a season's supply of psycho-analytical blank verse and a good order of rondeaus, where is he to find the goods?

With an efficient home for poets, the publishers could go and watch the effect of the poem on the audience and then put in his order for a year's supply. And the audience? They would turn up. A recent English visitor, HENRY W. NEVINSON, says that we Americans are the most patient people in the world.

The Loan to Chile.

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Wanderlust.

No doubt the north star must grow tired of keeping an accustomed place. Of pointing mortal fools the way To guide their little crawling pace.

Then wait astronomer on earth Will scan the heavens wonder worn, And publish tidings of their find— A comet hitherto unknown.

An Automobile Danger.

Safety of Pedestrians at Crossings Disregarded Sometimes. To THE NEW YORK HERALD: It both police and motor car drivers thought more about pedestrians there would be fewer accidents.

A few days ago coming from the Pennsylvania Station in Thirty-fourth street I was going to cross Seventh avenue. There were about fifteen or sixteen persons waiting to cross over. The whistle blew and the traffic was stopped on Seventh avenue and we crossed over, but just before we reached the sidewalk an automobile coming from the direction of Broadway turned sharply around the corner and we had to scramble to get on the sidewalk in safety.

I saw the same thing happen at Forty-second street and Fifth avenue. Before we got to the sidewalk on the other side of the automobile coming from the direction of the Grand Central Terminal turned the corner suddenly and we had to scramble onto the sidewalk. The traffic police should not allow any driver to turn the corner into the road when he has held up the traffic, but it is done in every principal avenue.

WOODSIDE, February 16.

A Trolley Protest.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: For the last twenty years public spirited citizens of Washington Heights have fought against constant attempts on the part of the Third Avenue and Bronx lines to run overhead trolleys through the streets of this beautiful region. About ten years ago, under the plea that it was impossible to have a trolley car that would be at once an overhead and underground trolley, the Third Avenue people persuaded the citizens into allowing an extension of their line across the viaduct through 155th street to connect with the Amsterdam Avenue line.

There is no change to touch the sombre scene Save barren boughs against a steel gray sky; As far as one may gaze the weary eye Sees a white monotony of mien. As swiftly as a hawk's wing long and lean The shadows gather and the cattle lie Closer together, as a gust sweeps by Seeking as though some crannied grain to glean.

The President's Pay.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: May a more reader of THE NEW YORK HERALD venture to review, I dare not say criticize, your leading editorial article entitled "Don't Tax the President's Pay?" That the President of the United States, speaking impersonally, is and has been underpaid goes without saying. Admitting this the question of what that officer should now and before March 4, 1921, be suitably increased, because the Constitution (Article II, Section 1) provides that his compensation "shall neither be increased nor diminished during the period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that period any other emolument from the United States, or any of them."

These provisions of the Constitution were enacted in order to preserve the independence of the Executive and the Judicial branches of the Government. They did not, however, prevent the taxing of the compensation for services paid to the President and the Judges during the income tax period of the civil war and the years following. Indeed, the laws of those days required all Federal officers of the Government to deduct the income tax before paying salaries to any Federal officer, civil or military. It was not until the present incumbent came into the Presidential chair that an exception, in his favor, was written into the law, which he made effective by his signature.

All these facts are doubtless known to Mr. Harding and they may have induced him to express a wish that his salary as President be not exempted from income tax. In any event his wishes should be controlling, as were Washington's, when in 1775, on taking the command of our armies, he refused all compensation over and above his necessary expenses, of which he rendered most minute and detailed statements, which accounts remain to this day as an example to his successors.

With all respect to the President-elect let me ask, why should a republican should the President alone be exempted from any tax? STEVEN FISH, New York, February 16.

Big Task for Railroads.

Cooperation of Workers Needed to Get Back to Business Basis. From Transportation World. Some of the railroads have begun to get back on the same basis upon which any well regulated business should be conducted. No industry in the country has been carrying such unnecessary forces of employees upon its payrolls. Thousands of men put to work by the Government in war and emergency days have been having a good thing of it, both in the matter of working hours and pay received. But all good things come to an end and when the economical penny pin begins to seek its even swing, five men doing the work of three is a ridiculous idea, and it should have occurred to these men with railroad snags that the people days so generously allowed them by Government unbusinesslike methods should not go on at the expense of the public and security holders.

"Juggler of Notre Dame" at Manhattan

Massenet's Opera Presented With Ballet Accompanying Schubert's Unfinished Symphony. Juggling and dancing occupied the stage of the Manhattan Opera House last evening, but the Chicago Opera company had not turned into a vaudeville troupe. The programme consisted of Massenet's opera "Le Jongleur de Notre Dame" and a ballet constructed to accompany Schubert's unfinished symphony. The dancing of symphonies is no longer unfamiliar, but it continues to confound musicians who persist in wondering what artistic end can be accomplished by it.

Massenet's opera is an old acquaintance. Its presentation inevitably included the appearance of Miss Mary Garden as Jean, the wandering medieval juggler who won the approval of the Virgin by utilizing his humble art in worship. It was long ago conceded that Miss Garden was the greatest vocal juggler in opera, and therefore no new amazement could be aroused by what she did last evening. Her cooperation almost incredible that any one could sing the music as she sang it, but there she was, audible and convincing.

Her interpretation of Jean had its familiar merits of action and general interpretation. Whatever Miss Garden does is interesting. Even her singing is interesting. It is full of surprises, and the unexpected is always interesting, though, of course, not always agreeable. But Miss Garden was not alone in her vocal vagaries. The performance was filled with them. The orchestra, as usual, was in very poor condition, and spent much time in vain efforts to find the pitch. But he was a very good natured fellow. Mr. Cottrell was tolerable as the Prior, although he made some striking contributions to the tuneless singing of the evening. Giorgio Polacco conducted, and the orchestra played the notes written by Massenet.

Mme. Samaroff's Recital.

Mme. Olga Samaroff continued her series of eight recitals presenting the thirty-two piano sonatas of Beethoven by giving the third in Aeolian Hall yesterday afternoon. She played four works, namely, opus 22 in E flat major, opus 27, No. 1, in E flat; opus 11, No. 1, in E major; opus 27, No. 2, "Moonlight"; the sonatas were performed without any special interesting features. Mme. Samaroff gave each sonata with excellent clarity of style, and she held the close attention of her audience throughout the recital.

Opera for Italian Hospital.

A gala performance for the benefit of the Italian Hospital will be given at the Manhattan Opera House on Saturday, February 26, under the auspices of the Bollettino della Sera, with the patronage of Senator Roland Ricci, Ambassador of Italy, who will be present. The opera selected for the occasion is "Rigoletto," with Mme. Galli-Curci, Messrs. Carlo Sobin and Silvio Bonfante. The boxes are selling from \$25 to \$100.

Lincoln's Meaning.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: On Lincoln's Birthday his Gettysburg speech was read and quoted in hundreds of places, and the words of the closing sentence, "government of the people, by the people and for the people" were undoubtedly delivered in the traditional way with the accents on the three prepositions of, by and for. This rendering is unquestionably incorrect.

It is against the spirit of Lincoln's style, which is simple, natural and unartificial. A play on of, by and for is Chesteronian, flashy. Lincoln's style is never found to favor of the professional rhetorician.

The triple emphasis on the prepositions not only makes Lincoln an inaccurate rhetorician, it makes him an inaccurate and misleading one. Unwittingly the ear is misled and the idea produced by the accent on the first preposition, of, is that Lincoln in referring to a government of the people has in mind a government derived from and having its source in the people. But this is the idea conveyed in the second of the prepositions, by, to the effect, therefore, is to make the second preposition, by, redundant. Lincoln often repeats; he is never redundant.

What Lincoln wrote was, first, a commonplace, and second, a mastery summary of the essential elements of a republican form of government. The commonplace is: "That government of the earth... shall not perish from the earth." He pleads for government, government of the people, that is, over the orderly direction of the civic affairs. There is nothing distinctive here. A monarchy is a government of the people, so is an oligarchy or a constitutional monarchy. A republic is simply one of the many forms of government of all times. Lincoln pleads for government, a legal control of the people. Without government of the people there is lawlessness, anarchy, the death of nations. The emphatic word therefore in the first part of Lincoln's sentence is government, and it should be rendered "government of the people," with the accent on government.

But that which is distinctive in Lincoln's language is his powerful characterization of the true essence of a republican form of government, which he condenses in two words, by and for. He does this with great brevity and truth, and losing that serious love of truth which is apparent in all his utterances on affairs of state. What he says is: (1) In a republic there is "government of the people," but it is not by a king, an oligarchy or even by a legislature; it is derived from the popular will; it is "by" the people. (2) A republican "government by the people" is for the people; it is in their interests, not in the interest of any ruler or of any individuals or special classes.

Daily Calendar

For Eastern New York—Cloudy and cold today. A very low temperature and much colder; southwest and northwest winds and gales. For New Jersey—Cloudy and somewhat cold today. A very low temperature and much colder; southwest and northwest winds and gales. For Southern New England—Cloudy and somewhat cold today; to-morrow fair and much colder; strong southwest and west winds, probably gales. For Western New York—Rain or snow and cold today; to-morrow snow furries and much colder.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—The storm that was central over western Minnesota last night and today has moved eastward and its center was over north Ontario to-night. This storm was attended by gales in Ontario, and in the States east of the Mississippi. The upper Mississippi valley and the Florida States, the Florida States and the Ohio and Indiana States, and light snow in the North-west States. The upper Mississippi valley and the Florida States, the Florida States and the Ohio and Indiana States, and light snow in the North-west States.

There will be snow furries in the region between Great Lakes and upper Ohio Valley, and probably a snow storm in the south Alabama, and generally fair weather in the rest of the country. The upper Mississippi valley and the Florida States, the Florida States and the Ohio and Indiana States, and light snow in the North-west States.

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