

FINANCE TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY

TAXATION AND KINDRED MATTERS MAY PRECEDE GENERAL TARIFF BILL.

WANT EXEMPTION RAISED

Early Attempt Expected to Raise Exemption Limits for Persons of Small Income—Financial Subjects Always Mean Long Debates.

By EDWARD B. CLARK.
Washington.—President Harding, following his legislative conference with Republican leaders in house and senate, seems to have agreed with the majority of them that the financial problems of government, taxation and other kindred matters possibly may have to be given priority at the extra session over a general tariff bill. This would mean probably that customs legislation may not be given consideration until congress has been in session for some weeks except, of course, the so-called farmers' emergency tariff.

If one should attempt to write of all the financial problems which confront the government he would need paper enough to threaten the life of existing spruce forests. "Their name is legion" falls as a bromide proverb of comparison in this particular case. When one uses the word "taxes," however, he puts a labeled blanket over the whole field.

Ordinarily finance is a subject devoid of lights. It is a gloomy thing, oppressive to the spirits of men, and yet there are certain things which give one feature of the present tax situation a broad interest and throw a light on the desires of the multitude of the people of the United States.

One has only to enter the office of a member of congress and to make the proper inquiry, to learn that apparently hundreds of thousands of American citizens of moderate means are wondering if there is not some way to remove from the field of the income tax levy the earners of small salaries and small wages. There seems to be a general belief throughout the United States that the income tax is a perfectly proper method of raising money because it hits nearly all people alike, and yet the appeal constantly is that the lower limits of exemption shall be raised so that married men may have more than \$2,000 exempted and that single men and women can have the exemption of \$1,000 raised to what one of them has called the sanity point.

May Raise Exemption.

From what one hears here it seems possible and perhaps probable that an attempt will be made in congress to raise the exemption limits for persons of small incomes. As things are today a young man or a young woman making \$1,200 a year must pay an income tax.

Perhaps it is not fair to judge from Washington rentals what rentals are in other parts of the country, but in his town for a well-lighted, decently appointed apartment of two rooms, a so-called kitchenette and a bath, one must pay \$1,500 a year.

Washington legislators know apparently that the high cost of living, coupled with taxes, is decreasing the size of the American family. They also know that the high cost of houses is driving people into the flats when they can afford to move into flats. There are snarled people in the city of Washington today living in one room who ten years ago with their present incomes would have been living in comfortable houses or in six-room, steam-heated flats.

This is Washington and what obtains here may not obtain elsewhere, but the fact that the situation is as it is in this city may have its effect on congress which has to live here for a large part of the year. The income tax problem, so far as it affects small wage earners is a perplexing one to congress. It is possible, just possible, that congress in the early days of the extra session will give consideration to the matter of raising the exemption limit on small salaries.

Never Agree on Finance.

The minute that congress gets into a discussion of finance that minute hope passes that they will get through with the subject before the hot weather descends on this town. Finance is something on which men have disagreed ever since the days when the savages used wampum or crocodile teeth as mediums of exchange.

When the Aldrich-Vreeland currency reform measure was in the keeping of the committees of congress, and hearings were in progress, bankers from all over the United States were brought here to give their opinions on the subject in hand. Half of the bankers said "black" and the other half said "white." In other words, they were divided into two camps, one of which said that certain legislation would bring ruin, while the other half said it would bring prosperity. What were the poor legislators to do? As it happened the financial legislation which was passed seemed to meet with the general approval of the country. It formed later, in part the basis of the federal reserve system, but, as someone has said, it possibly was chance that caused the legislators to hit on the right scheme.

WOMAN IN ODD BUSINESS

Makes Fair Income by Depriving Bees of Their Stings, for Sale to Druggists.

A correspondent of the Boston Herald tells of a woman beekeeper in Auburn, Maine, who for more than a quarter of a century has derived a good income, not from marketing the honey, but from selling the stings. Manufacturing druggists buy them, for each sting contains an infinitesimal quantity of formic acid, which druggists extract and sell.

When the woman begins the day's work she lights a peculiar lamp, which throws off a dense smoke. That stupefies the bees, and she collects in a box as many as she thinks she will need for the day. She works in her dining room with all the curtains drawn except the one at the window before which she sits. Firmly fixed in front of her is a high-powered magnifying glass.

She opens the box, gives it a shake, and the bees come out. The light of the window in front of her attracts them, and they swarm upon it. She reaches out with her left hand, plucks a bee from the window and, holding it under the glass, takes a small pair of tweezers in her right hand and draws the sting. She drops the sting into a cup of sugar of milk in order to preserve it. Then she kills the bee by dropping it into a cup of soap suds, for a stingless bee is of no worth in the world. The stings are shipped in glass bottles that hold five hundred each.

The woman keeps count of the stings that she draws each day. On the average she daily draws about nine hundred. The greatest number she ever drew in one day is fifteen hundred. Once she took the stings from one thousand bees in three hours.

OLD BREWERY ON MARKET

Institution of the City of London, Centuries Old, Has Been Offered for Sale.

A solid piece of history is for sale, announces the London Times. It is the site in Thames street, next to Cannonstreet station, of the City of London Brewery, known since the days of Queen Elizabeth as the only brewery in the city of London. The date of the foundation of the brewery is so remote that it is difficult to fix the year. There are proofs in various ancient documents and archives of the brewery that it was flourishing in 1590. Stow mentions it. The Calverts, a family of brewers celebrated in the annals of the trade for the quality of their porter, were the most notable men who brewed beer with Thames water on that site. In 1700, Sir William Calvert was the fourth brewer in London, and Calvert and Seward, of Whitecross street, were the first, the former brewing 51,785 barrels, and the latter 74,704 barrels in that year. Little of the old buildings remain save an old mill loft and a part of the wall of the Watermen's hall, which had been burnt down in the fire of London in 1666, rebuilt on the site of the Allhallows church, and afterward incorporated with Calverts. At the end of the eighteenth century important additions and alterations were made and some of the walls of the present buildings date from 1772.

Dresses Made of Dope.

Soon women will be able to dress themselves entirely in varnish—and with perfect propriety! The varnish is opaque and becomes clear as glass if rolled into a thin film; but it is still varnish, for all that. This new dress material, in its liquid days, was called "dope," and was used to protect airplane wings from fire and water. Now it is being spun and woven for women's dresses. The only difference between a film of dope, a sheet of this magical varnish, and a skein of "silk," is that the first is laid on with a brush, the second pressed out on a plate, and the third forced through a tiny hole. This material can be used for practically any article of wearing apparel. The articles so made cannot be spoiled by water, and are also completely fireproof. Dyes of all shades are readily absorbed and retained, and the material washes beautifully.

Gas Warfare on Rats.

The chemical warfare service has recently demonstrated that rats can be killed with poison gas. A mixture containing 80 per cent of phosgene and 20 of chlorine was used. This was allowed to escape over an area of 900 square feet. Fifteen rats were on the area, and they all died from the effect of the deadly poisonous gases.

They were killed at a cost of 40 cents. Within 15 minutes the phosgene had dissipated, while the chlorine gas required 30 minutes to diffuse beyond the danger point. In view of the millions of dollars' loss caused yearly by these pests, any means of destroying them is welcome.

Airmen Find Volcanic Crater.

Discovery of a huge volcanic crater surrounded by a great lava lake, in the Mojave desert, has been made by D. D. France and John G. Montijo, aviators and pilots of the plane known as the Desert Rat. Flying over the wastes of the desert the two airmen, mapping a region little known to man, sighted the huge crater not far from Lave. Although the dry lava lake is shown on maps of the desert the fact that a volcanic crater existed in the region was unknown until the airmen reported their find on their return.—Los Angeles Express.

DAIRY

MILK PRODUCED FOR MARKET

Monthly Reports Show Wide Variation Through Year—Cost in Winter Is Quite High.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture)

In winter the cost of feed, bedding and pasture amounts to 80 per cent of the yearly cost of producing milk in a typical Vermont dairy section, while in summer it amounts to 15.9 per cent. Specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture found as a result of a study covering two years in a section of that state where milk was produced for market. The report of this study is now published in Department Bulletin 122, "Unit Requirements for Producing Milk in Vermont." While the figures obtained show the requirements of producing milk in that particular section, and may be approximate of the requirements in similar sections, the specialists point out that they do not apply to dairy sections where other conditions and methods of management prevail.

It was found that 31.1 pounds of concentrates were required to produce 100 pounds of milk in winter, while to produce the same amount in summer only 8.7 pounds were necessary. Other requirements for producing this amount of milk in winter were: Hauling and grinding concentrates, 2 cents; dry roughage, 129.9 pounds; silage and other succulent roughage, 191.9 pounds; bedding, 11.2 pounds; man labor, 2.7 hours; horse labor, 0.6 hour; other costs, 55.5 cents.

In summer the unit requirements for producing 100 pounds of milk other than concentrates were: Hauling and grinding concentrates, 0.5 of a cent; dry roughage, 18.7 pounds; silage and other succulent roughage, 27.8 pounds; pasture, 0.1 of an acre; man labor, 2



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hours; horse labor, 0.4 hour; other costs, 42.5 cents.

In one year it was found that 1,030 pounds of concentrates were required to keep a cow. Other requirements were: Hauling and grinding concentrates, 61 cents; dry roughage, 3,000 pounds; silage and other succulent roughage, 5,807 pounds; bedding, 263 pounds; pasture, 3 acres; man labor, 128 hours; horse labor, 24.1 hours; other costs, covering interest taxes and similar items on the dairy's share of buildings and equipment, but not including management, \$25.88. It was determined that the dairy's share of the total investment in buildings, equipment and herd amounted annually to 11.5 per cent of the total inventory value.

Copies of this bulletin may be obtained from the division of publications, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington.

China's Great Holiday.

The first week in March brings a great holiday throughout China, when the anniversary of the discovery of silk is celebrated with elaborate ceremonies, this year being, according to the Chinese, the 451st anniversary of the discovery of silk by Empress Si-ming-chi.

A Ferry Tale.

A Revere resident on his way home had just crossed the gang plank when he espied a sizeable roll of bills under one of the seats. Stooping and picking it up, he murmured: "Ah, my good ferry has arrived at last."—Boston Transcript.

Benefits of Silage.

Silage keeps the cattle in good physical condition. The hair is always oily and velvety, the hide is loose and pliable. The acids and juices of ensilage aid digestion.

Balanced Ration Essential.

It is just as essential for the dairy cow to be fed a liberal well-balanced ration as it is for the working man to get a good meal of well selected food.

Duck-Laying Season.

The duck-laying season generally ends with the last of August.

FEAR LOSS OF ELK HERDS

Animals in Yellowstone Park Are Rapidly Disappearing, According to Official Reports.

Officials of the United States Department of Agriculture are alarmed over the threatened extermination of the Elk herd in Yellowstone park. On the ranges of the park, where ordinarily thousands of these animals could be seen, only a very few have been observed this winter. Several theories have been offered to account for the marked shrinkage in the herd. Among these is the probability that the majority died from natural causes or had been killed during the last year. Another is that the open fall and winter caused the elk to remain in hiding in some retreat deep in the mountains and in the higher and more inaccessible portions of the park. Open falls in the past, however, have not caused the elk to abandon their usual customs and habits.

That there has been an alarming shrinkage in the Yellowstone herd during the last five years is an established fact, according to figures supplied by the Department of Agriculture. In 1914 it was estimated at about 25,000; in 1917, 17,500 were counted, and, if the figures for the present year, estimated by those close in touch with the situation, are true, there remains much less than half this number. In 1919, 3,300 head were killed in the Yellowstone band, the supervisor of the Absaroka national forest reports.

The Department of Agriculture points out that no herd of wild animals can sustain an annual shrinkage in numbers for any length of time and not face complete extermination within a few years.

DENIES WOMAN IS MYSTERY

Man Is Puzzling Himself for Nothing, Is Assertion Made by Writer of Gentle Sex.

After declaring to the reporters who met him in New York that the women of today care for nothing but having a good time and have assumed an attitude of pagan enjoyment, the English essayist, Gilbert K. Chesterton, is reported as moving majestically along the pier shaking hands with the custom officers and leaving Mrs. Chesterton to see about the baggage.

"My wife understands these things; I don't," he said, with a sweep of his stick.

It is evident from the report that, although women may have changed much since before the war, as Mr. Chesterton says, some of the oldtime masculine attitude toward them remains. May Stranathan writes in the Pittsburgh Dispatch. In further proof of this, the Englishman goes on to speak in the same old prewar way about the psychology of women, using the familiar words, "I speak reverently as of a mystery, for a man never knows what a woman will do," and then he tells how she will act under certain circumstances.

The mystery about it is not in the psychology of woman, but in the fact that, having supposed that a woman would act in the way most natural to all humanity, he thinks it is mysterious because a woman does it. He describes a man as likely to act the same way under similar circumstances, but does not see any mystery in the masculine point of view.

Rather the Contrary.

Carried away by the beauty of the heroine on the screen, he murmured, unconsciously, "Isn't she lovely!" "Every time you see a pretty girl you forget you're married," snapped his better half.

"You're wrong, my dear; nothing brings home the fact with so much force."

Making of a Language.

That the slang and idioms of today will be correct English tomorrow is the opinion of Prof. H. Glicksman of the English department, University of Wisconsin. "Our language is made up of what was once slang, idiom, colloquialism and jargon," he said lately, and warned that the only deplorable feature about slang was its tendency to produce mental slovenliness. Professor Glicksman then referred to the word "mob" as slang of 200 years ago and as such denounced in the "Spectator" by Addison. "It is an abbreviation of the word 'mobile.' Even so the word 'pep' is vital and virile and will survive with the word 'snappy.' But to gain recognition slang must be free from vulgarity and cheapness," said Professor Glicksman.

Justice to the Bedbug.

Many times the bedbug has been accused of transmitting disease, but the investigating scientist of the United States public health service says the bug apparently has been charged with wrongdoing when not guilty, as the pest has no way save the mouth in which to carry germs and is too busy eating to make mouth germs of any special danger. However, the flea, louse and mosquito have been convicted of being disease carriers.

Lymph for Infectious Fevers.

Dr. Artault de Vevey told the Societe de Therapeutique de Paris at a recent meeting that he had had great success in treating nearly a thousand cases of infectious diseases such as influenza and puerperal fever by injecting the patient with his own lymph drawn from a blister. He had also succeeded with it in rheumatism, cholera, facial neuralgia, appendicitis and other such troubles.



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