

Paying The Bills.

Various estimates, all based upon conjecture, are going the rounds as to the cost in money of the European war, and writers upon economic questions have been busy guessing how the bills are to be paid after the war is over.

A professor in Columbia University has estimated that war is costing in money \$50,000,000 a day, and this figure is accepted by many writers, although the tables upon which the estimate is made are anything but convincing. No allowance is made for the fact that, if the war had not taken place, the war of armaments would have nevertheless continued and the countries of Europe would have gone on fighting each other with high taxes to support ever-growing armies and navies.

As a matter of fact there is no way at all convincing of estimating the cost of the war. In addition to the heavy burdens already imposed for supporting these immense armies on a peace basis, the vast expense of military operations is added. Upon this is superimposed the terrible loss to life and property in the war zone, the paralysis of business, the suspension of credit, the reduced output of factories, fields and mines. Something more than war debts and war indemnities will have to be paid for after this war, and it may require many years to accomplish this, whether the war lasts six months or one year or three.

There is, however, one sure way of helping to meet the cost after the war, and this is by reducing military and naval expenses in time of peace. After Napoleon crushed Prussia in 1871 he imposed a treaty limiting the Prussian army on a peace footing to a comparatively small body of men. The statesmen of Prussia at the time thought that limitation meant ruin. It brought salvation. For a few critical years Prussia was not able to levy war taxes in large sums, and in that brief period the country rallied and was on a sound footing when the war for the deliverance of Germany came in 1913.

The latest figures obtainable of the amounts of money spent annually by the countries now at war—Germany, Russia, France and Austria—in times of peace show that the enormous sum of \$1,455,000,000 was consumed for the maintenance of armies and navies on a peace footing. This was divided as follows:

Russian army,	\$317,000,000;
Russian navy,	\$122,000,000;
German army,	\$220,000,000;
German navy,	\$111,000,000;
French army,	\$191,000,000;
French navy,	\$120,000,000;
British army,	\$210,000,000;
British navy,	\$224,000,000;
Austrian army,	\$100,000,000;
Austrian navy,	\$40,000,000;
Total,	\$1,455,000,000.

This is a sum of money, all consumed in one year, to support the armies and navies of five European nations, considerable in excess of the national debt of the government of the United States and more than the national debt of the Empire of Germany at the beginning of this war.

It is obvious that there is room for entrenchment in this expense, all of which is unproductive and most of which is unnecessary. Granted that all the warring nations will feel, after the war, that they must

maintain for police purposes armies and navies of some kind, it would not be difficult, if an international agreement could be secured, or forced, to reduce this military expense one-half, or from \$1,455,000,000 to \$700,000,000. The last named would, unless the war is prolonged to unprecedented length, more than pay the interest on the increased war debt and the interest on such indemnities that may be imposed.

All of this is to come later, but it seems a demonstrable proposition that only by resorting to such methods for reducing national expenses can the nations of Europe avoid eventual bankruptcy.—Louisville Post.

FORWARDING

BIRTH CARDS.

Formal Certificates Being Sent Children Whose Births Are Recorded.

Richmond, Va., October, 2.—When children born in Virginia after January 1, 1914, are questioned in court or in school as to their ages, they will not have to send for the family Bible or the physician who attended their births. They will merely have to produce the birth-cards which are now being sent out by the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the Board of Health to all children whose birth certificates are properly filed by the physicians and are forwarded to the State archives by the local registrars.

Ever since the vital statistics law went into effect in June, 1912, the State Board of Health has been working on plans by which it could give to each child some evidence that the certificate had been filed. The law provided that lawful copies of birth and death certificates should be supplied upon request on the payment of a small fee. But it was thought by the board that the children should be given without expense some abstract of the certificate.

To meet this need, the Board has ordered and is now sending out in the form of postcards, attractive certificates, showing the name, parentage, race, sex, place of birth, etc., of children whose complete birth certificates are on file. As each of these cards bears the number of the record in the State archives, reference is easy. The Bureau believes that these cards will meet most of the demands for some semi-legal record of birth in case the age of children is questioned. The card will also enable interested persons to reach the full legal record, the birth certificate, without delay.

Birth cards will, of course, not be sent where the full parentage is not given and cannot be forwarded where the post-office address of the parents is incomplete or obscure on the original certificate. The Board hopes at a later time to be able to send cards to all children born since the new law went into effect, but for the present will attempt only to send cards for births reported since January 1, 1914.

U. D. C. Meeting.

The Big Stone Gap Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy will meet Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 14th, with Mrs. J. H. Hagy, at Imboden. All daughters are requested to meet at the home of Mrs. H. A. W. Skeen, with their cars and leave promptly at 2:30 o'clock.

Mrs. Malcolm Smith, Recording Secretary.

County Fair

Held at Wise Last Week a Grand Success.

Wise, Va., Sept. 29.—At the first Wise County Fair held at Wise today there were 5000 people in attendance. The County School Fair was held at the High School building at the same time and a county teachers' meeting. Near 1500 school children were present and formed in line and marched from the school to the fair grounds.

The exhibits at the fair were of the highest quality. The exhibit of fruit was of such quality as to cause comment from those who had visited the World's Fair and State Fairs. It is not likely that the apples could be excelled in Old Virginia at any rate. The farm products building, a large one, was filled to its capacity with the farm products from the green fields of Wise County.

Among the many prizes awarded were the following:

- Best 10 ears white corn, Creed Blanton, Big Stone Gap. Second best 10 ears white corn, Andy Hood, Big Stone Gap.
- Best 10 ears yellow corn, Clayburn Bloomer, Dooley.
- Best 10 ears pop corn, Ralph McLemore, Wise.
- Best single ear white corn, H. C. Stewart, Big Stone Gap. Second best single ear, Ed Vicars, Wise.

BOYS' CORN CLUB.—Henry Hamilton first prize on the best 10 ears of white corn, Flat Gap; second prize, Jackson Jesse, Wise. Best single ear white corn, Henry Hamilton, Flat Gap. Second best single ear white corn, Dallas Bolling, Flat Gap.

Best display of flowers, Sam Thacker, Wise.

Best peck of Irish potatoes, S. F. Porter, Wise. Second best peck of Irish potatoes, J. P. Scott, Wise.

Best peck of sweet potatoes, S. F. Porter, Wise. Second best peck of sweet potatoes, Jake Ball, Wise.

Ed Vicars and Walter Hash won the larger number of prizes in the department of Horticulture, both of them having excellent exhibits.

P. G. Litz and Sam Ramsey and others also had fine exhibits of fruit.

John L. Litz, of Coeburn, was awarded the prize for the largest pumpkin, and was assured of the fact that such a pumpkin could not have been grown under any but a democratic administration.

John Hale's farm exhibit, containing a variety of things, among them some very fine tobacco, attracted much attention.

The exhibit of women's work was very elaborate, occupying all of one side of the large building. Ray Lipps has been smiling broadly and continuously since he was informed of the fact that his youngest heir was picked by the judges as the best all round baby under 18 months of age.

Several exciting races were run by the local horsemen, one of which resulted in Sheriff Beverley falling from his horse. His fall was occasioned by the horse stumbling in the soft ground and throwing his rider over his head and rolling entirely over him. "Jinks" says he is not hurt and we trust that he is correct in his statement.

Second Day.

Wise, Va., Sept. 30.—Another 5000 people passed through the gates at the fair grounds today, making a total of 10,000 for the two days.

Among the premiums awarded today were the following:

Best all round baby, under 3 years of age, Paul Bentley, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Bentley, a handsome Hoosier kitchen cabinet given by W. B. Ford Furniture Company, at Norton.

A steel range to Mrs. W. J. Horsley, of Big Stone Gap, for winning the largest number of points in the cooking department. This range was given by Norton Hardware Company. Clayburn Bloomer, of Dooley,

was awarded first prize for the best draught stallion, and John Litz, of Coeburn, second prize.

Ed Vicars won first prize on best Jersey and Holstein bulls. P. W. Boverley won first prize on best Hereford bull, and W. H. Hamilton second prize.

Sam Ramsey, of Wise No. 1, was awarded first prize for the largest cabbage head and Wade Lipps first on the largest rooster, and W. O. Bentley, second.

Miss Sarah Cockran, of Big Stone Gap, made a most beautiful exhibit of products grown on a town lot in Big Stone. We dare say that there a few farmers in Wise County who grow as many different things on their farms as this young lady grew in her small garden.

There were a number of prizes given in the ladies' department for fancy work and cooking.

John Scott's long skinny gray horse, ridden by William Scott, ran away with about all the prizes for speed, although he had many competitors.

J. C. Stiles will leave for Richmond tomorrow, where he will make an exhibit at the State Fair for Wise County.

Mr. Irvine Speaks

at East Stone Gap.

Hon. R. Tate Irvine spoke at East Stone Gap to a very large audience Saturday night. Mr. Irvine reviewed the work of the Democratic administration under Wilson and Bryan, telling how he stood by them in the Baltimore convention. He said the chief issue was: "Is the Democratic administration under Wilson a success or failure?" He said he stood squarely on the Democratic platform and predicted that the voters of the Ninth would endorse the administration by electing him to Congress.

Mr. Irvine discussed the tariff, declaring that the Republicans were insincere in saying that the Democrats caused the coke ovens to shut down. He said that when the furnace at Big Stone Gap and many other furnaces in the Ninth district shut down in 1907 under the Republicans, Mr. Taft failed to cause them to resume work in four years and he said that hurt the coke production here very materially. Mr. Irvine said that there were as many coke ovens in blast now as under the Republicans since 1907. He claimed that 1913 was the banner coal year for Virginia.

Mr. Irvine discussed the Glass-Owen Currency Law now about to be put into effect, which, he claimed, would take the money away from Wall Street, making a panic practically impossible. He defended the Anti-Trust Bills now before Congress, defended the War Tax, saying that it was pretty much the same as that levied in the Spanish-American War. Mr. Irvine said that on account of the European War it was necessary to raise a revenue this way, on account that very few things were now imported.

Mr. Irvine held his listeners' attention, and many of them were Republicans, for nearly two hours, and he strongly endorsed President Wilson's watchful waiting policy, declaring the nations at war needed a Wilson to carry them through. He criticized Congressman Slemple's record in Congress, declaring that he had been absent when some of the most important measures were being considered in the history of the Nation. Mr. Irvine said Mr. Slemple was the Republican boss of Virginia, as was Penrose in Pennsylvania, and that since Wilson has been President, bosses in the Democratic party are a thing of the past. He declared that the farmers were getting more for their products than ever before.

Mr. Irvine declared that he had been received by large crowds every where he had spoken in the Ninth District and that he believed he would win. He endorsed every measure under the Democratic administration and stated that he would help Wilson and Bryan and a Democratic Congress give this country good laws that would bring us to prosperity.

Unusual Case.

A very unusual case was heard here on Thursday last before the Federal Court, unusual in the make-up of the Court, in the personnel of the counsel, in the importance of the matter of the coal fields of Virginia, and in the novelty of the issues. The Court was composed of Circuit Judges J. C. Pritchard and C. A. Wood, and District Judge Henry McDowell. Ex-Governor Jos. W. Folk and Mr. E. H. Hart, of Washington, represented the Interstate Commerce Commission. Mr. Blackburn Esterline, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, represented the interest of the United States. Messrs. Helm Bruce and W. A. Colston, of Louisville, Ky., represented the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Co., Mr. W. A. Glasgow, Jr., of Philadelphia, Pa. and Mr. J. F. Bullitt of this place, represented the Stonega Coke and Coal Co. and Blackwood Coal and Coke Co., and Mr. R. T. Irvine, of this place, represented the Black Mountain Company and other operators in the St. Charles field.

Briefly stated, the matter involved was this: In 1911 the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company filed tariffs on coal and coke moving from the Virginia fields to points North of the Ohio River, by which they undertook to increase the rates on coal and coke from 25c to 35c per ton. The Stonega Coke and Coal Company and others made complaint to the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Commission suspended the rates and ordered an investigation. Weeks and months of time were spent in taking proof and the case was finally decided by the Commission nearly two years ago, their decision being in favor of the coal operators, and prohibiting the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company from increasing the rates. Shortly after this decision the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company filed certain tariffs applying to rates on coal operations in the Jellico, Middleboro, Pineville and Harlan Districts, in Kentucky, by which they undertook to reduce the rates from 25c to 35c lower than the rates from the Virginia fields. In other words, not having been allowed to increase the rates from the Virginia fields they sought to give preference to the Kentucky fields by lowering the rates from the Kentucky fields. Mr. R. T. Irvine, on behalf of the Black Mountain Coal Land Co. and a number of St. Charles operators intervened in this last named case, and after a full hearing the commission allowed the Railroad Company to decrease slightly some of its rates from the Kentucky field, but prohibiting them from decreasing the rates to the extent that they wished.

The present suit is a suit by the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company nominally against the United States as defendant in which they seek to have the Federal Court set aside and annul the orders of the Interstate Commerce Commission in both of the above cases. The Virginia operators claim that if the Railroad Company is successful, and if the orders of the Commission are annulled, and the excessive rates proposed by the L. & N. become effective that they will not be able to ship a ton of coal from this region over the L. & N. to Northwest territory, and that their operations will be greatly crippled thereby. This is the first suit of the kind that has ever been brought in this region.

At the hearing the Railroad Company undertook to introduce voluminous new evidence in the shape of affidavits. The defendants objected on the ground that no new evidence could be heard, claiming that the case would have to be heard on the evidence as it was presented originally to the Interstate Commerce Commission. After considerable argument the Court decided this point in favor of the defendants.

Thereupon the railroad Company offered certified copies of portions of the evidence which

had been introduced before the Interstate Commerce Commission. The defendants again objected on the ground that it was not competent to offer only portions of the Record—that if they offered any part of the Record, they would have to offer the whole thereof. The Court also sustained this objection. The Attorneys for the L. & N. thereupon stated that they did not have a full copy of Record, and asked for a continuance of the case in order to give them an opportunity to get a complete copy. The Court granted the motion and continued the case until November 23rd, to be heard at Richmond, Virginia.

While the two points decided in favor of the defendants were technical only, yet the defendants' attorneys feel that they have already won the case, that is, that if the case is to be heard only upon the evidence which was before the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Court will certainly deny the injunction; because, in a case of this kind it is only necessary to show that there was substantial evidence before the Commission to justify its findings. In other words, it is like setting aside the verdict of the Jury. A Court may be of opinion that the verdict of the Jury was wrong, and that if it had been in the place of the Jury it would have come to a different conclusion, yet if there is any substantial evidence to support the verdict the Court can not set it aside. Counsel for defendants claims that there was not only substantial evidence before the Commission to support its conclusions, but that the Court itself, after it reviews the evidence, will be bound to come to the same conclusions that the Commission did. They feel, therefore, that the operators in this region need not lose any sleep over the case.

Good Roads Folder.

The Board of Supervisors of Wise County, under the supervision of Mr. E. J. Prescott, chairman of the board, has gotten up a neat little folder containing a road map of the county and a beautiful scene showing a section of our new system of county roads, together with statistics pertaining to the cost of them, which will be distributed at the Road Convention which meets in Bristol this week.

Mr. Prescott and a large number of other Wise County owners of automobiles and road enthusiasts went to Bristol yesterday to attend the convention, and we venture the assertion that no county in the southwest will be better represented than Wise County, the pioneer county of this section in road building. This county has spent over a million dollars for good roads within the past four years and has one of the best systems of macadamized roads of any county in the south.

LARGE CROWDS HEAR CLINTWOOD SPEAKING.

Irvine and Slemple Heard In Dickinson County. Others Speak.

Clintwood, Va., Sept. 29.—Large crowds were here today for the Democratic and Republican speaking. Hon. R. Tate Irvine, Democratic candidate for congress and Congressman C. B. Slemple, Republican nominee for re-election, each addressed large audiences. Judge Samuel W. Williams, attorney general of Virginia, and Ex-Senator R. P. Bruce spoke for Irvine also. Hon. Thomas J. Mancey, former district attorney and Senator John C. Noel, of Lee, spoke for Slemple.