

New York Tribune.

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Table with columns for FOREIGN RATES, CANADIAN RATES, and DAILY AND SUNDAY rates for various durations.

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The Tribune uses its best endeavors to insure the trustworthiness of every advertisement it prints and to avoid the publication of all advertisements containing misleading statements or claims.

The Benton Incident.

The Benton incident is less grave than it looked at first. Benton was tried, convicted and executed according to the only law that prevails in that part of Mexico where he chose to stay, martial law as it is construed by "General" Villa. The Englishman was only one of several foreigners, including Americans, to lose their lives as a result of the revolution in Mexico.

For Benton's death Great Britain may ask reparation from Huerta, whose government she has recognized. Or she may proceed to exact damages in her own way and in her own time from whatever Mexican government may exist when she makes her claim.

And it will serve to increase the feeling here that intervention is likely to prove inevitable in the end. The various hopes that the Mexican trouble would somehow solve itself have proved illusory, and this killing of a foreigner who had gone to the revolutionary headquarters to protest against the looting of his property reminds us how unsafe are the lives and property of foreigners and how full of the possibility of trouble the international situation is.

If the patience of this country is to become exhausted it will be largely because of a sense that there is nothing to be gained by patience. The public sees now more clearly than it did earlier how slight is the chance that a satisfactory result will work itself out in Mexico.

The Aldermen and the Newsstands.

If the Aldermen gracefully divest themselves of the power of granting consents for newsstands and similar privileges when the ordinance for that purpose comes up to-morrow, they will go far to make good the nice things Mayor Mitchell recently said about them.

Authority to grant these licenses belongs by every rule of reason to the Bureau of Licenses, which now exercises a halfway jurisdiction over such cases. The tall should go with the hide.

The Messed-Up Income Tax.

This is the last week for filing income tax returns. According to reports from Washington, few taxpayers have made out their declarations so far, and that is only natural, since who can tell but some new regulation may be issued this week in conflict with one of the many codifications of the past?

The best that any taxpayer can be expected to do is to make what seems to him a rational and honest return. The most helpful thing we have seen in the many commentaries on the law is this sentence from the report just published by Mr. John Nicholson, of this city: "In the present formative period of this tax the bar feels the government will not penalize errors in returns when good faith is apparent."

The Internal Revenue Bureau supplies a printed form of declaration for individuals, on the last page of which there is an instruction that husband and wife making a joint declaration must sign together. But there is no place in the form for more than one signature, and the language used shows that the return is meant to be that of one person.

his return a protest against the payment of any tax on income prior to October 3, 1913, when the law took effect. Tariff taxes have never been retroactive. How can excise taxes be so? Only by entering this protest will the way be clear for the taxpayer to collect a refund if the courts decide that the tax went into effect when the law did—not seven months earlier, when the Congress which passed it had not yet come into existence.

Too Big an Experiment.

This city is too big a place to try the doubtful experiment of halving the tax on buildings and increasing that on land. The interests involved are too great. We should know more about the proposed plan before we are asked to adopt it, and nothing is really known. The single tax, toward which this shifting of part of the burden from improvements to land is the half-way house, has been tried in small cities in the Northwest. No two accounts agree as to the results.

The idea of the benevolent persons who are promoting the half-way single tax is that it will, if adopted, penalize the holding of land for speculative purposes and encourage building. The outlying districts of the city will be filled with workmen's homes, they predict. That is a worthy purpose. But won't the partial exemption of buildings from taxation encourage the erection of larger buildings on land just as much as it will the erection of more buildings? Won't it encourage congestion, unless severe restrictions upon the height of buildings are adopted along with it?

C. W. Murphy Out of Baseball.

Charles W. Murphy was long one of the roaring lions of "organized baseball." Yet when his retirement was decreed he went out like a lamb. The National League magnates paid no more attention to his plea of "vested interest" than they used to pay to the protests of players expatriated from one club to another under the operation of the reserve clause.

Murphy was a disorganizing factor in baseball and did much to push the National League out of the position of primacy which it long enjoyed. He and other "stand-patters" in that league contributed to its steady loss of prestige to the younger American League. In "Ban" Johnson the newer organization had a consolidator and an upbuilder. The American League magnates acted together under his leadership, while the National League owners fought. The result might easily have been foreseen. The American League outstripped its senior rival on the ball field and has now displaced it as the ruling power in baseball politics.

Murphy was a good riddance. Even apart from the question of meeting the new perils of Federal League competition, it was time for a deal eliminating him from baseball.

The Family in Civic Economy.

The French proposal to impose a special income tax upon unmarried adults of both sexes is doubtless suggested in part by the desire to increase the birth rate, but it has also some basis in the equities of civic and social economics. It is obvious that a bachelor, with nobody dependent upon him, can afford to pay a larger tax than the father of a family with precisely the same income. It may be questioned by some whether the state has a right to take account of such circumstances and to regulate taxation according not to the property or the income of the individual but to his needs and to his ability to pay.

Belgium has another way of meeting the same situation. It rewards paternity. This is done by giving a second vote to every man who is the father of legitimate offspring. It is to be supposed that this is a far less inducement to matrimony and paternity than the French tax system will be, for scarcely even the most ambitious politician would marry and raise children just for the sake of having two votes instead of one; especially in a country where men have to be compelled to vote, under penalty. But it seems to be at least as reasonable to give the extra vote for children as for paying a certain tax or having a high school diploma.

It seems, indeed, legitimate and desirable for the state to make some practical account of the civic and social value of the family, and even to do what it can, without invading purely personal rights, to promote the rule of nature as well as of revelation, that men are to increase and multiply and replenish the earth. At any rate, the state may recognize the fact that the man who adds to its assets of helpful and promising human life is as valuable a contributor as he who merely increases its wealth in inanimate objects. The family is not a negligible factor in the economy of society and the state.

Out of the Umpire's Box.

For pushing his suit to compel the Southern Pacific Railroad to surrender control of the Central Pacific Railroad Attorney General McReynolds is put in the quixotic attitude of wanting to do the Pacific Coast community a service against its will. He says that a transfer of the Central Pacific to the Union Pacific is necessary in order to restore competition and to reduce the freight rates which the Coast now pays. But the shipping interests of the Coast are not with him in that belief. The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce took the trouble to send a delegation to Washington to protest against the breaking up of the Southern Pacific system on the ground that California would be injured, not benefited, by such a move.

Mr. McReynolds's position is a good deal like that of the Interstate Commerce Commission, which holds that it is protecting shippers by refusing to allow the Eastern railroads to increase their freight rates, whereas many shippers and chambers of commerce in this section think that increased rates would do more good than harm. An umpire in a controversy forgets his functions when he sets up an opinion more extreme than the average opinion on either side.

The Conning Tower

GEORGE WASHINGTON!

(Inspired particularly for this issue of "Erewhon.") Here's to the name of Washington, Whose thought and word and deed Won victory for countrymen In time of greatest need.

A general with common sense Impressive, loyal, true, Inspiring men to do their best In all they had to do.

Out of chaos and confusion Sprang order and content; And he became Chief Magistrate, The chosen President.

There was need of such wise judgment As his mind could afford, And his prudence and steadfastness Averted much discord.

A hero of the highest type, Too weak are words to praise; We love the name of Washington For all his candid ways.

MARY C. BURKE.

Saturday morning, at about 1 o'clock, an apartment house near Broadway and 115th street received a supply of coal. There were many wagon loads. The coal was chuted, and then shoveled into a cellar. The rasping, grating, filing sounds continued for more than an hour, when one person, of the hundreds kept awake by the needless noise, telephoned police headquarters. Half an hour later an officer bade the shoveller cease, and then there was quiet.

The non-understandable part is how a man could put in coal at that time and be unconscious that he was making hundreds of human beings miserable. Or, if conscious of it, that he could do it. . . . It is possible that such a man, with opportunities that might have made him an employer instead of a coal-shoveller, would have gained great wealth and the sort of power that goes with it.

GRAB ANOTHER GUESS, RING.

[R. W. Lardner in the Chicago Tribune.] Another guess—President Murphy of the Cubs will still be President Murphy of the Cubs in June, July, August, September and October, and will make the first page again before the 1915 training season opens. And still another—there will be a good deal of talk next January about driving President Murphy out of baseball.

Murphy out, Tinker to Evers to Chance.

WELL, WELL! SO YOU ARE.

F. P. A.: Do you know? I am with the Conning Tower.

If you will read the whole stories instead of just the New York newspaper headlines you will find, to your astonishment, that the White Sox are globe-girdling as well as the Giants.

"E. IS E. AND W. IS W. AND NEVER THE T. SHALL M." [From the Yonkers Statesman.] The East Side has quicker and cheaper transit to New York than any other part of the West Side of Yonkers.

From a news story of a wedding, April 10, 1914: "The bride wore a bright cerise going-away wig with earrings to match. The groom's toupee was the conventional black."

Ronsard Rebukes the Lady.

"Quand vous serez bien vieille, un soir, a la chandelle." When you are old, and cannot dance, Florette, The tango, fro! maxixe and hesitation, Think, while you hum my rag, the inspiration Which called it forth was only you, my pet. When some old servant, half asleep, will set The table for you, give the information, She'll gaze upon you, lumed with elation, And you'll remember Ronsard's, where we met.

You'll be forgotten then, and I reposing Where there are no blue-laws, nor times for closing; You'll have regrets for sending me away; You'd better cop me now and save your sorrow, Believe me, girl, don't linger till tomorrow, But gather up life's roses while you may.

LLOYD.

MEXICO.

BY MAURICE PERLMUTTER. MEXICO CITY, Feb. 22.—Last night it was arid Washington's Birthday, but that didn't make any more difference than water on a camel's back. All the time is fighting, but more talking than fighting. Reely, the fighting ain't so much, only I got to say a lot about that end of it, because otherwise you would think I ain't earning my pay. Which I give you my word I would be, no matter if I didn't write hardly nothing at all.

Such a town like this one is you wouldn't believe it at all. There is a couple concerns here, good up-to-date stores, but outside that you can believe me older not, Sturgeon Bay, Westconsin, has got this place beat for a live place. I am pretty sick of it, and if I could get my sample trunks out of that there jail I would hurry home. Please telephone Abe he shall come down to the store Monday, on account I think Miss Robbins, Weinschenck's buyer from Zanesville, would be in town and it would look rotten if we are closed, and oblige.

You are as unhappy as is the grown-up who has begun his day without shaving or reading the New York "Sun."—Richard Harding Davis, in the Metropolitan.

We shave the "Sun," but not so closely as once we did. Nowadays we give it only the once-over.

Visible Thoughts About Audible Animals.

THE GNU. BY S. H. A. The gun is seldom met with, save In photographic views, GNU'S NOTES. Yet oft one hears the question, "Have you HEARD the latest gnu?" *As in Haverhill, Mass.

"When the new league shall have flattered," begs Cable, "please remember that I was the first to call it the Deaderal League." We're likely to forget, what with having no place to file stuff, so remember it yourself, won't you?

If we were an author and anybody were overjoyed that our latest book contained 862 pages, we should feel we had not, in v. Being one way of announcing that we are about to begin William de Morgan's "When Ghost Meets Ghost."

This is Cherry-Tree Day, and what could be more stimulating this morning than making out your income-tax report?

You simply couldn't falsify on such a day. Besides, remember the proverb—

As you make your report, so must you lie on it. F. P. A.



THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

SNOW AND CONGESTION

The Problem That Faces the City is a Complex and Difficult One.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The great difficulty which confronts every branch of municipal enterprise in greater New York is—congestion. When the previous administration of the City of New York expired with the turning of the year the complex difficulties of congestion did not vanish by a magician's wand. The greatest blemish of this continent was left with its multiple problems of traffic regulation, with a terrifying mixture of vehicular and pedestrian movement through the streets across and around the street corners. A flood of people at every opening between the automobile cars and trucks, the surface cars, the delivery wagons and what not.

Precipitate into this vast metropolitan vortex and its turmoil of activity and haste vast heaps and piles of snow; huge drifts, enlarged by the snow shovelled out from the sidewalks. From the security of your revolving office chair dictate a letter to your stenographer to the newspapers about how slow the snow removal is progressing, particularly in comparison with your fast flowing vocabulary, and the presses, which multiply your words by the hundreds of thousands an hour, will send your message into every home, each home surrounded by billions of the little snowflakes which you have so easily disposed of, to your own satisfaction, in theory. CHARLES LOHMANN, New York, Feb. 20, 1914.

WILSON'S RECKLESS STEERING

His Course in Mexico Has Brought Us Close to the Rocks of Intervention.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The windows of President Wilson's mental conning tower must be badly leed up or there must be a thick fog around, judging by his wild steering of the ship of state. The non-recognition of Huerta was a bad sheer toward the rocks of intervention, and now he has veered far out of his course the other way to recognize the blood-stained junta government of Peru. Steady your helm, Mr. President, for Huerta is still in power, after your tedious and eventful year of waiting, and he may win out after all. A. E. C., New York, Feb. 20, 1914.

WIRELESS AS A FOG SIGNAL

It is Suggested That Warnings Be Sent Out at Regular Intervals.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: In my morning local paper I see an article entitled "Value of Wireless Limited—Of No Practical Use in Preventing Collisions." Having had some experience both in navigation and radio telegraphy from the standpoint of an amateur, it seems to me that wireless could be used to great advantage.

At present shippers are unaware of each other's presence till within hearing distance. In fog and storm this distance is too limited for the full degree of safety for large ships. The wireless signals, as most people know, may be sent out with varying degrees of intensity, but not directed to any one point. They radiate in all directions, the distance depending upon the energy with which they are sent.

With a steam whistle the navigator judges its direction somewhat, but is often more or less deceived. With wireless waves can be sent out to cover any distance desired; and though the direction from which an answering signal comes is not self-evident, its approximate distance is, if we know the strength with which they are sent. Now, my suggestion is this: Have a distinct signal for fog, which is obligatory for steamers to send, and at a certain very limited strength, so that same may not be heard at a distance greater, say, than ten miles. A somewhat more elaborate system would be a series of

BOATS FOR BARGES

Failure to Protect Lives on Board These Craft is Alleged.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Do you know that there is not a single lifeboat or a life preserver on any barge, although there are entire families? All that was on these four barges in the shape of lifesaving appliances was one "dinky dory," and it was more by good luck than good management that the people were saved from these barges. The inspectors make a great spurge in the good old summer time inspecting motor boats to see that they have bella horns and life preservers, but here are craft that are never inspected. ONE WHO KNOWS, New York, Feb. 19, 1914.

WILD LOGIC OF HENRY GEORGE

A Single Taxer Attempts to Place the Project on a Sounder Basis.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The letter on the single tax in this morning's Tribune stated that the basis of Henry George's theory was "historically false"; that men are better paid to-day than they have ever been, etc. All this is perfectly true; but the writer makes the mistake of thinking he has discovered a fatal defect in the single tax, when he has only punctured the extravagant logic of Henry George. General Walker commented this same blunder a long time ago in his little book on "Rent"; he effectively refuted George's contention that progress means increasing poverty; that every advance in civilization, in invention, means a greater demand for land, and consequently, higher rent for the landlord. But both our letter writer and the eminent economist failed to appreciate the fact that their logical answers only destroyed a part of the wild logic of George and still leave the single tax intact.

What, in substance, did George claim? Simply that rent gobbled up a large part of the wealth and would gobble up an increasing part as civilization advanced. Now, to prove that rent will not gobble everything, but probably considerably less than George dreamed, is just a case of lopping off the exaggerated hopes of an ardent reformer. However, if you can't give the people the whole loaf, the next best thing is to give them half a loaf, if you can't give them a beautiful palace, give them at least a cottage. The basis of the single tax remains the same solid foundation: it is merely the superstructure which is less majestic.

What is this solid foundation of the single tax? That the rent fund, made up of ground or economic rent, is the product of society—more distinctly a social product than any other portion of wealth. Therefore, since this fund is due most directly and clearly to the contributions of social activities, it is only fair that this fund be first used for the necessary expenses of the commonwealth.

That is the basis of the single tax. It raises the question whether we should draw our taxes from a common reservoir or from reservoirs which are due essentially to private, individual endeavor. Unsound arguments will naturally be advanced, as they were by Henry George. But we must not confuse a reply to his weak logic with a supposed refutation of the single tax. It may be attacked from other angles, although unsuccessfully, as Professor Seligman has done. But that is another story. F. R. SERRI, New York, Feb. 18, 1914.

WHAT IS TO FOLLOW?

The Strange Sequence of Events Ending in the Kennedy Suicide.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The death of Treasurer Kennedy is a calamity not only to his family, but to every decent citizen of this state. It is evident that he knew all about the graft that was rampant through the state, and he was confronted with a very delicate situation. He had the choice of protecting his friends by committing perjury; by telling all he knew and seeing them go to jail; or by eliminating himself entirely from this unpleasant mess. Surely this is an age of miracles. A Governor who dared to do right irrespective of the consequences! A state Sena-

WHY PREPARE DEFENCES?

A Reader Prefers the "Pork Barrel" to the Battleship.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I am sick and tired of your city of "pork barrel." You have never a word against the enormous appropriations for military and naval purposes, which in my view are worse than useless, but as soon as an appropriation is proposed which will be for good and useful purposes you howl "graft," "swag" and "pork barrel."

Of course, no one wishes to defend dishonest expenditure, but there is no reason why useful objects should be more subject to theft than these others, and what is honestly spent is in a way to do some good. The United States has not an enemy in the world, and there seems no more reason for war than between our several states or between us and Canada, against whom we have no defenses. Pennsylvania existed seventy years among tribes supposed to be savage and the dangers of a new country with no defenses and far less trouble and loss than other colonies which had soldiers.

If you must waste money on these things, let it go on, but I hope the time will soon come when all the appropriations will be made for good roads, public works, waterways and good and useful purposes for the benefit of the people. H. H. SWIFT, Millbrook, N. Y., Feb. 20, 1914.

"What Is Going on To-day."

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I cannot refrain from tendering my thanks to The Tribune for its "What Is Going on To-day" column. I am a reader of the paper only six weeks, but in that time have been saved considerable worry and trouble as to meeting dates and places of clubs of which I am a member. Only to-day it saved me from missing a meeting I had looked forward to and wanted very much to attend. HENRY W. DERWIN, New York, Feb. 20, 1914.

FAIR PLAY FOR BRIDEGROOM

From The Utica Daily Press. A Kansas paper, noting that a great deal has been said about the reckless given Miss Wilson as a wedding present and having considerable sympathy for bridegrooms in general because they are not noticed much, published a photograph of a "strikingly handsome pair of suit-penders" which was presented to a Kansas bridegroom on the occasion of his marriage to a society belle. The paper says that "the discriminating dork" looked through the entire stock in three stores before making a selection. For once at least a bridegroom receives proper attention.