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Foch says, "We will obtain from Germany only what we take by force," and the old boy is right as usual.

What has become of that highway commission bill? With two or three amendments, it would be good law and save Marion county much money and hard work. The Star would like to see it tried.

After acting as the president's special agent in the Philippines, and straightening out some kinks in the affairs of the islands. Gen. Wood will probably resign from the army and take the position of president of the University of Pennsylvania, which its trustees and patrons are anxious for him to accept.

The United Press is enterprising—sometimes too enterprising. Wednesday it announced to its patrons that the United States had demanded that Germany give up not only Bergdoll but the two Americans who tried to capture him. This should have been true and we hoped it was true, but when the Associated Press dispatches came in we were sorry to find it was not. Associated Press works on the principle, "There is too much news that is true to print what isn't true."

When some paper suggested that Ocala should change its name the Star blazed forth until it burned a hole in the suggestor, saying that the name would never be changed on earth and in the great hereafter would be adopted for one of the classiest wards of the New Jerusalem.—Miss Agnes Welch in Miami Metropolis.

Ah, Miss Welsh, if all would interpret our sayings as brilliantly as you do, we'd be able to buy us a summer suit.

Since the first crusade of Catts, who was so ignorant that he thought the cross was the copyrighted trademark of the Catholic church instead of being the symbol of all Christianity, we have been almost afraid to say a good word for a Catholic. However, as it is permissible always to speak good of the dead, we will venture to remark that the recently deceased Cardinal Gibbons was a good man, and a good American, and his long life was useful to his country irrespective of denominational differences.

Harry St. Frances Black, New York financier, when arraigned in Dade county criminal court yesterday afternoon, to answer to the charge of violating the Volstead prohibition act, did not plead nolle contenedre as was expected, but gave notice that he would fight the case, as it involves confiscation of his private Pullman car in which 60 cases of intoxicating liquors were found last week. Judging by what we have heard of east coast officers and juries, Harry will receive back his car and his whisky. It would be easy for federal officials to seize them and put Black in the penitentiary, but we doubt its having the nerve to do so.

We cull from the Boston Traveler an item interesting to the entire country, and specially to Ocala, where Mrs. Lucille Mulhall Barnett, daughter of Col. Mulhall of Oklahoma, friend of Buffalo Bill, once made her home. Mrs. Barnett is one of the smartest and best-known horsewomen in the country, and sister to our Mrs. Weller Carmichael. Mrs. Barnett, who now makes her home in Texas, will take a part in a sporting event of international interest. At the annual rodeo at Wichita Falls in May, she will compete with Miss Francesca Villa, daughter of the famous Mexican chief, in a roping contest. A side bet of $10,000 is said to be up on the result. All Miss Lucille's Ocala friends will pray for her success, and some will bet on her if they can find any takers.

The Ocala Star expresses the feeling often given vent to by The Tribune regarding the "flying squadron," that the state board of examiners which tours the state at big salary and expense and charges a fee for holding teachers' examinations. Of the personnel of this board, The Tribune is not speaking, for it is composed of as intelligent and well fitted persons as could be expected. It is the system that is found fault with, and the extra expense it entails, money for which must come out of the common school fund. The Tribune has said before, and repeats it, that what is needed is a state board of education, composed of the state superintendent of education, the heads of the two state institutions, the University of Florida and the College for Women, with the president of the state teachers' association, and an active, working first grade teacher of the common schools. These five could meet annually and prepare the questions for the semi-annual examinations. The examinations should be held under the supervision, and on the responsibility, of the county superintendents of education. The papers should be sent by the superintendents to the state superintendent of education at his office, and he should divide them for marking, among the other four members of the board and himself. The marking should be completed and certified back to the state superintendent within thirty days, and he should immediately announce the results to the candidates and in the papers. The papers should be held an additional thirty days to give any one dissatisfied with their mark, opportunity to have them re-examined and any error adjusted. This whole process of examination could be done annually for less than the cost of one of the "flying squadron"—$2,000, and traveling and hotel expenses—and there are three members of that august circulating body.—Tampa Tribune.

We print the foregoing in order to show that the leading newspapers of the state are slowly but steadily coming into accord with the Star on the educational question.

INDIVIDUAL VIEWS OF CURRENT EVENTS

"Before you leave Florida," said the editor, "I wish you would write a review of a few subjects of national interest for publication in the Star."

The back-tilted chair in which I was sitting dropped with a bang to a position of normalcy on all fours. About all the writing I had done for the last fifteen years or so consisted of tales beginning "Dear Sir:—I would esteem it a favor if you would give me a little more time," etc., and the suddenness of the request had a rather startling effect.

"Why do you ask me to do that?" I queried protestingly. "I am sure the big dailies supply all the material of that kind that your readers care to absorb."

"That's the trouble," the editor rejoined. "Most of the stuff they print might just as well be stereotyped, except as it reflects their politics. What I would like to get is some of the opinions on current topics of the average unprejudiced citizen who takes an average amount of interest in public affairs—not necessarily his individual notions, but the views of his fellows whom he meets in the everyday routine of his activities and who have no axes to grind."

I reflected a moment. The editor had a compelling way, and I always find it hard to refuse a reasonable request.

"That doesn't appear to be such a big job," I said, "and as I have a little time to spare I'll try it."

But when I sat down to tackle it, the job had assumed Brobdingnagian proportions.

TRIBULATIONS OF TAXATION

How to begin? Standing at the marge of an illimitable field, I hesitated to take the first step, until my eye fell on a calendar depending from a nail on the wall, and I noted that it was the fifteenth day of March—a day marking the limit of time when some 5,000,000 persons, natural and artificial (corporations), representing approximately, and more or less directly, one-fifth of the population of the United States, were required by the constitution, supplemented by certain statutory enactments, departmental rulings, bureaucratic opinions, and the Lord only knows what else, to render to the Federal government true and accurate accounts of their respective wages, salaries, earnings, profits, gains, emoluments, commissions, bonuses, fees, pensions, stock dividends, royalties, rents, etc., etc., etc., for the year 1920—in short, the last day on which income tax returns might be filed without incurring risk of the imposition of divers and sundry penalties such as fines, imprisonment, tar and feathers and another twist of the screws on the hooch lid.

A long sentence, but it has served to start me on my rambles.

I gave the number of individuals and corporations that were "required" to file returns as 5,000,000. I should have said that that was the number of returns "received" by the treasury department for the year 1919. There has been no computation of the persons who failed to obey the law, but there is abundant reason for believing that there are hundreds of thousands of them.

While theoretically an income tax is the least inequitable form of raising revenue for government needs, the fact is indisputable that evasion of the law imposing it is successfully practised in countless instances, and not always with fraudulent intent, for there are many people, honest enough in their ordinary business dealings, who see no more harm in withholding from the government its dues than in plucking fruit from the branches of a tree that hang over the roadside. However, with seven years of experience in what was at first regarded as an experiment, but which has been evolved into an "institution," as one authority has denominated it, the Income Tax Bureau is steadily, albeit slowly, reducing the numbers of those who, though liable to the tax, have hitherto succeeded in dodging it, and there is likelihood that the law will be still further amended to make detection easier.

GROWL AFTER GROWL

"Speaking of amendments," says Mr. Average Citizen, with the recent remarks of General Dawes before a congressional committee fresh in his mind, "why in hell's blue blazes can't they get up a form of return that fellows of my mental calibre are able to understand, instead of the abomination that nearly drives them loco or compels them to hire expert accountants when they go to fill it out?

When he is told that the form that so disturbs his mental equilibrium is the work of some of the most talented taxation tabulators to be found in all of the forty-eight States he indulges in a few more Dawesian denunciations, and settles down to the job of filling out the blank.

Then, when he has finished, he is worried lest he has omitted from the calculation of his deductions some one or two or three items of other kinds of taxation that would reduce the amount he has to pay Uncle Sam, and he goes over them again, using his fingers as counters—his dog tax, his poll tax, his school tax, his village tax, his township tax, his State income tax (if he is a resident of New York), the tax on his house and the interest on the mortgage covering it—and wonders if he ought to include the tax he pays for the privilege of running his flivver. Finally he decides to let it stand as he has prepared it rather than go over the whole maddening task again with the possible result of becoming a tax eater himself as the inmate of a lunatic asylum.

Since the foregoing was written, the newspapers have stated that while the number of persons making returns this year is greater than ever before, the receipts will fall far short of those for 1919, and what with the loss of revenue caused by prohibition and the reduced volume of customs duties, the government will, as usual of late, be up against it to meet its expenses. "What then?" glooms Mr. Average Citizen, and he can see nothing ahead but an increase in the rate and the abolition of all exemptions.

"NORMALCY"—WHAT IS IT?

Then his thoughts revert to a word which had lain obsolescent in the big dictionaries until exhumed about six months ago by another American citizen yclept Warren Gamaliel Harding, who revivified it to describe a condition to which he hoped that not only his own country, but all others, would ere long return—"normalcy." And Mr. Average Citizen wonders if Mr. Harding could have had in mind the conditions of, say, ten years ago, when a plethoric treasury, an abounding prosperity and a reasonable degree of contentment were the chief characteristics of our national life and both income tax and prohibition were as the dreams of visionary fanaties.

But whatever his sentiments, the average citizen believes that both are with us to stay—if not forever, at least for the life of the present generation; and after that it won't much matter to him. At the same time he feels a nagging curiosity regarding the means that the now distinguished citizen who resurrected the not unattractive catchword will recommend to effect the country's restoration to the status that "normalcy" was intended to typify.

Meantime, while awaiting announcement of the program to be laid before the extra session of Congress which the President has called, the nation, like a man in a quagmire, is floundering and stumbling in its ef-

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