OREGON CITY ENTERPRISE Fitty Years Ago


## TAXES SKILL AND GOOD WILL

> Claude Kitchin's opposition to the conscription bill showed that he was unwilling to take any lessons from Great Britain in the art of creating an army. Yet he was equally strong in declaring that his plan to make business pay the cost of the war is patterned on the example of England. Not so. The British tax on excess profits takes toll of profits in excess of those earned in peace times, while Kitchin's tax is arbitrarily fixed to operate whenever the profits rise above eight per cent. So that a corporation which used to earn 10 or 15 per cent in peace can earn no more than eight per cent now that we are at war. The Kitchin tax, also, is levied upon not only the "actual cash paid in" but also upon the "actual cash value. at, the time of payment, of assets other than cash paid in." There are many corporations in this country which do a profitable business upon a small cash capital, to whom the good will and the skill of its management constitute assets which cannot be measured in cash and which enable earnings to be made at a high rate of percentage upon the face value of their stock. These companies are to be found in almost every town, and the burden of the Kitchin form of taxation would be very onerous to them if it became a law.

## POOR PICKINGS AT PORTS

Imports for the ten months of the current fiscal year ended April 30 totaled $\$ 2,072,000,000$, yielding a customs revports of 8.6 per cent, which is pretty small pickings for you Uncle Sammy at the customs houses. On April 30th, 1913. a protective year, our imports for the ten month period totaled
$\$ 1,548,000,000$ which paid $274,000,000$ into the U. S. Treasury, or an average duty rate of 17.7 per cent. Imports for the 1917 period were 34 per cent greater than for the 1913
period, while revenues derived therefrom were 35 per cent less for the 1917 than for the 1913 period. Imports for the single month of April, 1917, totaled $\$ 254,000,000$, the record month for the past six years, with the exception of March,
1917, and $\$ 108,000,000$ greater than for April, 1913, yet the evenues for April, 1917, were $\$ 3,000,000$ short of the reve nues for April, 1913 The Democratic party is quite willing to tax production and consumption in this country, estates, incomes-everything but raw cotton and protective taxes
imports. It is a strange party in a very real predicament. STICK ON THE STARS.

Considerable opposition is being met with in Congress nd lieutenant general. It is high time such picayune ideas were brushed aside. At a time when our regular army num European military aristocracy fresh before us, there was some excuse for opposing the appointmen
but that day has long since passed.

When Chaffee was in command of the United States troops in China, he had to take the last seat, and was the last
to be called upon when the generals of the Allied Powers gath ered around the council table to discuss the China campaign. had presented his views swathed in diplomacy and indirec ness, and Chaffee was finally called upon, he tersely announc ed that his troops would receive orders to march on Peking once.

We are about to raise an army of $2,000,000$ men, enough in itself to merit the dignity of an officer or two with the ran of general. America must have full and complete representa
tion in the military councils of Europe, and our representa tives should have rank befitting the dignity of this great cound

PROTECTION THE KEYSTONE OF TAXATION

## The senate's proposal for the taxation of motor cars is sen sible and just. It is based upon the correct theory of war-time

 sible and just. It is based upon the correct theory of war-timetaxation, namely, upon the theory that burdens should be lightly laid upon the essentials of life, while they bear more Hence, the senate proposes to measure the tax upon moto with a flivver will contribute $\$ 7.50$ a year to keep the war going. The man with a limousine will pay $\$ 25$. One result be a saner legislative view of the sources of revenue which this country possesses. As this view becomes more genera as a source of income to the treasury and of prosperity to the
nation. The entire revenue from the autombile tax lined by the senate, will be about $\$ 45,000,000$ and it will di rectly tap the pockets of about $3,500,000$ owners of cars. This sum is about the same as that which the last Republican tariff law produced from the custom houses ev
out directly affecting the purse of anybody

It is curious, perhaps significant, that, just as the German reichstag is proposing amendments to the constitution and exalt the prerogative of the people's representatives, the American congress is lending ear to proposals from the White abrogation of some of the powers of the legislative body.

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MILWAUKIE MAN DROPS DEAD ON

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and bathing. The finest bathing beach on the willamette River.

