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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, JAN. 27, 1916.

NO RESTRICTIONS ON INCOME TAX.

By its decision upholding the income tax law the United States Supreme Court has swept away practically all restrictions on the discretion of Congress in levying such a tax. The Government has always had power to levy an income tax as an excise tax without apportioning it among the states according to population, but could not levy it in such a manner as to become a direct tax on the property whence the income was derived unless it were so apportioned. It can now levy such a tax without consideration of the source. In fact, all restrictions imposed by the Constitution have been removed.

At its inception in Great Britain, where it originated, and in this country also the income tax was a war tax. It was first imposed in Britain in 1798 to meet the expenses of the war with France, and was repealed in 1815, when that war ended. The first income tax in the United States was imposed in 1862 to meet the expenses of the Civil War. It was increased in 1865 and was repealed in 1871. The constitutionality of that tax was sustained in 1880 by the Supreme Court, which held that it was not a direct tax, but an excise tax, and that Congress had a right to impose it so long as it was made uniform throughout the United States. The largest annual revenue it yielded was $72,982,160, in 1866.

Productiveness and comparative ease of collection at the source, a device adopted by William Pitt, father of the impost, soon caused resort to the income tax for revenue in other emergencies than war, Peel first reviving it in peace time in order to effect British financial reform in 1842. It has finally been adopted as a permanent and lucrative source of revenue by nearly every civilized nation. Growth of great fortunes caused a demand for its adoption in the United States, both as a means of compelling the rich to contribute a just share to public expenses and as a means of checking the aggregation of wealth in few hands. This demand bore fruit in the income tax provisions of the Wilson tariff law of 1894, but these provisions were held unconstitutional by a five-to-four decision of the Supreme Court. The ground of this decision was, as now explained by Chief Justice White, that the effect of the tax on income from real estate was the same as if a direct tax had been levied on the real estate, hence must be regarded as a direct tax, which could not be levied without regard to the source.

President Taft devised the corporation income tax of 1909 as an excise tax, which the decision of 1895 had held to be constitutional. An excise tax is defined by Webster as "an inland duty or impost levied upon the manufacture, sale or consumption of commodities within the country," also as "a tax upon the pursuit or following of certain sports, trades or occupations, usually taking in this case the form of exactions for licenses." The corporation income tax was upheld by the Supreme Court as coming within the latter definition of excise. At Mr. Taft's suggestion Congress at the same session adopted an amendment to the Constitution authorizing the imposition of a direct tax on incomes "from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several states and without regard to any census or enumeration." The Supreme Court held the corporation tax to be valid as an excise tax. The amendment was ratified by three-fourths of the states and it was declared in force February 25, 1913.

Congress then passed the present revenue law, known as the Underwood tariff law, though also imposing an income tax. This tax is graduated in proportion to the amount of incomes, rising from a minimum of 1 per cent to a maximum of 6 per cent. Incomes below $4000 for married men, below $3000 for the unmarried, are exempt; also that proportion of larger incomes. The exemption and progressive features of the tax are the points attacked in the recent litigation, and the Supreme Court unanimously upholds the power of Congress to exempt certain incomes and to impose a graduated tax.

The income tax is just, for it taxes the people for maintenance of the Government in proportion both to their ability to pay and to that which they have at stake. Tariff and internal taxes fall on the people in proportion to that which they consume and, as regards necessaries, they take a larger proportion of smaller than of larger incomes, for every family, poor or rich, must use a certain minimum quantity of these necessaries in order to sustain life. An income tax falling more heavily on the rich is necessary to balance the scale. If it were possible to ascertain what sum for tariff and internal taxes is included in the price of commodities consumed by each person and then to calculate what proportion of his income each person pays in taxes, it would probably be found that the millionaire of whose income 6 per cent is taken as direct tax actually pays no higher percentage in taxes of all kinds than the $2-a-day laborer.

Direct taxes are also wise from the standpoint of public policy. It has long been recognized that indirect taxes are a fruitful source of governmental extravagance. Such taxes are included in the price of goods, and a man therefore pays them without knowing it, and is indifferent to the manner in which public money is spent. The income tax takes a certain sum directly out of his pocket, he knows that it is a tax and that in return for it he receives only the benefits of government. He is apt, then, to inquire more diligently how the money is spent and to call upon his representatives in Congress to vote no money for which equal value is not returned to the people. Economy planks in political platforms will then have more force than New Year's resolutions and the pork barrel may be demolished.

PORTLAND'S POSITION.

The Portland Chamber of Commerce has shown a perverse attitude that amounts almost to open opposition (to the Astoria rate contention). The effect of that attitude is to announce to the people of Astoria that the people of Portland favor the commercial and industrial aggrandizement of Puget Sound, rather than that which Oregon enterprise seeks to realize at the mouth of the Columbia. The Telegram does not believe that such is the business sentiment of Portland; and we think further that sooner or later the Chamber of Commerce will be convinced of that fact.—Evening Telegram.

Now here is a definite assertion that the Portland Chamber of Commerce has failed in its duty to Portland and Oregon, with a plain intimation that outside opinion will be that Portland prefers the "commercial and industrial aggrandizement of Puget Sound" to the welfare of the Columbia River. It is an untrue and injurious assumption, but it is a familiar phase of the ceaseless agitation carried on for months by the Telegram to persuade the Chamber of Commerce to assume a position which it ought not to take, and which it could not take, if the prior obligation of the Chamber to Portland is to be considered. It appears to be forgotten in some quarters that it is the Portland Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber, through its directors, has gone on record—unanimously—in favor of equal rates between Puget Sound and the mouth of the Columbia River, with a distinct reservation for lower proportionate rates for Portland. Is there a voice in Portland which dares assert that Portland is not entitled to all the advantages of its geographical position?

Now, again the transportation bureau defines the position of Portland, and is supported by its united membership. Undoubtedly it expresses the conviction of the entire body.

The Astoria rate question is before the Interstate Commerce Commission, and will be decided on its merits. Portland has not intervened and has by its non-action given Astoria full and fair opportunity to present its case. It is astonishing that more is asked or expected of Portland.

Is it not about time that the noisemakers cease their clamor? What effect is it to be supposed they will have upon the Interstate Commerce Commission?

ACADEMIC FREEDOM.

Protection of academic freedom is a problem the solution of which has been undertaken by the American Association of University Professors and with an answer that appears to be both practicable and profitable. They have decided that the ethics of the profession shall be placed in the custody of the professors rather than left in the full keeping of governing boards. Of course, the consent of the governing boards concerned must first be sought, since the powers of the professors at the present time are confined to the province of making suggestions.

It is proposed by the professors that they shall have a voice in fixing their rights and limitations. The right of a governing body to discharge an instructor of professional rank is modified so that the faculty must first be consulted. If charges are preferred the professor shall be entitled to trial by a jury of his peers, whose decision shall prevail. If a member or members of the governing body feel that a professor has been advancing dangerous social or political ideas they must augment their own views, the views of laymen, by a consultation with a committee of the professors.

The proposal is one deserving of commendation in the interest of freedom of thought and of intellectual progress. Professorial abuse of recognized standards is certain to occur in the classrooms. Instructors frequently permit some new fad or fancy to run away with them. But no species of intellectual hysteria is calculated to disturb the mental equilibrium of the entire faculty. And who is better qualified than the professors themselves to decide whether the conduct of a professor is dangerous and revolutionary or progressive and beneficial?

EATING TO DIE.

Cancer of the stomach is increasing materially in relation to the total number of deaths from all causes. It is increasing more rapidly than any other disease and the increase is greatest in the most prosperous nations, among the most prosperous classes, and is making its attack at the highest productive period of the individual. The warning is plain. Instead of eating to live, many of us are eating to die.

These are some of the comments made by Dr. George F. Koehler, of Portland, before the business men's physical department classes at the Y. M. C. A. a few weeks ago. It was a paper delivered as part of the anti-cancer propaganda, now Nation-wide. Dr. Koehler's paper is interesting to read. He tells us that the badge of civilization is the frying pan, and talks in understandable terms of food values. Rice becomes a welcome diet for kings as well as coolies after he has explained its properties, and a pound of cheese becomes highly illuminated. Dr. Koehler goes into the history of cheese-eating nations, and, strangely enough, these nations are famed for their palatable, but economic, dishes. Cheese contains in concentrated form every essential to human sustenance. What an opportunity for Oregon, whose cheese factories are second to none!

Along with the values of food, which were given principally to illustrate the dangers of stomachal cancer, Dr. Koehler explained a little of the value of fun as a preventative of cancer. Now that cocktails are inconvenient, if not altogether inaccessible appetizers, a substitute far better and not entirely unknown has been offered. Cheerful surroundings are the open sesame to a hearty meal and good feeling afterwards. Worry should be put aside at all times but most of all just before eating. Worry itself is sufficient to tie the stomach in a knot and in 10 or 20 years after the worry has vanished, the ill effect may become evident in a cancer, started with that worry knot so long ago. As for pursuits after the meal, the best employment, we are told, is frivolous conversation. Thus is defended at the hands of science the after-dinner story.

It is welcome news that we as a Nation do not drink enough water. Perhaps that evil will be remedied in Oregon and a few other states in due time. The thing to look out for is that we do not wash our food down with water. We are told water with our meals is all right; perhaps the more the merrier, but cancer lurks in the glass which sluices unmasticated food to an already overtaxed stomach. Food too hot or too cold also is not only robbed of its tastefulness, but it is absolutely to be feared as a cause of cancer. Cancer of the stomach in a great many cases, too, has been traced to that common practice of "bolting the food." There is nothing so conducive to cancer as this vicious and vulgar habit, we are told.

It is in this educational work that the doctors now fighting cancer in a humanitarian as well as a scientific way hope to accomplish a vast amount of good. To prevent as well as to cure is their watchword, whereas a few years ago the attitude was to cure only if possible, and too often to lay the task aside as impossible.

Remembering that cancer develops late in life, or at least not in early life, those of us who eat too fast even for immediate comfort should come to a full stop and consider the years to come.

UNWILLING MOTHERS NOT WANTED.

There is one convincing argument in favor of birth control, but it was overlooked by Councilwoman Lindsey in her speech at Los Angeles. It is that a woman who is unwilling to become a mother is unfit to be a mother and that any child born of such a woman is to be pitied. Not only has "every woman the right to avoid unwelcome motherhood," but every child has the right to a welcome from her who brings it into the world.

The women who object to becoming mothers have a very ready means of avoiding it; let them abstain from becoming wives. The original purpose of marriage was to perpetuate the race; a woman who does not desire to carry out that purpose should not marry, for the man she marries has a right to assume that she desires children, and he is cruelly undeceived when she advances her birth control theory. A woman is presumed to have a high enough opinion of herself to desire that her like be reproduced. If she think so poorly of herself as not to have that desire, by all means let her remain childless.

Undoubtedly a woman "has a right to choose the father of her children" and "to refuse to bear children to an inebriate or a defective." She makes the choice when she chooses a husband, and she can make that refusal by rejecting proposals of marriage from an inebriate or a defective.

No fault will be found with the members of the Birth Control League for refusing to bear children. It is not desirable that women who have so poor an opinion of the human race as to decline a share in perpetuating it should propagate their like.

GRADUATION DAYS.

The midwinter graduation season is at hand. In Portland the diplomas will be given out today. Modest ceremonies will mark the going forth of several hundred high-school students tonight. For many it is a serious season. College looms ahead of some; the workaday world, in a not too prosperous era, faces many more. At best, for those who will enjoy the benefits of college days, the time in which they can look on life as a purposeless existence is short. Tomorrow morning life will, or it should, assume a serious aspect for them all. Book examinations are over with, but now the real test comes.

Graduation days have been long and justly known as the commencement season. Perhaps the students will not realize the full meaning of commencement for a few years yet. It is one of those things which dawns in retrospect rather than in prospect. No doubt visions of substantial careers have been enjoyed by them all. These visions are necessary, but also must come the calm realization of the problems of life. How best to counteract some accident, misfortune or circumstance which turns them from a visionary ambition will be a problem to work on, far more interesting than any ever encountered in algebra or trigonometry. And if it isn't solved the result will be all the more distressing.

Portland high-school students, as has been shown by the toll taken by the principals, generally have intended to apply their education. It is to be hoped they will be able to carry out those intentions. Their ambitions, expressed and demonstrated in some instances, are laudable. But they must realize now more than ever that their high-school education has been but a means to an end. Commencement days are here. Life as it is is just beginning. A few years at college for some will hold off the test for a time, and may alter the conditions, but the test comes sooner or later. If the principals and teachers have been successful in bringing the graduates to a realization of this one fact, their high-school education will have accomplished a great deal. It won't matter so much if one graduate, on her recent examination paper, wrote that Daniel Webster's principal contribution to American progress was the dictionary. That was a grave error, but it also was a minor one, if she has learned the bigger thing.

MEN WHOM HISTORY FAILS TO TEACH.

A speech made by General Isaac R. Sherwood, Representative from the Toledo district of Ohio, has been published with great display by W. J. Bryan in the Commoner under the headlines, "The threatening danger of a military autocracy; opposition to the organized military cabal to bankrupt the National treasury." General Sherwood said this country had had several eras of military hysteria. One was Captain Hobson's Japanese war alarm, of which the General said:

> Of course, the armor plate trust and the powder trust and the steel trust and their allies, through the big newspapers they own and the leading magazines they control, worked up a powerful sentiment in Congress and the country for a bigger Navy and a more formidable Army to resist the imaginary warlike attitude of Japan.

Another military hysteria, in his view, was the war with Spain, which "cost us the lives of over 16,000 stalwart young soldiers, with a pension list to date aggregating over $40,000,000." He told of a leading citizen of Toledo who "recently received instructions from Pine street, New York, emanating, of course, from that gigantic organization of trusts that seek to dominate the legislation of Congress" to organize Toledo for a big Army and Navy. So he went down the list and told of the millions spent for armorplate and for coast defenses, and of the fleet's voyage around the world. He proclaimed that "we are now at peace with all the world, with no threatening dangers anywhere."

He recalled a speech he delivered describing the battlefield of Franklin and closing with the words: "From that day to this I have hated war." He quoted denunciations of war and panegyrics on peace from men great and small, but denied he was for peace at any price, saying: "I am for peace until an emergency arises."

General Sherwood, who thus charges advocates of preparedness with sordid motives or with military hysteria, is the man who proposed the service pension bill to Congress and who procured its passage. By that law every man who served in the Civil War, though he never went into action, and the dependents of such a man are paid pensions. Had the United States been prepared for war in 1861, the first battle of Bull Run might have ended that war. The lives we lost and the money we expended in that war and the billions we have since expended in pensions are the price we have paid for unpreparedness. Fewer than one-fourth the 16,000 American lives lost in the Spanish war were lost in battle; the rest were lost through disease in camp and that disease was the fruit of unpreparedness. The horror with which he was inspired by the spectacle of the Franklin battlefield should have taught him the folly of unreadiness, for had the Nation been ready in 1861, that battle need never have been fought. Men who advocate preparedness yield nothing to him in hatred of war; they disagree with him only as to the means of averting those horrors. They recall the prolongation of the Revolutionary war by reliance on untrained levies of militia, also the losses and humiliation of the war of 1812, and they resolve that the best means to prevent war or, when it comes, to shorten it, to limit its horrors and to insure victory for our arms is the training and equipment of our citizens to defend the country.

General Sherwood says he is for peace until an emergency arises. Then he would begin to arm. That is precisely what we have done in former emergencies—waited till the danger was upon us and then begun to arm. Having seen the disastrous consequence of that policy with his own eyes in the Civil War, he should know that the best security of peace and the best means of limiting the evils of war is to be ready for an emergency before it comes.

THE OLD SOUTH SPEAKS.

Opposition to preparedness is the same kind of a winning issue for Mr. Bryan as free silver proved in 1896 and anti-imperialism in 1900—it enables the other fellow to win. The recent contest for the Democratic nomination for Representative in the Fifth Mississippi District was fought on the preparedness issue, and W. W. Venable, a pronounced advocate of National defense, won by a plurality of 5832, a landslide for him.

Mr. Bryan has relied on the South for support in his fight on preparedness, because it "knows something of the horrors of war." He forgets that the South is nevertheless not "too proud to fight" when honor is involved. As it did not flinch from the horrors of war in 1861-65, when it fought for states' rights, neither would it now grudge a man or a dollar for defense of the Nation's honor and security. The South, like the North, fears the horrors of impotence and dishonor more than it fears the horrors of war.

Those Senators and Representatives who have been hypnotized by Mr. Bryan's talk of peace at any price would do well to heed the voice of Mississippi and wake up.

By the time the anniversary of the Lusitania massacre arrives, Secretary Lansing and Ambassador von Bernstorff may have discovered a form of words by which Germany will admit that she did wrong in sinking the ship without admitting it. In the opinion of the Administration, though not of the American people, American honor is safe in the hands of language experts.

Russia will put up the same cry as did the Confederacy during the Civil War, that it cannot give its German prisoners better treatment because it cannot afford to do so. When that becomes known in the Teutonic lines, look for intense fighting, for the German would rather die with the colors than starve to death in Siberia.

In a collision of the crack Milwaukee trains in Eastern Washington early yesterday the huge locomotives were demolished, while the steel coaches protected the passengers. The railway that spends money for the safety of travelers makes good investment, and all are doing it now.

Representative Mann rightly urges non-partisan support of preparedness. It is the duty of every patriotic citizen, but Mr. Bryan claims to have eighty-five Democrats in the House lined up against it.

As a general thing, the man who goes to trial in the Federal Court might better plead guilty, for the Government seldom begins action until it has convincing proof.

If the records show that excess of snow and rain in the Winter months mean pleasant days during the ball season, well and good. Let 'er snow and rain.

Judge Stevenson is establishing precedents in his closing days in Municipal Court. A fine of $250 for violating the "dry" law is a good one.

An officer of the Humane Society cannot take a tagless dog from an irate woman. He cannot put up a front like the poundman.

It's no use to worry, with groundhog day due within a week, but this alternate sunshine and snowfall is a bit distressing.

The housewife who buys meat from a peddler runs the risk of buying something that died before it could be killed.

School tasks are over for several hundred high-school boys and girls tonight. Now for the school of hard knocks.

When Greek meets Greek in a duel, one of them gets hurt. That is where Greek duels differ from some other duels.

Mr. Ford's peace delegates did not accomplish anything, but they had a good time. That is why many of them went.

When a woman sues for breach of promise, the world sympathizes; when a man sues, the world laughs.

The Army post graft having been discredited, every burg now wants a military or naval academy.

Hunger blots out racial lines.

Give freely today.

Stars and Starmakers

By Leone Cass Baer.

AT the end of E. H. Sothern's present tour he and Mrs. Sothern (Julia Marlowe) will move to England to take up their permanent residence.

* * *

Word comes from San Francisco that the Mayor of that city has appointed Kitty Reed, widow of Charles Reed, the minstrel, to be matron of the county jail.

Reed was at one time associated with William Collier and was celebrated as a comedian. About a year ago his widow was reported to be in unfortunate circumstances on the Pacific Coast.

* * *

Winifred Bryson, over at the Baker, took her first skating lesson this week. And she says it's just her luck that the fad didn't come in until the bustle fad had gone out.

* * *

Adele Blood, accompanied by 40 manuscripts of as many prospective plays, has gone to her old home in Pasadena, Cal., and intends to stay there until she has found a piece suitable for heralding her reappearance on Broadway. Miss Blood's fruitless quest of a new play has been enduring in print for several months now.

* * *

Franklyn Ardell has a new vaudeville sketch, "The Wife Saver," and has sent out Joe Kane in the old Ardell playlet, "His Honor the Mayor." Kane used to be a husband of Blossom Seeley, who is now wedded to Rube Marquard.

* * *

Old Subscriber writes in to say that she has ridded herself of rheumatism and stomach woes by not going to bed for six months. Which now explains to me the solid ivory stomachs and active feet of actors and actresses.

* * *

Reports from Cincinnati are that Rose Stahl has registered a genuine hit in her new play, "Moonlight Mary," written for her by George V. Hobart. Miss Stahl's character is that of a novelist who seeks to experience the adventures of the thieving heroine of a story she has written. She is said to be especially happy in her new role.

* * *

Sadie Martinet, once hailed as the loveliest woman of the American stage, is now in the Brunswick Home at Amityville, Long Island. For several weeks past she has been in the psychopathic ward at Bellevue Hospital for observation. One day last week three young women, who refused their names but who said they were from the Actors' Fund, removed Miss Martinet to the Amityville Home in a large touring car. She is the wife of Louis Nethersole, who is a brother to the emotional English actress, Olga Nethersole. Just now he is in England managing the tour of Davis Keane in "Romance."

* * *

Caliste Conant, "tuneful tale teller," at the Orpheum, is a member of Mu Phi Epsilon, a National musical sorority which includes Madame Schuman-Heink, Geraldine Farrar, Louise Homer and many other notables in its honorary list. Miss Conant's home is in Los Angeles, where she will be featured in an Orpheum show three weeks hence. She is a graduate of the Chicago Musical College, where she joined the Mu Phi Epsilon, and where she attained such prominence she was elected supreme secretary of the sorority. In every city on her Orpheum tour Miss Conant has been honored by members of the Mu Phi Epsilon, and in her engagement at Seattle she was entertained at the University of Washington. Miss Conant's Portland sorority sisters gave a theater party at the Orpheum last night in her honor.

* * *

At last A. H. Woods and Willard Mack have agreed upon a title for the latter's new play. After matching coins, consulting an astrologer and talking with the Librarian of Congress by long-distance telephone, they decided to label the piece "Jane O'Day From Broadway."

Jane O'Day is the character to be acted by Blanche Ring, the star of the production. Originally the comedy was called "Broadway and Buttermilk," which was Mr. Mack's idea of the thing, but Mr. Woods protested on the grounds that it would drive away the liquor element.

Rehearsals of the play are in progress daily, although the cast is not yet completed.

* * *

A former Philadelphia girl is sole heir to the estate of Joe Murphy, the Irish comedian, who died last week in New York leaving an estate said to be worth several millions. She is his young widow. Until her marriage, in 1909, she was Mary Frymier, known on the stage as May Firmier.

Mrs. Murphy was born in Philadelphia and was educated in Dresden, Saxony. Her father served in the Civil War. After he had failed in business and his health gave way, his daughter went on the stage. She was first a member of James J. Corbett's company. Then she joined Murphy's company, appearing in such familiar old plays as "Kerry Gow" and "Shaun Rhue." In 1909, while she was on tour with Grace George in "A Woman's Way," the 25-year-old actress was married to the 70-year-old comedian at San Antonio, Tex.

She declared at the time it was a love match, as she had found in Murphy the gentlest and sweetest character she had ever known. Her friends say this was proven true by their after life, which was ideal. They spent most of their time between a mansion at Richmond Hill, Long Island, and New York City. The widow is now living in her Long Island home.

* * *

Nonette Lyle, who visited Portland a month ago over the Orpheum circuit as Nonette, the Gypsy violinist, has made public the details of her approaching marriage to Hillis I. Morrison, former Superior Judge, now an attorney in Los Angeles. She will be married next March in Brooklyn, N. Y., her home. Nonette says:

"There is no truth in the rumor that we intended to be secretly married. I expect to be married but once, and I think the wedding should be an affair of some importance. I couldn't think of being married without an appropriate ceremony, and I would never consent to wed away from home. So the ceremony will have to wait until I have closed my bookings."

That expect-to-be-married-but-once line causes me to think Nonette surely isn't a regular actress after all.

* * *

Laura Adams, with the "Bird of Paradise" company at the Heilig, will be remembered for her excellent character work when she was a member of the Catherine Countiss Stock Company at the Heilig four years ago.

ON OVER-INSURANCE PROBLEM

Practice Not Unmixed Evil, Says E. Habersham, Analyzing Exposures.

PORTLAND, Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—Our fire marshal has made the rather sweeping statement that excessive loss from fire in this city is due to arson, and that through lax methods insurance agents are responsible for this condition. In the recent attempt to prove these contentions it was thought sufficient to show that lax methods prevail, but left to the imagination to conclude what proportion of honest people is made criminal thereby, and what excess ratio is added to honest losses by that proportion. Without any intention of criticising the well meant effort to reduce the loss waste, it can be stated that nothing has been revealed except that responsible appearing persons can obtain insurance on their property without previous inspection thereof by agents. As this reprehensible practice is common over the United States, and many cities operating (or being operated upon) thereunder may enjoy a much less loss waste than Portland, the conclusion is forced that the practice complained of produces one result here and the opposite elsewhere, or that the honesty of our own citizens is below par.

The first conclusion is directly opposed to reason and not subject to proof, while the second, though possibly subject to proof, is to a large extent unreasonable. Over-insurance is not per se the unmixed evil some think, as its tendency is to equalize the loss of premium income from under-insurance, but if it can be reasonably demonstrated that it produces criminals it should be done away with, regardless of whether or not a new law to that effect would cost more in its operation than is now lost through this cause. As we already have ample laws for the punishment (prevention) of arson on the part of the insured, any new one must necessarily be aimed at the agent, but it seems safe to say that if there was any virtue in such proposed law the companies would have beaten the fire marshal to its discovery.

If any such law is enacted, the agent would be obliged to assume guilty intention on the part of an applicant for insurance which, in the absence of suspicious circumstances, is a position somewhat higher than our courts occupy. As for the proposed revocation of licenses, without any law defining insurance without inspection as even a misdemeanor, it is to be hoped that other authority of the insurance commissioner does not extend that far. E. HABERSHAM.

WHAT OF NEEDY WOMEN OF CITY?

Correspondent Notes Most of Relief Measures Are for Unemployed Men.

PORTLAND, Jan. 26.—(To the Editor.)—Anent these idlers who use reams of good paper to express ideas on evolution and similar nothings. If, instead of ponderously ruminating over the mysteries of evolution, these giants of theory would try to remedy a few public evils and leave evolution to evolve by itself, the world in which they live would be a better place.

I have observed one in particular, and I marvel that, with its awful results, it has not been looked into. When a man is hungry and down and out he can beg a nickel and go to the Workingmen's Club or the Scadding House, but when a women is in a like condition, what then? Were you ever approached by a hungry woman who begged a dime from you? No, the woman must give value for value! Look at that sentence! Doesn't it make you ashamed? Yet what else can she do? Handicapped to a far greater extent than the man, the down-and-out woman has no recourse. I have perused the columns of the paper year in and year out; have observed lengthy plaints on the subject of the unemployed man, but nary a word apropos the woman.

There must be hungry women. What do they do? D. H.

STRIKING AT OUR FUTURE NEEDS

Embargo Now Might Vitally Embarrass United States Sometime.

ILWACO, Wash., Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian January 23 appears a letter from P. S. Whitcomb captioned "Munition Embargo Is Favored." It does seem incredible that so many usually well-informed people cannot grasp the fact if the Government of the United States would declare an embargo on material and food for use in war it would be striking at a need on which the very life of this Nation might depend at some future time. Because then we could not buy if ever the need should arise.

It is no greater moral wrong to sell to the needing in time of war their needs than it is in time of peace to sell supplies which were going into material for use in war or to supply food to a nation to give it future strength to fight. It would be a great moral wrong to deny the needing the right to purchase their needs, especially since, as a specific example, Germany has in time of peace purchased the material to be turned into means of war against the nations which had not in time of peace turned all their resources towards creating sinews of war. WALTER SEABERG.

Cost of Army.

ASHLAND, Or., Jan. 23.—(To the Editor.)—Please publish the cost per year of maintaining the Regular Army of the United States at the present time; also the cost of the National Guard. ERNEST ABBOTT.

The United States Army appropriations for the years 1914 and 1915 amounted to $94,229,047, which would make the annual appropriation $47,114,523.50. This does not include the cost of fortifications and maintaining the military academy.

The annual Government appropriation for militia amounts to approximately $4,850,000. In addition the different states make appropriations.

Books for Prospective Mothers.

PORTLAND, Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly publish the name of the Government department which can furnish me with books for a prospective mother's reading. MRS. C. M. A.

You may get the publications you mention by writing to the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., and asking for the publications issued by the Children's Bureau.

Grazing Homestead Act.

INDEPENDENCE, Or., Jan. 23.—(To the Editor.)—Can you tell me where I can get a copy of the grazing homestead act, now before Congress? READER.

Write to Forest Supervisor, Beck building, Portland, Or.

Duties of a Soldier.

Puck.

"In the old days the main element of a soldier was to know how to act under fire." "And nowadays, in addition, he is supposed to know how to act under water, in the earth, and without air."

Irvin S. Cobb Not Dead.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 22.—(To the Editor.)—I was told the other day that Irvin S. Cobb is dead. I do not recall ever reading an account of his death and would like to know if it is true. I will appreciate it if you will answer through The Oregonian. W. C. J.

New York.

PORTLAND, Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—What city is the largest in the world at present? INQUIRER.

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of January 27, 1891.

Zanesville, O., Jan. 26.—Thomas J. Newman, for 22 years editor and owner of the controlling interest in the Daily Courier, this city, died at his residence this afternoon at 1 o'clock. He was 59 years old.

Attorney H. R. Nicholas is confined to his home through illness brought on by overwork. He will not be on duty for several days.

The annual meeting of the board of directors of the Portland Library Association will be held on Saturday, February 7, Judge Deady presiding.

The grading for the foundation for the addition to the National Guard armory is about completed and the concrete subfoundation for the Ninth-street side is nearly finished.

John M. Gearin, formerly of this city, has moved to Seattle and formed a partnership with Messrs. Tustin and Crews, under the firm name of Tustin, Gearin & Crews.

Mr. Barnes, who lives out on the slope back of the Canyon Gardens, has a number of cherry trees in his yard on which are many blossoms, and he has strawberries on his vines as big as marrowfat peas. He expects to have ripe strawberries in February and ripe cherries in March, "if nothing happens."

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian of January 27, 1866.

CaptainAtely has died at Cawford, England. He was a midshipman on board the Mars at the battle of Trafalgar. The Mars lost 300 out of 500 men on board of her at the time of the famous battle.

John Aird, one of the most enterprising citizens of Vancouver, died Thursday at his residence at that place very suddenly.

J. C. Leonard has just completed a pen-and-ink sketch of General Grant which is attracting considerable attention in this city. He labored on the portrait for 22 days and proposes to dispose of it by raffle for $100.

The mailcarrier, Mr. Reed, who supplies the region of Hillsboro, Lafayette and Forest Grove, has been unable to get through regularly with the mails since the heavy storms set in, which will account for our subscribers in that section not getting their papers this week.

From William Skinner, telegraph operator at Oregon City, we have the following, under date of January 25: "This afternoon about 2 o'clock three men engaged in clearing drift lodged in the basin by the recent high water were capsized, and one of them, Granville Dailey, was drowned.

The ratification of the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery was made final by the action of the State of Alabama. Slavery, then, has finally been abolished in Montgomery, the former capital of the slaveholders' Confederacy.

Stamp Tax and Juries.

PORTLAND, Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—(1) Why do the telegraph and express companies compel their patrons to pay the stamp tax imposed by the Government as an "income tax" and what remedy, if any, exists to force these companies to pay their share of the tax? (2) What is the system of drawing jurors in vogue in this county? Myself and others, who have been in this city, county and state over 25 years, never even received a summons, and, while we are freeholders, the question arose, why the discrimination? Are the so-called professional jurors given the preference in our courts. JUSTICIA.

(1) Your premises are wrong. The stamp tax or emergency tax is paid as such and not as an income tax. The telegraph and express companies do pay a seperate income and corporation tax and if they do any business requiring stamp tax they pay it through the prescribed channels as individuals do. This is as provided by the law, designed in the first place to apportion the emergency tax on all alike, as nearly as possible.

(2) The County Commissioners annually compile a list of 2500 names from the tax roll. These are turned over to the County Clerk, who draws the petty jury for each term from the list of 2500. This is done as a lottery. There is not a juror on the 1915 or 1916 list who has served on a jury the year previous to the time he was drawn. This is made certain in the original selection of names. As for professional jurymen, the special venires for the entire year 1915 were but 24, in the Circuit Court.

In the District Court 300 names are selected from the directory or telephone book. The juries are drawn by lot. Twelve men are selected for a jury and the lawyers must challenge six, leaving six to serve. If these six cannot be found within three days, "bystanders" are selected to fill in. Here is where the professional juror comes in, when the list is of unavailable men. A new, revised list has just been drawn for 1916.

Cashier Company's Stock.

GARDINER, Or., Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—I am a stockholder of the defunct United States Cashier Company. Will you please inform me if the stockholders will be able to recover anything? C. G.

The assets of the United States Cashier Company have been taken over by the International Money Machine Company, of Terre Haute, Ind., which was organized with a capital stock of $2,000,000. The United States Cashier Company, after transferring its assets, received $750,000 worth of stock in the International Money Machine Company. The work of the International company is still in a stage largely experimental and the value of the stock, necessarily, is not accepted as definite yet.

Widow's Claim to Pension.

BUHL, Idaho, Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—Please let me know through The Oregonian if the widow of an old soldier is entitled to all of his pension, and if not what part of it she may claim. CLAUDE FREYES.

Write to the Commissioner of Pensions, Washington, D. C., giving date when she married the soldier.

Merchandising

Merchandising is divided into two parts merchandise and service.

Merchandise is inanimate. Service is animate, personal. Service deals with the human factor.

Advertising—letting the public know what you have, is part of service.

And swinging merchandise displays in time with public desire is another service.

Such a service is performed when the storekeeper stocks up the manufacturer's newspaper advertising of his brands—when he shows the goods in his windows and on his counters at the time the advertising is running.