

Time Required to Bring About Needed Changes. REVISION LATER ASSURED

Refunding of Liberty Loans and Billions Owed Abroad Held Necessary Preliminaries.

BY MARK SULLIVAN. WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 10.—(Special.)—It is not easy to make any dependable guess as to what will come out of the various conflicting proposals for the revision of taxes.

Some of the men who have identified themselves with one proposal or another are persons whose plans it is difficult to determine. Probably the best judgment is that no drastic change in the form of our taxation will be made this year, but that next year some fundamental changes, such as Senator Smoot has proposed, may reasonably be expected.

One of the underlying factors about taxation is that, first of all, the distinction must be understood between quantity and form—between the quantity of tax to be raised and the form in which they are to be raised. On the part of those whose will is most likely to have weight there is a decided disposition to deny the idea of making any drastic change in the form of federal taxation during the present year.

Change Now Inexpedient. Doubtless a different machinery, like Senator Smoot's, would also bring the money in, but for the present there are conditions that make it inexpedient to change from one mechanism to another. There is no time to turn around. Secretary Mellon of the treasury department has said that it would take five months to adjust itself to any change. Inasmuch as the senate can hardly be expected to pass any kind of tax bill before November the probability is that this argument of time will weigh heavily.

What is likely to happen is that the tax bill passed this year will not be greatly different in form from the tax law now in operation. The house draft for a new bill differs from the existing statute much less fundamentally than Senator Smoot's proposal. It is likely that the new bill to be passed this year will not vary greatly from the bill as it has already passed the house.

Before any real revision of federal taxation can be made three things must happen, and it is hoped that these three things will either happen or be brought about within the coming year. Loan Refund Contemplated. The first of these is the refunding of the liberty loans, so as to give them a much longer maturity. The present maturities of most of the liberty loans is very short. In the contemplated refunding operation these maturities would be extended to as much as 60 years on the theory that it is not fair to make the present generation pay the entire cost of a war which was fought, in part at least, for the benefit of the future.

of going straight where the money was and taking it ruthlessly. The war tax levy was passed in the spirit of the draft act. It partook of the nature of a commanding of money. In the emergency of war this was proper enough, but to keep up this form of taxation in the same degree in peace time would, of course, be intolerable. The time is too short and the government's need of money too great to turn around immediately in this regard, but I express the hope and expectation that soon we shall be able to change our system of taxation so as to raise less of our revenue through burdensome income taxes and more of it through some other form of direct tax on the production or consumption of goods.

As to quantity of taxation, Senator Smoot's prediction that it is likely to be increased is not received with as much credence as his usually careful statements generally are. All the operations already mentioned in the present article should result in reduction of taxes. Senator Smoot, in predicting an increase, probably had in mind the likelihood of pressure on a soldiers' bonus so insistent as to be politically irresistible.

Arranging Large Factor. A bill giving Secretary Mellon authority to arrange this is now pending in the senate. There is much opposition to it, but the probability is that it will pass within a reasonable time. The third thing which may be expected to happen under favorable circumstances the coming year is a marked reduction in our appropriations for military and naval armament. It is hoped that this will follow the coming conference for limitation of armaments and if it does follow this also will enable us to reduce the quantity of our taxation appreciably.

If these three things should happen then it is likely that next year we see a proposal for a fundamental change in the form of our taxation, a change which may reduce the amount collected on income taxes to about one-half the present sum and which may introduce a sales tax or some other form of direct tax to raise the balance. On this point there are some significant sentences in the speech which a member of the cabinet, Will Hays, made at Cleveland last Tuesday night. He said: "It is the idea of those carrying the largest responsibility that for the immediate present the method of raising revenue probably cannot be fundamentally changed. After the refunding of our public debt, which is being done in due season, it will no doubt be possible to devise a method for the ultimate collection that will stimulate rather than in any way retard business and spread the burden in right proportions to every man and woman in the country, who are all beneficiaries of the results for which the money is spent."

Reform Held Inevitable. Personally I am willing to say most emphatically that this country cannot go on and must not attempt to go on indefinitely during peace time with either the form or the degree of taxation which was originally devised to meet the emergency of war. Our colossal income taxes were adopted with an eye single to one thing, namely, the raising of money in the largest quantity and with the greatest speed. We took the device

-a message to my customers and friends:

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I AM now offering you what I believe to be the best ready-to-wear clothing in America—I know there is none better:

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PAYING, as I do, cash for every article I buy, enables me to offer you better values than any other store, whether upstairs, downstairs, or in the basement.

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METHODISTS IN SESSION

WORLD CONVENTION BEING HELD AT BRITISH CAPITAL.

Leaders of Church From All Quarters of Globe in Attendance at Meeting.

LONDON, Sept. 10.—Important world problems, including the reunion of Christendom, marriage and divorce, capital and labor, international co-operation and the causes underlying the change in "moral standards" of the present age, were discussed at the fifth Ecumenical Methodist conference, which opened in Central Wesleyan hall, Westminster, Tuesday evening and continued until Friday, September 16.

It is ten years since the last previous similar conference was held in Toronto, Ont. Since then, according to official figures, Methodism has gained 3,925,341 members, probationers and adherents.

The number of delegates to the present meeting, including African M. E. church representatives, is 555, of whom 251 are from the United States, 54 from Canada and 250 from all Wesleyan bodies in Great Britain and its dominions and mission fields. The opening sermon was preached at the historic Wesley's chapel by Rev. S. P. Rose, D. D., of Montreal, Quebec.

On the opening day, Sunday, past commanders and national officers of the Grand Army of the Republic will occupy pulpits in the local churches and deliver patriotic addresses. Monday the credentials and executive committees will meet and that evening a reception for the veterans and members of affiliated organizations will be held in the state house by Warren F. McCray, governor.

The first business session takes place Tuesday morning. Other business sessions will be held Wednesday and Thursday. On Tuesday evening greetings from the Grand Army of the Republic and allied organizations will be exchanged.

The veterans' annual parade will be held Wednesday afternoon and the annual campfire comes that night. The encampment closes Thursday afternoon with an automobile trip to Fort Benjamin Harrison, headquarters of the Fifth Army corps area.

Pittsburg, Pa. "Temperance and Divorce," Bishop James Cannon, Jr., Birmingham, Ala.; "The Responsibilities of Capital and Labor," E. L. Kinkead, Pittsburg, Pa.; "The Future, Its Great Tasks," Rev. A. S. Tuttle, Alberta college, Edmonton, Alberta, Can.

Others announced to speak were: Kogoro Usaki, bishop of Japan; Samuel B. Adams, Savannah, Ga.; Sir Robert W. Perks Bart; Sir George Smith; Henry C. Stuart, ex-governor of Virginia; Rt. Hon. Walter Russell; Sir R. Walter Essex; Newton H. Howell, M. P.; Charles A. Pollock; J. E. Cockrell; Arthur Henderson, M. P., and Gipsy Smith.

GLACIER SPEED STUDIED Special Examination of Muir Ice River Being Made.

JUNEAU, Alaska, Sept. 10.—The speed of Alaska glaciers is being studied by Professor William S. Cooper of the University of Minnesota. He is making a special examination of Muir glacier at Glacier bay.

Muir glacier has receded 60 miles in the last 127 years. When Vancouver visited the glacier in 1794 he found the ice extended to the mouth of Glacier bay.

Later John Muir left his scientific observations of the glacier, and five years ago Professor Cooper marked the number of delegates to the present meeting, including African M. E. church representatives, is 555, of whom 251 are from the United States, 54 from Canada and 250 from all Wesleyan bodies in Great Britain and its dominions and mission fields.

Among the announced topics and speakers at the sessions were the following: "Reunion of Christendom," Rev. David G. Downey, New York; "The Moral Necessity of International Alliance," United States Senator Glenn; "Changing Moral Standards of the Age," Bishop F. J. McConnell.

Further observations at five-year intervals. Fortified with these records Professor Cooper hopes to determine the time that has elapsed since many parts of the earth now free were covered with ice.

AIR BASE TO BE EXPANDED Two More Squadrons of Planes to Be Sent to Hawaii.

HONOLULU, T. H., Sept. 10.—(Special.)—Pursuant to war department plans, Luke field, the aviation base of the army in Hawaii, is to be developed and expanded in personnel and equipment to make it the most efficient air post maintained by the American army.

Private advices from Washington are to the effect that under the reorganization plans two more squadrons of high-power, high-speed planes are to be sent here in a few months. With this addition Luke field will have 50 planes. At present Luke field has two squadrons, mainly for observation purposes. The new squadrons will be of the pursuit variety or fighting planes, capable of 150 miles an hour.

For having been a faithful servant in the same family for a period of 55 years, Mrs. Euphemie Bienseant has received a silver medal from the French government.

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