The United States government is the largest individual purchaser of electric lamps in this country. It buys 550,000 annually.

Over one million persons visit the British Museum each year.

The Persians have a different name for every day in the month.

Fifty years' records of criminal statistics show that thievery has decreased 40 per cent.

P N U No. 31—09

BRITISH RICH TAXED OFF THE ISLES

INCOME TAX, INHERITANCE TAX AND EVERY OTHER SORT OF TAX MAY DRIVE JOHN BULL FROM HOME.

Are the British rich in immediate danger of being taxed off the British isles? This is a question that is being asked seriously. The British press day by day echoes the despairing protests of the well to do against the rapidly increasing burdens of taxation, of which no man knows the end. The prediction is freely made by Englishmen of affairs resident of this country that any substantial increase in taxation will be followed by an exodus of the British well to do, and especially of the British rich from the British isles. They will seek in this country or some other a haven where the idea of taking away the property of those who have it to give it to those who have none does not obtain.

The Englishman pays a tax when he inherits property.

He pays an income tax on his rentals and on his salary.

He pays a tax on his automobile.

He pays a tax on all stock exchange transactions.

He pays a tax on all his land and on all increase in land values.

He pays, in addition to the rent of his dwelling, taxes for lighting, paving and police protection.

He pays a tax for the privilege of wearing a ring with a crest on it, and a tax for putting armorial bearings on his carriage.

He pays a tax for his carriage, his dog, his gun and his pistol.

He pays a tax for the privilege of shooting game.

He pays a tax on every servant.

He pays a tax when he dies—or his estate does—and leaves property.

"Americans have little idea of the various taxes that are imposed in England," says a writer on the subject. "If you are a renter and pay, say $300 a year rent, you would be obliged to pay not less than $90 additional, which would cover the lighting, paving and police protection. But richer people are caught in all sorts of ways. For instance, in England I would pay $5 a year for the privilege of wearing this ring. It carries a crest and if I had a carriage with armorial bearings upon it I would be obliged to pay $10 a year for that privilege. When a man dies his estate must pay a tax of 1 per cent on everything, if his estate is below $2,500 in value; 2 per cent on $5,000, 3 per cent on $50,000, 4 per cent on $125,000, 4½ per cent on $200,000, 5 per cent on $225,000, 5½ per cent on $500,000, 6 per cent on $750,000, 7 per cent on $1,250,000, 8 per cent on $2,500,000, 9 per cent on $3,750,000, and 10 per cent on $5,000,000.

"Perhaps the greatest burdens which the land owner is subject to are on account of the poorhouses, which are maintained at great expense, and on account of the new policy of old age pensions; that is, pensioning any one over a certain age who hasn't an income of $2.50 a week. The great question that is being considered in England apparently is not what to do with the unemployed, but with the unemployable. The people who have saved money and have made the most of their opportunities apparently will be obliged to take care of those who have not taken care of themselves and who never could take care of themselves."

The amount of the graduated death duties, or inheritance taxes, collected in the United Kingdom, which has a population of 44,000,000 and upward, ranges from $90,000,000 to $95,000,000 annually out of a total internal revenue of $470,000,000 to $480,000,000. It is drawn from more than 67,000 estates. The revenue from the death dues is a little more than half that from excise imposts, and considerably more than half the amount realized from the income tax.

The nature of the realty which contributes to the duties is varied, but agricultural land furnishes less of the total than household property and business premises. For 1908 the net value of household property and business premises was £28,137,000, while in agricultural land it was a trifle under £17,000,000. Leaseholds were valued at £9,100,000 and ground rents at £3,845,000. Other items exceeding £1,000,000 were building lands; mines, minerals and quarries; cessers of annuities, and sporting rights. Real estate not classified was a fraction under £2,000,000.

Owners of big properties alone will not suffer. The great landlords, it is predicted, will promptly advance rents and stop all improvements and construction. Financial opinion is unanimous that enormous sums will be driven out of the country. The bankers and big houses which float government and other foreign loans say that the new tax on such transactions covers the entire margin between profit and loss and that such deals hereafter will go to Paris, New York and Amsterdam. The New York stock exchange, it is said, will profit materially. There has been large speculation in American securities in England, but the bulk of that business hereafter will be transacted in New York to escape the English stamp tax. The effect of some of the other new taxes is problematical.

GEORGE JACKSON.

The Man Who First Found Gold in Rocky Mountains and Died Poor.

To-day Idaho Springs will dedicate a monument to the man who first found gold in the Rocky mountains. George Jackson is dead and beyond the reach of the honor paid his memory. He died several years ago in an obscure corner of the State where he was making a fresh try at fortune, trying again in old age to find for himself enough gold to remove him from the necessity to keep up the search. Independent and self-reliant to the end as he had been when fifty years ago he was living on the natural food of the country and making his home under the stars, he who had pointed the way for many men to become millionaires through mining gold, lived and died with empty pockets.

The day George Jackson found the first gold in the land out of which a great State was to be reared because of his find, he was most interested in the fact that he had found some diggings where he (George Jackson) was going to make a fortune if he could and that he had killed a mountain sheep which would help out his diminishing supply of "States" grub until he could get back to where he could get more of the same. His chief concern right then was the fact that his dogs, "Drum" and "Kit," had been worsted in a fight with a carcajou and were too lame to travel. There wasn't much in all that to suggest thoughts of empire building or greatness. Time has taken care of that and brought it into perspective. On his part it was a simple act in the day's work; in the light of fifty years we are ready to pay with our regard the debt of obligation under which he placed a State which set up business in his footsteps.

Time is jealous of its large tasks. It picks and tests the men it permits to perform them. Most often it considers the privilege of doing them sufficient reward. Jackson was permitted to find the gold; others were forced to be content with merely mining it. The others grew rich; Jackson had been marked for a blazer of trails, a searcher. So he died poor in the midst of the rich field he had sown; died as he had lived a poor prospector doing the work Time had picked him to do. He left to the future only a memory, but that will live on long after those who were privileged only to harvest in his field will have been forgotten. It is a way Time has of evening up the score.—Denver Republican.

HOW THE WRIGHT AIRSHIP IS STARTED.

The Wright airship has no wheels, but a set of wooden runners like a sleigh. These travel upon a rail, and the initial impetus is given to the machine by the release of a weight which runs over a pulley in a wooden tower. The descent of the weight makes the airship fly off in a direction away from the tower. The impetus causes it to rise a little, and afterward the screws and planes keep it afloat.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

Excerpts Made from Trade Reports of Various Countries.

Belgian works are getting large orders for steel rails from Brazil, Sweden, the Kongo and other countries, also for bolts and metal ties, says the New York Sun.

The rubber industry in Mexico is not as profitable as was expected. Inside of a few years the far east will have 60,000,000 para trees producing from one to three pounds a year of rubber superior to the best Mexican grades. Fewer trees produce more rubber in the far east.

The study of English has been made compulsory in the primary schools of Gautamala.

In 1908 there were organized in Austria thirty-five joint stock companies, with $15,590,000, about half the 1907 record in number and amount.

Italian imports of American goods in the nine months ended March, 1909, reached a value of $47,278,791, or $6,215,000 more than in the nine months ended March, 1908. Argentina's imports were $25,484,817, an increase of $1,149,000.

The Swedish government has appointed a tariff commission in preparation for a thorough revision of the tariff in 1910.

July 1, 1909, will begin the enforcement of the new pure-food law in Switzerland. The American meat trade is largely interested, as some of the restrictions are very stringent and the inspection fees may be put far too high.

The Mexican railroad finds its facilities overtaxed to move the importations entering the country at the port of Vera Cruz. Notably among importations the automobile demand in Mexico is shown to be steadily increasing. Taxicabs are a success in Mexico city. All told Mexico bought $36,897,715 worth of American goods in the nine months ended March, 1909, against $34,539,937 purchases by Americans of Mexican goods.

Portugal imports yearly from $60,000,000 to $65,000,000 worth of merchandise, of which 6 per cent is American. Six articles—cotton, corn, petroleum, tobacco, wheat and staves—account for all but $700,000 worth of the American goods imported. That $700,000 is made up of nearly 300 articles, many of which are materials for manufacturing. In manufactures imported the American share is insignificant. Transportation is our handicap besides want of knowledge of the Portuguese market. American letters are not infrequently addressed "Lisbon, Spain." Tariff rates are high.

"EASY MONEY."

The Price for It Must Be Paid in Loss of Self-Respect.

There is no more pernicious sophistry than this widely prevalent theory about "easy money," for it strikes human nature at its weakest point, says a writer on the Kansas City Journal. People who could not be tempted to commit a crime will jump at the chance to get something for nothing, and many who might not be too scrupulous but would shrink from a heinous offense are no proof against the seductions of "easy money." The psychology of this weakness may or may not go back to the garden of Eden and the primal curse of toil. Certain it is that there is an inherent revolt in human nature against the drudgery of earning bread in the sweat of one's brow. Normally constructed people combat this rebellious spirit through the human affections which ennoble toil and consecrate the hardest tasks to the comfort of loved ones. But there are few people who work very hard for the sheer love of working hard.

"Easy money" is the dearest and hardest in the world; it is gained at a fearful price, whether it is the booty of the highwayman or the unearned and ill-gotten gains of the dishonest man of business. The human law may not reach the sinner, rich or poor; the penitentiary doors may not swing shut on either. But the price must be paid all the same—paid in the coin of the soul, in peace of mind and loss of self-respect, and in a thousand ways in which our human nature, even while it yields to evil, yearns for the eternal good and stretches its hands upward, no matter how low it may have fallen.

Reflections on Fame.

"People will praise my work after I am dead," said the playwright, gloomily.

"Perhaps," answered the cold-blooded actor; "but isn't it a good deal of a sacrifice for a little praise?"—Washington Star.

Where He Slept.

The Pastor—And do you sleep with your head to the north?

The Deacon—Let me see! Which way does the church stand, anyway?—Yonkers Statesman.

No woman should give way to grief. Let her keep her hair frizzed, and everything may come around all right.

Grown-Up Children.

It is not only the frivolous whom the spirit of childishness is just now leading astray. Silliness is the fashion even among the wise. Women especially affect a kin of childish shrewdness in talking on serious subjects. Like children who have the habit of romancing, they lose the sense of reality, and because they never talk exactly as they think they begin to think exactly as they talk.—London Spectator.

Fooled the Baby.

Hewitt—Does your baby keep you awake?

Jewett—No, I fooled him; as soon as he was born I got a job working nights.

A man who hopes a great deal will not work.