

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
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It is a sad thing to begin life with low conceptions of it. It may not be possible for a young man to measure life; but it is possible to say, I am resolved to put life to its best and noblest use.—T. T. Munger.

A STAGGERING COST

RESIDENT TAFT'S last official word to his countrymen respecting their business is a request for \$1,105,206,963 for running the government one year.

It is a sum more than double the annual expenditures sixteen years ago. In the same period, expenditures have nearly doubled relatively to population.

Only 17 years ago, Grover Cleveland ran the national government for \$650,000,000 a year less than it now costs.

Only 25 years ago, Grover Cleveland ran the government for but one-fourth the present annual cost. Economy, retrenchment and reform have been unknown and unpopular words in the federal government in recent administrations.

AN INCOME TAX

THE fact that a Federal income tax is to be imposed on the American people, to make a material addition to the resources available for the Federal budget, will invite abundant discussion on details.

Whatever may be decided as to the incidence of such a tax—that is, what exemptions for wage earners, or of incomes of small amounts from realized property may rightly be allowed—there are certain features common to all income taxes.

All assessments must be based on returns and information supplied by the individuals themselves, subject to revision by the authorities when such returns, on examination shall appear to be defective, incorrect or fraudulent.

WHITELAW REID

HAS long been the excellent custom of presidents of the United States to give special and personal care to the selection of the ambassador to Great Britain.

graduations corresponding with the increase over the minimum income is to accord with the generally accepted idea of today that the rich should be taxed more heavily than the poor.

GATHERING RECRUITS

EVERYWHERE, the white slavers are working with awful activity and audacity. A well dressed young lady of 20 was walking down a well known London street, partly residential and partly a fashionable shopping center.

Two "nurses"—they were procuresses—and her their way to a place in the direction she was walking. They walked on with her, and presently fell in, one on each side. Then they began to hustle her along, telling her she must come with them.

In Chicago recently, a pretty girl of seventeen was seized by two strange men and thrust quickly into a waiting taxicab, just as she was about to enter the gate to her home.

In Collingswood, B. C., a department store girl was hounded by a man and one day in the store, when he had persisted in his attentions, she confided her troubles to an apparently extremely respectable woman customer who was standing by.

Nobody knows what home may be touched by the awful blight at any time. Nobody can tell why parents are so little concerned at the awful activity and audacity of the slavers.

FARMERS AND THE NATION

THE foundation stones on which modern farming in the United States rests are the Morrill act, under which an agricultural and mechanical college was established in each state, and the Hatch act, creating an experiment station in connection with each college.

Since those beneficent acts came into operation instruction in the sciences of the farm has reached every state. In its generosity the doors of those colleges have been opened to the students of every nation by the United States, on equal terms with our own children.

The colleges were designed, first of all, for the farmers' children. The experiment stations dealt with and for the active farmer. Action on his part was required to make him a beneficiary.

This bill requires the establishment and maintenance of extension departments in every agricultural college. It provides that trained farm demonstrators be sent out, not to centers of population in towns and villages, but to the actual farms. The man on the land is to be reached.

CHINESE REFORMS

IN ANTICIPATION of a visit from Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the statements made by Dr. Morrison, a few weeks ago, regarding reforms already accomplished by the new government of China, are of special interest.

pressed as to the stability of the government. And even yet, in face of the wonderful achievements of the first year of the republic, recognition from powers professing friendliness to China is still withheld.

California also protests against ballot titles so hazy and mystifying that nobody can tell what they mean. On this page, the Fresno Republican discusses that issue vigorously and entertainingly.

The New York World says that Europe has dropped the Blue Danube waltz for the Balkan Turkey trot. A British critic says Mark Twain was "the poorest specimen of the man of letters known."

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

(Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be written on one side of the paper, should not exceed 300 words in length, and should be accompanied by the name and address of the contributor, if the editor desires to have the name published, he should so state.)

DUTY OF WOMEN AS VOTERS.

Friend, Or., Dec. 14.—(To the Editor of The Journal)—By a plurality of votes cast on that measure, woman suffrage carried. Thus, the women and girls of Oregon are virtually thrust into the arena of politics, in spite of the pleading of the womanhood, to again vote the measure down.

THE WAR ON

THE movement for repeal of the free toll provision of the Panama canal law is on at Washington. A news dispatch in Sunday's Journal says United States senators are receiving through the mails from all over the country requests and arguments for repeal of the provision for coastwise exemption. It adds:

The analysis of the vote in the senate published this week shows plainly that the Canadian Pacific railroad and its allies, the transcontinental railroads of the United States, are back of this demand for repeal so they may continue to dictate the freight rates between the coast. The roll call of the senators favorably to arbitration sounds like the roll call of the legal staff of the railroads of the country.

There is but one issue in this effort at repeal. It is an issue of whether the \$400,000,000 of United States money spent on the canal is for the benefit of the people of the United States or for the benefit of the railroads of the United States.

All the high sounding talk about treaty agreements is hush. The Hay-Pauncefote treaty was not made for the Panama canal. As Hannis Taylor, this country's leading authority on international law has pointed out, it was framed with the idea that the United States was to build a canal through Nicaragua. As originally planned, the United States and Great Britain were to jointly build a Nicaraguan canal, but Great Britain withdrew, and the Hay-Pauncefote treaty was framed on a program in which the United States was to build the canal alone.

Conditions have changed. The canal is not through Nicaragua. It is at Panama, and is built through United States territory. It is built with United States money. It is defended by the United States flag. No other nation on the face of the earth has contributed in the slightest to its construction. No other nation has aided in any way to finance it. No other nation will contribute a penny to its maintenance.

It is enough that we cut this canal, taking all the chances of failure, paying all the cost in men and millions for its construction, and then permit the nations of the world to profit from it as a great international waterway. To go further, and permit outside nations to direct how and under what terms we shall operate it in our own domestic commerce, a commerce in which no outside nation can engage, is sheer nonsense.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the statements made by Dr. Morrison, a few weeks ago, regarding reforms already accomplished by the new government of China, are of special interest. Dr. Morrison is now political adviser to the Yuan Shi Kai government, and was for many years the Times correspondent in Peking.

PLEAS FOR INNOCENT SUFFERERS

Portland, Or., Dec. 14.—(To the Editor of The Journal)—Your editorial under the caption, "It Didn't Pay," can evoke but one responsive thought—"No, it doesn't pay."

Another reasonable excuse; there are so very many things to chide from that one can't make up his mind what to buy. Colonel Roosevelt appears to admit, or rather assert, that his opinion of the Idaho supreme court is one of supreme contempt.

Man who served a sentence of 30 days for absolute idleness, regarded it as a severe punishment. Nothing compulsory is agreeable. Two women quarreled, and the husband of one has been sentenced to 10 years in a penitentiary for killing the husband of the other.

SMALL CHANGE

Say, Mr. J. Bull, it's our canal, isn't it? If it becomes too late to be early, be as early as you can. Perhaps some of the infants of today are finding it a comparatively easy Christmas.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

ORIGON SIDELIGHTS
The men of the Methodist church of Brownsville have organized a society of the Methodist Brotherhood. Estacada Progress: So great is the travel between Estacada and Portland now that the cars are crowded every trip.

NEW YORK DAY BY DAY

By Herbert Corey. Did you ever hear the story of Sylvia Ann Howland's will? Sylvia Ann Howland, an aged spinster, died in New Bedford, Mass., in 1863, leaving an estate of more than \$200,000.

THE PART THAT WHISKY PLAYS

From Colliers. At the last election West Virginia voted for a constitutional amendment, to take effect July 1, 1914, prohibiting the manufacture and sale of liquor in that state.

THE THIRST FOR BLOOD

Portland, Or., Dec. 14.—(To the Editor of The Journal)—I, like Governor West, think it will be years before capital punishment will be abolished.

ONE WAY TO RAISE VALUATIONS

Independence, Or., Dec. 12, 1913.—(To the Editor of The Journal)—Among the good things that happened at the last election was the burial of the single tax proposition beyond resurrection.

HIGH FALLING

Portland, Or., Dec. 14.—(To the Editor of The Journal)—You find anyone that can fall 125 feet and land on a little hay and not get hurt? We have a man here in Oswego who fell 125 feet from a stack 165 feet high, and climbed up again and worked two hours more. I think this is the record so far.

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From the Fresno, Cal., Republican. Thomas V. Cator, president of the San Francisco board of election commissioners, will ask the legislature to submit a constitutional amendment putting proposed city charter amendments under the same rule, as to title now imposed on legislative enactments—that the title shall completely state every subject in the enactment.

There is only one sure way to make these titles and ballot descriptions intelligible. That is to hang all the lawyers. That being, however, too drastic, it may be sufficient to make it a felony for any lawyer to write the title to any law. Let the lawyers write the bodies of the laws themselves, if they must. The laws are intended only for the perusal of the supreme court, and they might as well be written in Mandarin Jargon, if that is the language the court prefers to read.

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