



No ROOM FOR ARGUMENT
Editor Statesman: $\quad$ I have read your editorial in today's Statesman on "Getting Down to Business;" but in view of the reputed fact that
about $93 \%$ of the tax collected are for wars, past, present and future, I am unable to follow your reasoning.
Perhaps, your statement that the taxes "required to be raised from internal revenue could be cut in half" may be
correct; but, if you will show in what way this can be done until the expense incident to war has been materially re-
duced, I shall appreciate sugh a showing very much indeed. duced, I shall appreci
Very sincerely yours,
Salem, Ore., July 12, 1921.
The opening paragraph of the editorial referred to Dr. Slaughter was as follows
"If all the money owed the United States
Treasury by foreign governments were to be paid,
about 42 per cent of our entire national debt would
be wiped out and the amount of revenue required
be wiped out, and the amount of revenue required
to be raised fromi internal taxation could be cut in
half. The total foreign debt is $\$ 10,140,000,000$, all
but about $\$ 700,000,000$ of which represents money
loaned direct from our treasury.
At is proposed to fund these debts; making definite dates for their final payment, definite interest rate
terest payments shall be expected, etc.

It was not a matter of reasoning-
It was merely a statement of facts-
And no one can deny that if all the money owed the
United States Treasury by foreign governments were to be United States Treasury by foreign governments were to 42 per cent of our entire national debt would be wiped
out- For that is a matter of definite figures-
Nor can any one deny that if all this money were paid,
$r$ internal revenue taxes might be cut in half; for that is our, internal revenue taxes might be cut in half; for
Also capable of being demonstrated by plain figures.
Then what is Dr. Slaughter trying to dispute?
so capable of being demonstrated by plain figures
Then what is Dr. Slaughter trying to dispute
Possibly he did not read the article carefully. he asssumibed that the writer of the article carefully. he refers to was United States might be cut in half without any of the debts of forign governments to our government being paid, or any of the interest on those debts-
And that is an entirely different matter, and there was no such statement, or even intimation, in the article men-
But the writer, in order to make a real argument and
line of reasoning for Dr. Slaughter, will say that he believes line of reasoning for Dr. Slaughter, will say that he believes
the internal revenue taxes of the United States can be cut in half, without a cent of either principal or interest being received from the foreign governments on their debts-
Admitting the fact mentioned by Dr. Staughter that about $93 \%$ of all the expenditures of the United States gov-
crnment are on account of past wars and preparation for future wars.

Collect three or four times as much money at our custom houses.

Cut off at least 100,000 useless government employees.
Organize every department of the governmnt on an ef have to do or go broke.
as would allow efficiency only in training of the citizenship something after the Swiss system
That would allow the internal revenue taxes to be cut in
half; and if besides all the debts of foreign countries wer
paid, it would allow all internal revenue taxes to be cut out with the possible exception of duties on a few luxuries, such
as were imposed before the adoption in 1913 of as were imposed before the adoption in 1913 of the Sixteenth
Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, allow ing income taxes to be assessed. The writer believes th ame ought to come when federal income taxes may be done ernment got along for 137 years without fes. Our govaxes, and has had them only eight years.
John D . Rockefeller has Ju
colebrated his 82 nd birthday a hie has never passed a divide

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