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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1916

HOW PAY THE COST.

From the speech of C. H. Travener of Illinois, in the House of Representatives:

It is proposed to meet the cost of "preparedness" by taxes on sugar, on gasoline, and by other direct taxes which bear heavily upon labor. It is also proposed to continue the indirect taxes on the things people use, which yield \$620,000,000 a year. It is proposed to burden the worker and farmers by taxes on the things they consume, and spend the proceeds on armament, with colossal profits to the armament ring, for an army and navy to protect principally the things that privilege owns.

First, why tax labor when, according to the report of the commissioner on Industrial Relations, from between one-third and one-fourth of the male workers 18 years of age and over in factories and mines earn less than \$10 per week, while from two-thirds to three-fourths earn less than \$15 per week; when 2 per cent of the people own 60 per cent of the wealth, and 65 per cent own only 5 per cent of the wealth.

Why not compel 2 per cent of the people to pay 60 per cent of the taxes instead of making the great mass of the people, who own 5 per cent, pay 95 per cent of the taxes?

Second, why tax labor when war-munition stocks have increased in value in one year by \$866,000,000?

Third, why tax incomes in America but \$80,000,000, when incomes in Great Britain, even before the war, paid \$236,245,000? England contains less than one-half our population and wealth.

All told, England taxed wealth, incomes, and inheritances to the extent of \$380,115,000, and collected 45 per cent of her total revenues from these sources. Democratic America collected 9 per cent of its revenues from wealth, incomes, and inheritances.

Fourth, why tax labor on its necessities, on the things it needs to merely live, when inheritances have not as yet been taxed a penny by the federal government?

Fifth, Great Britain taxes incomes to 33 1/3 per cent for war purposes; Germany levies taxes for imperial purposes, for state purposes, and for municipal purposes as well; the combined rate running often to 15 per cent or 20 per cent. Democratic America taxes incomes from 1 per cent to 7 per cent, the maximum up to \$1 0,000 being but 4 per cent.

A tax of \$10 to the wage earner means giving up clothes, food from his table, possibly the doctor for his children. A tax of \$10,000 to a man with an income of \$100,000, or \$100,000 to a man enjoying an income of \$500,000 means no sacrifice whatever.

Sixth, why tax labor, when an additional tax of 1 per cent on the gross earnings of railroads, public-service corporations, mines, and other public utilities would yield \$50,000,000. It could easily be collected. It could not be escaped. In most instances it could not be passed on to the consumer.

Seventh, Preparations for war should call for equal sacrifices. Defense should not mean sacrifice for the millions, and only profits for the few. Preparations for war mean profits to the railroads, to mine owners, munition factories, banks; it means speculative values for the stock brokers and speculators. It means that the bended backs of labor will carry the army and navy, which, if the emergency arises, will be used against labor at home and for the protection of over-seas investments abroad.

A GOOD ONE.

A humorist with a \$10 bill blocked one of the three entrances to the East Boston tunnel at Devonshire for exactly 15 minutes one day recently between 5 and 6 o'clock in the afternoon. When the man tendered his \$10 bill

the cashier handed him the change in small coins, largely pennies, wrapped in small rolls of 50 to 100 each. This was a total error on the part of the cashier. Had small bills been returned the incident might have closed right there. But the tender of coins in wrappers gave the man his opportunity.

He carefully unrolled each lot, counted every penny and joked with the throng stalled behind him. To add to the discomfiture of the cashier, he insisted that several pennies in the rolls be exchanged for other pennies on the ground that the original coins were worn and unacceptable.

This delayed at least 1,000 persons in their contemplated passage through the turnstile. Those nearest the window saw the humor of the situation. Those in the rear gave vent to remarks which were more emphatic than polite.—Boston Herald.

MISFITS

Evidently in sympathy with US on Mars there is said to be a Spring thaw.

Ky. has decided to hang to the old broken whiskey jug a little longer.

The man who is down and out at least has select company—himself.

A long time ahead of Easter it is timely to warn the women folks that they will need to stay in out of the rain with their new bonnets.

One would think to read the papers that the geniuses of the U. S. are not smart enough to make a fast dye.

Is it possible that an American dyed garment will run if you look at it?

Isn't it about time the war was stopped in the interest of the women?

We neither get all we want or all we don't want, about a standoff.

Much of the evil in what we see is in the mind.

A newspaper man says: "Never put anything in the laundry today that you kin wear tomorrow." These short currency times some of them need

the advice.
 There are so many kinds of preparedness afloat around our head is getting dizzy analyzing it.

After all one sometimes over colossal questions sees stars without tumbling.

We were cogitating on what a smart fellow a certain funny column man is when we read an item in his col. that has been going the rounds for several years.

A thirteen year old girl in Louisiana has just been awarded the grand prize as pig raiser in the state. Day by day that old superstition about thirteen is being shattered.

Sam is about half way between John Frying Pan and Bill Fire.

"Silent Assassin of Albany and His Weapon," is the thrilling headline of an article in an ex. Thank goodness it is not the Or. city of that name.

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