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### IRISH PATRIOT PRISONERS LEAVE BRITISH PRISONS



This news photograph shows Irish prisoners leaving Kilmainham jail, Dublin, after the signing of the peace treaty by the Sinn Feiners and the British commissioners at London.

## Poem by Uncle John

MUSINGS

In old-time winter evenin's, there was many things we did, that was mighty soul-inspirin' to the old-time country kid. . . . When we weren't a-pullin' taffy we was busy parchin' corn while the hills around the cabin echoed to the hunter's horn. . . . I can hear old Towser barkin' when my memory sorter strays to the land of boyhood varmint, an' the sports of early days,—I can see my spirited mother in the little cabin-door, an' my soul somehow, still hankers fer the happy days of yore,— But now,—we've got our jitney,

an' a typist, an' the "wire," an' there ain't no cosy corner, whar we set around the fire; we've got the fireless cooker an' the patent autocow, an' the agent an' the middleman, we pay to show us how. We buy our drink-in' water, an' our middle name is "charge" while everybody's second son is runnin' a garrage,—an' we've got the business woman an' the airplane an' the phone,—an' all because we couldn't let well enough alone.

*From Uncle John*

### GOVERNMENT TO RETRENCH.

For its proper solution, it is essential that there be emulation by all governmental agencies, whether national, state or municipal, of the example set by private business in cutting down to a minimum, the recent high expenses, and in displacing the cost so cut off with a boost in efficiency. Better results in the administration of public work will go far in meeting the situation. It will ease somewhat the staggering burden on the public, but it will be faced by the twenty-four billion dollar public debt to be wiped out practically within the next twenty years.

It being virtually certain that the national government will not be able to retire the seven and one-half billion of short time debt when it falls due in the next two years—except only in small part—it follows that it will have to be refunded. The same condition is certain to repeat itself as the Liberty bonds of the later maturities fall due.

I believe the plan to have the people pay so gigantic a sum as twenty-four billion dollars in so comparatively a short period—besides paying for the ordinary government expenditures—is too severe a burden for one generation to carry alone.

It is an economic prospect that would hardly tend to exercise a strongly stimulating influence upon initiative, enterprise and progress in the nation's business activities. Both from the standpoint of business-like, constructive financial policy and in the interest of impressing the lesson of patriotic responsibility upon our children, a share of this war debt should, I believe, be carried by the succeeding generation. The war was fought that they might not be deprived of the benefit of our free institutions. Should they not bear a part of the burden, not only that our economic life may the sooner return to normal and to divide what would otherwise be a task virtually impossible of performance—but also so that there may be perpetuated in them a closer relation to and understanding of the principles and ideals for which we unshed the sword.

EXTEND LIBERTY BONDS. From every standpoint, the refunding of our Liberty loans into a new consolidated issue in which the range of maturity is extended from twenty-five, say to fifty years, would be a sound, businesslike, forward-looking procedure. It would immediately reduce by half the obligations which we must meet in the next score of years or so and allow us to get economically solid ground once more under our feet.

There would be another immediate benefit from such a course—one that experience with long term securities would indicate—and that is increase of the market price of Liberty bonds. Investors pay more for a bond of long maturity than for one that will be redeemed in a shorter period. This is an accepted fact with financiers. Application of this principle to Liberty bonds would be certain to result in a greater demand for them and in their increased value in the market.

With requirements for ordinary current expenses reduced by governmental agencies of every kind, by radical retrenchment, and the distri-

bution of the payment of our public debt over a longer period, we would be safely on our way once more to a period of enduring, natural prosperity.

### SMILE AWHILE

WHEN ANANIAS MEET.

An American traveler entered into conversation with a Boer farmer during a long and tiresome train journey, as an Englishman tells it. "Believe me," the American said, "we have a cabbage so large over there that its shadows darkened Broadway. Suddenly it faded and decayed, and in time it was found

### BOMB SUSPECT



Picture is of Wolfe Lindenfeld, who has been arrested in Warsaw, Poland, by the United States, as the man who knows all about the Wall Street bomb explosion that killed 38 innocent people.

that the rabbits in Australia had eaten away the roots." "Some cabbage!" said the Boer. "But when I was on a farm in South Africa we had an ostrich that ate an ink pad and numbering machine, and for the next three years every egg was dated and numbered."—*Tid Bits, London.*

### HIS BEST EXTINGUISHER.

Mr. Budger and his wife were continually at variance regarding their individual capacities of making and keeping a good fire. He contended that she did not know how to make a fire, or how to keep one after it was made. She, on the other hand, maintained that he didn't put it out—in short, that he was a regular fire dumper, and as he was always anxious to stir up things in the various fire-circles, she made it a practice of hiding the poker just before it was time for him to come into the house. One night there was an alarm of fire in the village, and Budger flew for his hat and coat.

"Where are you going?" asked the wife. "Why, there's a fire, and I'm going to help put it out." "Well, my love," responded Mrs. Budger, "I think the best thing you can do is to take the poker with you."—*Everybody's Magazine.*

### THIS AMERICAN NAPOLEON MAY SOON BE A REAL KING



The little country of Albania, whose complete freedom has been assured by the League of Nations, has asked Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte, of Baltimore, Md., to come over and be their king. He is considering the matter. The above is a photograph of Jerome himself and his wife. His great, great grandfather was a brother of Napoleon I, and married Miss Patterson of Baltimore.

## Community Service

### OHIO EXECUTIVE ASKS EFFICIENCY FOR STATE RULE

Would Put Corporation Exactness and Progressiveness Into the Work of Politics.

A Commonwealth Entitled to Same Businesslike Leadership as Private Firms.

By GOVERNOR DAVIS OF OHIO.

Do politics and business mix?

The business of politics is the business of government in its final analysis. Is your government—and that means your business, for you are a partner in the American government in fact as well as theory, to be conducted on lines other than good business lines? If it be so—why? Good business means the successful conducting of a commercial pursuit in a general sense but it also means the successful pursuit of any activity of a creative sort, a productive sort or constructive sort. Surely government municipal, state, or federal, must be creative, constructive, productive and commercially sound if that government is to succeed.

In the face of this obvious reasoning there are thousands of citizens in the United States who declare the fallacy, "business and politics do not mix" the foundation of their own lack of interest, lack of active citizenship—exercising the right of suffrage—and lack of belief in the very institutions that make them citizens.

The attempt to put business and politics, in their relationship toward one another, in somewhat the same relationship as oil and water, is both unfortunate and unwarranted.

If the theory behind it was that the business man cannot and should not actively interest himself in political affairs, it was wrong in premise and principle, for as the citizens' participation increases in political life, there results better politics and better government.

For, in the last analysis, politics of course is but the science of government.

Then again, if the supposed unmixable status of business and politics related to practical application to the affairs of government, of the methods that are fundamental to modern business practice, the declaration was even more inapt and untrue.

Politics and business do mix—and of all times, the need for a generous admixture of business into our affairs of government has probably never been more striking and urgent than now—struggling as we are under the drastic reaction of the war and the

unparalleled financial burden with which it has left us.

### BUSINESS MAKES READY.

Business many months ago sensed the beginning of the reaction from the artificial war time boom, and quietly, unostentatiously prepared itself to meet the depression it saw coming, and to begin adjustment to the changing conditions. Retrenchment became the watchword. Economy measures were put in operation. A higher degree of efficiency was injected into business operation. The immediate result has been that business has curtailed its expenses practically to the pre-war basis, and is gearing up its productive efficiency per dollar of operating cost to a point far beyond the record of the last few years.

Business thus made itself ready to cope with the new order of things following in the wake of the world conflict.

But the problem of today is far more complex than can be met by private initiative alone. It is too closely connected with governmental operation not to require governmental action to help in its solution. In great measure it is a financial problem.

Cost of government during recent years increased apace with the cost of all else. And today, with changed conditions, it is primarily essential for the general welfare that the cost of government be brought back down to a basis in keeping with retrenchments found necessary in private undertakings. Governmental service must continue undiminished, but it must be performed at a cost far below that of late years.

The problem was of two-fold aspect, first from the standpoint of future operating cost of government, and second, with respect to discharge of the financial war obligations.

On the manner with which this dual problem is handled largely depends our entire economic future.

### GOVERNMENT COST UP.

The ordinary operation of the government of the United States cost about nine times as much last year, as it did in 1916. And beyond that was the cost which could not be met by taxation and had to be taken care of by borrowing—the special war cost by which the national debt was boosted to about twenty times the size it was five years ago.

The country today is required to pay practically as much in annual interest charges on the public debt as the amount of the debt itself back in 1916, and that without even beginning to provide for reduction of the debt.

Add to all this the vastly increased cost of operating state and municipal governments and a conception is gained of the tremendous burden the taxpayer has to bear today. It is the greatest burden he has ever been compelled to carry.

In 1916, the per capita cost of the United States government was about \$7.18. In 1920 it cost virtually \$64

for every man, woman and child in the United States to operate the Federal government and during the fiscal year of 1921, about \$51.

### DEBTS FALL DUE.

And that has not included adequate provision for the retirement of so much of the public debt as is of short maturity. Secretary of the Treasury A. W. Mellon has pointed out that within the next two years about seven and one-half billions of short-dated debt, or about \$75 for every person in the country, will fall due. Also that only about one billion dollars will be available for such retirement at that time, and that other arrangements to carry the balance will have to be made.

What reduction has already been made in the short-dated debt which originally was over nine billions, has been made possible in large part by reduction of the general fund and by receipts from war salvage, but only in a very limited measure by tax receipts.

Altogether, the country's gross debt amounts today to approximately

### Uncle John's Jest

REVENGE IS THE HONEST RIGHT OF A CHEAP BRAIN.



twenty-four billions. The greater part of it matures within seventeen years, and the balance falls due in the nine succeeding years.

When it is considered that the taxpayer today, as pointed out, is already required to pay in annual interest charges alone practically as much as was the entire public debt of five years ago, and that governmental operation has been costing about nine times as much as before the war, it is not difficult to realize the onerous burden upon the taxpayer to retire the war debt. In other words, he would have to provide an average of a billion dollars a year additional in taxes, over and above the financing of the ordinary governmental operations.

And all this besides the payment of the state and municipal taxes.

It is not to be doubted that the prospect of all this has been having and still has a decidedly discouraging effect upon the process of readjustment and the restoration of normal prosperity—the outstanding problem of today.

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