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MEXICO CITY, Jan. 23.—(By Mail)—Representatives of German commercial houses have arrived here to arrange for shipments of cotton and wool to their country. They are prepared to buy all of Mexico's surplus of such stocks.

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R. R. IS RUINED BY BOLSHEVISTS

SHANGHAI, Jan. 7.—(By Mail.)—Bolshevist sympathizers in Siberia have so torn up rails and ties along the Amur line of the Trans-Siberian railway that it will take two years to repair it, according to Colonel J. L. Lantry of the American railway mission to Siberia, who came to Shanghai early in the winter on his way home to America. That particular section of the railway, he said, had been under the care of the Japanese.

"What will happen in Siberia this winter," said Colonel Lantry, "is terrible to contemplate. Thousands and thousands of people there are going to die of privation. They are worn their only suits of clothing all summer and they have nothing more."

"In spite of all that the American Red Cross is doing there, and it is a tremendous work," he added, "uncounted numbers will perish from cold and hunger. There is no warm

clothing, no footwear and very, very little food."

Colonel Lantry, next to Colonel Emerson, has been in charge of the actual operating work attempted by the American railway experts. He has ended his work in Russia. Formerly he was first assistant to the vice-president of the Northern Pacific railway.

Colonel Lantry said the Americans had made little improvement of the Siberian lines, due to the many difficulties encountered.

"Semenoff, the Cossack leader under Admiral Kolchak, who guarded part of the railway in the Chita district," Colonel Lantry said, "has been one of the many obstacles." (General Semenoff has since been appointed commander-in-chief of the All-Russian armies.)

"When I was on my way to Shanghai," Colonel Lantry added, "I passed through Andrianovka, 200 miles west of the Manchurian border, and I learned that just a few days before General Semenoff had ordered the executions of 340 persons in that little town in a single day."

Colonel Lantry expressed the greatest admiration for the Russian railway workman.

"They have been entirely loyal," he declared, "working for three or four months without pay, riding on tops of trains in bitter weather with never a caboose for shelter, poorly clad and taking trains daily through regions marked by frequent wrecks and derailments caused by a hostile peasantry. Through it all the Russian railroader has done his work. With the right kind of co-operation," Colonel Lantry declared, "the American railway corps, working with these men, could have rehabilitated the railway and made it a marvel of efficiency."

Colonel Lantry said he had found the shelves of the stores in the larger centers he had visited recently loaded down with Japanese goods. "I would not have been able to buy a single unused article manufactured by any other nation," he said.

Men who put the musical shows on Broadway for the statement that a considerable number of young school teachers have become chorus girls because of the higher salaries paid.

MANY WORKERS PAY INCOME TAX

NEW YORK, Feb. 7.—Plumbers who pay income taxes are no longer the "aristocrats of labor," according to William H. Edwards, United States Internal Revenue Collector for the Second and Third Districts of New York, in whose district this year more than \$1,500,000,000 will be gathered up for Uncle Sam.

High wages and profitable overtime, says Mr. Edwards, have raised to the income tax paying list such workers as longshoremen, garment makers, paper hangers, railroad brakemen, chauffeurs, sailors, truck drivers and piano movers. "And don't forget the chorus girls, the movie stars and the hotel waiters," declared the collector, adding that some of the latter are making more than \$5,000 a year in tips alone.

Street car conductors and motor-men in Brooklyn, for instance, he said, have made as much as \$60 a week and, if their yearly income exceeds \$1,000 for a single man or \$2,000 for the head of a family, they will be required to contribute their share toward the cost of running the government. Mr. Edwards cited a few instances without, of course, mentioning any names, of bootblacks, milkwagon drivers and bellboys who in 1919 earned in excess of their exemption and who will be required to file returns.

Payment of the income tax began on January 1 and will continue until the night of March 15 at which time all returns must be in to escape the possibility of a maximum of \$1,000 fine for delinquency. While Collector Edwards was opening his mail the other day out fell a check for \$2,883,515.39, representing the payment of a corporation tax with penalty and interest. The next letter he opened was from Montclair, N.J., which is also in his district. It had been registered to pay an income tax of \$1.37.

A recent caller at the Collectors office was a woman whose net income was 65 cents. Her tax amounted to four cents. She wanted to know how she would be permitted to make the payments "quarterly." When told she could she smiled and said she guessed she would pay it all at once, handed over four shining pennies and took her receipt. Another patriotic citizen—foreign born—filed a careful return showing that he had no income which was subject to taxation. At the bottom of his return was the following notation: "No tax due but would like to pay some tax and enclose for \$100."

Collector Edwards said that, under the law he was not permitted to accept the check but that he forwarded it to Commissioner Roper in Washington to dispose of as he saw fit. This year the income tax rate is less than last. Mr. Edwards said, the normal rate being 4 per cent on the first \$4,000 of net income above the exemption and 8 per cent on the remaining net income instead of 6 and 12 per cent as in 1918.

"Offhand," said the collector, "one would hardly think that a longshoreman came within the requirements of the income tax law. Certainly he did not a few years ago when many of them found it hard to make a living. In the past year or two, however, many longshoremen have been making from \$3,000 to \$5,000 a year."

"The income tax also hits some members of the theatrical profession pretty hard. Some of these actors, including motion picture stars, perhaps make as high as \$200 and \$300 a week for six months in the year. They live well and by the time their income tax payment is due may be out of an engagement. They are confronted with a good sized tax without any immediate means. It is then up to them to get it."

"Last year my investigators found many diamond merchants have been doing business in this country four or five years without paying taxes. We got after them and increased our returns by more than \$1,000,000. Some of the actresses who were delinquent last year said they did not pay because they could not figure out just how much they were exempt because of the cost of their gowns, taxicabs and other luxuries. A 50 per cent penalty was imposed because of their failure to pay when the taxes were due."

"Income taxes," said the collector, "should be figured as a liability just as insurance, interest on a mortgage or your winter's coal bill. Then when the time comes for payment it will not be a hardship. Nearly 20,000 persons were fined last year for failure to file returns. A certain stockbroker made \$200,000. He file this return showing a tax of \$40,000. He defaulted in his payment, however, and in a personal interview with me, said he

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didn't have the money. A 5 per cent penalty was imposed and he hustled around and got the money. His failure to provide for the tax cost him just \$2,000."

The Second and Third New York districts, Mr. Edwards said, raise more than one-quarter of the total amount collected throughout the entire United States.

Are you enumerated?

SOCIETY FORMED BY MAIMED MEN

PARIS, Jan. 20. (By Mail).—The "Society of the Men with the Copper Masks" has just held its first annual convention at the Val de Grace Military Hospital, Paris. The society consists of French soldiers, suffering from facial wounds, who have been provided with a set of new features by the American Red Cross.

The most successful address was made by a woman's hair-dresser who lost his nose through a shell explosion. As he told his comrades in a speech: "Without my nose my job was gone, for how could a noseless coiffeur hope to please women customers? Already melancholy had marked me for its own, when the mask expert took my case in hand, and so successfully, that I am now doing a rushing business in my old trade."

These American "portrait masks", which are the only ones in France, are made of light weight copper plate enamelled in flesh tints. They conceal facial scars and hide the absence of missing features. They are

an adoption of the mask invented by Captain Derwent Wood of the British Army. The work owes its origin to Mrs. Maynard Ladd, of Boston, who devised the American mask, and to Miss Marie Brent, of Columbus, O., who took charge of the "portrait mask studio." Miss Brent recently married Despresaux, director of one of the most important libraries in Paris.

Are you enumerated?

WIDOW OF SOLDIER MAKES LONG TRIP.

MISSOULA, Mont., Feb. 7.—Speaking no English and traveling alone, the French girl bride of a heroic Yankee who lies buried in France has come to western Montana to live with the parents of her husband. She made the journey of 5,000 miles without mishap.

Mrs. Aloide Jette was married in Paris, where she met her husband to be when he was on leave from the front. After the close of the war, Jette died of influenza en route home. His bride did not hear of his death until his parents, in Grass Valley, near here, wrote her about it and asked her to come and live with them.

Mrs. Jette said here that "everybody helped her to make the trip safely."

The only woman ever honored with a public funeral in Washington, D. C., was Marcella Burns Van Ness, noted social leader and philanthropist, whose death occurred in 1832.

Elaborate preparations are being made in Christiania for the entertainment of the International Council of Women, which is to meet in Norwegian capital next September.

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