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BACKING PIETY WITH PURSES

POCKET-BOOK RELIGION

Some years ago a dear old minister was examining a candidate for admission into the church. The man-had answered all the questions very satisfactorily to the minister and the deacons, but finally the preacher said:

Brother, there is just one more ques-

Stamps, the Red Cross and the army Y. M. C. A.?

not gone very deep.

Does Your Pocket Sing?

It is all very well to sing, My country, 'tis of thee, sweet rand of liberty, of thee I sing; but have you backed

tions to the current expenses of the church with which you are connected, to the Red Cross or to other charitable organizations, or to missionary activities. Perhaps you are thinking that as you have been financially blessed during the year, and have accumulated some money, you should contemplate contributing some permanent endow-ment to religious or educational or philanthorpic activities.

Your supreme opportunity is now here. Buy Liberty Bonds, and War Stamps for any or all of these purposes. Pay all your contributions to organizations in government securities. They can use them without difficulty. In this way you will have helped the nation and civilization and at the same time you will not be lessening in any way your contribu-tions to religious or philanthropic

Indeed the very thought of doing double duty may tempt you to do larger things and to contribute more than you otherwise would contribute in

Act now, tomorrow may be too late. -Manufacturers' Record.

THE MIDAS TOUCH

'It is man's perdition to be safe,' and it is his deepest and deadliest perdition to profit by the perils of others. The accession to wealth brought us by the great war has been too sudden and too vast for any princip moderation. A writer in the Bankers' Magazine for December, 1916, reviewed simply and without arrogance the impressive role which the United States has for two years played in the industrial and financial history of the

Our opportunism has lifted us to supreme heights of commercial and fiscal triumph. Our aggregates of exports have surpassed our wildest dreams. The economic achievements of our bankers and financiers in their handling of large international credits are none the less real and remarkable New York has become the world's money center. Everywhere prosperity abounds, bewildering in its magnitude

As a result of this unprecedented situation, controlled with unprecedented skill, the number of super-taxable incomes in the United States was dou-bled in twelve months and the number of citizens who modestly, and perhaps reluctantly, confessed to incomes exceeding a million of dollars came close to trebling in the same period. Yet these returns, however staggering, inadequately represent the swollen tide

of wealth. Ours has been the Midas touch. We have coined gold as easily as did the long-eared king, and we may find ourselves in time as uncomfortable as he was .- Agnes Repplier, in the Atlantic Monthly.

WANTON, WICKED WASTE

It was a shock to our pride, no less than to our feelings, when the Hon. John Skelton Williams, Comptroller of the Currency, told us in January, 1917, that our contributions to the war-sufferers of Europe had in the two previous years amounted to only one twentieth of one per cent of our earnings. We did not give away our easily acquired money, we spent it—spent

that three hundred and fifty thousand non-residents assembled last winter to teach the residents a needless lesson in prodigality. It was what the pro-prietors of hotels and cafes strikingly describe as a lush season, meaning a time when spending money was the foremost consideration of their guests.

A profound contempt for cost swaytion. Has your pocketbook been converted? If it has not, then I have not after day, and night after night, where much faith in the conversion of your ever wealth could be squandered. The To every man professing to to be an American, and loving liberty and womanhood and childhood, comes the question:

Has your pocketbook been converted that your pocketbook been converted the resist that you will put your the resist that your will be resistent the resist that your will be resistent the resist that your the resist that your the resist that your the resist that your will be resistent the resist that your the resist that yo to the point that you will put your money into Liberty Bonds, War they could possibly hold, and far more than nature ever meant them to hold, became wearisomely familiar. Interesting stories went the round about If not, your patriotism, and your love of womanhood and childhood have as to pay thirty dollars aniece for as to pay thirty dollars apiece for theatre tickets, and about Western women who, by dint of energy and determination, succeeded in finding twenty-five dollar bibs for their little children to wear.

Side by side with these exhilarating your singing with doïtars in Liberty
Bonds and War Stamps, Red Cross
and army Y. M. C. A. funds?
You fully intend to make contribuchildren starved long ago,) of typhus fever ravaging the hunger-stricken towns of Belgium, of Armenians devouring carrion as did the Jews in the siege of Jerusalem. It is but a little world to show such sharply contrasted pictures.—Agnes Repplier in the Atlantic Monthly.

UNCLE SAM'S RESOURCES

The ease with which the people of the United States absorbed the Third Liberty Loan directs attention anew to the great financial resources of this country and the tremendous gains in national wealth which have been made in the last fifteen or twenty years. In the first Liberty Loan the call was

for two billion dollars and \$3,034,000,-000 was subscribed, the number of subscribers being more than 4,000,000. Last fall the government asked for a second loan of three billion dollars and \$4,817,532,300 was subscribed. Over 9,420,000 men, women and children are estimated to have participated in the second loan: There were seventeen mil-lion subscribers to the Third Liberty Loan with the likelihood that the total subscription was in excess of four billion dollars. And yet, as one observer has put it, "the great reservoirs of our wealth have not as yet been touched."

This country was formerly a debtor nation, but at the end of last December the trade balance in our favor had attained to over eight billion dollars. A booklet recently put out by the Guaranty Trust Co., of New York, says:

"This nation possesses one-third of the world's stock of gold-over three billion dollars. The national assets of the United States equal the combined Great Britain, Russia, France and Italy. America today has two and a quarter times as much wealth as Great Britain; four times as much as France and eight times as much as Italy. We are the richest nation in all history.

'The European belligerents have exerted the greatest economic effort of modern times, industries expanded to meet the point beyond which many thought it financially possible to go More and more we are realizing that wars are fought with goods and services, and that governments, unless much. borrow abroad or permit their capital to depreciate, cannot expend more than their people save.

The excess production above consumption, including capital replacements, is all that can be used in fighting any war. The government secures that right to this excess by means of taxation, and loans, and other methods which it may be necessary to employ.

We are infinitely more capable to-day of sustaining the financial burdens war than ever before in our history Our industries have expended to meet the war needs. The wealth of Amer ica has increased beyond all precedent or parallel. In the last seven years our national income has increased almost 33 1-3 per cent; in the last seventeen years it has increased nearly 117 per cent."—News and Ob-

OUR NATIONAL WEALTH

War is an expensive thing, at least some of the European nations are the markets of the world about 24 finding it so. The United States is cents. It is not worth anything now the wealthiest nation in the world. in most exchanges. But in Holland it Its wealth is almost as great as that indulgence permitted.

The spirit of waste, which ran riot all our big cities, surpassed itself in New York, where it was reckoned in New York, where it was reckoned in the spirit of the spirit of the spirit of waste, which ran riot about 14½ cents, or 60 per cent of its quered or the attacked. She will force every nation to venerate her barbar-profiteers, to whom all dollars look ity. She believes only in the strong alike, even those that are blood-stain-country next in order is Great Britain about 14½ percent Liberty Bonds are quoted fist at home and abroad. She recog-ed."—Marshville Home. of Great Britain, France Germany and about 141/2 cents, or 60 per cent of its

A DECLARATION

I BELIEVE

in my beloved land America, and in her providential mission to confer the gift of freedom upon all the

I CONFESS

myself a disciple of a courageous Christianity, willing to express it-self as patriotic loyalty to the flag whenever that flag moves forward into perilous places in behalf of freedom.

I ESPOUSE

peace as the ultimate law of God's Kingdom on earth, and if war is necessary I tolerate it and wage it only as the method, God's grim and bitter method for the education of the morally backward members of the human family whose hearts are not yet ready for peace. If the way to the Christ's salvation lies only through the shadow of the cross, am not surprised if God should lead us to peace over the storm-swept fields of war.

I AM READY

to make any sacrifice of time, ability, money, loved ones or even life itself if these are necessary to help defend freedom's flag and to help guarantee the rights of freedom to my own people and to all the people of the world.

I OFFER

my sincere support to the President and Congress in all they may determine for us in these days of national perpexity, believing that whatever differences of opinion may exist before our representatives speak should be swallowed up in a splendid tide of co-operating loyalty the instant that the authoritative voice of the nation has uttered its commands.

I WOULD BE WORTHY

of the men in business, the professions, factories and college halls who have leaped to offer themselves to their country's need, and whose princely sacrifice shames any small thinking or selfish living on the part of any person for whom they are ready to die.

I LIFT MY PRAYER

to the Father of all souls that He will save his frail children's hearts from all hate, error, injustice and cruelty, but also from cowardice and gross self-seeking, leading us whatever betide of storm or calm, by the patient figure of Jesus, the Son of Man, who himself once walked tempestuous seas, until fin-ally we shall come in God's own time to a haven of God's own choosing.—Rev. Herbert Atchision Jump.

with about \$90,000,000,000, or a little more than a third as much as the United States, says the News and Observer. Germany has less than a third the wealth of this country, but has over two and a half times as much national debt.

The national debt of the United States is \$12,000,000,000, or five per cent of its wealth, while the debt of Germany is 38 per cent of its wealth. Austria-Hungary's debt is \$19,000,000, 000 against wealth of \$25,000,000,000 or she owes more than three dollars for every four dollars the nation has. Germany and Austria-Hungary together have wealth of about \$100,000,000. 000. The British, French, Italian and American Allies have total wealth of \$430,000,000,000,000, or four times as

The Allies owe one dollar for every six they have. Germany and Austria Hungary owe one dollar for every two they have. Japan and the United States each owe less than five per cent of their wealth. Germany owes 39 per cent, France 35 per cent and Great Britain 33 per cent. Austria owes 76 per cent.

On the same basis this country would owe 190 billion dollars instead of twelve billions. Now you can see how safe is your Liberty Bond and your War Savings Stamp.

The United States stands alone and no other country is anywhere near in second place. Our national banks alone have deposits of enough money to pay all the national debt and have left enough to start business again with over two and a quarter billions.

Another significant thing about the wealth and debt of the nations is shown in the price of their securities and money. The German mark five years ago was worth in exchange on is valued at the present quotations at

at 96 cents in the dollar, French 51/2's nizes no other power in the world but at 98 and United Kingdom 5's at force. 99½, and Canada 5's at over 96. Our The exports for two years at the present the soul, the fact that he has conquerrate would equal our national debt in ed the country is sufficient for him. He two years, and railroad earnings in this country will pay 10 percent interest on that debt.—Lincoln County must like it.

ENGLISH INCOME TAXES

In comparison with the tax levied in England on incomes our own income taxes are moderate, indeed. In England the tax on incomes of \$1,000 is 4½ per cent, in America

nothing. In England the tax on incomes of \$1,500 is 6% per cent; in America

nothing for a married man or head of families, and 2 per cent on \$500 for an unmarried man. In England the tax on an income of

\$2,000 is 7% per cent; in America nothing for a married man or head of a family, and 2 per cent on \$1,000 for unmarried men.

The English income tax rate also increases more rapidly with the growth of the income than ours, a \$3,000 income being taxed 14 per cent, \$5,000 16 per cent, \$10,000 20 per cent, and \$15,000 25 per cent, while our corresponding taxes for married men are respectively two-thirds of 1 per cent, 1½ per cent, 3½ per cent and 5 per cent, and only slightly more for the unmarried, due to the smaller amount exempted, the rate being the same .--Liberty Loan Bureau.

NATIONAL DEBTS

The London Economist for February places the total gross debt of Great Britain at \$27,636,000,000.

The French Minister of Finance in presenting the budget for 1918 estimated

of 1917 is estimated at about \$6,676,-000,000

The debts of the Central powers are

\$8,000,000,000, but more than half of mann. this amount has been loaned to our Allies and will be repaid us. It is estimated that of the total net expenditures of the United States for the fiscal year of 1918, exclusive of our advances to our Allies, more than onehalf will be defrayed by taxation.

AN APPEAL TO WOMEN

Four hundred and sixty young women of North Carolina are asked to become student nurses. They are offered a great opportunity to perform patriotic duty. We do not believe there will be any difficulty in the State's meet-

ing its quota.

The appeal from the nation to the young women of the nation-twentyfive thousand are wanted in the country at large—is a powerful one. is voiced among others by Surgeon General Gorgas of the United States Army in one of the most earnest utterances that the urgent necessities of the war have produced. Here is just a part of the message of this great physician, world-famous because of his great ability and his devotion to duty to the women of the country between the ages of 19 and 35:

If I were a young woman and wanted to do my country the greatest service in my power, I should go at once to the nearest recruiting station of the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense and enroll in the United States Student Nurse Reserve. This enrollment would at once make me a candidate for the Army Nursing School or for one of the civilian training schools for nurses. I cannot conceive of a more valuable service, a more womanly service. I can give every girl who enrolls in the reserve my personal assurance that she is making herself count, and I should be ashamed of any woman who did not long with all her heart and soul to make herself count in the defeat of Germany.

These are ringing words. We have no fear that they will not bring a quick response from the women of North Carolina.-News and Observer.

THE PRUSSIAN BULLY

Prussia will rob anything, everything she can, in order to keep it. She will only give that for which she cares and muddling everything they touch;

The German does not try to conquer

We are being called upon to praise the German God, who will lead us victoriously across the world, for he has no better use for the garden of creation than to make us kindle our campfires in it. A disgusting villainy and trickery lies in this governmental piety. It wants nothing less than the sanctification of falsehood, the worship of brutality, the divinization of Wilhelm II.—Dr. Wilhelm Muehlon, formerly a director of the Krupp Works in Germany, now in exile in Switzerland.

GERMAN SWELL-HEAD

The German people is always right, because it is the German people.— Tannenberg.

We must vanquish, because the downfall of Germanism would mean the downfall of humanity.-Konig.

Germany is precisely—who would venture to deny it?--the representative of the highest morality, of the purest humanity, of the most chastened Christianity.—Francke.

If we are beaten—which God and our strong arm forbid—the higher Kultur of our hemisphere, which it was our mission to guard, sinks with us into the grave.—Hornack.

Our belief is that the salvation of

the whole Kultur of Europe depends upon the victory which German Militarism is about to achieve.—Manifesto signed by 352 High school professors and lecturers.

We must win, because if we were defeated no one in the whole world could any longer cherish any remnant of belief in truth and right, in the Good, or the public debt of France on December 31, 1918 at \$22,227,000,000.

The public debt of Italy at the end of humanity—Helm.

Germany is the future of humanity. If God is for us, who can be against The debts of the Central powers are estimated as follows: Germany, \$25, 408,000,000; Austria, \$13,314,000,000; world's soul. God and Germany belong and Hungary, \$5,704,000,000.

Our own public debt is now around of God's plan for the world,—Leh-

> The whole of European Kultur is brought to a focus on this German soil and in the hearts of the German people. It would be foolish to express oneself on this point with modesty and reserve. We Germans represent the latest achievements of European Kul-

tur.—Lasson.

—W. S. Sadler, in Longheads and Roundheads, A. C. McClurg and Co.

THE PROFITEER

The world has always held the deserter in disrepute. The man who runs away from military duty when his country needs him is ever marked. But, what about the man who during war times takes advantages in trade and makes unreasonable profit? let Judge Clark, of the Statesville Landmark take the floor. Judge Clark

The man who takes advantage of the abnormal conditions of war time to exact unreasonable and unjust profits for the necessities of life, may be a "respected citizen" of the community; he may occupy the chief seats in the synagogue and may make long prayers; but the man who runs away from military service, or the highwayman who robs at the point of a gun, are patriots, gentlemen and Christians compared with the hypocrites who rob under the guise of legitimate business. These facts should be kept in mind in these days when the temptation to profiteer is strong; and those who engage in it should have a mark put on them that will brand them for all time. -Monroe Enquirer.

FROM THIS TIME ON

The Saturday Evening Post does not have much patience with disloyalty, and it uses the following strong lan-guage: "From this time on there can be only three classes in the United States-Americans, pro-Germans and yellow dogs. Many people would lump the two last, but wrongly, because in the third group there are many who, once awakened to a class consciousness of their yellow-dogginess, may be saved.

We refer, of course, to the men who are seeking party or partisan advantage in this crisis; to the red-tapers nothing, and then only at the expense to the grandstanders and limelighters of the other fellow. She will never who see nothing but an opportunity for take her foot off the neck of the con- personal advertising and aggrandizequered or the attacked. She will force ment in this national peril; and to the