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TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1921.

TAXES

People don't like to pay taxes. The debt of the citizen to the State is always difficult to collect. There are always delays about it and lots of kicking so far as the average citizen is concerned. He puts a very small premium on the privileges of citizenship and he, therefore, holds on as long as possible to the tribute which the State rightfully exacts from him.

Taxes ought to be, with the good-intentioned citizen, the easiest debt he has to pay. They represent his obligation to the State for all it is doing for him, his obligation to society for improvements and progress and standards of living. They constitute the price that must be paid for development. Citizens who favor stagnation, who are satisfied with present attainments, who are unconcerned about the preservation of law and order, who are indifferent as to the sort of schools in the community or the sort of roads, would naturally rebel against the levying of a tribute for the purpose of supporting such institutions and maintaining such standards of civilization. But those citizens who believe in these things and who conceive that they are individually liable for their proportionate part of the cost of these things ought never protest against the payment of taxes.

It is an infrequent citizen who is not at this time raising a howl about his taxes. He thinks the State is taking too much out of his pockets. He will say that there must be a terrible leakage somewhere or that the State is creating and maintaining too many offices that so much money is needed from the citizens. He does not seem to understand where the money is going or what the State can do with the millions that are rolling into its treasury, or for what the city or the county are spending the amounts which they receive.

The truth of the matter is that we ought to have more to say about what these high taxes represent and rather compliment the people of North Carolina that they are not living in a low-tax atmosphere. That commonwealth which is taxing its people to the end that they may enjoy all the benefits of civilization, that they may have the best schools procurable, the best roads that can be built, the best institutions for the lame and the halt and the blind and the feeble-minded, the best type of government, the best of everything,—that is the commonwealth that people want to live in.

On the other hand, the community that is existing on a low-tax basis is generally that community which has a minimum of these best things, that has poor roads and old shacks of school houses, that has only ordinary enjoyment. North Carolina, in times past, has thought itself to be unable to enjoy these more advanced benefactions. The people were content with low taxes and with poor roads and with a rating for illiteracy that will remain a shame and a disgrace to the State, but we have at last awakened to the conviction that in this commonwealth we are able to have as good as can be procured, that we can pay taxes in any sum necessary in order to have those things needed for our enjoyment, for our progress and for our development. The low-tax ideal has passed out of the minds of North Carolinians and with it has gone the conviction that the State is too poor to set in motion those processes upon which growth and development and life more abundant are predicated.

FREIGHT RATES

Shippers of the State have been summoned to Raleigh Friday to organize themselves, according as the Corporation Commission may advise, against the general and far-reaching advances in freight rates which the carriers are proposing to make effective in North Carolina.

The sentiment of the people of North Carolina, not only the shippers but all other classes likewise, is set solidly against this move on the part of the railroads. High freight rates have already done the State incalculable harm, rates have been thought unjustified and

relief from which has only recently been granted through the form of an order from the Interstate Corporation Commission. And yet before even the benefits of this order from the governmental authorities are enjoyed, the railroads come with a proposal to revise the rate structure as it applies to North Carolina and further to victimize the people, the business and manufacturing interests and the consumers generally, with a new and higher revision. It is time that definite and determined action is called out against such a move.

One reason that the British people will understand the recent indiscretions of Harvey and Sims is that there are some even among their own who have the happy faculty of making mokeyes of themselves in season as well as out.

THE EDUCATIONAL WAVE

It is an amazing development of the citizens of North Carolina that they are indicating a determination to spend whatever amount of money may be necessary for their educational uplift. That the State has long enough been satisfied with average educational opportunities for its people seems to be a conviction that has swept the commonwealth from the mountains to the seaside.

Ten million dollars in bond issues for school buildings have been voted since January by 87 communities in 55 of the counties of the State.

This tremendous amount of money has not been given by the plutocrats. It has been voted out of their own pockets by the people themselves who are convinced that education is worth all that it will cost them and all that it will cost their successors. It has been voted by the farmers of the State, by those whose losses in cotton and tobacco deflation have run into millions of dollars.

The producers of these two commodities in this State are said to be short \$162,000,000 in receipts from last year's production and the cotton manufacturers are short millions more, nobody has the daring to estimate. And yet these bonds have been voted in communities where cotton and tobacco farmers predominate and in sections where the cotton manufacturing industry is ascendant. Well does The University News-Letter remark that "this is the most cheering thing in North Carolina in this year of business depression."

That worthy contemporary goes on to remark, as showing how rapidly North Carolina is moving up, that we have doubled our investment in public school properties during the last six years. In a single year we doubled our expenditures for public school support. From 12 to 24 millions in properties, and from 6 to 12 millions in annual support tells the story. In March 1921 the General Assembly doubled the total working income of our state schools of technical training and liberal learning; and further, it authorized a bond issue of six million dollars as a loan fund to encourage the consolidation of public schools. Manifestly the local communities of North Carolina are feeling the stimulus of these courageous measures, and they are responding with signal heroism.

For two and a half centuries we have said in North Carolina that we were too poor to educate. We now believe that we are too poor not to educate. Eighty-seven alert communities in fifty-five counties are acting upon this belief.

The school-tax willingness of these communities ranges from three dollars per inhabitant in Gastonia to one hundred eighty-four dollars in Monroe, or so at least in school bond issues since January 1st of the year.

In the bulk total of school bonds voted Greensboro leads all the rest. But this bond issue is only fifty dollars per inhabitant, and thirty smaller communities make a better showing. Among these little communities are Rich Square, Bunn, Creedmoor, Carthage, Hillsboro, and Lakewood. Thirteen of these got under a school bond burden of more than one hundred dollars per inhabitant. Hobbville and Moncure beat Greensboro three to one!

Kinston is considering a school bond issue of nine hundred thousand dollars; which is ninety-two dollars per inhabitant; but as already noted thirteen small towns have already voted bond issues of more than one hundred dollars per inhabitant—two of them one hundred and fifty dollars per inhabitant. Smithfield in the heart of the cotton belt voted school bonds amounting to one hundred thirty-two dollars per inhabitant.

Goldsboro is contemplating a bond issue of six hundred thousand dollars, which is fifty-three dollars per inhabitant. Thirty-two cities of the state have already voted bond issues beyond fifty-three dollars per inhabitant. Among these are Morehead City, fifty-nine dollars; Carthage, seventy-eight dollars; Snow Hill, one hundred seven dollars; and Moncure one hundred eighty-four dollars per inhabitant.

Salisbury has recently voted a bond issue of five hundred thousand dollars, which is thirty-six dollars per inhabitant. Forty-nine towns of the state have already voted school bonds beyond thirty-six dollars per inhabitant. When you check over the list of these brave little communities, what Salisbury has done looks fairly small.

As for Louisburg, a bond issue of sixty thousand dollars, or thirty-one dollars per inhabitant, is nothing great. Fifty-three towns of the state have already done better than anything Louisburg proposes to do.

Winston-Salem's eight hundred thousand dollars of school bonds is only seventeen dollars per inhabitant. And High Point's six hundred thousand dollars for school buildings is only forty-two dollars per inhabitant. On a per capita basis, forty-four cities have done better than High Point, and only seven school communities make a poorer showing than Winston-Salem.

BAD TEETH AND BOLSHEVISM

A London physician has ascertained that the insanity of Lenin and Trotsky, the bolshevik leaders of Russia, is caused by bad teeth.

Science discovered some years ago that imperfect teeth were the cause of many ills of the body, some of the mind and a few of the soul. After diligent exploration, the doctors of laboratory found that decayed roots of the teeth set up infections that permeated the body and started trouble which, if not arrested, would sooner or later seriously affect the entire physical and mental structure.

Nevertheless, it is a somewhat novel theory that a bad molar will make a bolshevik of a man. Ofttimes one of this sort has given a man temporarily mad, has wrecked his nights with incessant pain and otherwise disturbed his normal equilibrium, but in a majority of instances, such contortions of pain have ended about the time the dentist's office was approached, only to be resumed when the home had been reached again. Bad teeth also have been known to occasion somewhat violent outbreaks of temper and domestic felicity has been upset because, forsooth, some major member of the household was groping about with a swollen jaw and an aching tusk, but we submit it to be a new discovery that a bad tooth will implant a strange and subtle and destructive philosophy of life in one's mind.

The London scientist should pursue his studies along this line and perhaps, he will find that the whole trouble with the world today is molaristic, that humanity is suffering from defective teeth which have warped the mental and moral outlook and which is making men fit subjects either for the penitentiary or the insane asylum. Who knows but that if such researches are pursued far enough, it may be found that a bad tooth is more to be dreaded than the moonshine made out of concentrated ly for its power of vitiation and destruction.

In the case, however, of the two champion bolsheviks of the world's history, the fact ought to be definitely ascertained whether they are just natural devils or whether bad teeth had made them mad. In this latter event it would profit the governments of earth to chip in and buy them a set of malse teeth each, to the end that they might be restored to "normalcy" and that the heresy which they have been preaching so relentlessly might perish from the memory of men.

MORE THAN A NEGRO MURDERED

The negro Williams down in Moultrie, Ga., who murdered a little 12-year-old girl, deserved to pay for his crime with his life. It was a dastardly, revolting crime and justice would not have been content with anything less than an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth in this case. And Williams would have died July 8th. He committed the crime only a few days ago, arrangements were perfected for an immediate trial, he soon faced a jury and judge, was convicted and sentenced to die on this date in the electric chair. Then as he was being taken from the court house, a mob seized him from the hands of the officers, took him out into the woods and lynched him,—one of the most excruciating lynchings yet recorded even in Georgia.

Lynchings are usually committed in the heat of passion aroused immediately after the commission of a crime. People lose their heads and let the animal in them have full dominion. Or sometimes, they wait awhile and after reflection, come to the conclusion that other guilty men have managed to escape just punishment and for fear that their own man might be so lucky, they agree to take no chances with the courts, and off they go into the woods with him.

But in this case, neither of these two major conditions prevailed as governing motives for the mob. The murder was committed several days beforehand. There had been time for the cooling of the sudden, surging passions of the friends of the little girl and her family. And there was no uncertainty as to whether the courts would function or not. The courts had already functioned, swiftly and unerringly, and in the course of only two weeks, the negro would be killed by the State, in full compliance with the strict terms of the law and justice.

None of the stereotyped reasons for the rule of the mob existed in this case. And the ugly affair is made only the uglier. The mob merely reverted to the barbaric and with hideous audacity and grim defiance of the proprieties, the gangsters who murdered John Henry Williams murdered also the most majestic thing in Georgia,—justice.

THE PRO-LEAGUE REPUBLICANS

The recent letter of Dr. Hamilton Holt to President Harding is typical of the attitude of the pro-league republicans all over the country, a great body of men who voted for President Harding on his own statement made during the campaign that he would use his offices for the promotion of an understanding between the powers of the world. They are finding themselves at this time holding on to the last slender thread of hope, with all the evidence against them, that this Administration will do anything in the way of thus binding the nations.

And the fact that there are so many men of Dr. Holt's standing and prestige who will never be satisfied until the league of nations or its equivalent is established with the United States in it, makes it inevitable that if this issue is not faced squarely by the Harding administration and settled right, it will loom up again in the next Presidential campaign and the country will submit to a genuine referendum on it.

FRENCH DEMOBILIZATION.

Paris, June 21.—The cabinet today authorized the war minister to begin demobilization of the entire class of 1919, June 25. The decision was reached on receipt of a report that the classes of 1920 and 1921 had been trained adequately.



No matter how a person acts, he'll find to his chagrin that he will have to pay a tax that takes his income in. Some one ought to find some day a certain kind of tax to pay, or show the government a way to fill their big kale bin without demanding surplus cash for this and that we do, and charging us a tax on hash, cool drinks and Brunswick stew. If Uncle Sam would take a hint—a splendid way to fill the mint would be to advertise in print a tax on gossip, too.

A gossip tax no doubt alone would bring more needed rate than any kind of tax that's known. When some one spreads a tale just charge a tax of 15 cents or maybe more for each offense. The revenue would be immense. The idea could not fail. When some old nag says, "Well, I see Bill Jones has hurt his wife—they say he got upon a spree and ripped her with a knife," the gossip tax would come in fine with 15 cents charged for each line in which there was a bad design or motive to start strife. If one cop took a street in town and had it well patrolled, he's run enough old gossips down to fill the mint with gold. No matter where he might meander he could overhear some slander. Even on his front veranda he could hear it told.

Other taxes could be stopped if we would charge a sum for every hint a person dropped about a poor man's rum. The gossip tax would be no joke, for it would always keep us broke. We'd certainly have to bear the yoke and soon learn to keep mum.  
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LIVING COST DROPS.

New York, June 21.—The cost of living in the United States dropped 2.3 per cent in May, according to figures made public by the national industrial conference board. The total decrease from July 1920 to June 1, 1921, was 20.8 per cent, leaving the net increase between July 1914 and June 1921, at 61.9 per cent.

PAINS IN SIDE AND BACK

Caused by Woman's Ills and Cured by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound



Grafton, Pa.—"I was troubled with inflammation and pains in my sides and back. After doctoring with different doctors and not getting relief, I had almost given up hopes when my sister told me of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and knowing that she had really been helped by it, I purchased it. I was unable to do my work at that time, but after taking several bottles of the Vegetable Compound I can now do anything about the house or farm that a woman should do. I have a four months old baby that is the healthiest and biggest baby for his age that I have ever seen. I am willing for my letter to be used for a testimonial to tell other suffering women how much your medicine has done for me, as I give Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound all the praise."—Mrs. BLAIR L. FISHER, R.D. 1, Box 37, Grafton, Pa.

Working early and late—lifting, carrying, and the heaviest of household duties—is it any wonder that it results in backaches and kindred ills. But every woman who suffers as Mrs. Fisher did should profit by her experience and give Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound a fair trial.

F. D. A.

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CUT GLASS

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—For Less—

New Items Just  
In And The  
Price Is Still  
Less

100 pieces new Voiles just in for this week's sale, 40 inches wide; 39c values—

19c

New lot fine 40-inch Figured Voiles, 49c to 69c values, new patterns, at—

29c

25 pieces 39c White Stripe and Checked Voile, pretty and sheer, 39c value. Look at the price now—

15c

50c quality Lingerie Cloths, yard wide, in white, flesh, pink; 50c quality, 26 inches wide—

19c

Only lot fine Fancy Silks in \$2.00 to \$2.50 quality. The patterns are rather dark, but the quality extra fine. Close out price—

98c Yard

1,000 yards English Long Cloth for today's business, 15c quality—

10c

Look at this 25c to 35c values in Shirt Madras, beautiful stripes. A close out lot just in—

10c - 12½c

And this—3,000 yards yard wide Gingham—

10c Yard

5,000 yards on one big counter—Ginghams, Lawns, Calicos—

5c Yard

2,000 yards good quality Sheeting for this week only—

3½c

Belk Bros.