



Everything



BY AL FAIRBROTHER

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ON SALE AT THE NEWS STANDS AND ON TRAINS

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THEY GUESS AT IT IN THE DARK

The senate bill presents a strange fact if we stop to figure on it. It was proven as a fact that newspapers do not pay the cost of transportation to the government, and instead of raising the rate to a rate that would actually pay the cost the senate finally cut out the postage bill altogether. Instead of cutting out the postage card and charging two cents on circular letters it let the whole postal bill go by default. And on down the line it is full of glaring inconsistencies. Simply a pull at the rich man and then at the "general public," which is used to being fleeced and doesn't seem to care. The figures are interesting, and we present them in tabulated form:

Income tax	\$842,200,000
War profits	1,000,000,000
Alcoholic beverages and soft drinks	218,000,000
Tobacco	56,600,000
Rail and water passenger transportation	141,750,000
Automobiles, patent medicines, etc.	48,100,000
Admissions to theatres and all forms of entertainments	18,000,000
Stamp tax, etc.	22,000,000
Virgin Island products	20,000
Total	\$2,406,670,000

The transportation item means that people who travel will pay more and the corporation nothing. Soft drinks come in for a jar and the public will pay the bill. Already because of advance prices the soda fountain people use smaller glasses, give a little less syrup, and the customer is fully satisfied. A drink at the fountain is merely a social affair. The soft drinks are not habit forming, so the public too that bill and will be indifferent about it. The automobile owner comes in for an additional knock and already he pays two different kinds of license—county and state—which he should not pay. A man with an automobile should pay no more license than a man with a horse and buggy. Just arbitrarily taxed, that is all.

The stamp tax becomes a burden and the man who buys jewelry escapes. The people who attend play houses, seeking rest after trying to make enough money to pay the other taxes, are taxed again. The trouble with revenue taxes is they are generally made up in a hurry; certain interests get their work in with political pulls, and the result is that rank injustice is done many lines of business. The nation should have emergency schedules figured out far in advance, and the revenue office should levy the tax and not leave it to politicians who know on which side their bread is buttered.

Murder Will Out.

The revelations concerning German conspirators continue to be made, and the arrests in Philadelphia of managers and editors of a German newspaper, together with the seizure of books and correspondence, throw new but not unexpected light on the great conspiracy which is nation wide. Secret service men are now trying to secure the documents which will show how much German money was paid to newspapers which attempted to throw monkey wrenches in the works. It is said that a million dollars were used to subsidize newspapers in this country, and that for gold German preachers were doled out by the venal press that was willing to be disloyal for gold. If this information comes out, as it is predicted it will, some of the editors who sold themselves will get their just reward. The German newspaper which has been seized each day wrote vicious articles assailing the President. When all this is weeded out and those who took German money to embarrass the President and the Nation are exposed, the United States will perhaps be more eager than ever to furnish men and money to annihilate the Prussian propaganda.

The arrest of the independent workers of the world, the more recent seizure of the Philadelphia newspaper and its records, suggest that secret service men are making fine progress and that after awhile those in this country who are loyal to the flag will know exactly who the traitors are. It is said that a Western United States senator is involved in the Philadelphia seizure.

The day will come pretty soon when the interurban railway will strike this town, and when it does there will be two passenger depots. Then there will be talk about a union station. Then when the next steam railway comes, and some day another line is coming, there will be a demand for a union station—and we'll get it. So the present depot is not going to be built for all time. Perhaps twenty years, and it will go the way of the present building.

The people are willing to vote for the change of charter. The only thing the live wires must do is to see that the voters register.

SIX MILLION OF THEM LEFT

The Associated Press sends from France the statement that there are yet left six million men in the German army, and that four million have been killed or disabled. Six million men still left to fight—and these six million must be overpowered, must surrender. Just what fighting force England has or France has is not given out, but it looks like it will be necessary for the United States and Japan to furnish the men and complete the war.

Germany went in with an army of ten million men—invisible it would have seemed to any man who looked upon the picture—and yet those millions of men didn't manage to so figure their line of march to get through Belgium. They were stopped in the beginning of their invasion, and instead of taking France, instead of doing the chore of conquering the world, the hand of God was raised and He said "Thus far and no farther."

The six million remaining Germans will be able to fight for many months, perhaps several years, but at the same time the United States can send as many men as Germany has, fresh and ready for the fray, and this number will be multiplied by the other nations, and there is no other end but defeat for Germany. True, the kaiser is insane on the subject of war; he thinks he is doing a work guided by God Almighty, but the struggle will one day end, and the kaiser will be an insane creature—with the blood of ten million men upon his hands.

Why should such a war be fought? Because it is necessary to teach the world that reforms must come. Were they easy they would not be lasting. All the great things ever happening in this world have been brought about by sacrifices as terrible as the one now being made. Six million men—four million gone—get down your lead pencil and you can reasonably figure how long the war will last.

The blanket is in evidence—but the fan doesn't get put away, and if you have any ice tickets left you'll yet have use for them.

As To The Navy League.

The Navy League for a long time was an organization that didn't have any official connection with the navy. It was something on the order of the American Geographical Society. Most any one could join and carry the card, but it didn't "signify," as the saying is, except the high sounding name. But it happened that the President of the League made an ass of himself, as the record runs, and he jumped all over the real navy and said things that he should not have said. The League looked at the matter in a calmer light, and subsequently officially apologized to the Secretary of the Navy. Of the matter as it now stands the New York Herald makes some interesting comments and says that "the Navy League is facing a difficult and delicate situation, one that calls for the exercise of calm judgment, the just appraisal of causes and possibly the surrender of pride of opinion to the general good. Unhappily, the personal and somewhat capricious element so hastily introduced complicates the speedy clearing of this situation, but so much is involved that the exercise of wisdom, tact and fair play should be brought to bear in order to resolve these complexities. The resignation of a small number of individuals or the protesting withdrawal of a few branches does nothing toward securing the desired end, for they were made hastily, and for that reason carry slight conviction to the thousands of members who remain loyal to the spirit of the organization."

"It is agreed generally that the comment made by certain officials of the League on the Mare Island explosion was a mistake, indeed a serious mistake, remembering that the country was in a state of war and that the question was sub judice. Moreover, it was an unjust reflection on the board of officers investigating the explosion and on the Secretary of the Navy, and very properly both of these resented it. The subsequent statement of League officials was a praiseworthy confession of error, but it must be remembered that this error should, under national conditions, never have been committed by a national organization."

"No less unfortunate will be the situation if the Navy Department maintains its original intention in regard to other notable activities of the League. Now that the first irritation has, let us hope, been softened, it will be wise and patriotic to permit the League to carry forward its fine efforts in behalf of the navy as an arm of first defense. It is easily understood that certain guarantees may be demanded, and some of these may affect the present organization of the League. Sacrifices may be first of all required on the part of League officials, but undoubtedly these will be cheerfully made in the interest of a national body that, on the whole, has been of enormous value to the country."

The good roads boomers still send out their stuff, and the Bankhead highway looms larger than ever.

It isn't time yet to put 'em on.

THE DOPE CUT OUT OF IT NOW

There was a time when people who didn't want whiskey abolished insisted that to prohibit it would mean to bring on the market countless dopes and patent medicines composed principally of whiskey. But that day has passed. Under the Harrison anti-narcotic law nothing to simply make "drunk come" can be sold. The far-famed Peruna no longer beguiles. The New York Herald, which is agin' prohibition, writes this editorial:

That the distilling of whiskey must cease, but that the distillers will be allowed to produce alcohol for medicinal and industrial purposes, is a piece of news well calculated to hearten the disciples of total abstinence. But the second thought, in this as in other cases sounder than the first, causes fearsome apprehension as to the medicinal and industrial uses to which this alcohol will be put.

That it will enter more largely than ever into the concoction of patent medicines cannot be doubted. The elimination of whiskey will give a decided impetus to the sale of the various "bitters" and "tonics" and "sovereign remedies" which have ruined the stomachs of so many professed teetotalers in the rural districts. The consumption of these nostrums, especially in prohibition states, has always been enormous, and the ills that they are warranted to cure unlimited. When no disease is to be combated they are consumed under the pretense that they "tone up the system" or "purify the blood."

That whiskey often becomes a tyrant is admitted by every one except its slaves. In this connection we may remember that in the forum scene in "Julius Caesar" a citizen fears that a worse tyrant than the one murdered may come in the latter's place.

That might have been forceful a few years ago. There was a time when Peruna, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, Begg's Dandelion Bitters and the famous Checkers made by John L. Casper made a world of prohibitionists drunk about twice a week. But that has been prohibited also. Peruna doesn't carry the magic it once did, and celebrated Congressmen no longer write testimonials telling of the delights of the jag Peruna produced. Prohibition of whiskey is not all. Prohibition of harmful patent medicines has been accomplished, and with whiskey gone there will be no more drunks. Of course the illicit distiller will continue his way. He has successfully defied the government for fifty years, and he is secure in his mountain home. He will continue to do business, and a better business than ever, but there is no danger in the alcohol for medicinal purposes. The Herald writes something that would have been timely before the passage of the Harrison anti-narcotic law.

If you smell likker in the water maybe it got there via the sewer. Who can tell.

Never Again.

At midnight Saturday night all distilleries in the United States stopped making whiskey. The theory is that hundreds of millions of grain are consumed in making alcoholic beverages, and to conserve the food supply the distilleries will be forced to close down, with the exception of making alcohol for medicinal and scientific purposes. This will in no way decrease the consumption of whiskey, because in bond and on hand is enough of it to make the nation drunk for forty years. The price of whiskey will go up, making it a hardship on the man with the thirst or the continued jag, but Old John will still be in evidence. But it is an opening wedge to national prohibition, and that is what the nation wants.

It is problematical, however, whether this move will cheapen foodstuffs. Perhaps not. It will, however, leave the nation a larger supply than otherwise. We progress, and when the government finally learns, as it will learn from this experiment, that it can raise revenues in other ways, the whole people will conclude that it is better to make no more strong drinks. The talk about disarmament, while a great thing, is not as great as to have a world free from strong drink. And the war is bringing this about; therefore, if nothing else is accomplished, it will not have been in vain.

Marksmanship.

Mr. Dempsey Bullock, of Wilson, who is interested in the conservation of cows, writes us a letter saying he is glad to know the women of Greensboro are to form a rifle club. He cites the fact that recently in Kentucky a woman shot at her husband and killed a hundred dollar cow, and thinks that a rifle club will perhaps perfect the markswomanship of the fair sex.

WHEN WE PLAY POLICY GAME

The Wilmington Dispatch wants to know why a man should be criticised for expressing his honest opinion. It asks:

If Judge Boyd considered the federal child labor law unconstitutional, why should he be criticised for so deciding? He is entitled to the credit of acting conscientiously and in accordance with his convictions on the law governing the case.

Since the morning stars first sang in heaven there have been discords, and since Man assumed dominion over fowl and beast and all living things he has handed down his opinion. Those who are not under oath to protect the Constitution do not understand that a federal judge or any other kind of a judge cannot allow himself to be swayed by popular sentiment. He has an oath to protect the Constitution, to uphold it, and no matter what the people may think about child labor, and no matter what the Supreme Court of the United States may say, the Keating-Owen bill is clearly against the provisions of the Constitution as it is written. There is no doubt about that—but there is doubt as to what the Supreme Court will say. Running along the lines of progress, it may say that Congress has a right to pass such a law, but under the written constitution it has no such right. It has a right to pass a law which would say that child labor should not enter into products offered for interstate commerce, but this law says that if a child is indirectly connected with a mill and has nothing to do with the lawful product offered for transportation it may be denied the use of interstate railways. That is stretching the point. In fact, the government argued that the bill was not to regulate commerce, but to prohibit child labor. Therefore it is simply making right, and Congress wanted to "put it over." That is all there is on that question, and the chances are the highest tribunal will endorse Congress.

However, if the higher court were already on record there would be those to criticize. The kicker, the knocker came into the world just like a potato bug. He is here. His province is to object; to take the other side; to prove that he is right and you are wrong. There are men who will argue and "betyer-fivedollars" that white is black and black is as the driven snow.

Lay down a clean-cut proposition, no matter what, and there is some fellow who "doesn't know about that" and who will "supposit" the case. All these things are a part of the universal programme. The law books are written and the laws are made to entertain two sides, or three sides if there are that many dissatisfied. Go into court and hear the lawyers profoundly expound the law. Both sides have the precedents and citations at fingers' tips and tongue's end. They prove what they contend, and there is no question about it.

Whether it is talking the tariff or talking politics, the fellow wedded to his side knows he is right, as the other fellow knows he is wrong.

Judge Boyd, under oath to uphold and protect the Constitution, presumably the most sacred instrument in our keeping, found, under oath, that the Keating-Owen bill was unconstitutional, and so stated. And the person who criticises a judge who has done his sworn duty is an ass and undesirable citizen.

The one-man street cars recently put on by the Public Service Company look like the proper thing. Why use two men when one answers the purpose? Conservation of labor—true, it is.

Can't Be Done.

Commissioner Hoover says he cannot fix the price of meats, and therefore the honest farmer will still look you in the eye and ask nineteen dollars for a frying-size pullet and allow that "times is hard." But it is suggested everywhere, and no one seems to fall for the suggestion, that if the women of the country would organize, nationally, and pull off about thirty meatless days—say, two a week for a few months—that prices would go down. And it seems reasonable. Pull off enough meatless days to stop the slaughter houses for a time. Insist that every loyal woman join the order and on certain days all over America have no meat to eat. The people could stand for it, and to stop the supply of meat in a nation like this for thirty days would mean that there would be an accumulation of live stock that would surpass every mathematician on earth. It is a proposition that can be carried out. Greensboro women cannot act single handed. It will take a national organization, it must be perfected—but wouldn't it cost too much? But what difference about the cost if conservation of food is the end sought? The money will not be wasted, but certainly the meat would be saved. But where is the patriotic woman in America who has the nerve and the price to launch such a movement? Possibly doing some Red Cross and hasn't the time.

The pardoning business is being overworked. But it is an ill wind that blows good to nobody, and out of this will come eventually a Pardoning Board.

THE INNOVATION STRIKES EUROPE

The United States has for a long time held the exclusive on the unwritten law and its enforcement. But last week there was a case in England, when Lieutenant Douglas Malcolm was being tried for the murder of Anton Baumbering, a pseudo count, that the unwritten law was introduced and no other claim made for the vindication of the murderer—and the unwritten law went. Malcolm was found not guilty in Old Bailey Court, and this was the first case ever tried in London where the unwritten law was the sole defense.

The judge, in telling the jury what to do, explained that the unwritten law was not a law, and said:

The unwritten law is opposed to the most elementary principles of British justice. The husband had no legal property in the body of his wife. She was mistress of her own destinies, and if she chose to give herself to another the husband was not entitled to murder or to punish the sin of the man to whom she went.

The jury then brought in a verdict of acquittal, which was received with loud cheering in the court, the cheering being taken up by the crowds in the street.

It may be true that legally a man has no legal property in the body of his wife, and it may be true that if the husband kills the wolf that comes to prowl and destroy the sanctity of his hearthstone he is guilty of murder in the first degree, but whether true or not, and whether law or not, the average jury isn't going to hang a man or punish a man who destroys the destroyer of his domestic happiness.

There should be a written law. That is why there is an unwritten law. The law should give every man the right to defend the sanctity of his home. There is no reason why it should not be written—because such a law obtains. True, it takes a long time to get an Englishman to depart from the customs of his fathers, but now that London has accepted the unwritten law we may look for a few more murders of high degree.

It may be, as the English judge laid it down, that if a wife chooses to give herself to another the husband has no right to punish the man to whom she went, but, take it from us, it seems to be understood that the husband has the right. In the case of Harry Thaw this fact was forever settled. Thaw was an imbecile; he was dangerous to society; yet White had gone into his home and allured his child wife from that home, and the jury knew it. No matter what Evelyn had been; no matter what Thaw was; that old unwritten law which is firmly fixed in this country was applied, and Thaw escaped a death he richly deserved on general principles.

Wherever the outraged husband appears or the outraged woman appears there will always be found a jury that will disregard what the judge says and find the offender not guilty when it knows he is. And that is why the law should be written. The men who know his home has been destroyed isn't satisfied with simply procuring a divorce. He feels that the man who entered his home was to blame, and he doesn't figure that possibly the wife was more to blame than the man. So he wants to go gunning for the snake that crawled into his home, and he goes gunning for him, and often he kills him, and always, so far as we know, if the facts are plain, the murderer goes free. This being true, why not write a law and make each day an open season for the man who destroys the home?

After all there seems to be no mystery to the King murder case. If what the New York officials say is true, it is all as plain as the periscope on a submarine. The story now is that Gaston Means had Mrs. King tied up to pay him large sums of money; that she had paid them and refused, perhaps, to come across with more. The fact that she was killed isn't surprising, and if Means didn't kill her he possibly will have to prove how she met her death. It is a dirty mess and promises to be quite a sensation. That Concord gets the date line may make Atlanta weary, but every now and then North Carolina pulls a stunt worth while.

The Open Season.

Washington sends out word that the open season for deer is now at hand. In fifteen states the law says it is all right to shoot them, but down here we have a special law and but few deer. Down Manchester way there are plenty of deer; down east there are bears and all kinds of game. But why an open season for the killing of a species of animal almost extinct? Why not close the season for twenty years and give the wild game a chance? Simply because the sportsmen help make the laws.

And up to this time the State has not sent Dr. Summers a check for good behavior. It looks like he should be given a check for at least a thousand dollars to reimburse him while he isn't practicing medicine.