

THE ZEBULON RECORD

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Editor

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RECORD Editorials

From what we have read lately it seems that the Dionne parents are rapidly reaching the stage where they will slap at the governmental hand that reached out to help them when the arrival of five babies created problems too great for them to solve alone. They are said to have tried to move into the hospital with the quintuplets and to have planned to move across the line into the United States where they might be free to exploit the babies. Papa Dionne has evolved from the humble being who stated at the time the five infants were born that "I'm the sort of man who ought to be killed" into the sort of man who proclaims that his family is his own concern regardless.

We fear it is one more case of too much publicity.

DRUNKEN OR DRINKING

In the Atlantic Magazine for April Curtis Billings, member of the National Safety Council, discusses in Alcohol and Motors the effect of drinking upon drivers. He declares that the real menace to safety on our highways today is not the drunken driver but the driver who has merely been drinking. He gives results of scientific experiments to determine the effect of small quantities of alcohol upon the human body and its reactions and because of knowledge thus gained he asserts that persons who intend to drive cars should not drink at all, or if they have been drinking, should not drive.

These conclusions have been reached not by religion nor by politics but by scientific proof that alcohol slows up mental processes dangerously, even when taken in very small quantities. Yet there are probably those who would consider Mr. Billings a narrow-minded fanatic.

HURRAH FOR HITLER

We have never been a great admirer of Hitler but we do say we are glad he has called the bluff of the other nations. We have always had the militarists and munition makers and big

men who would not have to carry arms and have never wanted peace unless it was to their gain.

Germany has every right that any other nation has to adequately arm herself for her people's defense. By Hitler's stand he has called the bluff of other nations and laid bare their hypocrisy. If the great mass of working people and those who furnish the young men to be sacrificed could decide on whether we shall have peace or war, we believe that more than 90 per cent would be against it. So long as military leaders and munition makers and others who will profit most directly by war rule this or any other country, just so long will there be the possibility of a war at any time.

So we say hurrah for Hitler this once if never again.

FOOLISH WISE MEN

The way the legislature has gone at the problem of legislation reminds one of a man trying to dig a well by beginning at the bottom, or a woman trying to cut out a garment before she buys the cloth. There is no doubt that we have some of our best men in the General Assembly, but when one notes the way they go at the business of legislation, he feels that they do it very foolishly—sometimes. For instance: the first thing they always do is pass all the little local bills that might just as well go unpassed before they even think about matters of vital concern to the state at large. And when they finally take up these they proceed on the plan of apportioning moneys according to what they want and not what they have. It is our humble judgment that matters of statewide importance should first be disposed of and that these should be passed on a basis of the actual revenue available.

THAT OBNOXIOUS SALES TAX

After these months the House has passed the 3 per cent sales tax—what everybody knew from the first it would have to do. It has not been the 3 cents people have had to pay as a sales tax that made it obnoxious. The law made every purchaser constantly conscious of it every time he made as much as a 10 cent purchase. He was often more conscious of the tax than the price of the article. Realizing this obnoxious feature, many merchants would have absorbed the tax, but the law would not let them.

If the sales tax had been placed and collected like the gas tax, the public would have accepted it without a complaint. Let the merchant pay the sales tax on bulk goods and then add enough to the retail price to cover the tax and he will never have to explain, nor a customer complain about the sales tax.

We must have revenue to carry on the government. The people themselves must provide it. The sales tax is in our opinion just as fair to all the people as any other tax so we are in favor of keeping it till a better way is found to raise revenue.

More Taxes—Higher Taxes

The increasing gravity of the tax problem is well illustrated in a recent survey by the National Industrial Board.

During the past four years, according to its findings, the public debt has increased at a more rapid rate than at any time in our history, save the two war years. The debt—federal, state and local—is now in excess of \$47,000,000,000.

Total tax collections, on the other hand, are at a lower level than in 1930, in spite of the numerous new taxes created by government in the years since then. Most of the money now being spent by government does not come out of its income, but is represented by borrowings against the future. The Board says that the margin between tax collections and public expenditures is now about \$6,000,

000,000, of which \$4,000,000,000 is reflected in rising indebtedness. The other \$2,000,000,000 is made up by non-tax government receipts such as earnings of general departments, assessments, fines, etc. To give still another illustration, the cost of debt service—interest and retirement of maturing bonds—in a late year for all units of government combined, amounted to 16.5 per cent of gross expendi-

tures, and almost 30 per cent of total tax collections.

There are the figures, and they require little comment. The gap between income and outgo is steadily widening with the inevitable result of more taxes and higher taxes—at the expense of employment, home-building and industrial expansion.

"Let's laugh and try once more."

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Ar. 8:19	3:14	WENDELL Ar. 10:20 5:35
Ar. 8:31	3:23	ZEBULON Ar. 10:11 5:25
Ar. 9:35	4:09	WILSON Ar. 9:20 4:32
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