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TUESDAY MORNING, APRIL 5, 1921.

The laws of conscience which we pretend to be derived from nature, proceed from custom. —Montaigne

American Taxpayers in Mexico

There is another beside a legal question involved in the cases of American citizens in Mexico who are resisting payment of taxes on incomes derived and expended in that country, according to a dispatch received yesterday. People pay taxes for the support of their government, chiefly for the protection it affords them, the security it offers for life and property and its guarantee of their well-being. These things are not to be had for nothing.

The American residents in Mexico may rightfully claim that during the past eight years they have not had this protection and these guarantees, and that, therefore, they should pay nothing for goods which have not been delivered to them.

Taxes, though, are not paid for past benefits, but in expectation of future benefits, such as insurance premiums are paid, so that these American citizens are now asked to pay for guarantees of the protection which their government will afford them in Mexico, or wherever else they may be in a country with which ours has exchanged mutual guarantees of protection of the citizens of each.

An American citizen could not reasonably expect the protection of his country while remaining in an enemy country. Nor could he expect it while residing in a country with which his country had no exchange of mutual guarantees. A citizen so situated has temporarily placed himself beyond the protection of his country. It owes him nothing and he owes it nothing but his allegiance, which he may throw off at any time by the process of naturalization.

The Mexican revolution, beginning in 1911, found many American citizens in that country. They were there under guarantees of protection given in a treaty between the two countries. Theoretically, they were as safe there as they would have been at home. They had the protection of the Mexican laws as far as the government was able to enforce them. They could not always be guaranteed against banditry and assassination, for in this country the government cannot absolutely guarantee its citizens.

But a time came when our government not only ceased to demand protection for its citizens, but Mr. Bryan, as secretary of state, formally withdrew all pretense of claims for their protection, especially of those who were possessed of wealth, and thus advertised to the various Mexican factions that the "open season" for rich Americans had come.

Therefore, rich Americans who have survived the last eight years feel that they are under no obligation to their government. They have come into a reasonable degree of security under Mexican laws as they are administered by the Obregon government. They have had no trouble under the present regime, antedating by some months the Harding administration. They therefore feel that whatever they owe for the security they now enjoy they owe to the Mexican government.

In another dispatch appearing yesterday, the Mexican government, according to a statement by President Obregon on Sunday, proposes to strengthen its guarantees of protection:

Absolute observance of laws imparting complete guarantees to the lives and interests of nationals and foreigners is the motif of the government. There also is frank hospitality toward all business men.

A decree has been issued extending terms fixed for the admission of claims for damages caused during the revolution, and a law regulating these claims is about to be published. Restitution of all properties which have been seized by former governments is about to be completed.

There also will be sent to congress shortly a bill destined to grant greater guarantees to national and foreigners against transgressions of those who, under the name of rebels, commit outrages.

It is to be observed that what Mexico has accomplished within the last eight months it has accomplished alone, entirely from within. Whether its work will be permanent is yet to be demonstrated. It is unsupported yet by our government. There is no relation between the United States and Mexico, such as recognition by the former would establish. Perhaps if our government would extend this recognition and thus put itself in a position to guarantee the well-being of Americans in Mexico, our citizens there would be less hesitant to resume their duties as citizens and taxpayers.

Paper Profits

The unreliability of comparative statistics in the face of the recent depreciation in the value of money is nowhere better illustrated than in the recent report of the British tariff commission. Its investigation was undertaken to ascertain the reasons for trade depression in England, notwithstanding what was believed to be a normal increase in foreign trade.

Statistics of exports for the first year following the armistice showed increases as measured in pounds sterling in excess of 50 per cent over the year 1912, which were interpreted as indicating a tremendous trade revival that threatened the markets of the entire world. Reduced, however, to the values of 1912, the tariff commission finds that England suffered an actual decline from the level of 1912 of more than 49 per cent.

Application of the same principle to the trade of the United States would doubtless reveal much the same situation as regards the post-war increases of trade. In fact, much of the prosperity that attached to that period is now recognized as a paper prosperity that had no foundation when measured in volumes of goods.

The Canadian Monetary Times, in an investigation touching the issue came to the conclusion recently that the war prosperity of that country did not represent a normal increase in the trade, but an actual decline when allowance was made for the changing standards of value.

Paper profits the world over have doubtless contributed their quota to the world-wide depression through which the country is now passing. Citizens in every country committed themselves to various forms of expenditure when trade conditions were not what they appeared to be. That is the reason so much difficulty is now being experienced in finding funds with which to meet general running expenses in many lines of business. The fluctuating and deceptive character of monetary standards is now practically presented to the entire world in a way not soon to be forgotten.

Checks and Deposits

The Republican has received this communication: Editor of The Republican: The cards, "We Deposit Every Day, Every Dollar We Take In," etc., are all right, but now that the crisis is past I would suggest the "We Cash No Checks" signs be taken down. They "don't look good" and we can use judgment the same as in the past. If a man who writes a check has a checking account, his check is as good as it was a year ago. These signs cast a bad reflection, so let's remove them. T. J. SIMONDS.

The doctrine of a common sauce for the goose and gander appears to be set out in the foregoing. But we should take into account the reason why the "We Cash No Checks" signs were put up. Many of them were, in fact, up years ago, and, of course, had no relation to any recent financial situation. They contained no imputation against the stability of any institution, but they expressed, rather, a suspicion of the financial integrity of the drawers of checks. That, of course, was too sweeping a suspicion. It was proper for the man who displayed the sign to guard himself against the forged or fictitious check uttered with the sole purpose to defraud; or against the check offered by a man who had no intention of eventually redeeming, but who intended to make it good, though it was not already good.

There was such a large number of checks of the latter class issued some three months ago that many found it advisable to exhibit such signs because the task of ascertaining the character of so many checks was too great. As a temporary expedient, the sign was excusable. But in ordinary conditions it is not. Payment by check has become so much a business practice because of its convenience that those to whom it is offered should accept the duty of ascertaining in doubtful cases whether or not a check so offered is good. That may be some trouble in many cases, but in our dealings with our neighbors and the public we are expected at times to put ourselves slightly out of our way.

The former kaiser claims that he originated the idea of a league of nations. But his idea was to force everyone into his league at the point of the bayonet and keep them there in chains.

Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, pure food expert, says that beer is without medicinal value. Somebody is always taking the joy out of life.

It appears that beer is now medicine in Ohio, but not in Michigan. That news will probably complete the evacuation of Detroit.

Chicago is a more religious town than anybody has been imagining. Its religious daily newspaper lasted for sixty-six issues.

"LITRACHURE"

"The class will please take their readers and turn to page 43. John, what is the subject of the story on that page?" "Now, stand up and read, till I tell you to stop; stand up straight, please, and hold your book in your right hand. Speak clearly—hold your head up. There—that's the first sentence; now tell us what mood the verb is in. What is the rule for the subjunctive mood? Can't anybody remember that? Who, we had it just day before yesterday. I will write on the board; for that is something you must know before you go on to the next grade." She writes: The subjunctive mood is used in a subordinate proposition when both contingency and futurity are expressed, or when the contrary fact is implied.

The children look at it somewhat as a puppy looks at the house cat with its back arched and tail inflated; they look at it on respectfully, and turn away sadly. "Now, go on reading, please." "There, stop there. Caroline, what would you say was the particular feature of this story as far as we have gone?" "Well, I should call it—sad—or—I don't know—I don't care much about it."

"Oh, that's not what I mean," says the teacher. "I mean its literary feature. Don't you think it is the way the adjectives are used? Hugo had a great reputation in his day for adjectives. He seemed to know more of them than anybody else, and this is an excellent example of his style." "And don't you notice, too, how short his sentences are? Now, why did he use such short sentences? Why, every author has his style, and Hugo chose this as his because he liked it. I was always sorry he did, for it makes his writings so jerky." "Do you know anything else that Hugo wrote besides this piece we are reading?" "Nobody knows, and there was every chance that nobody ever would know. They would always read pieces—rarely books, for they were trained to read pieces.—Edward Yeomans in the Atlantic Monthly."

NAVAL HOLIDAYS

This is not the first time in recent history that the air has been filled with talk about a "naval holiday." On the last occasion, in 1912, just ten months before the outbreak of the great war, Winston Churchill, in his capacity as head of the British Admiralty, delivered a speech on the naval strength of the European powers in which he said:

"You will remember the proposals which I made in introducing the navy estimates of this year for reduction of the fleet. Germany has greatly improved without the loss of our friendships with other countries. The moment, therefore, is not unfavorable for taking up the friendly reference to the question of a naval holiday which is to be found in the German Chancellor's speech. . . . Now we say, while there is plenty of time, in all friendship and sincerity to our great neighbor Germany: 'if you will put off beginning your two ships for twelve months from the ordinary date when you would have begun them, we will put off beginning our four ships, in absolute good faith, for exactly the same period.' That would mean that there would be a complete holiday for one year so far as big ships are concerned between Great Britain and Germany. There would be a saving, spread over three years, of nearly \$5,000,000 in this country, and the relative strength of the two countries would be unchanged.—The Freeman.

CUBAN NOTE

"I presume there is considerably more humidity in Cuba than there is here," remarked the Stay-at-Home. "No," replied the Returned Traveler, judiciously, "I can't say there is any more of it, but the prices are lower." Ticket seller says coolest seat in the theater is in Z row.

NEEDED—AN UMBRELLA!



AN ALASKAN PARK

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN. WASHINGTON, April 4.—The work of surveying the boundaries of Mount McKinley national park, which is said to be the most remarkable of all the areas which the United States government has set aside for the purposes of conservation and public pleasure, is to begin this spring. These boundaries will enclose a great area of primitive wilderness, teeming with game, in which it will be unlawful to kill that game except for miners and prospectors who are actually dependent upon it for a living.

It is hard to present to the popular imagination a national park in Alaska because it seems so far away. Yet the new government railroad in Alaska will bring Mount McKinley within three weeks of New York city, and you can travel all the way, except the last 20 miles, by boat and rail. This means that Mount McKinley will be no harder for the tourist to reach than is Hawaii, which in recent years has attained such wide popularity. It will soon be possible to go, on a summer vacation of a few months, from the most populous city in the world to one of its most remote places, and to enjoy the abundance of pre-Columbian days. This is an opportunity which the American tourist will not miss.

Qualifications as a Park Site. The southern slope of the mountain is one of the most beautiful regions in the world, rich in animal life, full of wild flowers, healthful all the year around. The southern slope is a vast rock slide where almost nothing can live, covered in winter with snow which sometimes reaches a depth of 60 feet.

Mount McKinley is said by those who have seen it to be the most spectacular peak in the world. It rises in the heart of the mountains, and is flanked by smaller mountains 14,000 to 15,000 feet high. A few peaks are as high as the main peak, but none are so imposing. The mountain is a vast plateau, and the only human beings in the vast wilderness. Although it is a great distance from the coast, the mining industries have yet been established within the park boundaries.

Reasons for Park Reservation. These national parks and forests in the West mean that there are great areas of beautiful country which will never be devastated, and where any man may roam, hunt, fish, camp or build his own cabin. What this is worth in health and pleasure the people of the Rocky Mountain States will know. What is equally important, though perhaps not so generally recognized, is the mental value of physical freedom. A man who has wandered freely in the great outdoors, building his campfire wherever he pleases, enjoying the sense of freedom, of escape from worry and of physical well-being which springs from such a life, is always a man with a fine sense of his individual liberty.

See How Those Pets of Pulchritude Dress Up Your Monthly Mental Food!

Advertisement for 'Pets of Pulchritude' featuring illustrations of a woman and a child, and text promoting a 'Monthly Mental Food'.

Are We Responsible for Bad Thoughts?

BY DR. FRANK CRANE (Copyright, 1921, by Frank Crane) We are not responsible for our mere thoughts. A deal of useless but very real suffering would be saved if we only realized this.

In a way, we may be responsible, indirectly, for we may be to blame for conditions that present thoughts, but even then it is not accurate to say that guilt lies in suggestion.

All responsibility lies in the Will, and there alone. For that is the only part of us that is absolutely free. You can will what you please. You cannot think as you please, nor want what you please, although you may control thought and desire to some extent by direction.

A good, wholesome and helpful book is Andre Tridon's "Psychoanalysis, Sleep and Dreams," for it is clear, sound sense on a subject that is full of morbidity to many people.

"The first requisite for a normal mental life," he says, "is the acceptance of all biological facts. Biology is ignorant of delicacy."

If we have lewd or murderous cravings, they are ours, of course, but ours as our hands and feet are ours; we are not responsible for them. They are like as not an inheritance from some cave man ancestor, and we are to be blamed for them no more than we are to be blamed for red hair or a club foot.

Many a person, especially many a youth in the teens, has suffered intense humiliation from his dreams. They seem to him to prove that he is base and gross.

Unfortunately, if he believes this it is likely to lower his self-respect, and to lead him to wrong deeds. For nothing is more provocative of crime than for one to fancy he is naturally criminal.

What the youth needs, to combat this despair, is not so much spiritual excitement and struggle, prayer and fasting, as it is clear, scientific truth.

That truth is that any suggestion, good or bad, beautiful or filthy, angelic or beastly, is liable to come to us out of the abyss of our personality, and we are not to blame for it any more than if it had been presented to us by another person, but are guilty only when we harbor, coddle, dally with, and yield to unworthy promptings.

The old belief in a personal devil, not ourselves, but our enemy, who urges us to evil, and whom we are to resist, was psychologically more correct than to believe that we are guilty of thoughts which are ours, but not of our own making.

THE ONCE OVER By H. I. PHILLIPS

Advertisement for 'The Once Over' by H. I. Phillips, including a list of 'Questions And Answers' and a testimonial for Dr. Palmer's Spring Fever Preparations.

Ume Sam

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Advertisement for 'Seth Tanner' featuring a testimonial and a list of ailments treated, including tuberculosis and catarrh.