

The Banner

MOUNT VERNON, OHIO

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It's enough to make a mule laugh to read the canned editorials in the Standpat papers these days wallowing over the big surplus in the state treasury. They want it spent at once.

Even if he offered to take it for nothing, a photographer couldn't secure the picture of a Republican member of the general assembly in the act of voting against a reduction of the state levy.

If a Democratic governor, attorney general and state treasurer had not been elected, that \$100,000 of interest which has been refunded by bankers who had illicit relations with Republican state treasurers would still be resting in the pockets of the grafters.

Under Democratic state administrations the interest earnings on deposits of the state's money is used to defray expenses of the government and to lower taxes; under Republican administrations this increment went into the pockets of dishonest state treasurers, Republican politicians and favored banks.

The cost to Michigan and Wisconsin employers for workmen's compensation is three times as much as that charged to Ohio employers. In those states private insurance companies can furnish policies to employers. This explains why the insurance companies have made a deal with the Standpat leaders of the Republican party to overthrow the Ohio statute. There's millions in it.

But a few weeks ago The Ohio Equity Association thought its organs, The Cleveland Leader, the Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune and the Republican Press Bureau in Columbus, started the story that the present administration had bankrupted the state treasury. Well, the truth is and was that the treasury holds and held the largest unexpended balance in its history and Governor Cox is preparing to call a special session of the general assembly for a day or two to reduce the state tax levies for the sole purpose of stopping the flow of money from the pockets of the tax payers into a plethoric treasury.

THE OLD AND THE NEW SYSTEM

One month and eleven days was the average time required by the state industrial commission to settle death claims that were brought to its attention up to December 31, 1913. Eight months and one day was the average time consumed by the courts in settling 244 similar cases which came up previous to the enactment of the workmen's compensation law. Twenty-five months was the average time required to settle 36 fatal cases in common pleas court.

In spite of this record the Republican organization and its candidates are doing everything in their power to restore old conditions.

WANT CORPORATE TAXES REDUCED: NOT THE PEOPLE'S

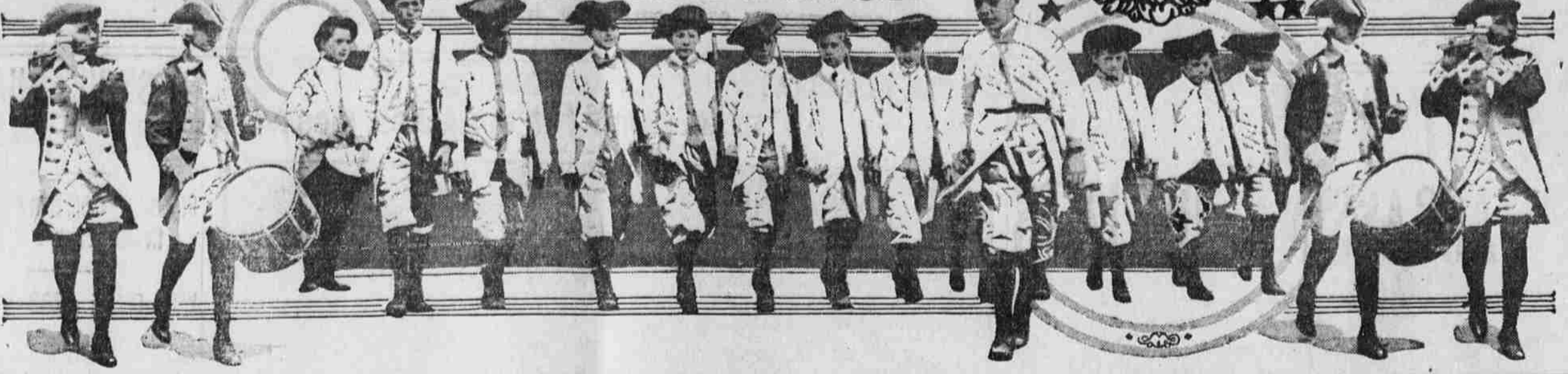
Ever since the announcement of a probable session of the general assembly to reduce the state levies dropped like a bomb among them, the Standpat Republican organization has been busier than a farmer in harvest trying to belittle the proposed reduction.

It would be hard for any sane man in Ohio to believe for a moment that the Standpatters would ever stray so far from the path of political wisdom as to oppose a reduction in taxes. The Standpatters are for the reduction all right, but they don't want the people to get the lower rate. Here is a paragraph taken from the columns of Warren G. Harding's paper of the issue of June 19 which shows where the sympathies of the Standpatters are:

"Instead of cutting down the state levy, I would leave it where it is and reduce the indirect tax whereby the coffers of the state are replenished by exacting a tribute of the corporations."

So the position of the once G. O. P. is that if it was in power at the present time it would reduce the taxes of the people remain where they are, notwithstanding the tremendous increase to the duplicate. That is a frank statement and a frank warning of what to expect.

1776 138 YEARS OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE 1914



THE HOUSE ON RICHMOND HILL

A STORY FOR JULY 4—BY CAPT. F. A. MITCHEL

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IN old New York during the latter part of the eighteenth century, not far from that part of the city lying near and north of what is now Canal street, there was a rise in the ground called Richmond hill, on which stood what was a handsome residence for that day. To the south lay the Lispenard meadows, and to the west was the North river.

In July, 1775, Washington took command of the Continental armies at Cambridge. The battles of Concord, Lexington and Bunker Hill had been fought, and the next most important struggle was for the possession of New York. The British had command on the water, which gave them a great advantage, and were bound sooner or later to take the city, but Washington went there to put up as good a fight for it as possible. It was during the subsequent operations that Washington occupied the mansion on Richmond hill. The housekeeper was Phoebe.



"I AM ANXIOUS TO FIX THIS CRIME UPON THE MAN WHO HAS INFLUENCED IT."

Francaes, daughter of Samuel Francaes, who kept the famous tavern, Phoebe was an attractive girl and was not in want of lovers. One of them was Thomas Hickey, a member of the life guard of Washington.

One day when the housekeeper was directing a negro woman who was sweeping the front porch Hickey left his tent and went up to speak to her. She asked him:

"How should I know?" replied Hickey, with a show of irritation that surprised Phoebe.

"How should you know?" she repeated. "One would suppose from the way you take my question that you were in league with her captain."

Hickey still further astonished the girl by turning pale at this random shot. Phoebe looked at him for awhile in a sort of curious wonder; then, turning to the negro woman, she said:

"That will do, Susan. You may go in now."

"Then why do you keep a secret from me?" Tom made no reply. Phoebe studied his countenance for a while, then said: "Tom, I'm for the king."

"Yes, I do, and I believe you're really on the same side."

"Are you telling the truth, Phoebe?" "To be sure I am. I want to make some money, Tom. I can easily overhear the general when he talks with his officers, and I would like to get some information to General Howe. Could you take it for me?"

"I can do better than that for you, sweetheart. I've got a chance to make some money myself. I'll divide with you. Together we can make a good deal. Meet me tonight after lights are out on the river bank."

Phoebe, who was trying to worm Tom's secret out of him, let him go reluctantly, fearing that he might gather caution and refuse to trust her. He did regret having placed so much confidence in her, but he realized that he had gone too far to retreat. When she met him on the river bank he gave her the whole story.

When the Revolution broke out and the people of New York rose against the authority of the king, the governor of the province, Tryon, fled to the warship Asia, the vessel of which Phoebe had spoken. There he plotted—or, rather, continued to plot—for Washington's assassination. He bribed Tom Hickey, a member of Washington's life guard, to poison the general's food. Hickey, as soon as Phoebe had avowed herself a royalist, realizing that she would be able to do the work more easily than he, proposed the scheme to her.

Phoebe was thunderstruck. Fortunately it was dark on the river bank, and Hickey could not see the horror in her face at his proposal. She pretended for awhile to be averse to the plan, but when Hickey held before her the reward they would receive and how it would enable them to marry and live in comfort she feigned to yield and called for the poison. Tom gave her a powder, and she, after enduring his caresses for a few moments, slipped away from him and returned to headquarters.

The general was engaged in dictating dispatches to his mid-de-camp, Captain Hamilton, and as soon as Hamilton left the room Phoebe knocked and was hidden to enter. Closing the door behind her, she revealed the plot she had drawn from Hickey.

"What?" exclaimed Washington. "Are those men, not content with being tyrants, ambitious to be murderers?"

Phoebe, who stood in great awe of the commander, was about to withdraw when he stopped her.

"I am anxious," he said, "to fix this crime upon the man who has instigated it. I shall not arrest this miserable fool till you have drawn all the evidence from him it is possible for you to get. Meet him again tomorrow; pretend to be assured that you will receive the reward for my assassination and have him—if you can prevail upon him to do so—tell you the names of as many persons involved in the plot as you can."

Phoebe signified her willingness to do all in her power. The general took the powder from her and gave it to his medical director with an order to analyze it and report to him concerning it. It proved to be a virulent poison.

The next day Phoebe brought the general considerable evidence, some of it written, involving a number of persons. Having got all the information that seemed to be forthcoming, Washington sent out parties of soldiers to arrest those within his lines who were implicated. Hickey was arrested at the same time. Phoebe saw him led past under guard and said to him:

"You would be murderer! You thought to use me in your effort to kill the finest man in America. You will be hanged, and it will serve you right!"

At his trial Phoebe Francaes was the principal witness. Washington was especially desirous to fix the intended crime on Governor Tryon, and by Phoebe's testimony, or, rather, the evidence she had drawn from Hickey, he was enabled to do so. Hickey was found guilty and sentenced to be hanged. The sentence was executed in due course of time.

OLD GLORY'S BAPTISM OF FIRE

By W. H. RICHARDSON

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INDEPENDENCE day naturally brings thoughts of Old Glory and its first appearance in the grim business that was engaging the country at the time of its formal adoption as the national emblem. As every child knows, the flag had its statutory beginning on June 14, 1777, when congress agreed upon the design.

After the smokes had cleared away from the battle of Oriskany on Aug. 6, 1777, when Sir John Johnson and his Tories and Indians were routed, the victor of the day improvised a flag from the red petticoat of a soldier's



THE MONUMENT AT COOCH'S BRIDGE.

wife, a white shirt and an old blue jacket and hung it to the breeze above the captured British standards at Fort Stanwix. That is doubtless the first time the flag appeared in the "danger zone."

When Washington got his clew eventually that Sir William Howe with 18,000 men was sailing up the Chesapeake he started his army southward, and on the way through Philadelphia they were cheered and inspired by the bands playing and "the flags flying!"

Some of the flags of Betsy Ross' own make, perhaps.

Howe landed twelve miles below Elkton, Md., on Aug. 25, and the fatal campaign of 1777 began with a collision at Cooch's bridge, only a few miles nearer Philadelphia, his objective point. A division of the British, under Lord Cornwallis, had advanced to Christina creek and from which a large part of the country toward the Delaware could be observed.

On the part of the Americans a "light advance corps" had been organized under General Maxwell, with instructions to be "constantly near the enemy and give them every possible annoyance."

Stedman, an English historian of the "Origin, Progress and Termination of the American War," published his big two volume history in 1794. He was on Cornwallis' staff, and he disposes of this first engagement in seven words, telling of "dispersing the advanced guards of the enemy."

Captain John Montross, Howe's chief of engineers, counted only three dead and twenty wounded among the British at that time, notwithstanding the fact that Morgan's famous riflemen had been shooting at the redcoats. But the cannon planted on Iron hill really did serious damage to Maxwell's men, who, having no such formidable arm, daily retired under pressure of a largely outnumbering foe. Delawareans are proud of the fact that the opportunity to wave the stars and stripes at the head of fighting columns came first in their state.

REGRETTED FOURTH OF JULY'S DEED.

In the manuscript diary of John White of Salem, Mass., are many interesting Revolutionary notes.

Among the entries are: March 2, 1776. The Continental Troops began to Cannonade and Bombard Boston. Continued for three nights successively. Saturday night we fired on Boston from our lines, and Sunday morning, the 17th of March, the Regulars went out of Boston.

Dec. 1, 1776. Great Dearness of Provisions, owing to the great quantity of Paper Money, which depreciates fast.

Dec. 21, 1776. The inhabitants of this town (Salem) are so mutinous they threaten me for selling the Salt at 12 shillings per bushel. May the Tumult of the People be still'd by Him who ruleth the Raging of the sea.

The tumult was probably not still'd, for under date of Dec. 31, 1778, Salt Seller White says: We shall forever have Reason (I fear) to lament our Gloried Revolution, because I have only changed Task Masters, the later the worse, because they are poor Creatures.

Our Country is too poor to be a Separate Nation. All or chiefly the men of knowledge made no Resistance to Government, and therefore men of little or no Knowledge, that took part in the opposition to Britain, were preferred to places in our Government. Thus came in Men poor without moral Virtue, Blockheads, etc. The High Sheriff of this County is a Tanner, the other a Joiner; neither of them could speak or read English; of this Town both. Why I describe our condition in the above manner is because it is impossible such men, without education, should be equal to the business. I bless God it is no worse with me, but I am too Proud easily to submit to such things. I am now above 65 years old, and am glad and rejoice my Trial is almost over.

Another entry dated Oct. 23, 1780, records that President Washington "was in Town, bound Easterly."

Descendants of the Signers. The Descendants of the Signers is an organization composed of men and women whose ancestors penned their names to the document that proclaimed American freedom. The society was organized at the Jamestown exposition in 1907 with a membership of upward of 150 persons.

Our Yankee Doodle Boy.

YANKEE DOODLE four-year-old is a hero big and bold, On his breast a sash of red, Cap and plume upon his head, On his thigh a sword of lath, A red cannon by the path, The true, starry banner o'er him And a loud drum hung before him.

Colonel, captain, garrison, Gunner, drummer, all in one; Tyrant kings and Hessian foes Cannot stand before his blows— Nay, nor any one with ears, Dear mamma nor grenadiers!



Photo by American Press Association.

THE YANKEE DOODLE BOY AND HIS SISTER

Give him room and let him bang, Batten, clatter, crackle, clang, Rub-a-dub, hurrah and charge, Strike and wheel and tramp at large, Fierce with valor, heaving down Mullett head and thistle crown; 'Tis the fourth day of July, And his loyal heart beats high.

As the good boy Washington, Slashing cherry trees for fun, When to noble manhood grown Drove his hatchet through a throne, So my Yankee four-year-old, Now in fancy battles bold, Shall grow up in courage strong To smite many a cruel wrong! —Philadelphia Ledger.

THE SPIRIT OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

Let us, standing by our fathers' graves, swear anew and teach the oath to our children that with God's help the American republic, clasping this continent in its embrace, shall stand unmoved, though all the powers of slavery, piracy and European jealousy should combine to overthrow it; that we shall have in the future, as we have had in the past, one country, one constitution and one destiny; that our sons may gather strength from our example in every contest with the despots that time may have in store to try their virtues, and that they may rally under the stars and stripes to battle for freedom and the rights of man with our old time warcry, "Liberty and union, now and forever, one and inseparable." —John Jay, July 4, 1861.

SMILES FOR THE FOURTH.

His Glorious Fourth. "If your husband hasn't any engagement for the Fourth of July bring him over to our house for dinner." "Well, he hasn't any engagements, but he expects to have about forty. You know, he's a surgeon." —Chicago Tribune.

The Alternative. Grandma—Bobby, here is a quarter for you to put away to buy fireworks with on the Fourth of July. Bobby—Pshaw! We don't keep the Fourth that way any more. I'm going to hear the returns from the prize-fight! —Puck.

July 4, 1775. New England Colonist—What are you celebrating today, Beriah? Convivial Ditto—Why, this will be the last opportunity we will ever have to celebrate a "quiet Fourth!" —Puck.

Americans Above All! Let us always remember that, whatever differences about politics may have existed or still exist, we are all Americans before we are partisans and cherish the welfare of all the people above party or state. God bless every undertaking which revives patriotism and rebukes the indifferent and lawless. —William McKinley, July 4, 1897.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

State Highway Department, Columbus, Ohio, June 19, 1914. Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the state highway commissioner at Columbus, Ohio, until two o'clock p. m., July 7, 1914, for constructing the bridges and culverts, grading and paving the roadway as follows:

Knox Co., Pet. 501, I. C. H. 339, paving with brick the Mt. Vernon-Coshocton Road, in Clinton and Monroe Twp. Length 5786 ft., or 1.16 miles. Width of pav. 14 ft. Estimated cost \$23,240.80. The bidder must submit a proposal and contract bond for an amount equal to the amount of his bid. Date set for

completion, August 1, 1915. Plans and specifications are on file in the office of the County Commissioners and the State Highway Department. The State Highway Commissioner reserves the right to reject any and all bids. JAMES R. MARKER, State Highway Commissioner. 6-23,308

Bill of Fare for Chautauqua Week. This entire entertainment menu may be ordered for \$2.00 if purchased from the local committee while the supply of season tickets lasts. Band Music, Drama, Oratory, Recitals, Operatic Selections, Magic, Sermons, String Music, Impersonations, Monologues, Indian Tales, Lectures on Literary Topics, Mind Reading, Solos and Quartets, Community Talks, Burlesques, Story Hours, Comedy, Playground Work, Sketches, Athletics. A Pleasant Week With Your Friends. Can You Beat It? All for \$2.00.