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The Republican Paper of Carroll County

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THE EUROPEAN WAR WILL NOT BE A PERMANENT CHECK TO THE PROGRESS OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION

Many persons are apprehensive that the great war in Europe will not only check the progress of the Christian religion in heathen lands, but will discourage and alienate large numbers of believers from the true faith in Christian countries. Some have even gone so far as to regard it as a deathblow to the cause, while others, even among those who are rooted and grounded in the faith, have expressed the opinion that it will retard the effort to evangelize the world for a century.

May it not be possible that these pessimists are looking at the question from a false standpoint and are regarding it directly in opposition to the real religious influence it will exert in respect to the world at large, Christian as well as Heathen? No doubt it will temporarily interfere with evangelistic work among the heathen and divert attention from christian duty and privilege in the countries at war. Such consequences are inevitable in any country when it may be at war, and in this instance they are being multiplied by the immensity of the conflict. The channels through which the means to carry on the work of the Christian Church, in the nations engaged in the awful death struggle, are well nigh dried up, and their utmost resources are demanded to supply the engines of destruction and support the armies employed in the death dealing work. The whole people of those inhabiting these lands are suffering in mind, and to a large extent, in body and estate. It is not a cheerful picture to the most optimistic Christian, and is calculated to depress the most sanguine of those who work for, pray for and hope for the dawning of the day when the whole world will be won for Christ.

But there are present and will be future compensations for the gigantic evils attending this stupendous war. For the present, the spectacle presented by the people of our own country, in literally rushing to the help of the helpless peoples, rendered homeless and starving by the incident of residence in the battle zones of the strife, is reassuring, to say nothing of the professional services of skilled surgeons and trained nurses, and of the medical supplies provided by the Red Cross Society and sent abroad by a government vessel. What non-Christian country ever imitated or initiated such means for the relief of suffering humanity, or has ever exhibited such care for the suffering among its own inhabitants? What prompts the people of America, and perhaps of other neutral civilized nations, to engage in this work of mercy? Does even an infidel doubt that it is the spirit and example of Him who went about doing good, and that, in a great measure, it is done in His name, and that even those who contribute of their means through less higher motives, are influenced by the action of those who, aside from mere motives of humanity, are moved by a sincere desire to honor Him. Neither Mohammedans, the disciples of Confucius, the worshippers of the Buddhas, nor any other anti-Christian people have any conception of the spirit that actuates Christian nations, even when at war, and of the mercy and forbearance exhibited toward a captured or fallen foe. They must look on in amazement, if they are at all informed now, at the care such powers are taking of those who fall into their hands as prisoners of war, and how much more at the generous aid being extended by our own country to the helpless non-combatants without respect to, or thought of, their nationality or creed. Nearly every one of the countries involved in the war has in its own armies, or in the ranks of some one of its allies, soldiers who are either ignorant of the Christian faith or bitterly hostile to it. Their observation of what it is doing to mitigate the misery, destitution and suffering produced by the war, must be a revelation to them of what Christianity, in its real essence, really means. When the Singhalese, brought from India by Great Britain, and fighting for the Allies, or those of them who survive the war, go back to their own country, they must carry with them some knowledge of the fruits of which the Cross is an emblem. Some of them may learn this in the hospitals where they will be in the care of Red Cross surgeons and Red Cross nurses, and it would not be surprising if among them will be some who will embrace Christianity. It is possible that even this great war between Christian nations may be one means of spreading the Christian religion in heathen lands.

There is a view of the subject in the mind of the writer that will not be discussed in this article, but may be taken up in the future. The reference here to its significance, will be found in an exclamation of General James A. Garfield, in New York, when that city, and this country generally, were in the throes of a great sorrow and excitement: "God reigns, and the Government at Washington still lives." The truth intended to be forcibly expressed by that exclamation is, that God reigns, though people "may imagine a vain thing."

MUST TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN POOR—THEY ARE MORE NUMEROUS THAN THEY HAVE BEEN FOR A GENERATION

While Americans, in their generous desire to relieve the suffering of the destitute people of Belgium, are contributing liberally to that purpose, they are in danger of neglecting their own poor, the number of whom has been multiplied by the depressed condition of business in this country. The Baltimore Sun, in an elaborate review of the situation in that city, published in its issue of Monday, says that "unless prompt action is taken to relieve it, the situation will be worse than any Baltimore has had to deal with for a generation," and that there are "more people out of work, more without food and more without proper clothing and fuel than there have been for years."

The various charity organizations of the city are at an end of their resources and are making earnest appeals to the well to do people for assistance. The number of those to be helped has increased greatly. For instance, the Sun says: "In the course of the year ending October 31 last the Fedcrated Charities had under its care 7,216 families. In the preceding year, which was a normal year, it had 5,434 families. * * * The St. Vincent de Paul Society in 1913 cared for 1,088 families, while up to October 1, 1914, it had cared for 1,791 families." The stringency in the situation is shown by the fact that the Sparrows Point steel works, which, when running full time, employs about 8,000 men, has now hardly a thousand at work, and the copper works has only about 30 per cent. of its usual force employed. According to the Sun, 40 or 50 of the leading industries of Baltimore, which ordinarily employ about 50,000 men, have laid off 34,000 of them, leaving less than one-third at work.

While the Sun says "the war in Europe has been responsible for most of the trouble," there is ample reason to attribute it to another cause. It existed before the war began and could have had no immediate connection with it. But it is useless to discuss that feature of the situation.

The salient fact in connection with it is that it exists. The cause is immaterial in so far as that is concerned. The war is bringing demands for charity and relief in various directions outside of the one most pressing—the relief of human suffering. And a generous people cannot stay their hands from ministering to the fullest extent of their ability, to send abroad the help so sadly needed. But they should not overlook the wants of those in distress and poverty at their own doors. They are our own and must not be neglected.

Baltimore, it is supposed, is able and willing to care for its own poor, but that its charity organizations are at the end of their resources must appeal strongly to the people of more favored communities. Westminster people, and some in other parts of this county, have, almost without solicitation, responded to a knowledge of the destitution in the war-stricken zones of Europe, and are preparing to increase their benefactions.

Why may not Baltimore ask for a little share of the contributions of her country cousins for sweet charity's sake. As the Sun tells the story there is urgent need for such assistance. He that careth not for his own household, has denied the faith and is worse than a heathen. The poor in America are of our own household and must be cared for, if we have not denied the faith.

WHAT ARE EXCISES?

There is no question of the power of Congress to "lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises." That power is explicitly delegated by the 8th Section of the 1st Article of the constitution. In the ordinary interpretation of the word this power has a wide range in meaning, as it is applied to internal taxation and its existence, as a necessary means of providing means for the support of the government. Perhaps it would have its limitations if subjected to judicial interpretation, as was the case in the imposition of a tax on incomes, which was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, and was only revived by the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution. But the method of collecting excises is not prescribed by the Constitution and had to be provided by law. And the laws in that respect seem to be strangely at variance with a provision of the Second Section of Article One of the Constitution, which declares that "representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union."

Here again the government has placed its own interpretation upon the meaning of direct taxation and has limited a direct tax to a tax on property. And, therefore, an excise is not a direct tax, though directly imposed by act of Congress. The stamp tax which has just gone into effect, is, to all intents and purposes, sufficiently direct to be classed in that category. So are the taxes on liquor, tobacco and numerous other articles. These are, in effect, direct, but they are imposed as excises.

No doubt all this has been threshed out in decisions by the Supreme Court, but there may be questions involved which have never been raised before that tribunal. The law authorizing the imposition of a tax on incomes was not questioned when it was imposed during the Civil War, and many millions of dollars were paid into the treasury, and have never been refunded, under that law. And the law stood unchallenged up to President Cleveland's second administration.

The Sentinel is not familiar with the provisions of the law, which has just gone into effect, in relation to the penalties prescribed for its violation, but it probably provides that deeds, bills of lading and other instruments of writing to which it applies will be vitiated by the non-use of the stamps thereon. If so, the question will arise as to the authority of Congress to impose such a penalty. That authority has not been conferred by the Constitution and the power to legalize such documents must be among the powers reserved to the States. Can the United States nullify a deed which is filed for record in a court of a State without having a stamp affixed? That will be an interesting question for the law officers of the government, and for the consideration of the lawyers generally, and perhaps also for the courts. It is worth testing.

WHEN IS THE GOOD TIME COMING?

The administration newspapers have constantly echoed and re-echoed the opinion, persistently repeated from Washington, that this country is at the beginning of a revival of business and great prosperity, and the hope of such a condition is being widely entertained by business men and others. So strongly has this been put before the public that there are few who doubt that it is close at hand. But the good time predicted is coming very slowly, notwithstanding the revival of confidence brought about by the great gains made by the Republican party at the election a month ago. For some reasono, that is not very clear, a date when things will begin to boom actively, has been set by those possessing this confidence, and we are told that with the incoming of the year 1915, the business depression will be lifted and great activity will be manifested in every branch of trade. There seems to be no good reason to entertain a contrary opinion, except that a serious obstacle to its full realization is to be found in the free-trade tariff enacted by the present Congress. Whatever may be the other causes conspiring to bring about the condition so ardently desired by everybody, this tariff law is a handicap that will prevent the country from taking the full benefit of its opportunity and starting on a period of unexampled prosperity.

There is another cause that may also, in some measure, retard the return of better times. That is the imposition of a war tax in time of peace, a tax that, in some respects, will weigh heavily upon business people and, if not remarkably burdensome, will be excessively inconvenient. The stamp feature of this tax, which went into operation three days ago, is especially objectionable on that account, and may not only be inconvenient but troublesome and dangerous by vitiating instruments of writing to which the affixing of the necessary stamps may be neglected.

The Sentinel is not fully informed as to what papers the stamps are required to be affixed, no list thereof having been published officially or otherwise. The Internal Revenue Department has been content to leave the matter to guesswork on the part of business men. Perhaps it may arise to the occasion, now that the tax is in actual force. Somebody, at least, should inform the newspapers that they in turn may enlighten their readers on the subject.

Yet, in spite of these hindering causes and perhaps other obstacles, there is awakening a general hope of better times. People of average intelligence can see that, unless some untoward circumstance intervenes, there should be a revival in almost every department of business in this country. The opportunity to take advantage of the conditions of trade with other countries is here, and nothing can long prevent the people from seizing it; except the penchant of national legislators, or of the party in power, nationally, to do more tinkering with the economic laws of the country. If it will withhold its hand until the people get an opportunity to relegate it to the rear and restore its opponents to authority, the bad times may be tided over with better until the really good times come again and the nation shall be relieved of the burden of war taxation in time of peace.

THE ROADS QUESTION

The Frederick County Court has been much and severely criticised in many newspapers on account of its decison in the injunction case of the Roads Commission against the running of cleated traction engines on the State roads, and one of the severest criticisms of that decision was the article of the Engineering Record, copied by the Sentinel and other papers in Maryland last week. But, perhaps, these adverse comments should have been leveled at the law and not at the court. The judges who rendered the decision and refused to grant the injunction are furists of recognized ability and of unimpeachable integrity and probably fairly interpreted the law. They should not be discredited in the mind of the public by newspaper articles written by those who only look at consequences and do not take into account the legal aspect of the case.

The Roads Commission, however, will be within its right in any proceeding it may take to secure a legal reversal of the judgment of the Frederick county judges, and will be wholly justified in endeavoring to have the law amended if it shall, as it stands, receive the endorsement of the highest judicial tribunal of the State. It would be a thorough perversion of propriety to permit the State roads, built at enormous expense, to be torn to pieces anad seriously damaged by traction engines with cleats. While public roads are built for the use of the public, that use should have its limitations. Even the common county dirt roads should be protected against improper use and damage and can, no doubt, be legally so protected. To permit them to be torn to pieces by vehicles or machinery not in ordinary use, but of extraordinary damaging character, would not be legally tolerated.

It would, without doubt, be a hardship to deprive the owner of a traction engine of the privilege of running it over a State road, and that is not contemplated by the Roads Commission. But, if it is shown that cleats on such engines have the effect of seriously damaging such highways, the cleats must go, if not by force or existing laws, at least by future legislation.

Other perplexing questions in connection with the character of the State roads have arisen and call for serious consideration. And, principally, their solidity and smoothness of surface is a cause of much complaint among equestrians and those who travel in horse-drawn vehicles. They are dangerous to horseflesh, as these animals cannot keep their footing on them with safety. The danger, at times, is mitigated by temporary expedients, but it should be possible to devise some means of more permanent character to obviate this trouble, a condition so serious that even grand juries are beginning to take account of it. For instance, the grand jury of Harford county, which recently adjourned, in its report to the court said: "We find the State highways through the county are generally so smooth that they are rendered useless to the general traveling public, except for those using automobiles."

That seems to be an extreme view of the matter, however. In this locality they are certainly not useless, the worst that can be said of them being that they are to some extent dangerous to horses and too slippery to attempt hauling heavy loads over them without risk.

Some one has informed the writer that in Washington county this difficulty has been overcome, but in what manner was not stated. If in Washington county that can be done, why not elsewhere. The condition complained of is, at any rate, of such importance as to call for a remedy if it be possible to devise one whihch will make the roads perfectly safe for all sorts of travel.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

This is to give notice that the subscriber has obtained from the Orphans' Court of Carroll county, Md., letters of administration on the estate of

SUSANNAH C. LAMDIN,

late of Carroll county, deceased. All persons having claims against the deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof legally authenticated, to the subscriber on or before the 9th day of July, 1915, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of said estate.

Given under my hand this 4th day of December, 1914.

ANDREW D. RICHARDSON,
12 4 4-t Administrator.

If there was any just reason for sending an American army to Vera Cruz it does not appear that its withdrawal is justified at this juncture. Several foreign nations are now calling upon the United States to protect their citizens residing in Mexico, but nothing can be done to that effect beyond a protest against any injustice that may be practiced. And protests are likely to have very little influence with the various factions striving for mastery in the Mexican government. In fact, it would not be very far out of the way to say there is no Mexican government. Four or five different individuals are seeking to gain the Mexican Presidency. Villa, Carranza, Zapata and Gutierrez and possibly Gonzalez are all aspiring to become the head of the government, and each one of them has an army behind him with which he hopes to enforce his claim. Carranza, while he has left the City of Mexico, still claims to be the Provisional President, has converted Vera Cruz into the capital of the country, has an army backing him, and has the two or three gunboats owned by Mexico, under his control. With each of these factions contending for mastery there is no better prospect for peace than there has been at any time for more than two years. Villa has reached the City of Mexico with his army, said to number 25,000 men, but with the best intentions will hardly be able to control the situation.

While President Wilson has changed his mind about withdrawing the U. S. troops from the mining region in Colorado, and will, for the present at least, cause them to remain there, he seems to have a different idea of the trouble from that entertained by intelligent citizens of the State, who are familiar with existing conditions. He has created, among the people of the Eastern half of the country, an impression that the mine operators are altigether in the wrong; that they are an obstinate and domineering set, who are determined to have their own way and will not entertain any proposition looking to a compromise with the striking miners, and prefer to leave their mines lying idle and non-productive. Now, this is rank injustice to the operators. Mr. Royer Bish, of Rocky Ford, Colorado, who is visiting his parents in this city, states that a sufficient number of miners is now employed to get out more coal than there is a market for. The mines are not idle. Mr. Bish believes that many of those who are camping as striking miners, and who have to be restrained from acts of violence by the military power of the government, have never worked in the mines. The operators, he states, have always been ready to recognize an incorporated union, but the miners have refused to measure up to that standard. They are unwilling to come under the restraints imposed by law upon corporations. So far as the strike is concerned it remains in statu quo, but the operators have all the labor, and more than they need, employed now.

LOST

Gold locket and chain Saturday night on Main street, Westminster, between Railroad and Church street. Liberal reward if returned to this office.
12 4 1-t*

For Sale or Rent

Desirable building on E. Main street, adjoining Farmers and Mechanics Bank, with large room and glass front, 6 rooms on second floor; possession on first of May, 1915. Also modern residence on E. Main street, opposite Washington Avenue, 8 rooms, bath, furnace and chicken and hog house on rear of lot. Possession given January 1st, 1915.
For further particulars apply to
JOHN POISEL,
East Main street,
Westminster, Md.
11 27 tf

NOTICE

The undersigned, having settled in the Orphans' Court, an account of the personal estate of
GRANVILLE R. HARNER,
late of Carroll County, Md., deceased, and ascertained the balance in his hands for distribution, according to law, among the creditors of said deceased, hereby gives notice to said creditors to file their claims against said deceased legally authenticated with the Register of Wills for Carroll County, on or before the 28th day of December, 1914, preparatory to a distribution of the assets of said personal estate, to be made amongst said creditors under the direction of the Orphans' Court of Carroll County, Md., on the 4th day of January, 1915. After the final ratification of said distribution by the Orphans' Court aforesaid, the undersigned will be prepared to pay to each of said creditors their respective dividends according to said distribution.
SAMUEL H. MAYERS,
Administrator.

Yale has to have a 69,000 stadium to accommodate its football crowds, but that amount of seating capacity will not be needed for the intercollegiate debating contests.

Dr. Fahrney's Teething Syrup conforms to the Pure Food and Drug Law; every bottle guaranteed. Sample free.
11 6 2-m

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At Baltimore's Best Store

Any purchase you make at this store, provided it is within the government limit of weight and size, *will be delivered free by* Parcel Post to any post office in the first, second or third zone from Baltimore, extending approximately 300 miles.

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Before buying your FALL HAT, let us show you the very latest styles that will be worn this season.

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22 W. Main Street, - WESTMINSTER, MD.

For the next few weeks, it is customary to decide every night to do Christmas shopping next day.

Children Cry
FOR FLETCHER'S
CASTORIA

Children Cry
FOR FLETCHER'S
CASTORIA

Some people pay the grocer for their Thanksgiving feast by giving him an order for Christmas.

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