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Relief Work A Godsend.

Relief, in the form of work for more than a hundred men in this county, since administration of the funds allocated to Nicholas by the Kentucky Relief Commission, was undertaken two weeks ago, is proving a Godsend to this community. The eagerness with which applications for work are made and the willingness of the applicants to accept the scrip payment is proof of the urgent need for relief in this county.

"The Kentucky Relief Commission," says the Stanford Interior-Journal, "is doing a splendid work for the State in putting to work thousands of men and women . . . No money is being wasted, even working cases being investigated, so are only told, and the need deserving given employment . . . We believe the system being used by the Commission is about as perfect, and yet as simple, as could be devised. We congratulate Mr. Harper Galton and his associates on the work they are doing all over Kentucky."

Two Excellent Remedies.

That "people should quit acting like goats and buying stock in and bonds upon industrial enterprises simply because of some big man's name" and that we must "sweat out our debts," contrasted in the story of expansion, are lessons of the depression as seen by the Woodford Sun. The Sun cites Technocracy, with all of its vagaries, credit for calling attention to the fact that American "industrial business men have stupidly permitted factory capacity to outrun our present needs and have foolishly issued bonds payable in the distant future, on equipment that will become obsolete before these bonds mature."

The Sun points out the only two remedies as it sees it, for the "hangover" we are suffering, as a result of our own folly and the stupidity of our so-called "big business" men.

"The only remedy is that these men did not build these factories and this machinery with their own money, but with the public's money. People should quit acting like goats. They should stop buying stock in and bonds upon industrial enterprises simply because of some big man's name. They should use just as much thought in investing their money as they put into making it. It is the recklessness of the public falling for years to make some money and giving it away in a minute, without thought, for a piece of paper—it is this recklessness which has supplied the capital for the big fellows to build financial air castles with.

"The second point is that the amount of debt created in the expansion of business has been unreasonable and dangerous, and that we issue bonds, payable far in the future, on equipment which will soon become useless long before the bonds are due, and which in many cases is already obsolete.

"The only remedy for this is to 'sweat it out' and take at least part of the loss, rather than to attempt to 'hoof all of it on our chickens. When a nation indulges in a crazy dance, there is no way to avoid paying the piper."

Double Taxation.

The Committee on Double Taxation, composed of members of the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives, and of which this district's Congressman Hon. Fred M. Vinson is Chairman, has issued its preliminary report, which contains some interesting information on the universally discussed subject of taxation and reaches the "inescapable conclusion that taxes, State and National, should be rationalized and stabilized, or, in the language of President-elect Roosevelt, synchronized."

The average taxpayer will agree that action of some sort is imperative, when he learns some of the findings of this Committee. Those are given in the preliminary report, in part, as follows:

"Considering the maximum Federal rate of income tax, 63 percent on net incomes in excess of $1,000,000 and the maximum State rate of 15 (of 15 states) on net incomes in excess of $12,000 in Wisconsin, we see that three-fourths of net income in excess of $1,000,000 flowing into the respective treasuries. Incomes may be taxed by two or more States. For instance, if a resident of Wisconsin derives income from a business in Wisconsin and from another business in North Carolina, he will be taxed in the North Carolina income, both Wisconsin and North Carolina. This situation may be found in at least 10 States which tax the income of non-residents earned wholly in the State and the income of residents regardless of where earned.

"There are twenty States and two territories that impose taxes on Corporations. The Federal rate is 13% percent on separate corporations, and 14½ percent where the consolidated returns are made. The State rates run from 1 percent to 6 percent. The combined Federal and State levies may reach approximately 19 percent in Wisconsin, 18 percent in Massachusetts and 17½ percent in New York.

"Referring to tobacco taxes, the Federal Government has used this revenue source since the year 1794. It has been its most stable producer. Even in the four fiscal years of depression, it has produced nearly $2,000,000,000 in taxes. The Federal tax on 20 cigarettes is six cents. Thirteen States have enforced this field. Arkansas has the maximum rate of five cents for 20 ordinary cigarettes. The ordinary 10 cent pack outside of Arkansas would sell for 15 cents in that State. This means 11 cents for tax and 4 cents for total amount received by the grower, jobber, retail farmer and handling the warehousemen, the entire cost of manufacture, distributing and transportation charges, profit of the manufacturer, jobber and retailer. In other words, the tax on these 20 cigarettes is 275 percent more than the real sale price of the product. Consumers can pack 20 cigarettes per day in Arkansas, means the payment of $40.15 per year tax. Not only is such condition monstrous on its face, but the increased price for the product undoubtedly means decreased consumption thereof, all those connected with tobacco industries, the grower and manufacturer, will suffer by such decreased consumption.

"Death taxes are subject of exchanging and distribution. The Federal Government has long been in this field. All the States except Florida levy either an estate or inheritance tax.

"We stated that both the States and Federal Governments were guilty of this double taxation. Until the tax bill of 1932, the absolute field had been solely used by the States. It had been said to the source of tremendous revenue for them—more than $500,000,000 per annum. In the last tax bill, however, the Federal Government laid its taxing power on gasoline to the tune of 1 cent per gallon. Now, every State in the Union has both Federal and State tax on gasoline. The State rates run from 2 cents to 7 cents per gallon. In many instances, counties and cities also impose gasoline taxes for their local use. Therefore, in many cases, we see four distinct gasoline taxes—Federal, State, county and city.

"In Harrison County, Miss., the total tax rate on gasoline is 10 cents per gallon—1 cent Federal, 6 cents State, 3 cents county. The county tax is for the retirement of bonds for the construction of sea walls. Assume that one of the applicants is accepting the tax burden on gasoline for the year in Harrison County, Miss., is $60.00.

"The Federal Government has invaded the electrical energy tax field. Now, 11 and 23 States and territories have imposed taxes on the subject, levying taxes on gross tax, or franchise tax. Eighteen States have sales taxes. The combined tax may result in the rate as high as 20 percent, which adds another substantial tax in which there are duplications.

"It might be stated that between the Federal Government, States and territories, there are approximately 326 duplications. This doesn't take into consideration the duplicate tax bills that are based upon State, County and local government."

Mr. Vinson's committee reaches the conclusion that the unfairness of much double taxation may be removed through co-operation between the Federal Government and the States, and that the equitable distribution of the burden and its ultimate reduction by a judicious curtailment in public expenditures.

Which is a large order for the incoming administration.

AN EDITOR'S RANDOM THOUGHTS

What weather! Spring has plopped wantonly into the lap of Winter during the last week—and we may be wading knee-deep in more snow before March. The adequate English sparrow is nesting already. I watched one inspect and accept the deserted apartment of a flicker in the orchard one cold morning . . . And the tight-wrapped catkins of the pussywillow begin to show a tiny spice of silver at their points—to prove that the sap, the switches quickly unfurl their catkins into furry kittens. An endless variety is excitably the voice of our thoughts and we endeavor to make sense out of the jumbled mass of thoughts, which are a result. . . A line from Richard The Third has been running through my head for days: "But I, that am not shaped for sportive tricks, nor made to court an amorous looking glass; I that am rudely stamp'd, and want love's majesty to strut before a wanton ambling nymph; I that am curtailed of this fair proportion, cheated of feature by dissembling nature, deformed, unfinished, sent before my time into this breathing world, scarce half made up, and that so lame and unfashionable that dogs bark at me as I halt by them;—Why, I, in this weak piping time of peace, have no delight to pass away the time, unless to spy my shadow in the sun—and descant on mine own deformity: . . . And therefore, since I cannot prove a lover, to entertain these fair well-spoken days, I am determined to prove a villain . . . I am determined, this weak and feeble brain work, lest my extreme shapeless stature, or my unmoulded form, provoke the world to envy me, and therefore I am determined to prove a villain . . . I can smile, and murder while I smile, and cry, content to that which grieves my heart, and wreathe my lips in smiles, my face with masks, and take advantage of all chances . . . I can add colors to the chameleon, change shapes with Proteus for advantages, and set the Devil himself to school . . . I can drown the world with false alarms . . . I can lay snares . . . I can smile, and smile, and be a villain . . . I can . . . I can . . . I can