American Sentinel

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Republican Ticket

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TAX POLICY VINDICATED

One of the most remarkable things in recent politics is the way the revenues of the government have kept up in spite of reductions in taxes. The present secretary of the treasury has made it one of his chief purposes, to convince the people that they were injuring their own interests by the policy of very high income taxes on people of wealth. He told them that they would encourage business and promote prosperity for all, if they would make these rates of taxation more moderate.

When he first announced this policy, it was attacked as being unduly favorable to people of great wealth. But after a time, people began to see its reasonableness, and the tax law enacted last winter worked out that principle.

It was expected by many, that the revenues of the government would as a result decline. But the remarkable fact is now brought out, that the income taxes for the year ending June 30 have been $211,000,000 more than for the previous year. While most of that increase occurs on the item of corporation taxes, where the rate was increased a half of one per cent, yet individual income taxes increased $33,000,000.

Of course the fiscal year includes two quarterly payments under the old rate of taxation, but from the way the payments have come in, it seems likely that the total of income taxes will be more for the full fiscal year than they were before. We seem to be getting more money as a result of the recent changes in the law, by putting the taxes at a point where people have felt inclined to put funds into business enterprises.

And also we keep the factories busy by thus encouraging enterprises, and unemployment is about as near a negligible factor as it ever is. When a government obtains such satisfactory results, it is mighty good policy to keep it in power.

THE MAN WHO STARTED IT ALL

Thirty-five states have adopted Columbus day, October 12, as a legal holiday. Considering that we rather overlooked Mr. Columbus when we named this country America, this is a very suitable tribute. By all rights, this continent should have been called Columbia, but we can make up in part for this lack of due honor by having a good old celebration on the day when he discovered the astounding fact that a vast unknown world existed on this side of the Atlantic ocean.

When you look at America as it is to-day, and how rapidly it has progressed, and how in many respects it surpasses the old world which was civilized when our country was a wildernes, the development of this continent seems an amazing marvel. And that man Columbus was the one who started the whole thing. If it had not been for his genius and daring, America might have gone undiscovered for centuries.

Columbus probably never dreamed of finding any such continent as this. He was supposed to be looking for a shorter way to India, and he would no doubt have felt well satisfied if he had discovered that and a few islands on the way. But when he lighted on a wholly new continent with incalculable riches, he gave an illustration of how people with courage and determination are apt to gain results far beyond what they anticipate.

Frequently such results are wholly different from what people anticipate. Often the immediate aim for which they were seeking proves visionary. But their spirit of courage opens up some new possibility of which they had not dreamed.

There is a lesson right there for all of us here in Westminster. The world's adventure and discovery is not ended yet. The territory of the globe is pretty well discovered now, but, its possibilities in every direction furnish abundant opportunity for the people of initiative and force.

THE GOD OF INDUSTRY

Business needs some change of purpose, according to W. P. Hapgood, president of a canning factory, speaking to the Congress of American Industry in session at Philadelphia. He said the god of industry is the god of profit, and he feit it should be a god of personality instead.

This gentleman has raised the question as to whether the seeking of profit is a legitimate motive in industry. Some people think profits are all very wrong, and that American business will be on the wrong track until it gives up or subordinates the idea of profit.

The man who operates a business or who furnishes the capital for a business, is entitled to a reasonable profit or interest, just as a workman is entitled to his wages. If a business is not rendering such a return to those who direct it and furnish the capital for it, it is not on a sound basis. It is in danger of decline, and if it declines, families are made to suffer hardship, and their prospects for the future are harmfully affected.

A business man ought to make a profit just as he ought to pay fair wages and make fair prices, and making a reasonable profit may be considered a duty like supporting one's family.

In the past however, many business concerns have devoted themselves exclusively to heaping up profits, without regard to human relations. They have bought and sold labor as a commodity, without considering that the community is not well served unless the workpeople also are profitably employed. The friction resulting has made industry less productive, and hence costly to the community.

The business of the future will not be satisfied unless its operations are profitable to the capitalists and managers, profitable to the employes, and profitable to the public. Unless all three of these services are rendered, the business is defective.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

It is rather wonderful the way the law of supply and demand works out to relieve economic difficulties. For instance, the average cost of rents has decreased six per cent in the past two years in 171 cities, according to the National Industrial Conference board.

Two years ago the demand for homes was greater than the supply. That caused high rents, which led to increased activity in building, and now the supply has come nearer equalling the demand, and in some cases exceeds it. Also when prices are too low in anything, a good many people quit that line of business, and the supply falls off and corrects that situation.

Thus in the main our economic troubles are cured by the operation of natural laws. But some care has to be taken to see that people do not combine to prevent those natural laws from working. But even if they do, they often defeat their own end by starting up new competition.

The modern girl is said to look the whole world in the face. With all that to do,it is not strange that she has to stay up late nights.

The boys with the floppy pants are doing the best they can to keep the textile factories busy, while these mills are losing business on account of the women's short skirts.

BEING A FRESHMAN

Many young people have found it a trying experience to be a freshman in a high school, college, or any kind of educational institution. The young person feels rather scared through those first weeks. One studies considerably harder than ever before, and has the awful fear of getting thrown out, and having to give up the course or take the last year of work over again.

Teachers hand out statements of this and that which must be done, and the freshman listens earnestly. Older students have often learned of ways by which one can cut corners and get by with the least possible work. But teachers do not feel that the least possible work is a desirable objective, and they give their instruction on the theory that students should try to get some real benefit.

To the freshman the upper classmen appear very wise and sophisticated personages, and the new student hardly dares speak to a real senior. An upper classman who is a member of the football team is regarded as a superior being, before whom the freshman must prostrate himself in utter abasement.

The tradition exists that freshmen are raw and exuberant specimens who need refining. The upper classmen, particularly the sophomores, always felt in the old days that it was their particular duty, in which they would be criminally negligent if they failed, to put the new boys through a severe hazing process with the purpose of removing this rawness.

Modern educators frown upon the hazing process, as boys at the sophomore age need refining themselves, rather than attempting to educate those just below them.

In reality the freshman boys and girls are very lovable. Their enthusiasm seems far preferable to the blase weariness which American youth so often acquires at a later date. One is glad that they frankly enjoy all these privileges, and that they show a willingness to work.

IDEAS AND ACTION

There are no end of good ideas in a city like Westminster which if taken up and acted upon, would be very helpful to the community. But the greater part of them never come to anything, because people just express them to their friends and never do anything about them. We need action as well as ideas.

The way to get action is perfectly clear, and it is to join some good organization like our Chamber of Commerce or Rotary Club. Then if you attend its meetings and show interest in its work, your ideas will be listened to. If they have merit, and probably they have, they will arouse attention, and some committee will be set to work on them, and you can reasonobly expect to see them accomplished, to the advantage of everyone in our community.

EXERCISE BY PROXY

A man who travelled in England this summer, and who noted on his return the enormous throng of people who attended the Tunney-Dempsey fight, remarked on how the American people were doing their sports by proxy.

Over in England, he said, when the men have days off or are out of work, they get out and play cricket or football, and in that way they keep in good physical condition. But in this country, he said, they go as spectators to a ball game or a prize fight or something like that. He asked how they were going to keep up their physical condition year after year when they simply watch someone else do things?

He might also have added that some millions of them who used to walk everywhere and obtained a good physical ability in that way, now have to be carted around in automobiles, and many of them can walk but little. Our predcessors kept up their physical ability by working on farms and gardens. Yet the town and city men seem to be doing most of their exercise and sport by proxy, and watching football games, prize fights, etc., furnishes the principal form of physical development for millions of them.

One thing that works in the opposite direction is golf, which gives a great number of people fine exercise. But still only a small minority of the whole people play that game. The women may keep up their physical ability by housework, but the men of the cities are not so active.

If the American people are going to keep up their physical stamina and power of achievement, they need to pay a little more attention to active exercise. Of course many schools are doing a splendid thing by introducing physical culture. But the results of that are limited for the majority of the boys of Maryland, if when they grow up, they should not do anything more active than hollering at the ball games.

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COMMISSIONERS' NOTICE

Hereafter and until further notice the County Commissioners of Carroll County will meet at their office in Westminster every Monday and Tuesday of each week for the transaction of business.

By order.

SAMUEL J. STONE,
Clerk.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

A school superintendent remarked recently, that he had less trouble with the children whose parents were recent immigrants, than he did with the children of native Americans. His idea was that the children of immigrants were brought up to obey, because their parents learned to fear the government in their former countries. But he thought that the native American families were so filled with notions of extreme freedom, applying even to the conduct of the children, that many of these youngsters would not obey school discipline.

The people of Westminster might well ask themselves how far the work of their school is hampered by the loose notions of family government that are so common now. If the parents can not control their children, how do they expect the schools are going to, and how much will such children learn in the school year of 1926-27?

MAKING A BETTER CITY

If someone makes a really good suggestion of something that would benefit his home town, and if he is asked why he does not try to put that suggestion into effect, he will commonly reply that it is not his business to do it.

Such a person may have the feeling, that if he went ahead and tried to lead a movement to accomplish that idea, he would be butting in where he did not belong.

But when you have good civic organizations in a city, Chamber of Commerce, Board of Trade, or something of that kind, you have the machinery for carrying out such ideas. People are named to offices and committees in these organizations for just that purpose, to carry out the good ideas of their members, and in that way many excellent suggestions, which formerly produced no result, are taken up and pushed and are accomplished.

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