

**CUTTING GOVERNMENT OVERHEAD**

Progressive western states are pressing programs of retrenchment for cutting down their overhead of taxation from 25 to 30 percent.

This is done in keeping with reduced incomes and profits of farming and business and reduced wages of all classes of wage earners.

Over the war period tax levies in some states were increased two to five hundred percent. The state auditor of Kansas has sent out word to all state departments and institutions to "cut to the bone" in matters of travel, field work, unnecessary help and other overhead during the next six months, of the present fiscal year.

The letter in part follows:

"The chief source of the state's wealth, the farm, is not yielding the prosperity it should, not on account of decreased production, but because of the great contraction in the prices of grain and livestock.

"This condition will result in a larger percentage of delinquent taxes than usual and it is possible some counties may find it difficult to meet their state quota."

**THE PLAIN TRUTH**

The United States National Bank of Portland, in summing up the industrial situation in its Business Digest, says:

"While it is true that most of our basic materials can hardly be produced at a profit, it is also true that products from these materials are so expensive that the consumer cannot or will not buy. Further deflection is necessary. Production and distribution costs must come down to a degree commensurate with the reduction of the cost of raw materials. Wages and transportation are two of the important factors which need revision. Wages in many lines have been reduced as far as is practical until the cost of living drops further, but in other lines there must be a downward turn, notably in building lines and in railroading. A willingness on the part of labor officials to urge their men to accept work at a wage proportionate to the value of what they produce, would start a building program which would largely absorb the unemployed."

The American father of two or three boys who are beginning to be interested in young ladies finds it hard to believe that ancestor worship can exist anywhere in the world.

**Every Boy Wants It**

If you could realize how much that boy of yours, or that young relative or friend in whom you are interested, craves the healthy, well-balanced reading matter he will get in **THE AMERICAN BOY**, never for a minute would you deny him this pleasure. For a Christmas present, or birthday gift, a subscription to **THE AMERICAN BOY** is unexcelled. It lasts the whole year through—and its influence is of the best.

**THE AMERICAN BOY**  
"The Biggest, Brightest, Best Magazine for Boys in All the World!"

In the next twelve numbers there will be serials by such famous authors as Melville, Davison Post, Ralph D. Peine, William Heyliger and Clarence B. Kelland, the short stories are by authors of equal note, and the big departments which are edited by experts, are devoted to every legitimate interest of boyhood.

**Price Reduced**

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PHONE 137 TORRANCE

**RED CROSS SANTA TO FILL SOLDIERS' SOCKS**

An Old Fashioned Celebration of Yuletide for American Soldiers in France.

A Christmas tree in every ward of every American hospital and in every hospital recreation hut in France!

Every wounded or sick American fighting man to receive two socks filled to the brim with fruits, nuts, candy and smokes!

These are the most interesting features of a tentative Christmas celebration program for the American hospitals arranged by the American Red Cross in France in co-operation with the commanding officers of our fighting forces in that country. Details of the plan to make Christmas as merry as possible for the soldiers in these institutions have just been received at Red Cross headquarters. Nurses and enlisted men on duty at these places will also share in the distribution of Christmas cheer. Because of the limited amount of available shipping space the Red Cross was compelled to abandon its original plan to send special Christmas parcels from here to soldier patients in France. All the articles distributed will be obtained over there.

This is to be an old fashioned celebration in every sense of the word. Every soldier will hang his socks on the tree. The socks will be tied with red ribbon and in addition to the goodies mentioned above will contain a handkerchief and a card, on which will be outlined the services the American Red Cross is prepared to render our soldiers. Each soldier will receive a sufficient number of Christmas postcards—now being designed by artists in the Red Cross service—to enable him to write to members of his family and his friends back home.

The Christmas dinner, of course, will be one of the features of the celebration. After dinner there will be musical entertainment, motion pictures and general singing.

**RED CROSS FIGHTS DEADLY EPIDEMIC**

Besides the special work conducted by hundreds of Red Cross Chapters throughout the country in checking the recent epidemic of Spanish Influenza, the organization through its headquarters at Washington is preparing to fight a repetition of the experience that was so disastrous this fall, educating the public thoroughly regarding the symptoms and the proper care at the beginning of an attack. In addition to this, the American Red Cross is fighting tuberculosis. The recent appropriation to the National Tuberculosis Association will be used for educational as well as relief work throughout the country.

So much has been said about the aftermath of the epidemic that special attention is being given to the work along this line. The weakness which follows influenza leaves the patient in a condition which makes him a good field for the germs of tuberculosis. A thorough physical examination, proper food and clothing, the use of mild preventives, will check the progress of the disease at once.

Tuberculosis, or consumption, as it is frequently called, is both preventable and curable, provided the treatment of the disease is begun before it is too far advanced. Medicine plays a comparatively small part. The frequently advertised "consumption cures" should be looked upon as poison. The only medicine which should be taken is a good tonic which will stimulate the appetite and build up the system generally. The main cure lies in proper food, sufficient rest, fresh air and sunlight and living, if possible, according to the plan prescribed by a good physician. This renews the patient's vitality and soon kills the disease entirely.

For several years the National Tuberculosis Association has been financing its work by the sale of Red Cross seals at Christmas time. The seals sold for a penny each and by making a concerted effort enough money was usually raised to carry the work through the year. This year there will be no seals sold because the American Red Cross has made an appropriation for the anti-tuberculosis work, and those who formerly spent their time selling seals will join in the work for the Red Cross Christmas Roll Call during the week of December 16 to 23.

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**SONG OF LITTLE THINGS.**

By Jeanne Judson.

This is the song of little things,  
A clean, white bed in a quiet place,  
A cigarette and the saving grace  
Of smiles that illumine the nurse's face—  
These are the joys the Red Cross brings.

.....

..... the song of little things,  
..... man brought to his home in.....  
..... Children who play, forgetful,.....  
..... hat shelters from mud.....  
..... aid.....  
..... the rest the Red Cross.....

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**THE RED CROSS IS REAL SERVICE**

By FRANK MORRISON, Secretary American Federation of Labor.

The work of the Red Cross is not confined to our boys on battlefield or in hospital nor amidst the ruins of Belgium and other portions of devastated Europe. One of its great activities is any necessary aid to the dependents of members of America's military forces.

On the battlefield the Red Cross presents an heroic figure. In America, removed from destruction and death, the Red Cross steps silently to the side of the father and mother whose boy is "over there" and who need counsel and aid.

No service is too small for the Red Cross. If allotments from the government or from their son are delayed, or information on the government's war risk insurance is wanted, the Red Cross is both counsellor and friend. It enters into the home in the true spirit of charity—

But first and foremost our soldiers in field and hospital must be given the most attentive care possible. Nothing we can do will equal their share in this movement for world democracy, and the Red Cross presents an opportunity for us to play our part in this great drama by contributing to the extent of our ability. The Red Cross appeals to organized workers because of its one quality—service.

Behind Red Cross service is an ennobling charity that is not defaced by cost marks, a democracy that personifies Jefferson's great principle of equality and a religion that is beyond sectarianism.

**MAKE SOLDIER FEEL HE IS AS GOOD AS EVER**

Men disabled in the service who are returning from the front and who find it hard at first to see their way toward earning a livelihood are a special problem for the Red Cross. Under the Smith-Sears law a fund is appropriated to re-educate every disabled man who will take the opportunity to make a living. It is felt that such men are likely to be weakened in their resolution to keep their self respect and find real work by the mistaken charity of hero worshippers, who will forget them once the first flush of war enthusiasm is over. Here the support of the disabled man's family must be enlisted, for in the last analysis it is the man's family who will be the determining influence in his rehabilitation. The relatives must be braced to meet the situation—to make of themselves for the man a bulwark against discouragement and weakness.

**SMILES AND TEARS GET MIXED.**

Two little stories came to the Red Cross headquarters from over the seas a short time ago. One was a story of bravery that brought the tears, and one a tale of tears that brought smiles.

The first story was of a soldier who asked for a light. He was in bed, and a cigarette was between his lips, placed there by the nurse after she had finished spreading his blanket up smoothly. At his question, she turned and gave him a box of matches and hurried on, then remembered that the arms beneath the blankets were without hands.

Nurses have to be without tears, but there were tears in her eyes as she turned to strike the match and light the cigarette for him.

"Quit that," he said, "they were good mits, and they helped get three or four Germans before I lost them, but they ain't worth crying about, so there!"

And the tears story that brought smiles? Well, that was the story of a big, husky, colored man, who sat reading, and the Red Cross worker at the canteen saw that he had tears running down his cheeks. She was curious to know what he might be reading and was astonished when she looked over his shoulder to see that it was the canteen cook book.

He smiled through his tears as he saw that she was watching, and said, sheepishly, "You sure must excuse me, ma'am, but this here book done make me blamed homesick. I'm 'shamed to make a baby outen mahself, but this makes me think o' home."

**RED CROSS WOMEN CITED FOR BRAVERY**

American women at Epernay, south of Rheims, have been cited in an order of the day for remaining at their posts in an American Red Cross canteen under bombardment for six days. Throughout this battle they continued to feed and care for wounded.

**WHAT RED CROSS MEANS.**

Your membership in the great American Red Cross means the mothering of those little children made desolate by the invasion of the Hun. Mrs. Lars Anderson in her recent book on conditions over there says: "It is the poor, homeless, motherless kiddies that somehow make all the other horrors of war fade away into distance. These frightened, crying, dying, innocent children, who do not know what it is all about—they wring your heart dry."

**SHIFTING OF NAVAL STRENGTH TO PACIFIC**

For some time a gradual shifting of the most powerful and modern units of the American navy from the Atlantic to the Pacific has been going on.

The official explanation is to the effect that the oil burning vessels will thereby be brought nearer their fuel supply. But what ever the cause for which the shift is being made it is a fact that at this present moment the naval strength of these United States is facing the Pacific instead of the Atlantic.

Great Britain's most powerful fleet has also been moving toward the Pacific. The same fighting line that good between Germany and Great Britain from 1914 to 1919 will in the future base at Singapore Straits Settlements with the Indian Ocean behind them and the Pacific at their front.

The Japanese navy, of course, is native to the Pacific.

So at the gathering of the Reduction of Arms party, the naval strength of the world was being concentrated in Pacific waters. The exact significance of this has been a matter of considerable interest and speculation in the East. It might almost be said that the broader aspect of California's race problem has suddenly become to be recognized as America's foremost foreign interest. All shades of opinion with regard to the Pacific situation may be heard in the East, but nobody now ignores the fact that there is a Pacific problem and that it is looming above any other consideration in American foreign affairs.

**BANKS ARE OPTIMISTIC**

A reasonable supply of optimism becomes the circulation medium of community spirit and individual success and new enterprises.

Too much optimism not founded on actual business facts and conditions is as great an injury as well-founded optimism is a blessing.

A well-managed bank adopts the latter policy and becomes the discriminating disseminator of the happy golden mean in business.

Knowledge of what constitutes safe business conditions on the part of banks has lifted this country over many a temporary scare.

The wave of doubt and fear is dispelled by well-founded and cheerful optimism and the sunshine of hope gets community radiation.

These important functions in community psychology are being performed daily and all the year by banking organizations.

What would happen to business and the financial stability and credit of our country if the bankers became pessimistic?

**STOP RHEUMATISM WITH RED PEPPER**

When you are suffering with rheumatism so you can hardly get around just try Red Pepper Rub and you will have the quickest relief known.

Nothing has such concentrated, penetrating heat as red peppers. Instant relief. Just as soon as you apply Red Pepper Rub you feel the tingling heat. In three minutes it warms the sore spot through and through. Frees the blood circulation, breaks up the congestion—and the old rheumatism torture is gone.

Rowles Red Pepper Rub, made from red peppers, costs little at any drug store. Get a jar at once. Use it for lumbago, neuritis, backache, stiff neck, sore muscles, colds in chest. Almost instant relief awaits you. Be sure to get the genuine, with the name Rowles on each package.

**This Pure Cream Stops Head Colds**

Apply in Nostrils—It Opens Air Passages Instantly.

Colds and catarrh yield like magic to soothing, healing, antiseptic cream that penetrates through every air passage and relieves swollen, inflamed membranes of nose and throat. Your clogged nostrils open right up and you can breathe freely. Hawking and snuffling stop. Don't stay stuffed up and miserable.

Get a small bottle of Ely's Cream Balm from your druggist. Apply a little in the nostrils and get instant relief. Millions endorse this remedy known for more than fifty years.

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