

WAR COMES HOME TO U. S. IN TAXES.

Full Force of New Revenue Bill Hit the People.

The great mass of the American people began to realize last week, as possibly it never before has realized, the fact that this country is at war, because a large variety of war taxes, with which they hitherto have been acquainted only through the newspapers, implanted themselves firmly on their consciousness through the medium of the pocketbook.

On every telegram costing fifteen cents or more there is a tax of five cents.

On every telephone call which they may make and for which the charges amount to fifteen cents or more a tax of five cents.

On every railroad ticket which costs more than thirty-five cents a tax of eight per cent. of the purchase price. This does not apply to commutation tickets for distances of thirty miles or less, but it does apply to all greater distances.

On every stateroom on a train or steamboat; on every sleeping berth; on every seat in the Pullman chair cars, and on every similar "extra" traveling convenience they must pay 10 per cent. of the entire charges. Should a person, for instance, order a Pullman car, he must pay the tax on all the "extra" charges which the Pullman conductor collects from him.

FREIGHT AND EXPRESS TAXES.

On all freight which is sent by mail or steamer a tax of 3 per cent. must be paid, except freight hauled exclusively for the government or for the use of the railroad or steamship company doing the hauling.

On all parcels and packages sent by express a tax of one cent for every twenty cents of value must be paid.

On all new ordinary life insurance policies a tax of eight cents on each \$100 worth of insurance or fraction thereof must be paid.

On all new industrial insurance written a tax of 40 per cent. of the first weekly premium is the tax. This applies to amounts not in excess of \$500. Almost all insurance companies have arranged to pay these taxes themselves.

On marine, inland, casualty and fire insurance written November 1, and thereafter, a tax of one cent on each \$1 or fraction thereof of the premium must be paid.

Admissions to theatres and other places of amusement for which the charge is more than five cents will be taxed at the rate of one cent for every ten cents or fraction thereof of the price. No tax under this provision shall be levied, however, against entertainments exclusively for the benefit of religious, educational or charitable institutions, societies or organizations or to agricultural fairs whose profits are not distributed to stockholders or members.

All club dues in excess of \$12 a year, including initiation fees are taxed at the rate of 10 per cent. Fraternal and beneficiary organizations, however, are exempt.

On November 2, an even greater realization of the fact of war was noted because more taxes became effective on that date.

Automobiles, motortrucks and motorcycles of all kinds on that date became liable to a 3 per cent. tax.

Talking machines, piano-players and their rolls and records became liable to the 3 per cent. tax.

Motion-picture films not exposed will be taxed one-fourth of one cent a linear foot. Films containing a picture ready for projection will be taxed one-half a cent a linear foot.

CHARGES ON JEWELRY.

"Upon any article commonly or commercially known as jewelry, whether real or imitation," the tax is 3 per cent. on all sales. In this connection the Commissioner of Internal Revenue has made a ruling which in effect is that watches which are used more as ornaments than because of their utility shall be classed as "jewelry."

The taxable classification includes all ornaments worn solely for personal adornment, all precious stones and pearls, both real and imitation, whether cut or uncut, and precious stones cut but not set. Pearls matched, drilled and temporarily strung will not be regarded as jewelry when sold for further manufacture or completion, but will be regarded as jewelry when sold to a customer for personal use. The same will apply to loose pearls.

All dealers in jewelry are held to be retailers who sell only to personal customers and do not make sales for resale. Any dealer who sells to retail dealers will be regarded as a wholesaler.

The following articles, whether made of precious or imitation metals, to be carried on the person, will be considered jewelry: Dorean (powder) boxes, vanity boxes, stamp boxes, cigarette cases, cigar cases, eyeglass cases, eyeglass chains, eyeglass holders, lognettes, lognons, card cases, vinaigrettes, handkerchief holders, garters, suspenders, emblem charms, emblem pins, emblem buttons, mesh bags, memorandum books, lip salve cases, eyebrow pencils, cigar cutters, compasses, key chains, key rings and like articles.

Tennis racquets, golf clubs, baseball bats, lacrosse sticks, balls of all kinds, fishing rods and reels, billiard and pool tables, chess and checker boards, dice, games and parts of games (except playing cards and children's toys and games) will be taxed 3 per cent.

LEVIES ON COSMETICS.

Perfumes, essences, cosmetics and toilet preparations will be taxed 2 per cent.

Proprietary medicines will pay 2 per cent.

Chewing gum will be taxed 2 per cent. Cameras will be taxed 3 per cent. On all the above except films, a floor tax of one-half the full tax, was

levied from October 4 on all stocks on hand by dealers.

Cigars, cigarettes, tobacco and kindred products will begin to pay the full tax. They have been subjected to a floor tax of one-half the full tax since October 4.

Postage on first class mail matter will pay a tax of one cent an ounce in addition to present rates, except that drop letters will go at the present rate. This means that letters mailed in Bellefonte for delivery in Bellefonte, will go for two cents, while those mailed here for delivery to points outside of Bellefonte will cost three cents.

Postal cards will cost one cent extra. The only exception is in the case of a post card that contains printing only, in addition to the name and address of sender and addressee. It will accordingly cost as much to send a written postcard within the borough limits as a letter.

TAXES ON DOCUMENTS.

On December 1 the public will obtain a still greater realization of the fact that the United States is at war by paying "stamp taxes" on the following:

First—Bonds, debentures, or certificates of indebtedness.

Second—Bonds, indemnity, or surety.

Third—Capital stock issued.

Fourth—Capital stock, sales or transfers.

Fifth—Conveyance of real estate.

Sixth—Drafts or checks not payable at sight or demand.

Seventh—Entry of merchandise at Custom House.

Eighth—Entry or withdrawal of merchandise from Custom House bonded warehouse.

Ninth—Parcel post packages.

Tenth—Passage ticket, one way or round trip, transportation by vessel from the United States to destination not in the United States, Canada or Mexico.

Eleventh—Powers of attorney.

Twelfth—Promissory notes, except banknotes issued for circulation.

Thirteenth—Produce, sales of on exchange.

Fourteenth—Proxies, except for use in religious, charitable, educational, fraternal, or literary societies or public cemeteries.

On October 4th the full taxes went into effect on various alcoholic and "soft" drinks, mineral and table waters, carbon acid gas and various kinds of boats. Additional taxes on the transfers of estates of persons dying after that date also went into effect.

Taxes which went into effect January 1 this year were the war income tax and the excess-profits tax.

War Brides.

London.—There is something of the old-world Gretna Green romance in the modern war-wedding! The bridegroom may not tear the lady from an indignant father's arms, nor set off in galloping post-chaise to the tune of pistol shots. Yet the delightful flurry and bustle of the old days is renewed, and the element of tragedy lies not in pistol shots, but in the far-off reverberation of the guns of France.

It was in Scotland, in the lonely island of Skye, that I first witnessed a typically "irregular" war marriage, and in a setting as romantic and as wildly beautiful as any human being has ever tried and failed to describe! Thousands of "irregular" marriages have taken place in Scotland recently. They dispense with "benefit of clergy," or registrar, and the only essential is that the bridegroom should "seriously" agree to take the bride as his wife, and she to accept him as her husband.

It was a sunny morning, and the stormy waters that swirl in and out along the rocky shores of Skye seemed somehow quieted. The crying and the calling of gulls or sea-mews rose very faintly, and away on the sleepy moors the bees were droning among the heather.

"A wonderful morning for a wedding!" said the little bride in her soft Highland voice.

"I will be thinking it is the calm before a storm!" said her old father, in his hesitating unaccustomed English.

The plans had all been carefully made. The bridegroom, a soldier in the regiment of Cameron Highlanders, had written from France to say that he was getting seven days' leave. But when the boat came in, and he hurried across the narrow gangway, it was with the news that half his leave was cancelled, and he must return on the very steamer by which he had arrived, back to London, there to await orders from the War Office.

"We must be married here on the pier," he insisted. "The boat will wait for seven minutes, and Donald, the piper, will play the wedding march." The little bride showed signs of being tearful.

"Seven months away in France, and seven minutes to be married in Angus, it isn't right! And the wedding breakfast's all ready up at the house, and spoiling!"

But her protestations were overruled. "Jean, I take you as my wife," said Angus, solemnly.

"Angus, I accept you as my husband," said the bride.

Thus was the knot irrevocably tied! For a Scottish marriage demands nothing more for its validity than the uttering of those simple words. Such a marriage is absolutely legal. With a swirl of handkerchiefs and a skirl of piper the wedding group bade a farewell to the bridegroom. Up and down the ancient pier marched Donald, blowing his very heart into his music. And as the boat slipped from its moorings, it seemed to me that the lit of the wedding march, hitherto so cheerful, now held both the tears and the passion of parting in it.

"He will come back!" The little war bride was trying to be brave! Before the immortal battle of Loos, Colonel Cameron, of Lochiel, assembled his men 3,000 strong. All through that terrible day the Cameron Highlanders fought like men possessed, against overwhelming odds, until the field was literally strewn with dying and dead. And when evening fell and the roll call was taken, out of 3,000 who had set out so

bravely only that morning, there were barely 300 to answer.

Up in the lonely island of Skye a little bride is waiting—still waiting interminably—for news of a man who will come no more, and the airs which Donald, the piper plays for the old, heart-searching Highland Laments!

In Paris, in the dusky coolness of Notre Dame Cathedral, I heard the solemn words of the Catholic marriage service uttered by an old, kindly-featured priest. There were three young war brides. The grooms were home on leave. One carried his arm in a sling and limped as he walked. Another started nervously at the slightest sound. "Pauvre garcon, he suffers from the shell-shock still!" whispered some one. A third was very young—almost a boy.

"They have no 'dots,' these jeannes filles," said one of the guests, "Eh bien, one voulez vous? they are emancipated, these little ones, making the marriage of love, not of convenience! At first the parents were horrified. But at last they have agreed. For all over France, bien entendu, one hears no more now of the 'marriage de convenience.'"

In the grounds of an old French chateau, just one year later, I again met the youngest of these bridegrooms and his little bride, Odette. It was the bridegroom that I noticed first. He was wearing a magnificent uniform, with "La Horse" inscribed in glistening letters on his sleeve. But occasionally he stumbled as he walked.

"Odette, Odette, where are you?" he called, groping along.

There was a trill of laughter, and Odette came running through the trees. She guided him to a rustic bench and they sat down. Then I saw that he was blind.

"You are young and beautiful, Odette—and tied for life to a useless man like me! Have you no regrets? If you had only known this accident would come—"

"Ah, mon brave," came the voice of Odette, with a deep note of feeling, "I should only have married you the sooner, and I love you even more!"

In a certain hospital in France lay a young British officer whose sands of life were running very low. A girl's name was constantly on his lips. "Sister, if you wire for her, I know she'll come!" he kept repeating. So the telegram was sent.

From the quiet English village, where the quiet English courtship had run so smoothly, she came.

"Yes, if it will ease your mind, dear, the chaplain can marry us now!" she said bravely. The chaplain performed the simple ceremony in the side ward where the dying man lay.

"For richer or for poorer, for better or for worse!" So the bonds were tied.

He fell asleep contentedly, holding her hand, and at dawn he died.

These are mere fragments from the tragedy of war. There are those who criticize the war-marriage as foolish, ill-advised, even wrong. There are those who, with a deeper insight are for its vindication. Ask the war-brides themselves if the tragedy and the pain and the anxiety are worth it. I think they will with one accord answer "Yes!"

Popular With Children.

The children happened to be present when mother received an applicant for the position of nursemaid.

"Why were you discharged from your last place?" asked the mother, when she had ascertained, after much ingenuity, that the applicant had not voluntarily left that place.

"Well, ma'am," said the girl, very frankly, "to tell the truth, I sometimes forgot to wash the children, ma'am."

Whereupon there came from the children in chorus, "Oh, mother, please engage her!"

—It is announced by the press of one of the large cities in the United States that its five and ten cent stores are to be supplemented with twenty-five cent stores. This looks very much as if, in the course of time, the old-fashioned and once popular dollar store would find its way back.



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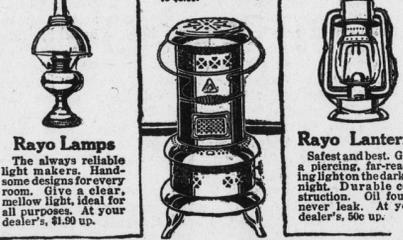
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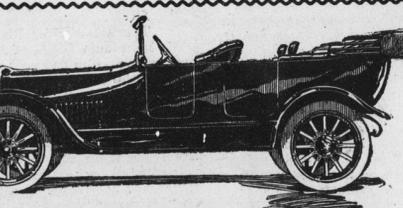
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