

THE WAR TAXES.

Although the continued success of the United States navy, in destroying the ships of Spain, will probably enable taxpayers to bear their new burdens with fortitude, the coming into effect of the taxes imposed upon almost everything from bank capital to chewing gum has, of course, created considerable confusion, and is provoking all sorts of enquiries as to the conduct of business under the new conditions now in force. That such a system of taxation would work smoothly at the outset was not to be expected, and it is not surprising to find the newspapers stating that it would take an army of men to answer questions regarding the meaning and operation of the new law. Complaints are heard even above the general rejoicing, shouts of victory and noise of the nation's fire-crackers, and, in commercial circles, criticism of the law is free, and unrestrained even by patriotic considerations. Some industries must naturally suffer, until the producer has time to devise some plan whereby the poor consumer will pay the tax. Large corporations are threatening to appeal to the courts to prevent the collection of the taxes imposed upon them, while some of those affected are complaining of inability to obtain stamps to enable them to comply with the new law.

Some of the events of the first day of the imposition of war taxes are thus recorded by the *New York Herald*:—

"The announcement of the New York Telephone Company that it would reduce the price of toll messages from fifteen to ten cents within the limits of Manhattan and the Bronx, except messages from one of these districts to the other, the company thereby avoiding the necessity of paying any war tax on such messages.

"The announcement of express companies that they will compel the public to pay the one cent tax on all packages, and the threat of the Merchants' Association to carry the matter into the courts.

"The opinion of Commissioner Scott that the tax on stock transfers is not so extensive as was originally supposed.

"The apparent discovery of Wall street that under certain circumstances bonds are exempt from taxation.

"The ruling that brokers engaging in different branches of trade, such as stocks, grain, cotton and real estate, must take out a separate license for each branch.

"The decision that in the case of future sales on the floor of an exchange the tax is payable on the contract at the time of sale, not of delivery."

Altogether, the schedule for July 1st was fairly comprehensive in its character, and, when added to the taxes already imposed on liquor and tobacco, the amount of revenue derived from the list published herewith ought to be large. Under the provisions of the War Tax Bill our neighbours now have to

Put a two cent revenue stamp on every check or sight draft.

Put a two cent revenue stamp on every check or change, time draft, promissory note or money order for each \$100.

Pay one cent extra on each telegraph message sent.

Pay eight cents per \$100 on each life insurance policy, unless taken on the industrial weekly payment plan, when the charge is 40 per cent. of the first weekly payment.

Pay 25 cents on each one year lease, 50 cents on a lease between one and three years, and \$1 on a lease exceeding three years.

Pay 25 cents on each mortgage between \$1,000 and \$1,500, and 25 cents on each \$500 additional.

Pay \$1 extra for a passage ticket to foreign port costing not more than \$30, \$3 extra if it costs between \$30 and \$60, and \$5 if it costs more than \$60.

Pay 10 cents extra every time you occupy a seat or berth in a parlor or sleeping car.

Pay a tax ranging from 75 cents to \$15 per \$100 on legacies above \$10,000, according to the total value.

Pay 50 cents tax on a surety bond.

Pay one cent a pint on wines.

Pay from 25 cents to \$1 on each Custom House entry, and 25 cents on warehouse receipts.

Pay 25 cents on each protested note.

That the use of inland revenue stamps will at first occasion much trouble and inconvenience is already apparent, and telegraph and cable companies are advising the public of the necessity of affixing a one cent stamp to every message and cancelling same by writing the initials of the sender across it. By examination of the following summary of the war taxes which went into effect on the 1st inst., it will be seen that almost everything save the innocent air will be made to contribute to the cost of the war; but the taxpayers of the United States ought to and doubtless will contribute cheerfully to the cost of equipping and feeding the daring and valiant men who are fighting for their country on sea or shore with the grim courage of a fearless race.

SUMMARY.

Bank capital, including surplus, over \$25,000	\$50.00
For each \$1,000 over \$25,000	2.00
Brokers in negotiable securities	50.00
Pawnbrokers	20.00
Commercial brokers	20.00
Custom house brokers	10.00
Theatres, museums, concert halls, in cities of over 25,000 inhabitants	100.00
Circuses	100.00
Other shows and exhibitions	10.00
Bowling alleys, billiard rooms, per alley or table	5.00
Tobacco—Dealers—Leaf tobacco, sales between 50,000 and 100,000 lbs.	12.00
Sales over 100,000	24.00
Manufacturers—Sales under 50,000	6.00
Sales between 50,000 and 100,000	12.00
Sales over 100,000	24.00