

J. W. HARRIMAN ON THE SERIOUS PROBLEM OF TAXATION.

With the war over, the public will now have time to digest and assimilate some of the things that it learned during the war. We have learned, for one thing, what taxes mean and now we must learn to meet them. In fact, the taxation problem is a very present one, and should command the attention of every thinking person.

The present problem of taxation is a very serious one. Before the present generation has passed away, it will have paid for the total cost of the war. In short, we are assuming a portion of the debt which should be borne by our grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The only way we can get a real survey of the taxation problem is by means of a National Budget, which we have never had in this country. The objections to a national budget along the lines followed in Great Britain, come chiefly from the politicians, since such a system interferes materially with the "Pork Barrel." In fact, appropriation is another name for extravagance, scandal, and pork.—J. W. Harriman in *The Magazine of Wall Street*.

SOCIAL INSURANCE SYSTEM A FAILURE BASED ON UNSOUND METHODS.

The United States "Monthly Labor Review" in its current issue publishes the following excerpts from an article in the "Kölnische Zeitung" by Professor P. Moldenhauer:

"It is doubtful whether in years to come the German social insurance system will be able to discharge its obligations. The sickness, invalidity, old age and survivors' insurance system have suffered heavily from the loss of contributions, on the one hand, and from an increase in the morbidity, invalidity and mortality rates, etc., on the other hand. And they are in danger because high proportions of their funds have been invested in the State's war loans.

"Even more unfavourable is the situation of the accident insurance system, because it has been maintained on the unsound 'current cost' method. Consequently the expenditures are increasing from year to year, the burden of one generation being lessened at the cost of the succeeding generation. This system would be unobjectionable if a favourable economic development in the future could be expected with certainty, but in case of unfavourable economic conditions the system will surely fail. Thus the result is: Unfavourable development of the actuarial bases of social insurance on the one hand and cessation of favourable economic conditions on the other. Therefore Germans ought to wake up from dreams of extending their social insurance and frankly face the fact of probable failure."

Commenting on the above, the Workmen's Compensation Publicity Bureau says: "The foregoing reference to the accident (compensation) in-

surance is important. Although all our State funds claim to be operated with full reserves, yet their tendency is to degenerate to the 'current cost' method. In many of the monopolistic fund acts—e. g., Ontario, Nova Scotia and Ohio—the 'current cost' method is either expressly or implicitly permitted, and the original proponents of State insurance in this country advocated that method. Therefore it would be well to call general attention to this article."

THE RETURN OF INFLUENZA.

In speaking of the return of influenza, it is not to be implied that this obstinate and fatal disease, mysterious in many ways, has gone. Such is, unfortunately, not the case, for it is present in many parts of Canada at the present time, though not in epidemic form. The germs of influenza are still present with us, and it is impossible to say how long the disease may linger, or what circumstances conduce to its removal.

Both the medical profession and the public must work together to prevent the spread of this scourge, the former along the lines of prevention and treatment, and the latter to avoid as far as possible the spread of the disease by a system of domestic inspection by which prompt medical care is obtained. It is only by team work on the part of the provincial and local health authorities, the medical profession, and public and private authorities that this end can be accomplished. The provision of competent nursing is a most important factor in turning the scale in the patient's favour, and measures taken in this direction are amply justified by past experiences.

As the epidemic of 1889-90 was followed by two others in the next two years, and the second was the most severe of the three, it is not too much to expect that there may at least be outbreaks more or less limited in their extent. The public should be warned and urged to give to the medical men their intelligent co-operation.

TRAFFIC RETURNS

		Canadian Pacific Railway			Increase
		1917	1918	1919	
Year to date					
April 30.....		\$42,501,000	\$45,161,000	\$48,550,000	\$3,389,000
Week ending		1917	1918	1919	Increase
May 7.....		3,065,000	3,033,000	2,856,000	*177,000
" 14.....		3,123,000	3,109,000	2,959,000	*150,000
" 21.....		3,074,000	2,847,000	2,957,000	110,000
		Grand Trunk Railway			Increase
		1917	1918	1919	
Year to date					
April 30.....		\$18,417,842	\$14,046,123	\$19,361,387	\$5,315,264
Week ending		1917	1918	1919	Increase
May 7.....		1,135,091	1,069,998	1,130,352	60,354
" 14.....		1,356,646	1,118,634	1,181,138	62,504
" 21.....		1,425,554	1,167,270	2,144,465	47,195
		Canadian National Railways			Increase
		1917	1918	1919	
Year to date					
April 30.....		\$22,015,621	\$26,481,483	\$4,465,862	
Week ending		1917	1918	1919	Increase
May 7.....		1,393,791	1,543,413	149,622	
" 14.....		1,463,167	1,727,076	263,909	
" 21.....		1,543,062	1,770,271	227,209	

*Decrease.