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### First Step for Tax Reduction.

Passage of the Knutson tax reduction bill by the House of Representatives having been a foregone conclusion, what is of interest is the size of the vote by which it was adopted-more than enough to pass it over a veto. But a comparison with the four votes of the House on tax reduction in 347 shows little fundamental change in the line-up since last year. By an odd coincidence exactly the same number of Democrats yesterday voted for the Knutson bill as voted last July to pass a somewhat different bill. over President TRUMAN'S veto.

What this means is that there is an upper limit of Democratic support to be won by a Republican sponsored bill to reduce taxes. Democratic strength in the Senate is relatively so much greater than in the House that the Knutson bill as it stands cannot win enough Democratic votes to allow a veto to be overridden. The political count in the two houses of Congress is all the explanation needed of the prediction that the House bill will be modified in the Senate Finance Committee. What is more, the prediction is safe that modification will take the form of cutting down the percentage reductions in the bill, which range from 10 per cent in the upper brackets to 30 per cent in the lower brackets in the Knutson bill.

Last July, when the House voted to override the second tax reduction bill by a vote of 299 to 108, the Senate voted to pass the bill over the President's veto 57 to 36. The veto was thus sustained by the margin of five votes in the Senate. These five votes might be obtained now by amending the bill to take a smaller bite out of Federal revenues.

# Stop and Go Signs in Foreign Trade.

To predict for the current year perplexing uncertainties in overseas trade it is not necessary to be a top-flight prophet. All signs point to the influence of a high degree of guesswork in international commerce. The conference last year in Geneva, and the still unfinished business before delegates in Havana, may eventually give the world a workable International Trade Organization. Meanwhile local and national problems in each region and country are shaping the pattern of overseas commerce.

Such a major commodity as cotton provides an example of the variations which disturb trading as presently conducted. Last month the Harriman committee proposed that on the basis of an American crop of 11,694,000 bales, and in view of the domestic needs, only 2,500,000 bales should be assigned for export. Over the past three years exports have averaged 3,000,000 bales annually.

The other day India announced a ban on exports of nearly all grades of its raw cotton, thus temporarily reducing the world's supply of that country's crop. Just before the war India was the main source of cotton for Japan. Now Japan, occupied by foreign troops, is preparing to expand jts cotton industry with bales from the United States. It must expect difficulties when the textile mills of Italy and France, for instance, strive to expand their export business in fabrics, and thereby acquire means to buy more raw cotton here or elsewhere. Broad agreements on trading principles do not rule out national rivalries.

# New Jersey's Budget Problems.

Governments are human, for they are managed by men subject to conflicting impulses of thrift and extravagance, or caution and ambition. The Governor of a State, aware that such motives affect legislatures, draws up an annual budget in which he endeavors to make ends meet in a year of high cost of living. Governor DRISCOLL of New Jersey faced his problems squarely in submitting to the Legislature a budget that may run to \$156,500,000. This would mean a rise of more than 100 per cent in five years. But taxpayers' memories are short.

Governor DRISCOLL has embarked upon the perilous fiscal voyage of attempting constructively to show ways and means for raising more money as painlessly as possible. His new program for taxation will provoke controversy. But in one important respect the Governor's policy is not hard to defend. He is opposed to the continuance of dependence by States upon Federal handouts. He favors a fiscal system in which taxes on gasoline, alcoholic beverages, inheritances, and the like shall be collected by the States, not by Washington. He favors for New Jersey more State truck with aggressive international aid to schools, and that is boldly reflected in his new budget,

He has also tried to make a good impression upon business by calling attention to the State's swollen fund for unemployment compensation, by proposing a reduction in the employers' tax and elimination of the tax paid into that fund by employees. His proposals for an increase in the State's believe it time to sound an alert. levy on pari-mutuel betting, for a 3-cent cigarette tax, and for a rise in the tax on beer are not revolutionary but may be unpopular. This is an expensive time for States to build new institutional buildings and highways. Ultimately the new Constitution should save money for the people of New Jersey. It provides for less wasteful government. Until then inflated budgets are bound to prove burdensome.

# Orville Wright.

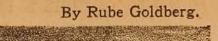
Though they were born four years apart ORVILLE and WILBUR WRIGHT displayed much of the singleness of purpose and harmony of interests characteristic of twins. ORVILLE outlived WILBUR by a generation, but of a handful of patriots in Palestine, the essential and fundamental contribution of the Wright brothers to most of them, boys and girls in their aviation was a matter of history by the time of WILBUR's death in 1912. teens. But "John Bull," who, I feel, Hundreds of other men have contributed in one respect or another to what is the modern airplane, but if the names of ORVILLE and WILBUR WRIGHT still have the authority of primacy it is because they bridged the gap from nothing to something, whereas others have bridged successive gaps from something to something better. For the sake of the picturesque it is customary to say that two bicycle repairmen from Dayton, Ohio, built the first heavier-than-air flying machine to make a sustained flight under its own power. It would be more accurate to say employed digging coal and doing other that two highly intelligent Americans, who happened to be bicycle repair- work for which all hands are sorely men, used their intelligence to work out with the facilities available to them the means of overcoming difficulties that had been plain to many of their predecessors in the quest for man-made flight. At this late day ing "pushed matters to such extremes" after the first flights at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, it would be im- and would dearly love, even now, to possible to say how much of the modern airplane bears the stamp of the have their "protectors" remain in Pal-Wright brothers. It is enough to know that they are secure of their fame as pioneers in the grand manner.

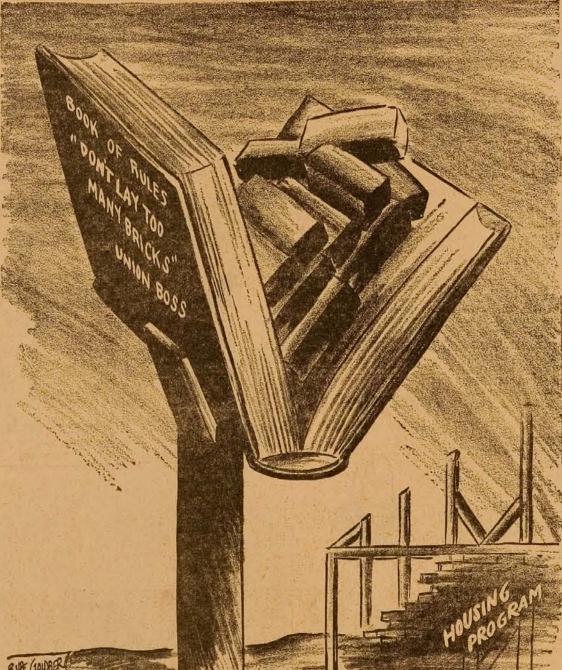
The British propose an international ban on toy atomic sets, "which might prove very dangerous in the hands of our young." The young may worry more among them and was told by one and tronic Calculator. This machine is about the toy that the atomic bomb represents in the hands of the older folks in

Much of the debate on the Marshall plan centers on the question of whether Europe's condition of being economically in the red is likely to become contagious politically.

adar won't seem really wonderful until it is adapted to the purpose of finding respective countries or with the British extra blanket needed around 3 A. M.

THE WRONG HOD.





# LETTERS TO THE SUN

### Foes of Zion

Charging That Communists Confuse the Public on Palestine.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir Alexander Bittelman, Communist party leader and alien whom the government is attempting to deport, spoke at a mass rally on Palestine" on Sunday, February 1, at Manhattan Center.

This is only one of a series of Communist "Palestine" rallies that are designed to arouse antipathy toward Britain and America. They are also dea signed to confuse. And they do confuse thousands of Americans. This new-fangled Communist "Zionism" antagonizes much of the anti-Communist public against legitimate Zionist activity. On the other hand, many unwise persons, Jewish and Christian, with real grievances against official American and British policies, are drawn into the Communist orbit through such rallies as the one mentioned.

The issue must be clarified now. Communists are no friends of Zion. They were anti-Zionist as recently as two years ago. They have shifted their 'line" on Palestine, for reasons of their own, more times than one can count. Conversely, Zionism itself is a democratic movement that can have no totalitarianism.

Communists to confuse us. As a Zionchester County Zionist Organization, I

BENJAMIN SCHULTZ.

### Palestine in Rebellion With the Aid of Its Youth.

Rube Goldberg, "It's too hot for me in there," suggests something that aggressive action of Communists. has no foundation in fact.

Of course, Britain is not frightened represents England better at present than the famous British Lion, is a practical gentleman. After twentymanaged to arouse the youth of Palesis a little short of cash. A long occupation would be costly; besides, many in England believe men could be better

gests that the Zionists will regret havestine. Certainly they know what is being readied for them, but I cannot imagine that any one would prefer the frying pan to the fire. Certainly not the young people. I spent several years all, that-"we prefer to die on our feet, than live on our knees."

confidence in themselves and the justice of their cause, and do not really expect to die. Well, many of them survived slave-labor camps, and many sheets, come up with the right selections ages added cheer with their happy faces. fought with the "underground" of their Army during the war. Perhaps God

spared them to live and not to die. 1 know that is how they feel about it MARY KING GAFNEY.

Jackson Heights.

### CONFOUNDED PROPHETS

In Weather and in Government the Forecasts Seem Exaggerated.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The changing of our political life is nowhere better epitomized than in the prophets of the Weather Bureau Its percentage of hits is woefully low. Like the members of Mr. Truman's Cabinet, the predictions of dire things to come are evermost in mind. The crises and emergencies that have filled the air like the lamentations of Jeremiah seem to bog down like the fourteen inches of snow that recently forgot to come to New York. I hope the committee on the ERP will note this: The good Lord has a way of confusing the Brobdingnagians in favor of the Lilliputians.

TERRACERVINUS. Upper Montclair, N. J.

# Hoover for Relief Job.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir. Permit me to thank you and your correspondent John Hanna for his letter recommending our former President, Herbert Hoover, for the important post of administering the European Relief program. A better qualified, or more est man cannot be found. He has the confidence and trust of practically ist and a past president of the West- all thinking people in our country and would be gladly welcomed by the people of western Europe.

As Mr. Hanna so aptly states, if the Congress could be assured that Mr. Hoover would be appointed they would not be criticized for giving him a practically blank check, knowing the funds would be efficiently and effectually To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: used, to furnish the greatest help to the Your correspondent William Henry is most needy. It would greatly restore right in finding that the cartoon by the sadly waning prestige of the United States, so definitely needed to stop the

J. D. HERR. Rockville Centre.

What Lex Talionis Is. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Almost every time I run across "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth," it is used as an example of remorseless, implacable justice. The truth, of course, is five years or more of misrule he has that lex talionis was devised to prevent a far more remorseless and more imtine to rebellion just at a time when he placable sort of justice, what might be called justice by geometric progression. In the absence of lex talionis, primitive society might well have demanded two eyes for one, three lives for one. The feud, in its worst form, is the best ex- Museum of Arts Free Concerts in the ample of the excesses which lex talionis Mr. Henry in his last paragraph sug- at its worst tends to minimize.

New York.

# Mechanical Wizard.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Thomas J. Watson, president of the International Business Machines Cormathematical problems requiring cal-Like most young people, they have culations of almost inconceivable mag- his busy school. He was the same granitude and complexity. But can it, after for the daily double at Hialeah?

MILTON L. MAIER. New York.

# India's Future

Speculation on the Effects of Death of Gandhi on Troubled Land.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: By now it is known that the world was he hadn't imagined such wickedness deprived on January 30, 1948, of a great either man, Mohandas K. Gandhi. People of all faiths sincerely mourned his death. However, as the suddenness of the shock wore off, the realists among us began to wonder what this would mean to India's 400,000,000 Hindus, Moslems and Sikhs

It is to be noted that although Gandhi strove for peace, still Moslems slaughtered Hindus, and fierce Sikh and Hindu tribesmen raided trains, dragging helpless Moslems out to be slaughtered. Since the partition 300,000 persons have fallen victims to this ruthless onslaught. Therefore, one is led to wonder what basic factor lies behind this blind antipathy which drives the people of India to value life so cheaply.

There is a principle in economics named "the social law of diminishing returns," which may explain this difference between the countries of the West and India. It states that as the population of a nation grows, the supy of natural resources per capita tends to expand at an increasing rate same story at least as effectively in the until finally a point is reached where a traditional manner, though it is possible dition to the population. This natural- many readers as it is. ly results because there is but a fixed amount of available resources.

Has this any bearing on India? Personally I believe that the dense population in India tends toward a general reliance on manual labor, which consequently destroys the urge and necessity for introduction of machines. Thus, the standards of living in India are the same as they were centuries ago. There is a constant struggle for the survival of the fittest. The racial hatred which is causing the immediate and outward effects of mass murder in India is an expression of the basic overcrowded conditions.

Every step that India takes toward the education of the people with the benefits of controlling population will mean another victory in the fight to rid India of the superficial racial war for which Gandhi gave his life. JAY R. IRGANG.

# A Tribute.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I was very much interested to see the picture of David Mannes and the mention of him as conductor of the Metropolitan section of THE NEW YORK SUN 'Twenty-five Years Ago Today."

It was twenty-five years ago that I had my book shop at 100 West 57th street. David Mannes was a frequent visitor. The young man who worked for me then often brought his violin to the shop. When I asked Mr. Mannes poration, has just dedicated to human- what he would charge for violin lessons ity a new gigantic calculating machine he told the young man to go to the known as the Selective Sequence Elec- school, and there would not be any charge. Of course, the young man and I were elated

Last year I visited David Mannes in cious man. We had a very pleasant having been fed the complete statistical chat in his lovely study. Not alone did information supplied by all the dope his music fill the air, but pupils of all One could readily see the fine influence of the beloved founder of the school, IRENE IRIS JONAS.

# The Reviews:

by a dead woman, who tells in frag-

as her life left its mark on the living.

Interpolated between these "flash-

backs" of her real existence are inter-

ludes during which, in a manner of

speaking, the dead woman continues

her relations with persons still living:

her first husband Max, a Communist

from whom she was divorced; her son

Philip, now in college; her daughter

Auriol; her second husband Whitney,

as conservative a man as Max was

She Is Not Forgotten.

think of her, or hold converse with her

Whitney, who consoled her when she

died, only in the weeks after her death

realized that he hadn't known Olivia at

all: some amorous escapades of hers had

come to his attention because of some letters she had indiscreetly left behind;

her son and daughter were also a bit

shocked by them, though, with the in-

souciance of youth, they got over their

feeling more easily than their step-

father. (Somerset Maugham treated

the same idea more realistically in a

short story in his most recent collec-

tion. It was about the deceased poet

The fact is, Olivia was a different

person to each of many people. Of

course. Olivia gave herself away in her

poetry, but Whitney didn't marry her

for her poetry; for that matter, he

to be a nice sort of woman, very ma-

ternal with her children and all that.

Three Undestroyed Letters.

and accidentally left among her effects

-for she had destroyed many others-

in Whitney's words, "Three of them,

letters from every gamn place on earth.

And she leaves that to Auriol." "Olivia

wasn't one person," is the dubiously

consoling response he receives from

Elizabeth, who hopes to succeed to

In the course of this strange and

sometimes impressive narrative, which

happens to be well written, we have a

series of portraits, one of the best of

which is of Olivia's first husband Max,

who is at the opposite pole from Whit-

ney, a fact expressed rather succinctly

by Max's stepson Philip: "I wish I could

stop feeling like a Red whenever I'm

with Whitney and like a reactionary

A Novel About the Wars

Of Spain and the Dutch

Olivia's place in his esteem.

whenever I'm with you.'

ind you-lousy, corny, sickening love

There were three letters indiscreetly

wife of a conservative businessman.)

radical; her several lovers.

she were still with them.

### How a Woman Was Remembered; "The Valiant Lady," by Brigid Knight

The search of our novelists for new forms is insatiable; for the sake of novelty they turn to almost any device outside the tradition of realism. The results are rarely satisfactory, and sometimes questionable. Now and again they are partially impressive.

A case in point is "Message From a long enough, at any rate, to see Holland Stranger" (Viking. \$2.75), by Marya free after Elizabeth's England gave the Mannes. Taking for the motto of her coup de grace to Spain's Armada. novel a quotation from Joseph Conrad's Anna van Breda is a heroic charac-'Under Western Eyes"-"The dead can ter, and there must have been many live only with the exact intensity and like her among the freedom-loving Holquality of the life imparted to them by landers who fought Alva and his powerthe living"-she has her novel written ful followers in a war which saw the

### ments the story of her life, in so far ently refused to yield. One of the Invaders Is Aided.

devastation of a country which persist-

Early in the story Anna, in the absence of her husband Gysbert and her two grown sons, Ryk and Laurens, who were away fighting in the resistance forces and conspiring against the ios, had the misfortune to shelter one of the invaders at the family farm at Oostermeer. Don Rodriguez wandered into the house one night in a wounded state while Anna was asleep, and when she discovered him half fainting from the loss of blood she raised her knife to kill him, but at the crucial moment her A famous poet, a woman of exquisite compassion for the helpless man got feelings, she is unforgotten by them. the better of her. With the help of her In the first year, at all events-for the dead woman's chronicle covers that adopted daughter Liesbet, she nursed space of time-they talk of her, or him back to health.

She kept this incident secret from in moments of rare awareness, as if her husband, and when later he discovered it, there was an estrangement between them, which she found difficult to bear, for he did not tell her the cause. There had been in days before complete trust and love between them. When, still later, she explained the circumstances unknown to him, there was a reconciliation.

There were daily dangers to be faced, crises to be surmounted. In one crisis, the situation demanded that Liesbet immediately marry Laurens instead of his brother Ryk to whom she was affianced. Anna, faced with the first rift in the family unity, acted with dignity and courage; there was no time for family quarrels when the country's fate was at stake.

### Much of the Action in Delft.

The story shifts from one part of the country to another; a great deal of the never read any. Olivia seemed to him action takes place at Delft. Anna had frequent occasion to meet William of Orange, a brave leader who carried on No, he didn't think she was a saint, but the bitter struggle against Spain until his death, and we have portraits of him and of other contemporary worthies.

Later in the story, following the death of her husband, Anna falls into the hands of Don Rodriguez, the may she had saved from death. Thrown ir a cell in preparation for torture, she permitted to escape; for at the last moment, Don Rodriguez apparently undergoes some inner conflict, with a revulsion against himself and his deeds. He falls victim, however, to a Dutch mob.

We follow throughout the novel the fortunes of the van Breda family down to the grandchildren, and concurrently the fortune of the brave little people who so valiantly defended themselves against so strong a foe as Spain. The book is well written, and the characters convincing. There is drama and adventure in plenty.

JOHN GREGORY.

### Henry Hamilton's Miss Mannes could have told the History of England

You will find little about the political and military activities of British rulers smaller product results from each ad- that her method will please a good in "England: A History of the Homeland," by Henry Hamilton (Norton. \$6). Hamilton believes a history should be a record of social and economic change, an account of the process of natural growth, rather than a story of In "The Valiant Lady" (Doubleday, statecraft and power politics, and this \$3) Brigid Knight tells the story of book reflects that belief. It is useful Dutch resistance to the Spanish invader as an account of British development. in the sixteenth century. It is a dra- It is divided into five parts called "Our matic story of endurance and courage. Needs," "Our Work," "Human Relasymbolized in Anna van Breda, the val- tions," "Other Human Beings" and lant lady of the title, who faces the "Our Institutions." The 114 illustranational ordeal from middle to old age. tions add to the value of the book.

> UPTOWN AND DOWN. By Fred Neher. ED NEHER 2-3-

I'll have to wait till prices come down before I start dieting With food so high I can't afford to leave anything on my pla