

tent in caring for their wives' interests than for their own. And it was all directed against a Democrat who was defended by Republicans. Truly, the galleries were uplifted, and it seemed that the millennium must be nearer than the calendar shows.

There were some facts involved which could hardly be gleaned from the moral dissertation, however. They are simple. There is a Tariff Commission of six members, which has power affecting changes in schedules. The Commission is carefully balanced, with three of each party. One of the Democrats, Mr. Glassie, is a high-tariff man on many points. His wife is interested in sugar. The object of the attack was to prevent Mr. Glassie from voting on sugar tariffs. This is fair enough.

That would leave five members, one of whom, Mr. Culbertson, is a Republican, favoring a low tariff on some things, including sugar. Therefore if the Democratic Mr. Glassie could not vote, the Commission would lower sugar duties, which would please the Democrats. Also the beet growers would be unable to make a living in Michigan and Utah, which was one reason why there was Republican dissent to the morality demanded.

There is no suspicion that Mr. Robinson is not so virtuous as he says. There is no doubt a valid argument in favor of lower sugar duties. The only moral is that political morality in either party is not always just what it seems.

### The Tax Bill in the Senate

THE Senate Finance Committee has reported a Tax Bill which, so far as income taxes are concerned, carries substantially the Mellon rates, yet, admittedly, it will reduce receipts \$50,000,000 below estimates for the Mellon plan bill as originally introduced. This means that if the Senate Committee bill should become law the estimated surplus will be wiped out and a theoretical deficit of \$50,000,000 created. Chairman Smoot explained, however, that the Committee expects this deficit to be made up as the result of improvement in business conditions due to placing taxes upon an economically sound basis.

The puzzling part of the situation is that, after all these weeks of effort to restore the bill to the substance of the Mellon plan, the Senate Committee has reported a bill which, on the face of the

figures, would produce only \$12,000,000 more revenue than would the Longworth compromise House bill, which more closely resembles the Garner than the Mellon plan.

The Senate bill would cut normal taxes by \$95,000,000 and surtaxes by \$200,000,000. Under the House bill, the normal tax reduction would be \$130,000,000 and the surtax reduction \$150,000,000. The Senate bill, therefore, would affect a reduction of income taxes greater by \$15,000,000 than would the House bill, but would pick up approximately \$27,000,000 on other items, mainly corporation taxes, for which the Senate rate is 14 per cent and the House rate 12½ per cent. The Senate bill, however, eliminates the special corporation stock tax.

The maximum surtax rate in the Senate bill is 25 per cent applicable to incomes of \$100,000 and over. The Democratic membership of the Senate Committee, it has been announced, will propose a plan under which surtax rates will run higher than those of the Committee bill. Report is that the maximum will run to 40 per cent on incomes of \$500,000 and over. This is higher than the maximum rate of either the Longworth compromise or the original Garner bill, and is exceeded only by that of the Freer-Insurgent bill. It is probable that, on the whole, the Democratic substitute plan will run pretty closely parallel to the Longworth bill.

Within seven weeks of the time when the President has asked Congress to adjourn, the Senate is barely ready to begin debating a Tax Bill with two widely different plans in the open, the Insurgents nursing schemes of their own, the House in no mood to accept anything differing much from the compromise bill passed weeks ago, and almost everybody playing politics whenever opportunity offers. Senator Smoot was probably in an unusually optimistic mood when he said that he knew a tax bill would be passed at this session.

### The Pay of Mail Carriers

THE road to popularity does not lead through opposition to salary increases, particularly when the proposed increases apply to a craft so far-flung as letter-carriers and postal clerks. Perhaps that is why many members of Congress would, if the bill came up now, vote to increase the salaries of those extremely useful servants all over the country. The

statement of the cowboy concerning the nest of hornets applies to letter-carriers and mail clerks—"Them fellows is organized." They can make themselves heard.

And that, of course, is as it should be. Some carriers and some clerks are entitled to more pay. Others, where living costs are relatively low, are not. Yet the two bills now before the joint subcommittee having the matter under consideration provide for uniform increases all along the line, not only for carriers and clerks, but for postmasters and all other officials having to do with mail distribution. The Kelly-Edge Bill would make increases that would cost the Government about \$150,000,000 a year. The Paige Bill would cost something less—perhaps \$112,000,000 a year. Neither provides the means for raising the money, and it is not to be found in the general funds. Mr. Kelly has introduced a third bill, which undertakes to provide the necessary money by increasing parcel-post rates. Authorities of the Post Office Department say that this provision would not raise any money, but would turn a large part of the parcel-post business back to the express companies and destroy the rest outright.

The Post Office Department, opposing all three of these measures, but realizing that some sort of bill will probably be reported out by the committee, has submitted a compromise proposal. It would divide carriers and clerks into two classes, increase the pay of the first class by \$200 and of the second class by \$100, entail a total increase of \$43,000,000, and provide for this increase by raising certain parcel-post rates and the rates on certain periodicals. This is far enough from an ideal bill, but, if a bill must be passed at this time, it would be the least harmful.

The wise course would be to pass no bill at this session. The Post Office Department is engaged in making an account of costs, which will show where money is being lost and how rates can be adjusted, with the least hardship, to provide money for the higher salaries. This work will be completed late next summer. A commission could then go over the whole field, ascertain what salaries should be increased and what rates could be raised, and work out a logical scheme for attaining the desired end.

That would be, of course, a hardship upon those carriers and clerks who are entitled to more pay now. But it is one

# What error leads, must err

(Troilus and Cressida, Act V, Scene 2)

*Alley in the Memphis Commercial Appeal*



And it's planting time, too

From A. Walden Klaus, Vickburg, Miss.

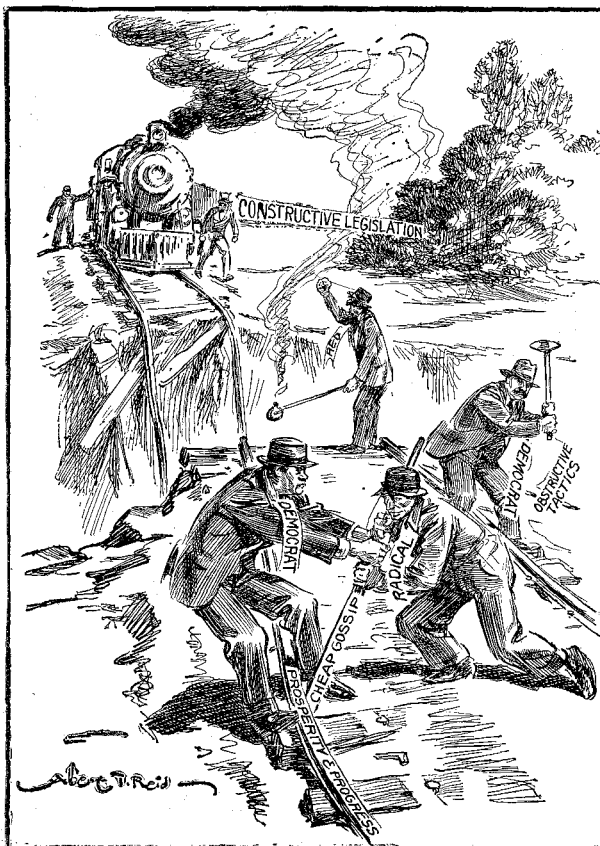
*Sykes in the Philadelphia Evening Public Ledger*



Unprotected

From Mrs. J. H. Hamilton, Ardmore, Pa.

*Reid in the National Republican*



Halted!

*Perry in the Portland (Oregon) Telegram*



An opportunity he won't overlook