

accused is guilty. When trial comes on, the traverse jury must measure by a different standard. Here guilt must be established "beyond a reasonable doubt."

Forbes will undertake to supply the doubt. Even if he fails in that, he is likely to supply a good deal of something else. Following publication of the indictment he made a statement which has much the ring of a threat. He is innocent, he says, but things were wrong in the Veterans' Bureau, due to political pressure from the outside, and he announces that he will give the names of the persons who exerted this malignant pressure. He intimates that some of them are men of large prominence in public affairs.

The public is not likely to accept Forbes's statement as at all absolving him from blame. But the public is inclined to suspect that, while the Senate committee and the grand jury may have sounded the depths of the Veterans' Bureau's iniquity, some lateral channels of the subterranean maze have not been explored. There will be keen interest in what Forbes has to reveal of men who were willing to make political barter of sick and wounded veterans.

The grand jury itself indicates that there are reprehensible records which it, because of the limits of its territorial jurisdiction, cannot investigate. A report filed with the indictments contains somewhat startling revelations of what came to the knowledge of the grand jury. Certain sums of money, says the report, were paid to two members of Congress. One or more officials of the Federal Government used official information for purposes of speculation; a file of one of the executive departments was for a month in the hands of persons having no official connection with the department; individuals accepted money for obtaining, through intimacy with officials, clemency for prisoners, and for obtaining through such intimacy permits for intoxicating liquors. This is the substance of the principal items of the report.

Which or how many of the executive departments may be involved in these things or how deeply they may be involved cannot be guessed now, and cannot be certainly known, perhaps, until other grand juries having inquisitorial powers at the places where these acts are said to have been committed are empaneled.

It was, perhaps, never thought that the Chicago investigation would exhaust the possibility of indictments growing out of the Veterans' Bureau scandal. This re-

port, however, has probably broadened the field of further action beyond what could have been foreseen. The Attorney-General of the United States, it will be remembered, hastened to Chicago just before the indictments and the report of the grand jury were given out. Undoubtedly there were other reasons for his going, but the necessity for extended action of the Department of Justice in connection with the Veterans' Bureau cases may well have been an important part of his business there.

The Longworth Compromise

THE Tax-Reduction Bill as it passed the House of Representatives—a bill based on the Longworth compromise plan—is not a clean-cut victory for any party or faction, neither is it a complete defeat for any. The Republican organization has the satisfaction of having put through a Tax-Reduction Bill that the President will approve if it passes the Senate. The Democrats, outvoted when the Republicans united, made no serious effort to secure the passage of their own bill. They did, however, secure a number of amendments which they had championed but which were proposed, in the main, by Republicans, and the bill as a whole is much more nearly in conformity with the original Democratic plan than with the original Republican or Mellon plan. The insurgent Republicans, who never had any hope of securing the passage of their own bill, finally supported one as nearly to their liking, practically, as was the Democratic plan. The insurgents have the satisfaction, too, of knowing that by their original support of the Democratic plan they forced from the regular Republicans the compromise measure which was finally successful so far as the House is concerned. There is an element of satisfaction and, at the same time, an element of disappointment for all three parties to the battle.

There is, however, another party to be considered—the people who actually pay the taxes assessed under the bill—which may show less complacency than do the belligerent Congressional factions. The taxpayers will certainly be less complacent if once they awake to the fact that the high surtaxes demanded by the so-called liberals are going to be paid by the people at large in the form of high cost of living.

The Longworth Bill, if it becomes law as it now stands, will mean a loss in revenue for the year 1925 of \$446,000,000.

That is, the revenue derived will be smaller by that sum than if the present law should remain in force. The loss, as estimated by the Treasury, is made up of \$130,000,000 on normal taxes, \$150,000,000 on surtaxes, \$90,000,000 on earned income, and \$126,000,000 on miscellaneous items of internal revenue. To be deducted from this is an estimated gain of \$50,000,000 on limitation of capital losses, leaving the net total loss of \$446,000,000.

A loss of \$323,000,000 was contemplated in the original Mellon plan. On the rates as reported under that plan by the committee, the estimated loss would have been \$340,000,000. The losses under the Democratic or Garner plan would have been \$559,000,000.

President Coolidge is reported to be not pleased with the compromise bill as passed by the House, but as willing to sign it as, possibly, the best law that can be secured at this session of Congress.

At the Mercy of the Senate

THE tax bill as passed by the House of Representatives now goes to the Senate, where another severe ordeal awaits it. There will be at least two dissimilar efforts likely to modify it. One of these will take the direction of trying to bring the bill nearer to the original Mellon plan, and the other to take it still farther away from the Mellon plan in the direction of the Frear or insurgent plan. The Senate insurgents may be more or less yielding than the insurgents of the House, but, whatever they may finally do, the contest is likely to continue for some time.

There is a feeling that if the Senate can succeed in putting the bill in closer conformity to Administration wishes it will be supported upon return to the House by a number of Democrats who all along wished to support the Mellon plan but were bound by caucus agreements not to do so. On the other hand, certain of the Senate insurgents are thought to be prepared to center their most determined attack of this session upon the Administration tax measures.

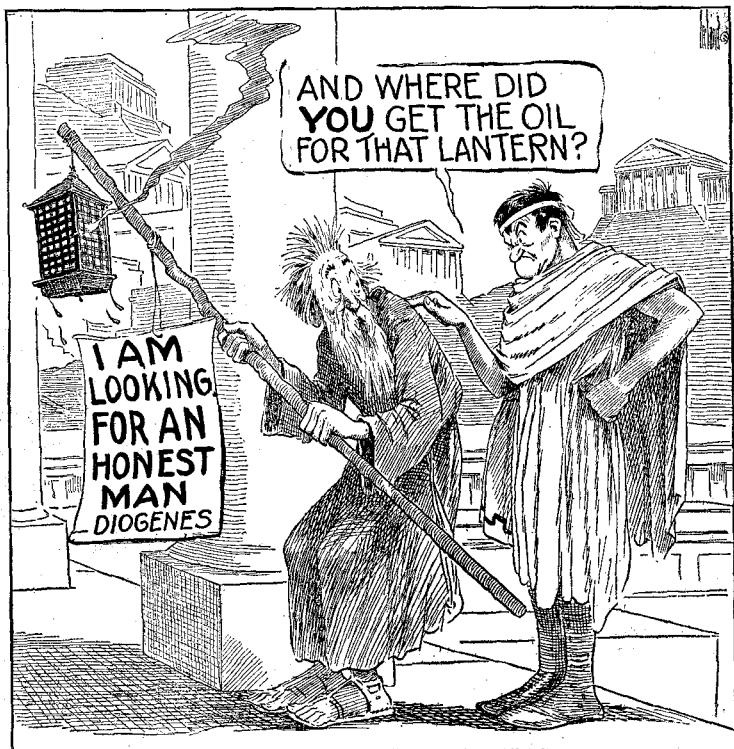
Something has been gained by the House action toward what the country demands in the way of tax reduction. Whether it will be carried through the Senate, through the conference committee, and through its second ordeal in the House after conference remains still on the lap of the gods.

One phase of the bill, which came in on amendment from the floor, seems par-

What a ready tongue suspicion hath!

(2 Henry IV, Act I, Scene 1)

Ireland in the Columbus Dispatch



Diogenes couldn't have gotten by with it to-day

From Margaret Clark, Columbus, Ohio

Darling in the New York Tribune



Copyright, 1924, New York Tribune, Inc.

Aren't they overlooking something?

Reid for the Bell Syndicate



Copyright, 1924, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.

Poor picking

Harding in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle



"Willie, you can't go with that patch on!"

From Miss M. E. Voorhees, Brooklyn, N. Y.