

ticularly likely to bring pressure from constituencies for passage of the law in some form. This is the provision for a reduction of twenty-five per cent on taxes paid this year on incomes received in 1923. This provision means a considerable measure of immediate relief to all taxpayers, large and small alike. Unless the bill is passed by both houses and signed by the President, this relief to the purses of the taxpayers will be of course lost. Undoubtedly a great many persons who might be willing to wait for adjustment of next year's taxes will have something more or less emphatic to say to their representatives about a plan which cuts by one-fourth the taxes now due.

A Century of Indian Affairs

THE Bureau of Indian Affairs of the United States Government is celebrating this week (March 11) the one hundredth anniversary of its creation.

It seems queer, not to say blameworthy, that prior to 1824 there was no organized Government activity looking to the welfare of the original inhabitants of the country. Both sides strove desperately for the aid of the Indians in the War of the Revolution, but the terms of peace contained no stipulation for their protection. England relinquished title to a great territory with no word for the natives. The United States assumed sovereignty in silence as deep. The red race found mention in the Constitution only in that clause "excluding Indians not taxed" from the enumeration for the purpose of determining representation in Congress.

When, finally, something was begun toward safeguarding the interests of the Indians, it came as the voluntary act of John C. Calhoun, who, as Secretary of War, felt that the American people had a moral duty in this direction. He simply addressed an order to a colonel in the Regular Army, detailing him to act as chief of a bureau of Indian affairs. Prior to that time there had been dealings with the Indians through various agents of the Government for special purposes, but these dealings had been mainly in the way of trade, settlement of little wars, and negotiations for removing Indians from lands desired by the whites.

After Calhoun's act of detailing an army officer to do what he could for the welfare of the Indians, the work went along under various names and with little money until 1849, when the newly created Department of the Interior took

over the Indian welfare work from the War Department. Indian problems multiplied as the young nation expanded. Previously the Government had had to concern itself mainly with Indians east of the Mississippi River and north of Florida. Then the problem became as wide as the map of the United States is to-day. Spain had recently ceded Florida to the United States, and, with it, the problem of the Seminoles and other Peninsular tribes. Mexico, by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the war, ceded to the United States all that great stretch of Southwestern and far Western territory to the Pacific. In the same year—it was 1846—our title to the Oregon Territory was established and the Indians of the region now constituting Washington, Oregon, and Idaho became a moral charge upon the Government. The gold hunters were on the overland trail or coming coastwise by the far Straits of Magellan or across the Isthmus of Panama. The Indians of the whole country were, at last, in touch with the destructive thing called civilization, and the agency of the Government which sought to safeguard them had a far-flung task.

That was seventy-five years ago. The work has gone slowly. But at the end of a century of effort from Calhoun's beginning, two-thirds of the Indians of the United States are citizens. The Bureau operates 229 schools for Indian education. It maintains 78 hospitals for Indian patients and has 150 physicians detailed to reservation practice. The great bulk of Indians are self-supporting. Many of them are wealthy. More than a third of the total number, by reason of education and competency, have been released from all jurisdiction of the Federal Government. For a decade past the Indian population has steadily increased.

The fruit, late-ripening as it seems, is sound. There is a future for the Indian in the United States. Men will speculate endlessly as to what form that future will take, just as they speculate endlessly as to what the past of the Indian in North America really was. Eminent authorities will assert that he was always a savage out and out. One of the famous specialists of the Bureau of American Ethnology, on the other hand, recently asserted that the Five Nations had all through the seventeenth century the best form of government then existent in the world. The point is that whatever the Indian's nature makes him capable of he has opportunity to become in the United States.

The time has come now to consider

the abolition of the Bureau that was instituted so informally a hundred years ago. Then the Indians were all distinctly dependent peoples, and needed the paternal protection of the Government. Now all the Indians are certainly approaching the stage where they should have the protection to which American citizens are entitled and none other.

Just Ordinary

THE centenary of the Indian Bureau reminds us of a story which has some application in these days. It is less of a reflection on Congress than on the voters.

A young Cherokee had been sent to Washington by his tribe to appear before a Senate committee in an effort to negotiate an advantageous settlement of a claim. A prominent Senator, examining him, suggested an effort at undue influence.

The young Indian denied it.

"But it is a fact, isn't it," persisted the Senator, "that the Cherokee nation selected you as its ablest man to come up here and influence this committee?"

"That was not the purpose," denied the Indian, "and I am just an ordinary Cherokee Indian without any special abilities."

"That does not stand to reason," said the Senator. "The Cherokees would naturally select their smartest man for a job like this."

"Now, Senator," protested the Indian, "the Cherokee Indians are just like the rest of the people of the United States—they never do send their smartest men to Washington."

New York may Retrace its Steps

NEW YORK STATE passed a Prohibition Law to back up the Volstead Act of the Federal Government, then on second thought it repealed it. The first law destroyed the old license law of the State, and therefore when the second law was repealed New York State was left without any liquor law on its books. It was Governor Smith who urged the repeal of the enforcement act (the Mullan-Gage Law). It seemed to be Governor Smith's opinion that the Volstead Act would be enforced without the aid of active State support. How any reasonable being could have expected this we do not see.

Now the district attorneys of New York State at a conference have drawn up a resolution calling upon the Legislature to re-enact a prohibition law. Of

March 12, 1924

the conditions in New York State these district attorneys say:

Since the repeal of the Mullan-Gage Law conditions of law enforcement have grown steadily worse.

Without a State enforcement act State and local officers are practically powerless in enforcing the National law.

The number of Federal agents, attorneys, and courts now is wholly inadequate for effective law enforcement.

In the absence of a State enforcement act, all cases must be prosecuted in the United States courts. In the State of New York there are only four United States district courts, only four United States attorneys, only 200 Federal agents. Only a Federal agent can serve a Federal search warrant or a warrant of arrest. No State or local police officer can serve a Federal warrant or process of any kind. No State court has jurisdiction over offenses against the Federal law. No State or local prosecuting attorney can prosecute violations of Federal law.

As a consequence of this situation, all our Supreme Court justices and county judges, more than two hundred in number, all our sixty-one attorneys, district attorneys, and their staffs, all our 20,000 police officers, are practically powerless to apprehend, prosecute, and punish violations of the Federal law. Effective law administration requires certainty and celerity in apprehension and punishment. Now, as Police Commissioner Enright of New York declared, the efforts of police officers are practically nullified by the necessary delays and congestion of criminal business in the United States courts, of which there are only four in the entire State, as against 200 State judges. The delays in Federal administration also cause great expense and loss of time to local police systems.

The law which the district attorneys propose is urged by them, not only because it will help in the enforcement of law, but also because the failure to pass such a bill will ultimately result in a greatly increased number of Federal agents in the State. The bill which the district attorneys have drawn up is also designed to obviate what they call "a theoretical objection to the former law," namely, that it involved a double jeopardy to offenders because of the possibility that they might be convicted by both State and National Governments for a single offense. The action of the district attorneys of New York is added testimony to the fact that more and more American citizens are coming to realize that the maintenance of law and order is more important than the gratification of personal pique at the passage of a Constitutional amendment.



Helen Lowell and Louis John Bartels in "The Show-Off"

The Show-Off

THERE are some fools that the public cannot help liking because they are such complete and perfect specimens of their kind. Foolishness, and even knavery, can be so developed that it becomes something more than a burden and an annoyance. It moves over into the realm of art. The world has a kindly thought for Mr. Micawber, though he caused his family no end of suffering and would have been a bad neighbor to have within lawn-mower borrowing distance. The inflated ideals of Colonel Sellers won him the approbation of a reading public, though district attorneys charged with the enforcing of blue sky laws would not have welcomed his presence in any community. Perhaps this popular sympathy for weaknesses which do not touch us too closely explains, in part at least, the very evident appeal of "The Show-Off," now playing at the Playhouse in New York City. There are plenty of other reasons why this play should captivate the public, but perhaps this is one of them.

The hero of "The Show-Off" is a dapper young clerk with an inordinate sense of his own importance. As such people sometimes do, he persuades an attractive girl of flapperish tendency to accept him at the valuation which he has placed upon himself. Against the background of her somewhat conventional workaday family the glittering self-glorification of her husband shows off to the best, or rather the worst, advantage. What love

he has left over, after he supplies the needs of his own ego, he lavishes upon her—and his affection supplies to a certain extent the need of more substantial things, such as raiment and food.

The contrast in attitude, ambition, and outlook between the various characters in the play are most successfully presented both by the author and by the company. Some critics have condemned as in-artistic the fact that this young blow-hard ultimately does help his more substantial relatives to secure a sizable sum of money. But the audience, ignoring the critics, as audiences frequently do, seemed to be eminently satisfied with the *dénouement*. The triumphant vindication of foolishness is not a thing too remote from the popular ambition and the popular ideal; besides, fools have occasionally fallen down wells and discovered gold mines.

Glee Clubs

ON March 1 a contest in which thirteen glee clubs took part was held at Carnegie Hall in New York City. This was the eighth New York contest, and it was won by the Yale Glee Club, which had won honorable mention last year. The recipients of honorable mention this year were Columbia and Syracuse. The judges were Walter Damrosch, Conductor of the New York Symphony Orchestra, who was Chairman of the Committee of Judges; Mme. Louise Homer, famous singer; and Gilbert W.