

Business Men Display Their Ignorance

WITH tiresome reiteration the hack editorial writers of the American newspapers declare that the remedy for all social, economic and political ills is to entrust the enactment and administration of the laws to representatives of what one termed "the business interests." The troubles arising under present conditions, we are told, are due to the incompetence or dishonesty of the professional politicians. Throw these men out, replace them by hard-headed practical men of affairs, and we shall have efficiency, economy, wise laws, and competent administration.

A sample of the collective wisdom of these successful business men, the supervisors of trade, the captains of commerce, was handed out at the recent national convention of the United States Chambers of Commerce, when the taxation group of that body united in a recommendation for repeal of the taxes on theatre tickets, club dues, and other "luxury taxes" and the adoption of a general sales tax on all turnovers of merchandise. Here we have sound common sense applied to the tax problem. Abolish the taxes paid for amusements, clubs, etc., and tax every American woman, man and child, on everything that they eat or wear. People eat too much, anyway. Tax their food, and they will avoid dyspepsia, indigestion, and other results of overeating. Women spend too much money on clothes, hats and gloves. Tax 'em all, and cut down the expenditure. Soak the consumers. They have no friends. The theatre owners and the average club members have influence. Take off their taxes and put them on the weekly grocery bill. This is the wisdom of business. Is there any wonder that an ungrateful public does not rush to turn over to the Chambers of Commerce the management of the country's affairs?