

## Why Not a Single Syntax?

Under the modest title, "Local Items," there appeared in the April issue of the Monadnock Ledger edited by Richard Noyes in Peterborough (New Hampshire's Lightest Magazine), the following wise but wistful commentary.

By MISS EDITH WINDHAM

**W**ELL, the state tax collector, if he goes by that title, is in trouble now as a result of all this talk of cigarettes and what they will do to you. It seems that people have cut down on smoking and so they have cut down on paying taxes as in this state the two go together hand in hand. They have a tax on tobacco and the income has fallen way off . . .

Say, why isn't this a dandy chance for me to have my little say on the topic of taxes, which I have wanted to do for the longest time? It is a dandy chance, and I believe I will.

I mean state taxes, which let me just tell you a little bit about.

The big tax here, whether you know it or not, is the sin tax. They have got it worked out so that every time one sins a part of the cost goes to the government. There is a tax on cigarettes, and one on liquor, and one on horse racing, and such as that. It pays all the bills.

Now they want to pass a lot of brand new taxes in New Hampshire because they claim the old ones are old fashioned. I look at it just the opposite.

No, I do not claim to be an authority on taxes but I know about sin. I know a lot more than you think I do about sin as I have seen it. I have watched it go on right out my front window.

They say the trouble with the sin tax is people may reform and then the state will be as poor as a church mouse. But I say, "Do not ever fear that, as people are going to sin if they get a chance, it is a thing you can put your trust in."

Personally, I do not sin. It is not that I am unpatriotic, but it is the way I was brought up and trained.

Now I believe the people who do have the pleasure of sinning should be willing to foot the bill for it out of a pocket. When my neighbor next door comes home in the dark and can not fit the key into the lock on the front door (he takes liquor) why I do not mind it so much as I recall he has just been out paying his taxes.

One thing the tax reformers did is to pass what they call the "head tax," which I have to pay like anyone else simply as a result of having a head.

Why, it is a foolish tax. They do not allow any deduction in case of headaches or in case one loses his head in the heat of anger, and the amount of the tax has not relation to the hat-size whatsoever.

\* \* \*

A bed caught fire and burned up in a residence over on Summer street this week. Smoking cigarettes, you see.