

HALSEY ENTERPRISE

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TAXED TO DEATH

National, state and municipal governments are racking their brains, not to cut off the parasites on the public treasury but to find more ways of raising money to feed more parasites.

Congress and the legislature have been swelled in membership out of all proportion to the work they do and they have annexed assistants and attachés and clerks and secretaries and stenographers and typewriters and the Lord knows what that the founders of the government never dreamed of, all at the public expense.

They have delegated what were and ought to be the duties of the law-makers and law-enforcement officers to boards and commissions which in turn have their bodies of underlings, all at the public expense, and searchlights and microscopes are being used in looking for new ways to get revenue out of the dear people.

The nation owes a bigger debt than statesmen of fifty years ago would have deemed possible for all the nations of the world.

The state of Oregon, which a few years ago was proud to be out of debt, is staggering under a bonded indebtedness on which the interest alone is a heavy burden.

An auto stage line has begun to use the Pacific highway, which we have accommodated by building to parallel the Southern Pacific and divide the business with it, when no funds were forthcoming to build market roads to the back country and develop the productive possibilities of lands that would furnish profitable freight to the railroads and add millions to Oregon's wealth.

The stage autos, with all others in the state, are taxed in state license fees and in taxes on their fuel in an endeavor to pay part of the road-bond debt.

When the stage line began to run the cities along its route got busy on schemes to raise revenue from it. Junction City wanted \$240 per year per car for allowing it to bring passengers into its heavenly precincts. Sutherlin wanted \$150 per car, Cottage Grove would be satisfied with \$50, while Eugene said "Bring 'em here free. We want their trade." Monroe talked the latter way.

At Junction City the company refused to pay and dropped passengers at the city limits on one side, picking them up again at the other. Then the city compromised on \$100 a year, presumably for all the company's cars. We are not informed on this point.

The congressional committee charged with finding money to pay soldiers' bonuses, \$350,000,000 of which will be wanted in each of the next three years, is considering eight sources, each of which is objected to by the fellows it would hit. Mr. Longworth is head of the committee and one of the eight is tobacco, cigars and cigars, which of course would hit those cigars that Mrs. Longworth enjoys smoking in public.

The director of the United States veterans' bureau says:

The government in 1922 is expending on disabled ex-service men \$510,000,000—more than its entire expenditure prior to 1897. It is doing more for its disabled veterans than any other country, though many nations lost far more men than the United States lost.

Over \$1,000,000 cash is paid

every day in the year directly to ex-service men.

Hospital care and treatment with board and lodging are provided for 30,000 men at a cost of \$60,000,000 a year.

Free vocational training is given to 100,000 disabled men at a cost of \$30,000,000 a year.

Life insurance without cost of administration and at premiums below the rates charged by private companies is furnished to 600,000 men, the total in force being \$3,500,000,000.

More than 50,000 medical examinations are conducted every month.

Outside treatment is given to 20,000 men every month where it is not necessary that they go to hospitals.

The bureau has 1,000,000 cases on file and receives 1000 new ones daily, employing 4000 ex-service men and women in disposing of them. It has allowed 305,000 compensation claims, has paid out \$300,000,000 in compensation, and has allowed 145,000 insurance claims totaling \$1,610,000,000.

Regarding the much-proclaimed economy at Washington Senator King of Utah says: "The public is becoming nauseated by the continued repetition of claims of economy by apologists for the administration. The fact is that government expenditures have increased \$400,000,000 a year."

Of course Mr. King is a democrat or he would not talk that way about a republican administration, but the fact remains that on the heels of Mr. Harding's public rejoicing over the alleged overcoming of the deficits in the budget and his assertion that he has been converted to the bonus proposal because funds are in sight to carry it out, the ways and means committee is searching frantically for the income needed for that purpose.

All over the country the burden has fallen the heaviest on the farmer. In Oregon the local taxes alone equal the rental value of farms in many cases. And while everything the farmer sells has gone to bottom figures nearly everything he must buy is held at the top notch by non-competitive combines of producers and dealers.

It is no cause for wonder that there is a "farmer bloc." If the bloc were not likely to block some of the games by which the farmer is exploited it would not be advertised so extensively and so vituperatively by the smug advocates of government by party, which it threatens as the bursting of the reservoir threatened Johnstown, Pa., before that city fell.

The revolutions of saturnian life and correlated murder in the Hollywood film colony in California have led to a proposal that congress appoint a national board of film censors. Great! Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of jobs could thus be provided for the faithful among the ruling party, which-er that might be, and said faithful ones would be no more useless and no more useful than they are now. Possibly they would give a small percentage of their salaries toward paying the borrowed money which both parties owe.

Had Arbuckle been acquitted his backers were prepared to have his picture flashed upon screens in all parts of the country. Clacquer would have been noisy and his vindication and his popularity would have been proclaimed. It will be a long time before the fathers and mothers of America will want their children taught to admire that profligate and obscene boozier again.

The Harrisburg Bulletin intimates that people of that town hoped for a green old age and constant tenure of office for Commissioner Harlow of Lane county. It says: "Harrisburg people hoped that he would stick until the completion of the Harrisburg bridge, but he proposes to quit with the end of his present term."

WHERE YOUR TAXES GO

(by Edward G. Lowry)

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II.

UNCLE SAM AS EMPLOYER

The United States government is the largest single employer of men and women in this country. At the present time in the executive civil service of the Federal government, and exclusive of the army and navy, there are employed approximately 650,000 workers, or one in 73 of all residents on American soil, ten years of age or over, engaged in gainful occupations. A little while ago, when the number of federal employees was even larger than it is now, one person out of every 68 in the United States who had any sort of a job at all was working for the government. These calculations are based on recent estimates of the bureau of the census in anticipation of the results of the fourteenth general census.

Prior to the outbreak of the war, in 1914, the number of men and women in civil positions in the executive service was approximately 385,630. In 1916 it had grown to 398,832. In 1917, after our entry into the war, it was 450,798. On June 30, 1919, the number was 707,448. The number on July 31, 1920, was 691,116.

These figures are confessedly approximations. Since the signing of the armistice the number of federal employees has been decreasing. Undoubtedly the decrease in force will continue to be made for months to come, but the growth of the government business in the past few years has been such as to make it a larger employer in the post-war period than it had ever been in the pre-war period. These thousands of men and women working for the government comprise every type of ability and intelligence. Their duties cover a range of activities that far exceeds that exercised for other public or private employers; for, besides its task of lawmaking and law enforcing, of national defense and national finance, the government is charged with promoting the health and welfare of its people, of promoting their home interests, their agricultural, mining, manufacturing, shipping, fishing and transportation interests.

To do this it must investigate, control and eradicate diseases that attack persons, plants and animals. It must inspect livestock, foods and drugs. It must study conditions and progress in education, labor and commerce. It must prevent individual men or groups of men from using unfair business methods, whether in banking, transportation, trade or manufacture.

The government must administer public lands and the affairs of the Indians, and educate children in Alaska. It sets the clocks of the country, forecasts the weather, and makes observations of the stars and heavenly bodies. It constructs buildings, docks, roads, bridges, irrigation works, bulidns canals and aeroplanes, makes ordnance and ammunition, clothing and other supplies for its soldiers and sailors. It makes all its own money and does all its own printing. It distributes all mail and many packages.

The government does everything that any employer in the United States does, in addition to a great many things that no other employer does. How does it treat its people? Is it a good employer or a bad employer? Are its employees contented? These are questions that I should advise the railroad men, the miners and other workers who seek nationalization of industry, to look into before they commit themselves.

Let them find out for themselves what government ownership would mean to them.

The first thing they will discover, as I discovered when I began the present inquiry, is that nobody knows, and nobody in the government service is charged with knowing, the exact number of employees in the service from day to day. Even more astounding, nobody knows, or is charged with knowing, even approximately, the sum of the payroll of the United States.

It is not possible to find out within hundreds of thousands of dollars how much the United States pays yearly or monthly in salaries and wages. I went to the Treasury department, to the appropriations committee of congress, and elsewhere where I thought the information might be lodged, but nobody knew. I was told vaguely that the government was not run on an asset and liability basis, and therefore it was not necessary to know the exact number of employees on the payroll.

If the average compensation is \$1,100, the federal civil service payroll now amounts to more than seven hundred million dollars annually. The largest single branch is the Post Office department, with nearly 300,000 employees. The War department has more than 125,000 civilian employees, the Navy department about 90,000, and the Treasury department about 60,000. No other branch has as many as 25,000 employees. Any institution that employs one in seventy-three of all this country's workers and calls for the expenditure of such a large part of our annual revenues is entitled to your serious consideration. You and you alone put up the money.

Sulphur Whale.

The sulphur whale that is found in the Pacific has a peculiar preference for deep water, and is called the bottom whale by many seagoing men. It is frequently more than 100 feet in length, and is regarded by many as the largest mammal that ever lived.

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BOSS BUFFALO LICKED

Famous Herd Leader Meets His Kingly Downfall.

"Old Scotty," Shipped to Washington From South Dakota, Is Put Out in Seven-Hour Battle With Younger Bull.

Wenas Prairie, Wash.—"Old Scotty," for years leader of the famous herd of buffalo near Pierre, S. D., but recently shipped here with several hundred of his kind, has met his kingly downfall. He has been dethroned, and by a younger and stronger bull.

The terrific fight, in which fences and sheds were demolished and huge holes dug in the earth, and "Old Scotty," bleeding, haggard, was vanquished, lasted seven hours. A new bull, "Yakman" by name, reigns supreme, having gained the title by the self-same tactics used by the old buffalo years ago on the Dakota prairies.

On arrival here the herd of buffalo, purchased by local capitalists, were liberated in an extensive fenced area of hills and valleys. "Scotty" was haughtily parading his 3,000 pounds of selfishness when a picturesque young bull, nearly equal in size, made a vicious lunge at the wrinkled old king. "Scotty" swung and caught the blow with his head. Then started the battle, the most remarkable ever witnessed in this section of the West. Great calm settled over the big herd as the two fighters bellowed and roared. The fighters pawed earth, plunged and tore at each other with horns and hoofs. The battle scene shifted back and forth on the prairie for seven hours, when darkness allowed "Old Scotty" to lose his adversary and limp painfully away.

Yakima Indians who saw the animals fighting are now fearful lest these animals, so near their reservation, break out of the confines and invade their villages.

It is estimated by the owners of this newly established herd that there will be an annual increase of 50 calves. If as anticipated then each autumn 50 of the largest animals will be slaughtered for the Pacific Coast markets.

Puzzling Murder Mystery Is Uncovered by Cat

Wheeling.—The frantic efforts of a cat to get out of a window at Warwood, a suburb, led to the discovery of an unsolved murder. Thomas Panlach, forty, was found on the floor by those who went to release the cat. The man's head was almost severed. An ax and razor lay nearby. Thrift stamps and stocks to the value of several thousand dollars were not touched.

Cape Costumes for Sports.

The cape costume has made strides in popularity lately, especially in tweeds and other sports wear fabrics. One shopper wore a brown homespun cape, short at the front and falling below the hips at the back, over a frock with the brown material for front and back panel and circular sections of brown and white plaid for the sides of the skirt, this plaid also collaring the cape.

A Daily Prayer.

Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me; then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my Redeemer.—Psalm 19:13-14.

Wickedness As a Fire.

Wickedness burneth as a fire; it shall devour the briars and thorns.—Isaiah, 9:18.

Sanitary Hair Brushes.

When washing hair brushes rinse them in cold water, well salted. This assists sterilization and the bristles dry stiffer than ever.

Both Responsible.

No side is actually to blame in the thousands of unhappy marriages existing today. From the altar steps to the end of their lives a man and woman must realize that it is a game of give and take all through. No one is infallible, and although an ideal may be found to have feet of clay, no one can afford to throw stones at the opposite side.—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Boy Scouts in the Forest

Boy scouts are coming to be recognized by the forest rangers as allies in the fire campaign in the national forests of the northwest.

They camp in the Cascades, the Siskiyou, in Deschutes and Whittman forests, Portland scouts have a permanent camp at Wautum lake and scouts camp in Washington and Alaska forests.

The boy scout learns that the forest ranger will be his friend if he will be always careful with his campfires.

So interested are some scouts and scout masters in the protection of the forests from fire that some field officers of the forest service have recommended that scout masters be appointed as fire guards, and many forest officers in Oregon and Washington act as scout masters of local troops.

Movies at the Schools

Eighty bookings among the high schools of Oregon have been made for "Last Days of Pompeii," "Julius Caesar," "Merchant of Venice," and "Pilgrim's Progress," special educational films that are being secured by the extension division of the University of Oregon for the use of the schools.

A large number of the high schools booking the films have their own moving picture machines. The schools without equipment of their own have made arrangements with the local theaters for showing the pictures.

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