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Phelps Grocery Company

Where Your Taxes Go

How Uncle Sam Spends Your Money in Conducting Your Business

By EDWARD G. LOWRY

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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 459,708. On June 30, 1919, the number was 707,448. The number on July 31, 1920, was 601,116.

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 grants patents of invention, 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, builds 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.

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THE CASH VARIETY STORE

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We will supply you with these or any other implements you may need at

Prices that are Right

Every thing in Hardware and Implements

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Commencing To Wonder?

Many people have commenced to wonder what they are going to prepare during the holiday season, and the "Do Your Christmas Shopping Early," is going to have more followers than ever this year.

We do not anticipate an early rush, but we are prepared for it, and to those who expect to serve a number of friends and relatives during the holiday season, we wish to say that anything in the GROCERY line is available here at prices that please you.

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Remove Grease Before Lacquering.
It is possible to protect polished metal surfaces by applying several coats of cold lacquer or celluloid varnish. The lacquer should be applied with a brass camel's hair brush, after the metal has been highly polished. There must be no trace of grease on the brass or other metal when it is lacquered.

Do Something Worth While.
Let all the intervals or void space of time be employed in prayers, reading, meditating, works of nature, recreation, charity, friendliness, neighborliness, and means of spiritual and corporal health. Never walk with any man, or undertake any trifling employment, merely to pass the time away.—Jeremy Taylor.

Quick Aid Prevents Fire.
It is well to keep a small fire-extinguisher convenient to the kitchen as a first aid to possible fire. These extinguishers are of great value when the fire has first started, but are useless after it has made headway. Just as with a first-aid kit, their value lies in their being at your service at a moment's notice.