

# Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted  
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Washington, D. C.

### We Borrow a Billion

Washington.—Mr. Secretary Morgenthau lately has gone into the money market to borrow approximately one billion dollars. He asked the banks and other people having idle money to purchase four hundred millions in new government bonds and at the same time asked them to extend loans totalling about \$550,000,000 that matured on September 15. The maturing securities, of course, do not take new money out of the money market, but it is borrowing just the same despite the technical name of refunding.

The Treasury's action in borrowing such a huge sum at this time came as a surprise. To many financial authorities, in fact to most of them, there was no need for borrowing additional funds at this time. It was a circumstance in which, as far as most observers could see, the Treasury had idle money in sufficient amount to meet the needs for the next several months.

Aside from the fact that the Secretary's action results in an increase in the public debt by the amount of new money borrowed, it is a matter deserving more than passing attention—much more attention than Treasury borrowings heretofore. The reason is that the administration is again piling up in the Treasury a huge amount of idle funds. As nearly as I can calculate the results of the September borrowings, the Treasury will be left with a mere \$1,700,000 in unused cash. Of course, to the Roosevelt administration which has dealt only in billions, this sum may not appear important. Mr. Morgenthau said it was necessary to have these funds available because of "unsettled conditions" abroad. But that answer, to me, does not suffice.

I recognize that most people find little interest in discussing Treasury financial policies. I know from the type of letters that I get from those who do me the honor to read these reports that the subject of Treasury finance seems far removed from anything in which they can possibly have an interest. But notwithstanding those facts, I feel the matter should be discussed in every section of the country because it directly touches every taxpayer; and that is of vital importance.

Here is how it affects the taxpayer and when I refer to the taxpayer I refer to every individual in this country, because all of us are paying taxes either directly or indirectly: When the Treasury arranges a cash balance, it provides funds upon which the various government agencies may draw in accordance with congressional appropriations. To that extent it is like money you deposit in a bank. But otherwise it is quite different. The cash balance in the Treasury lies idle. It brings no return, no profit to anybody.

But it is important to remember that there are only two ways in which the Treasury can get money for this cash balance, namely, by borrowing or by taxing you and me. During the Roosevelt administration the Treasury has borrowed about \$2.12 for every dollar it has collected in taxes. The result is a gigantic public debt.

There is another result, however, that is not as apparent to individuals. Since the Treasury is borrowing money it has to pay interest on what it borrows. You and I are paying this interest in the form of additional taxes. So, therefore, not alone are we being taxed for the money that is spent and which must be repaid, but we are being taxed to pay the interest on idle funds.

Mr. Morgenthau's reference to unsettled conditions abroad directs attention to what is happening in Europe and Asia and the link that exists between those conditions and our own.

### Conditions Abroad

President Roosevelt lately has said on several occasions that he did not like to be away from Washington more than four or five days at a time because of those unsettled conditions. Every one knows that our foreign friends are rearming. I believe every one realizes as well, however, that each of those foreign nations is in a position where they cannot initiate hostilities. At least, each one is in a position where very great provocation must occur before it can justify the starting of a war in the eyes of nations like our own.

Any one who wishes to examine those unsettled conditions will find at the very bottom two types of propaganda. One comes from Russia, the other from Germany. The two types of propagandists, while violently hating each other, are preaching exactly the same sort of thing. They are telling the world that if the world wants peace it must align itself with one or the other of the two schools of thought, depending upon which type of propaganda like that going on abroad, it seems to me that we as Americans ought to realize fully—and

ought to defend—the type of government that we have. Neither Stalin nor Hitler preaches our type of economic thought. In view of that, Americans surely ought to tighten their girdle and take a definite stand for the preservation of our traditions, our practices, because it is under those traditions and practices that our nation has grown great.

I have been a little bit disappointed that Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Secretary Hull of the State department have not preached the American doctrine at more length. I am sure pronouncements by them in condemnation of communism or fascism would find a hearty response at the hands of the American people.

### American Doctrine

It is to be recognized that changes take place in world economic and political thought. They are taking place in our country. More are coming. But I condemn the practices of communism and fascism because they have ruined the lives of all excepting a few people in every nation where those policies are operative. They will destroy the independence of thought and action, the happiness, that we have come to know in this country as a natural right.

In negotiations with foreign powers, Mr. Roosevelt has not been fortunate. I think it is generally agreed among observers that the President fumbled the ball when he failed to take advantage of a splendid opportunity to deal with France and Great Britain when he first became President. Likewise, I know there are many students who are convinced that the President by his own acts broke up the London economic conference in the summer of 1933 and with the collapse of that London meeting went any hope for an early recovery from the depression on a world basis.

The war debts question still hangs in mid air. The recognition of Russia I am convinced turned out to be a fizzle. The far eastern program, if there was a program, has yielded nothing because it must be said in truth we have not cemented our friendship with Japan.

Within the last few days we have seen the collapse of the French currency. We have seen the President join with Great Britain in co-operating with the French in their difficulty. Yet, it is apparent to anyone who will review the financial and economic history of the last three years that the French have made a great effort to remain on the gold standard—and they had no help from us until they could no longer stand the strain.

### France Off Gold Standard

It is always easier to use hindsight than foresight. It is easier as well to call attention to mistakes three years after those mistakes have been made than to take a bold stand when the errors were first discussed. These facts, however, do not in any way lighten the responsibility that was ours as a nation in 1933.

I refer again to the London economic conference and the events prior to it in 1933. There were plenty of men in the United States at that time who said openly that the United States should move quickly and take leadership in world stabilization of currencies. It appeared for a time that President Roosevelt would take that action but instead he is charged with having broken up the London conference because he failed to assume that leadership which he could have had.

That brings us to the link between the United States and the conditions of Europe. Mr. Roosevelt, through Secretary Morgenthau, says now that the United States will stand with Great Britain in helping the French. The question naturally arises why did not the United States stand with France in 1933 when France and a half dozen other European nations wanted to remain on the gold standard for its currency.

Personally, I have never seen any reason why the United States should have devalued its dollar as was done. If we had not devalued, one thing is quite certain: Maintenance of the gold standard by the United States would have continued to strengthen the currency of those countries in Europe, including France, that desired to continue that currency basis.

I have heard it said as well that if the United States had remained on the gold standard instead of devaluing its dollar, Great Britain would have been able soon to have restored her currency to a gold basis. Certainly, the British could not have remained off of gold as long as they have if gold coin were allowed to circulate in the United States. I believe no one can forecast at this time exactly what the results of the French devaluation will be.

### BEARS 18TH CHILD

Portland.—Mrs. George B. Brackebury became the mother of her 18th child the city health department was advised when a birth certificate was filed for a recent birth. The mother is 39 years old, her husband is 49 and a laborer. Thirteen of the children are living.

Astoria.—Not since the fire of 1922 have firemen had such a workout as they had recently when four false alarms were turned in all on the same day. Two men were arrested on charges of turning in false alarms.

Estacada.—"Everywhere throughout the state the proposition advanced by the Estacada Chamber of Commerce to establish the summer capital of the United States in the Squaw mountain region is receiving much support," declared L. D. Meaded, president, recently.

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## OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

### Brief Resume of Happenings of the Week Collected for Our Readers

Nehalem.—The handsome new 267-foot span across the Nehalem river, built by the CCC was dedicated recently.

Dallas.—Thirty business men have undertaken the task of raising \$1500 which will be used to finance the lighting of the football field.

Eugene.—Lane county's filbert crop said to be the finest in years, is now being harvested and growers are enjoying slightly higher prices.

Eugene.—Several cotton plants, grown near here from seed obtained in the south, were on display recently at the Register-Guard offices.

Astoria.—A draft for \$550 donated by citizens of Astoria was the first contribution received by the Red Cross for relief of the Bandon fire refugees.

Forest Grove.—The entomological station, United States department of agriculture will remain in Forest Grove. Lease of new quarters has been approved.

Portland.—Chief of Police, L. V. Jenkins, was elected president of the International Association of chiefs of police at its recent convention in Kansas City.

Halsey.—C. L. Falk and Sons' prize bull won the blue ribbon of senior and grand champion bull at the Western Washington fair recently held at Puyallup, Washington.

Portland.—Word received here recently shows that industrial employment increased 3.1 per cent. between July and August, 1936. Payroll volume increased 4 per cent.

Salem.—Profits of the Oregon liquor commission for the first eight months of this year were \$1,531,824 including receipts from stores and agencies, licenses, and privilege taxes.

Salem.—Patrolman Thompson carries the same sap he purchased when he first became a member of the force here in 1911. He recently stated he has struck only one man with the weapon.

Salem.—The infectious brain fever that has caused a large loss of horses this past summer in eastern and southeastern Oregon has been checked, the state department of agriculture reported recently.

Lakeview.—The local water commission has a new water problem on its hands that may prove to be a boon, though at present it is just another problem, namely a hot spring at the depth of 2072 feet.

Monroe.—The Fiber Flax Company recently organized at Vancouver, Washington has announced the plans for the erection of a rotting mill near here. The company plans to have farmers sign up about 200 acres of flax.

Klamath Falls.—Numerous inquiries have been received from Oregon and California points at the headquarters of Klamath reclamation project concerning the Tule lake leased land. It is expected that bids will be advertised some time this month.

Vale.—"It's an ill wind that blows no good" has been proving true for Malheur lettuce growers. The lettuce strike in Salinas, California is sending the price of lettuce on the Eastern markets skyward and this is proving very much of a boon to the local growers who as a result see a big season ahead.

Bend.—Dry weather has always been with us, a party of scientists, recent visitors at the Ice caves 15 miles south of here, reported. They found burned sticks in the caverns. It is their theory that Indians presided for a cool drink during dry weather, used the heated sticks to melt ice for drinking water.

Salem.—A woman called State Purchasing Agent Fry out of bed one morning recently with a plea for him to see that the construction of the high board fence around the capitol building excavation be discontinued so that her small boy, too young to attend school, might watch activities. The child it seems does not bother her when watching the workmen and yet she knows where he is.

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## What Irvin S. Cobb Thinks about

### Praising California.

VERNALIS, CALIF.—They used to say that California flowers had no real smell, and that California birds had no song—and that's a lie because the resident mocking bird feels it his Christian duty to get right under my bedroom window and sing all night—and that California grown foods had no flavor.

It's true California still produces one pear which suggests a low grade of damp cotton batting, and one variety of fig which could pass for library paste, and a certain tropical paw paw which makes you think you've been licking postage stamps. And there's a special breed of mushrooms which is about the size of a derby hat and tastes like one.

But we can grow apricots and cherries and nectarines and peaches as toothsome as you'd ask for; and noble berries and luscious prunes and delectable grapes; and, on this great ranch, about the finest melons I ever ate. There's likewise a red onion which has a taste all right—eat it raw and you taste it for days and days.

And if you think our flowers don't smell enough, try our politics.

### Troubles of a Pioneer.

LIFE in these parts is just one thing after another, and sometimes it's several things after another, all at once—such as the rush of the autograph collectors upon a poor, shy movie star, or the yelping onslaught of our estate beagles when a visiting nobleman incautiously intimates that he might sell his trailer and buy a lot.

But complications also pile up for a life-long resident who has been here, as I have, nearly two years now and so is qualified to join the Early Pioneers' California society. Here I go and take on a radio program—and I did so hope to fly east to see what Mrs. Harrison Williams will be wearing this fall. At times the temptation just to drop everything and start has been well-nigh overpowering.

### Reducing Motor Accidents.

WE'RE great people at starting something, but, just then, along comes a new crusade or a new movement or a new style in divided skirts and we trail off after that, forgetting the issue which had seemed so passionately important.

Last January we were all enlisting to make 1936 a safer year on the highroad. With the year nearly three-fourths gone, what have we done to reduce the appalling mortality? And what are we going to do before all of us, except the idiots and drunkards, who are supposed to be the special ward of providence, have been mowed down?

I'm reminded of the colored man in Mississippi who was convicted of murder, and his lawyer forgot to file an appeal, and finally the condemned man sat down and wrote this letter: "Dear Guvnor: Please, suh, I is on the middle of a particular fix and onlessen you do something' right away, they hang me Friday—here 'tis Wednesday already!"

### Saving Your Teeth.

THOUGH thy teeth be but state-ly ruins, with English ivy growing all over them and bulbats nesting in the hollows, fight off for as long as possible those who think the roof of all evil is the bottom of your remaining bicuspids. Don't let 'em be too fast about photographing your jaw either.

No man ever yet had an X-ray picture that flattered him. Particularly is that true when it's an interior view of the human face.

Because, the next thing you know, a gentleman in a white smock is testing some forceps and saying, "This may hurt—just a little." And then the next thing after that, your uppers are as false as Judas.

I did so and the result is that, no matter what else is on the menu, I go in for the Cobb pink plate special. A fellow does get tired of having everything he eats taste like rubber.

IRVIN S. COBB.  
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### Sea Horse is a Fish

The sea horse is a fish, but a very strange kind of fish. It spends almost all the time in an upright position, with its head up and its tail down. With the tail it can do something which the common fish can't do. It can cling to a weed. A sea horse swims while in upright position. A fin on the back is moved to give forward motion, and this fin has been compared to a propeller. It does not look or turn just like a propeller, but it gives about the same result. An air sac, or "swim bladder," helps the sea horse keep in balance. Most of the time, however, the fish holds tightly to a seaweed, wrapping its tail around in spiral fashion.

## Comfort, Style in Pajamas



1923-B.

This suavely tailored club style pajama set is the essence of simplicity. Whether your cotton, satin, silk crepe, pongee or rayon is expensive or not you won't be taking a chance with pattern No. 1923-B for step-by-step sewing instructions are included and guarantee to guide you every stitch.

College girls approve its conservative styling—busy housewives find them adequate to greet the unexpected guest and the unexpected guest and the unexpected guest.

### Household Questions

Drain all juices from fresh or canned fruits, store in ice box and use for fruit cocktails or sherbets.

Before putting away garden tools for the winter, clean them off, rub with kerosene or grease and store in a dry place.

When buying fish see that the eyes are not sunken in and dull. A fresh fish has clear eyes and the flesh is firm to the touch.

If the neck of a bottle is broken when opening, tie a pad of absorbent cotton over the top of another bottle and pour contents of broken bottle through it. Cotton will catch pieces of glass as liquid is poured through.

Marks on painted walls which have been caused by carelessly striking matches on them will disappear if rubbed first with the cut surface of a lemon, then with a clean cloth dipped in whiting. Afterward wash the surface with warm water and soap, and then quickly wipe with a clean cloth wrung out of clear water.

In the fall pack plenty of oak leaves around the roots of acid soil plants, such as daphnes, azaleas and rhododendrons. These leaves rot and make an excellent fertilizer. They may be mixed with the soil in the spring.

Hard cooked eggs, sliced, are made a tasty dish when added to a thickened tomato sauce and the whole sprinkled with cheese and baked 20 minutes. This is good for evening refreshments or Sunday supper on a rainy night.

Sour milk beaten into mayonnaise dressing gives it a delicious flavor.

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business girl revels in their comfort and ease assuring details. The trousers are amply cut and the soft blouse roomy enough for any 12 to 20's daily dozen. A natty pointed collar, wide cuffs and belt add an air of distinction to your garment.

Barbara Bell Pattern No. 1923-B is available for sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20. Corresponding bust measurements 30, 32, 34, 36 and 38. Size (32) requires 4 1/2 yards of 39-inch material. Send 15 cents in coins.

Send for the Barbara Bell Fall Pattern Book containing 100 well-planned, easy-to-make patterns. Exclusive fashions for children, young women, and matrons. Send fifteen cents for your copy.

Send your order to The Sewing Circle Pattern, Dept., 149 New Montgomery Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

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### Self-Proclaiming

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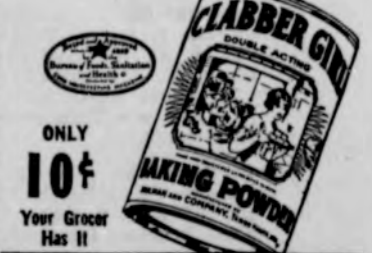
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### But It Will Rise

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