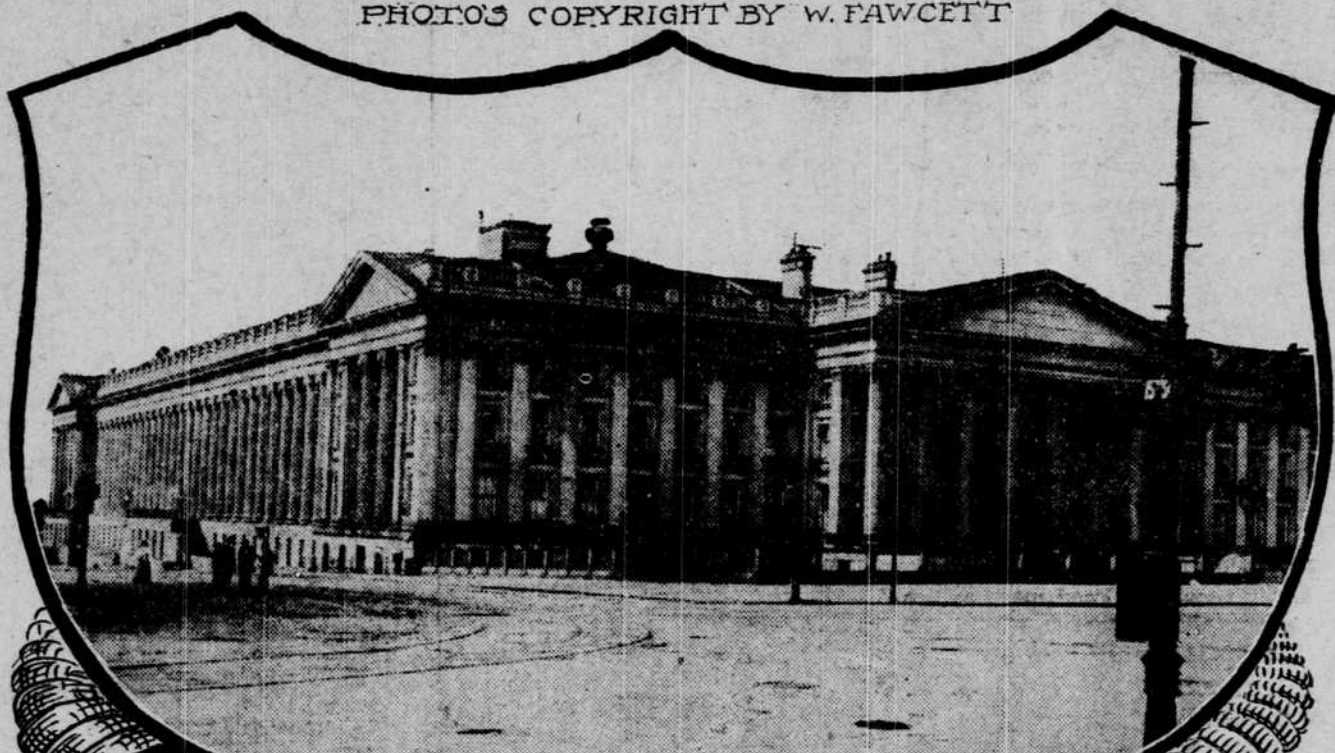


# COUNTING UNCLE SAM'S CASH

BY WALDON FAWCETT

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**C**OUNTING billions of dollars in all forms of money and all kinds of securities is the herculean task in progress in an important branch of our national government. The necessity for thus taking stock of Uncle Sam's board arose quite unexpectedly. Indeed, such an invoice of the government's financial resources has never been taken at stated intervals, as a merchant takes inventory or a banker balances his accounts periodically. The summons for a recounting of the republic's treasure invariably comes, as this one did, at comparatively short notice. A special squad of the most expert money handlers in the world were organized to enumerate all the coin and currency and bonds in the federal strongbox and this body of three dozen men and women will work steadily for weeks and months in the money caverns that consti-



THE TREASURY BUILDING AT WASHINGTON, D.C.



AN EXPERT CURRENCY COUNTER



WRAPPING UP PACKAGES OF CURRENCY



UNIQUE BANKING SYSTEM



ONE OF THE GREAT MONEY VAULTS AT THE U.S. TREASURY

...tute the national fortress against panic. The necessity for this lengthy and costly job arose from the shifting of responsibilities in the office of the treasurer of the United States. In the eyes of a major portion of the newspaper reading public the announcement that Charles H. Treat had resigned as treasurer did not seem to carry near the significance that would be attached to a change in the personnel of the president's cabinet or perhaps the passing of a leader in the United States senate. However, with the first hint of Mr. Treat's intention to leave the government service, the federal employes most directly interested—that is, the treasury clerks who have to carry on the big count—in effect had notice of the big chore that awaited them, for be it known such a wholesale census of the government's financial resources is taken only when one man steps down as treasurer and another steps in—something that is scarcely expected to happen oftener than once in four years at the most.

The responsibilities of the treasurer of the United States that make necessary very careful balancing of accounts at a time such as this arise from the fact that this official is, by law, charged with the receipt and disbursement of all public moneys not only in the treasury at Washington but also in the subsidiaries at Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis, New Orleans and San Francisco, and in the national bank United States depositories. He is also trustee for the bonds held to secure national bank circulation and the public deposits in national banks, so that his head paymaster of the government has in his keeping not only all of Uncle Sam's wealth but hundreds of millions of dollars of other people's money, which he must keep in such shape as to be able to render an accounting at any day and hour.

Now when the new treasurer of the United States took over the office he was obliged to give the outgoing treasurer a receipt in full for all of the moneys in his keeping. Naturally he would want to do this only after assuring himself that all the funds were intact to the last dollar and penny—hence the big count. As may be surmised, this appraisal of what Uncle Sam has laid by for a rainy day cannot be exactly coincident with the entry and exit in the treasurer's office. To count one by one all the bills and gold pieces and silver and copper coins in the governmental hoard is a time-consuming task and the new treasurer will probably have been in office three or four months and perhaps even six months ere he is in a position to hand to the outgoing official a formal receipt closing the transfer. Of course, if the count of the money and securities should show any shortage from the total amount called for by the books, the retiring official will have to make good out of his own pocket—which is rather hard, since subordinates handle the funds and do all the counting—but this has never occurred since the present scheme of settling accounts was adopted.

bulky, will be entrusted almost entirely to men, whereas the enumeration of the bills and bonds will be largely in the hands of young women, whom experience has demonstrated are dexter at such work than their masculine co-workers. Indeed, at the previous event of this kind some of the most expert of the young women developed an ability to count 20,000 bills in five hours.

The young women who are engaged in this work give their undivided attention to counting bills. Male associates give out the bundles of money to be counted and take charge of them as the count of each package is finished. The fastest work in this whole big undertaking is done in counting the reserve fund—that is, the millions upon millions of dollars in brand new currency that is held in reserve ready to be issued whenever called for. This wealth is in the form of crisp bills, ranging in denomination from \$1 to \$10,000 each. There are thousands of bundles of this paper money, each bundle containing 4,000 notes of one denomination. Inside a main bundle of the size indicated are 40 small packages, each containing 100 notes. Thus a bundle containing \$4,000,000 in \$10,000 bills is no bulkier to handle and no more trouble to count than a package containing \$4,000 in \$1 bills.

An official of the treasury has personal charge of the count and working under him is a force recruited on the ratio of about five counters to one baller and sealer. As the count progresses each package in turn has the heavy wax seal broken and is unwrapped by one of the men, who hands it to one of the women counters, taking her receipt for the bundle of money. She proceeds to count the bills and if the package is found to contain the amount called for turns it back with an indorsement as to its correctness and the receipt which she has given is destroyed or returned to her. Each package which is pronounced O. K. is taken in hand by the ballers and sealers, rewrapped, labeled and sealed with the great daubs of red wax bearing the official treasury seal, so that at the end of this proceeding the package looks just as it did before work began.

The women employed at the treasury depart-

ment of \$5,000 in gold weighs 18½ pounds; 500 silver dollars are supposed to tip the scales at 35½ pounds, and \$200 in half-dollars, that is 400 coins, weighs 11 pounds. In weighing coin at the treasury very accurate tally has to be kept by tellers who stand beside the scales and record the outcome of each operation.

For all that the weighing of coin will be doubtless resorted to for the major portion of the accounting of Uncle Sam's cash, there will be tons of coin which for one reason or another will probably have to be gone over by hand. An expert woman counter can handle about 60,000 silver dollars, half-dollars or quarters in a working day, fingering them over one by one, but this method of work is now being displaced in Uncle Sam's money storehouse by an ingenious new type of electrically operated machine, which counts coins of any denomination at the rate of 1,000 per minute. An automatic registering device keeps count with absolute accuracy. Dimes, nickels and cents are more difficult to count by hand than the larger coins, but the handling of these minor coins has

been greatly facilitated in recent years by the introduction of counting boards, which fill mechanically when a stream of coin is poured over them, and each of which, when filled with coins, bags, when filled with coins, are duly sealed, but the closing of the opening of a coin sack is not done with a stick of wax, as in the case of the currency parcels, but with a mechanical appliance that can be held in one hand and somewhat resembles in appearance the punch used by the average street-car conductor.

Very little is known in this country of the Giro system of banking in Germany. This system has been in use in the state of Hamburg since the establishment of the Hamburger bank in 1619.

An account is opened in the usual manner, and when payments are to be made the payer instead of preparing a check merely instructs his banker to debit his account with the sum involved and to credit Richard Roe's account with a like amount.

If, however, payer and payee have their accounts in different banks the payer then requests his banker to transfer the amount in question to the bank of the payee, with instructions to credit Richard Roe's account with the amount of the indebtedness.

Convenient blank forms are provided for making these notifications. When the banker receives an instruction of this character, says the bookkeeper, he in turn notifies Richard Roe of the payment to his credit and the name of the payer.

In Hamburg the Reichsbank and five important banks use the Giro system. Representatives of these banks meet several times daily at the Reichsbank, where transactions between their several customers are cleared. In Hamburg very little material money is used in effecting transactions, the habit being to settle all obligations, even of the most insignificant character, by *Überweisungszettel*. When payments are to be made from one city to another this is done usually through the Reichsbank, which has 500 branches, more or less, throughout the empire. All transactions are undertaken without cost to either payer or payee, and on the contrary deposits subject to this modified form of checking usually draw one per cent. interest per annum.

The advantages of the Giro system fall partly under the head of security and partly of convenience. Danger from forgery is eliminated, as the notification sent to a banker by a payer could not by any possibility be utilized advantageously by a criminally disposed person. The only inconvenience observable arises from the fact that receipts for payments are not acknowledged on bills rendered, unless such receipts are specially sought by messenger after the bank exchange has been made.

It is customary in small local transactions for the payer to note at the foot of bills the date of payment through his banker and in case of possible dispute the bank is always prepared to clear up misunderstandings. Concerns doing a large volume of business and obliged to make numerous payments daily are spared the annoyance of preparing hundreds of individual checks, as they have merely to write out a list of names and amounts on a long sheet, which they send to their banker.

course are famous as the most expert currency counters in the world and the most highly skilled of the force were drafted for this extra undertaking. Contrary to the supposition of many people, the counters at the treasury actually go over a package of currency actually lift each note by the upper right-hand corner. To be sure, the women are aided at their work and have a check on accuracy by the keeping tab on the progression of the numbers printed in blue ink on the face of all notes—the notes in a package being placed in regular rotation, but aside from this supplementary scheme for verifying there is actual counting in the good, old-fashioned way. Records as high as 6,000 notes an hour have been made by the most expert of the 400 women counters in Uncle Sam's employ, but such high-speed work cannot be maintained for any great length of time.

A most important feature of the task is the counting of the bonds held by the government as security for the circulation of national banks and as security for government money deposited with the banks. These bonds occupy a special vault in the treasury building and they total something like three-quarters of a billion dollars in value. A committee of seven officials will count the bonds, and inasmuch as great care is necessary in going over the bonds, coupon and registered, it is expected that at least two months will be necessary for this task alone. The last time a count of the bonds was made six weeks was allowed for the task, but Uncle Sam now has on hand 50 per cent. more bonds than were in storage at that time.

The counting of the coin—gold, silver, nickel and copper—in the possession of the government constitutes yet another branch of this unique enterprise. In the case of the coin the term counting must not be taken too literally, for as a matter of fact much of the accumulation of coin is weighed on the delicate scales at the treasury instead of counted. Weighing, in the case of freshly minted and unused coin gives just as accurate a verdict as to value as does counting. Certain numbers of coin are placed in bags and weighed as standards. The

Calullus heaps upon her in his later poems, whether she merits the epitaph of the "three-cent Clytemnestra" which Caellus puts upon her, or is "the Palatine Medea" whom Cicero paints her in his defense of Caellus, we may never know.—Scribner's Magazine.

It seems so.

"The leading man is always cross with us."

"In acting, you know, ability and irritability go together."

# IN THE PUBLIC EYE

## MORE POWER FOR MORGAN



Through purchase of control of the Equitable Life Assurance society, J. P. Morgan is acknowledged the insurance king of America, the dominating factor in the nation's finances and the master and controlling spirit of the traction situation in New York.

Mr. Morgan has been during the past 25 years the Atlas of the financial world of the United States. He possesses more money power than any man who ever lived in this country.

Born in Hartford, Conn., April 17, 1837, of a family which for generations had been wealthy and aristocratic, he from his youth up enjoyed all the educational advantages that his parents' money and social position could give him. After graduating at the English high school in Boston he went abroad and became a student at Göttingen, Germany. At the age of 23 he returned to this country and apparently because nothing else presented itself for him to do went into his father's banking business. As his experience in the business grew his father wisely placed upon his shoulders more and more of the firm's responsibilities. He was sent to London as the firm's representative and there obtained a thorough grounding of the exceedingly complicated subject of foreign exchange. When he returned to New York he was made a partner in his father's banking firm.

During the years that followed some of the most luminous of his achievements were:

In 1871 he created a market in Europe for \$25,000,000 worth of New York Central stock and sold it there at a profit which amazed old Commodore Vanderbilt.

In 1877 he handled an issue of \$26,000,000 of government bonds in preparation for putting the national currency on a gold basis.

In 1880 he provided \$40,000,000 for the extension of the Northern Pacific railroad to the Pacific coast.

In 1880 his was the master hand in the reorganization of the Reading railroad and the reorganization of the Baltimore and Ohio, involving syndicate work and the loan of \$10,000,000.

In 1893 the Southern railway was created out of the Richmond Terminal and allied lines.

In 1895 the Erie railway was rehabilitated.

In 1897 the Lehigh Valley was put on its feet, the soft coal combination formed and the Central Railroad of New Jersey leased by the Reading.

## EDWARD OUT-OF-DOOR KING



No other European sovereign is so much a man of the open air as King Edward, who has just celebrated his sixty-eighth birthday anniversary. He is singularly energetic, though not active in the sense of one who walks rapidly and far. When there is nothing better available for an out-of-door occupation he does not despise the gentle game of croquet, though he has never fallen a victim to golf.

He is not afraid of rain and he actually revels in the brisk freshness of a heavy shower. He hardly ever uses an umbrella. For life out of doors he prefers clothes which will resist the rain, but he does not like a wrinkle. Clad in a long, cloth cape, which completely covers his other clothes, he scorns to take shelter from even a tropical downpour.

He likes the sea, not only in its fairer moods, as when he is yachting in pleasant weather on the Solent, but also when he can watch it in storm. On his tour abroad this year the king was perpetually out of doors, in the royal yacht or ashore in motor-cars or carriages. He picked wherever he could, even at Gigenli and Pompeii. Malta was entirely traversed in the duke of Connaught's motor car.

His majesty is, indeed, at his best when he is at home in Norfolk. Then he becomes as one of the Norfolk farmers and the people of King's Lynn delight to name him "the squire of Sandringham." He is the best of landlords, but he is also a strict one. No public house is allowed on his majesty's property. Instead, he has provided club houses in every village on the estate.

Few are more skilled in the management of a sporting estate than his majesty. His head keeper, Mr. Jackson, constantly consults him and the king takes no mere surface interest in the intricacies of game preservation, with due regard to the rights of others. He arranges the beats personally and with much skill and he enjoys a rather strict observance of all the rules. He is an excellent marksman.

His favorite shooting kit consists of tweed, often gray in tint—a knickerbocker suit, with a long, loose shooting cape. Thus clad, he is regardless of rain, dripping branches and wet undergrowth.

Senator Jonathan P. Dolliver of Iowa, a leading member of the "insurgents," threw some hot shot into the enemy in his speech delivered at the Press club in Chicago just before congress convened. Mr. Dolliver advanced the theory that the most hopeful sign about the last congress was not what congress did, but the fact that it did not do so unanimously. He also said that he believed President Taft's attitude toward the "insurgents" at the present session will be friendly and that he thought the president had done all that it was up to him to do in the tariff matter, as congress made the tariff revision and not the president.

"The time when a 'skin game' can be worked on the people with the unanimous consent of congress will never come again," said Mr. Dolliver. "When I am asked why I do not vote with the majority I say: 'Not until I have made a chemical analysis of it.'"

"The real insurgents at the extraordinary session of congress were not the few men who tried to represent the public interest faithfully and carry out the pledges of the party platform, but the interesting group of private interests before whose threats to defeat legislation the leaders of the party bowed down for the sake of harmony."

"It will be a queer state of the public mind when representatives of the people are successfully read out of a party in order to secure a solidarity organized around merely private interests."

Soon after he arrived in Washington Senator Dolliver went up to the White House to see President Taft. He waited for some time in an outer office and then demanded of Secretary Carpenter the reason for the delay. He was told that the president was busy and could not be seen until the next day.

The Iowa senator slapped his hat on his head and left, telling Mr. Carpenter that when the president wanted to see him he could send for him. It is said the Iowa senator goes with a different opinion concerning the president's feelings toward the insurgents.

## SENATE WATCHES DOLLIVER



Money is the new leader.

The Democrats in the United States senate have a new leader. He is Hernando de Soto Money, senator from Mississippi. The senate is pretty well made up of money these days, having several multimillionaires on its salary list. It is often called the "Millionaire's club." The new minority leader, however, has money in name only. Of course the Mississippiian who will lead the party of Jefferson in the affairs to come before the senate has a few dollars, but as compared with Elkins, Guggenheim, Depew and several others he is a poor man.

Senator Culberson of Texas has been the minority leader in the upper branch of congress for several years, but soon after the lawmakers convened for the sixty-first session he announced that he would give up the honor because of his health. Many thought Senator Bailey, also of Texas, would get the place, but it went to Senator Money.

Mr. Money has had ample experience in congress to make him a good leader of his party forces. He was first elected from the fourth Mississippi district in 1875 and served 10 years. He was out of the house until 1893 and was again elected, serving until 1897. While a member of the house he was elected in 1896 to the senate, but did not take his seat until March 4, 1899.

Senator Money's present term expires in 1911 and it is believed he will hold the leadership until that time. He is one of the most popular men in the senate, a good speaker and a wily man in politics. He has taken part in many of the big fights before congress in recent years and his friends predict the Republicans will feel his power before he gets through with them. It is not unlikely that he will be re-elected when his present term ends and in that event probably will continue as leader of the minority.

## MONEY IS THE NEW LEADER



## NOTED WOMAN OF OLD ROME

Clodia's Salon a Center from Which Emanated Dear Friends and Deadly Enemies.

The salon of Clodia on the Palatine and in her villa on the seashore at Baiae drew together the foremost politicians, poets and orators of the time—men of the older generation, like Cicero and Matalius, young men like her brother Clodius, the brilliant and erratic tribune, or Caellus, whom Cicero calls "the best informed politician in Rome." "The burning eye" of Clodia, which Cicero celebrates in his fierce attack upon her, her brilliant wit, her versatile character, her skill as a dancer, her staid and Bohemianism, her Claudian pride and contempt for popular opinion are all marks of that fiery southern temperament which could find no middle

course between love and hate, which would hesitate for no scruples and be thwarted by no obstacle.

She tired of Catullus and he poured upon her all the vials of his wrath and scorn. She failed to ensnare Cicero, and she avenged herself upon him by driving him into exile and taking his property from him. She was jilted and laughed at by the once-devoted Caellus, and consequently brought a charge of attempted murder against him and almost compassed his ruin. Whether she deserves the abuse which

Thinking Pleasant Things.

Make yourselves nests of pleasant thoughts. None of us yet knows, for none of us has been taught in early youth, what fairy palaces we may build of beautiful thoughts, proof against all adversity—bright fancies, satisfied memories, noble histories, faithful sayings, treasure houses of precious and restful thoughts, which care cannot disturb, nor pain make gloomy, nor poverty take away from us—houses built without hands for our souls to live in.—John Ruskin