

SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL

By Carter Field
FAMOUS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT



Washington.—It is a common saying in Washington that nobody understands the administration's silver policy except President Roosevelt and Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau. At the present moment the government is paying something like 32 cents an ounce above the market price for all newly mined silver obtained in the United States. This follows the acquisition—by commandeering—of all the silver held some time back at 50 cents an ounce, which now stands the treasury a net loss in excess of five cents an ounce, not counting interest.

Yet the once famous silver bloc in the senate and house makes no outcry. It seems to have forgotten all about the all inclusive claims of benefit which would follow the enactment of the famous silver purchase law—making it mandatory on the treasury to buy silver on the world market until the world price had reached \$1.29 an ounce, or until the ratio of silver to gold in the treasury's metallic reserve behind our paper currency had reached one to four.

Real silver enthusiasts—those who agreed with William Jennings Bryan's 1896 theory—are frothing at the mouth. They think they have been betrayed by stupidity or worse in the treasury's handling of the situation. They think Morgenthau was so smart in trying to buy world silver cheap that he defeated the real purpose, and put the price down instead of up.

Meanwhile, of course, there are two elements to which the silver theorists do not give sufficient value. One is that this is an election year. Most of the silver bloc members are Democrats, and many of them are running for re-election. Hence if they broadcast at this time their real thoughts about Morgenthau it might tend to discredit the administration, and make their own re-election just that much more difficult.

Have No Backing

The other point is that the silver theorists have no backing at the moment—as they did when the silver act was passed—from the silver producers. The silver producers now are receiving some 32 cents an ounce in excess of the world price. Even the most enthusiastic silver theorists among the actual silver producers in the United States doubt seriously if the most intelligent manipulation by the treasury would have resulted in the present world price being 32 cents higher than it is now. Hence they do not feel they have any complaint. Quite the contrary.

It is rather significant that on the very day that Secretary Morgenthau announced that the silver policy was working very well, shares of beneficiaries of the high price for silver mined in this country shot up, one of them, Bunker Hill and Sullivan, more than 10 points!

Critics of this silver subsidy, on the other hand, insist that it is merely a gift to special interests, more narrowly restricted in its benefits than any subsidy ever granted or ever even proposed in this country, and should be stopped.

The chief point is that there are so few mines in this country of which silver is the chief product that they merit no special consideration at all. The bulk of silver mined in this country is obtained as a by-product of lead, copper and zinc. Hence, they insist, the increased price for domestic silver does not actually result in miners being given employment. It merely opens a larger profit for the mine owners. If this is not true, they contend, then the case is still worse, for the silver subsidy leads to over-production of the more important metals.

Piling Up Tax Load

Careful estimates as to the additional taxes to be imposed before the present congress adjourns, and more important, before election, figure the minimum at \$700,000,000.

This is figuring the cost of the new agricultural soil erosion scheme at approximately the same as the old AAA plan—around \$550,000,000 a year. It is figuring the cost of the soldier bonus at around \$150,000,000 a year \$100,000,000 for interest and \$50,000,000 for amortization. This works out whether the soldiers hold their government bonds or whether they cash them in, because in the latter case the government would merely borrow the money and the interest rate would be about the same.

This of course is the minimum. It has no connection with balancing the budget. It merely would provide revenue sufficient to meet the additional expenses, and keep the present unbalanced relation of expenditures and receipts at about the same ratio.

Taxes to correct the whole situation, to bring the balanced budget,

to make the federal government live within its income, will be postponed, every one agrees, until after election.

As a matter of fact some commentators talk about the new farm program costing \$1,000,000,000 the first year. This figure is obtained by adding in only two temporary items of expense—one the loss of revenue from the processing taxes outlawed by the Supreme court decision. The other relates to possible return of processing taxes already collected.

Together these two items may run to \$500,000,000. But that would merely be added to the deficit. For tax purposes it would be figured that the interest on that sum or about \$15,000,000, should be added to the annual tax.

Increase in Excises

Most of the new taxes, to raise this \$700,000,000 minimum, will be of the excise variety. That is the thought not only in the White House and Treasury department, but on Capitol Hill. The general pattern will follow that of the processing taxes, but will be on a much broader base. There is no desire to rouse resentment, for example, about taxing the poor man's breakfast table to the tune of five cents a pound on bacon.

To raise the money necessary, however, a great many more articles must be taxed than were affected under the processing taxes, especially as there is eager desire to avoid very loud complaints on any particular tax.

Every one in the treasury has been amazed during the last two years at the fact that, while there were plenty of complaints about the processing tax, there was nothing like the organized onslaught against it which attended the mere proposal of the sales tax. And yet the processing taxes, and for that matter the new taxes to be imposed later this year, were and will be a fair target for the bitterest shots ever fired at the sales tax.

In fact, it is a selective sales tax, not selective in precisely the opposite direction from what was proposed when there was so much opposition.

Advocates of the sales tax, which was so heavily defeated a few years back, tried to meet objections by concessions. They specifically exempted such products as bread and pork, on the theory that they were the poor man's food. Whereas bread and pork carried more than their share of the processing tax, thus running squarely against the old political axiom that it was suicide to tax the poor man's breakfast table.

Business Improving

With business obviously not only much better, but continuing to improve, so that business experts are already figuring that 1936 is going to be tremendously better than 1935, President Roosevelt intends to concentrate on that issue to meet the attack he fears most—that terrific increase in government spending as a result of New Dealism is dangerous and threatens serious trouble.

Both Roosevelt and Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau believe the present tax structure will yield far higher returns to the treasury than any outside critics figure. They believe that as business increases, pushing up corporation and individual incomes, an almost unbelievable flood of money will roll in, especially as better times push incomes into higher tax brackets.

There is just enough truth in this to make an argument possible. But the President will lay his stress on the actually improved conditions, insisting that the New Deal is responsible for lifting this country out of the slough of despond, especially by the very experiments that were outlawed—the NRA during its high tide of wage boosting and hour cutting, and the AAA with its golden stream which quickened farm buying of industrial products.

Which makes it look as though the Republicans will be crying, "We are drifting toward a financial abyss," while Roosevelt will be answering, "Look at that terrible hole we pulled you out of."

Except, of course, that while all Presidents split initiatives, no President ends a sentence with a prepositional phrase.

Replace Processing Tax

As a matter of fact, it is not fair to speak of the new taxes that must be imposed to pay for the farm program as "additional" in comparison with the President's message. For that message was obliged to assume that the processing taxes would continue. So that actually about \$500,000,000 or \$600,000,000 of new taxes will merely take the place of those knocked out by the high court.

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Ant Oddities



Fight to the Finish Between Red and Black Ants.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

LIKE humans, there are all kinds of ants—busy ants and ants that live on the accomplishments of others.

One often feels sorry for some of the industrious species of Formica, solid citizens, but really the "forgotten ants," because they seem to be preyed upon by every sort of warrior ant and their nests are nearly always shared with various guests and parasites.

Two kinds of ants, very different from each other, sometimes live together amicably, each occupying a separate part of the same nest and contributing to the general welfare.

The little shampoo ant (Leptothorax emersoni), discovered by Dr. William Morton Wheeler of Harvard in the peat bogs of Connecticut, lives in the nests of Myrmica canadensis, a much larger species. When the Leptothorax worker needs food, it approaches the Myrmica worker and proceeds to shampoo and lick it. The Myrmica obviously enjoys this, for it regurgitates food to the Leptothorax.

One day in Brazil a scientist was investigating an ant nest consisting of a mass of earth six inches in diameter in a fork of a tree. He tapped this nest gently with his forefingers, and the surface was immediately covered with small, reddish-brown ants of the genus Dolichoderus. When he gouged into the nest to find the various forms, a swarm of Odontomachus rushed out and one of them stung him. Odontomachus was a dozen times as big as the Dolichoderus and provided with strong biting jaws and a red-hot sting.

Finding a Rare Ant

Often ant hunters get as big a thrill from a successful search for a rare ant as a big game hunter from the capture of a grizzly or elephant. There is about as much physical exertion involved, too, turning over thousands of stones and logs, digging into the earth, chopping hard wood, and peeling bark from innumerable dead trees.

Luck infrequently plays an important part. In 1901 Father Schmitt, a Jesuit missionary, sent to the great myrmecologist, Forel, of Switzerland, a single specimen of a new and extraordinary ant from Haiti. Forel described it and named the genus after his good friend, Carol Emery of Bologna, and the species after the Jesuit (Emeryella schmitti). The lone specimen was long the only representative of its kind in collections.

In Haiti at the end of a month's work a student found one solitary worker along a roadside. He had no fine-tooth comb with him, but for two months he tried every other method he knew of to discover the nest of more of the workers.

Then one evening he went for a stroll just before dinner and noticed on the path a millipede, or thousand-legger, moving in an unnatural way. Bending over, he saw that the millipede was dead and was being carried by an ant. The ant was Emeryella!

It took all his strength of character to keep from seizing both ant and prey at once, but he smoked his pipe as calmly as he could and watched the ant till it leisurely entered a small hole at one side of a flat stone.

When the stone was turned over there was an entire colony of some sixty workers. Later, in the same locality, he found a similar colony, and specimens of these have now been distributed to all the important ant collections in museums all over the world.

No Female of the Species

There were no females in either nest; so it is not improbable that this species lacks a special female, and that one of the workers functions as egg-layer. At night there came to light in the student's quarters a reddish ant, which from its general character was assumed to be the male of the species.

He had talked about Emeryella schmitti so much that it became well known to the scant white pop-

ulation of the island under the name of "Mary Ella Schmitt," and when he finally reported his discovery there was a great celebration among his fellow Americans, railroad men vacationing at Port-au-Prince.

Another missionary priest, Pere Salle, had sent to the museum in Paris from Haiti a curious nest of vegetable fiber, not unlike a wasp's nest.

A scientist, while rummaging about among the specimens, found it and tapped it on a piece of white paper. Several dead and dried ants dropped out. They belonged to the genus Macromischa, the most exquisitely formed of the ants and with beautiful metallic coloration—purples, greens, and reds. The genus is interesting, too, because it alone of the ants of the West Indies has developed into numerous species. About thirty are known from Cuba alone.

Fire Ant Is a Stinger

The fire ant (Solenopsis geminata) is such a good traveler that one variety or another is found throughout the warmer parts of the earth. It gets its name from the painful, burning sting it can inflict. A colony contains vast numbers of workers. They have recently been reported as going great damage to young quail in the southeastern states.

Fire ants nest in almost any kind of locality and are extremely prolific. Even flood cannot daunt the fire ant, for it has been reported in Brazil that when the water rises and washes out a colony, the ants form a ball, queen and brood in the middle, and this living ball floats away to a tree or to higher ground.

The tailor ant (Oecophylla smaragdina) and a few other ants (Polyrhadina) are unique among all the earth's creatures, so far as is known, in that they use their young as tools in nest construction.

Few adult insects spin silk, but the larvae of many have this ability to enclose themselves in silken cocoons, from which they will later emerge as fully formed adults. Oecophylla utilizes this accomplishment of its young in making its nests. Scientists have often torn one of the leaves that form its box-shaped nest and then watched the proceedings.

At first there is a wild sortle on the part of the ants, all in fighting mood. They cannot sting, but they bite annoyingly. After they have given up trying to find and destroy the intruder, worker ants seize larvae in their mandibles and bring them to the damaged portions. Other workers seize the edges of the leaves and pull them together, while those with the larvae pass them back and forth, stimulating the grub to exude silk, which sticks and holds the pieces of the leaves together.

Live in the Tree Tops

In the Solomon Islands this pugnacious Oecophylla abounds. On the island of Malaupaina an ant hunter had for two weeks the unusual and delightful good fortune for a naturalist of being able to collect among the tops of high trees. A plantation company was felling the original forest, clearing the land for coconuts. One enormous tree after another was felled, and as soon as it came down he would go among the upper branches and collect.

Oecophylla was abundant, and he reported that there was scarcely a moment of daylight during those two weeks when an ant was not biting him on the neck. He would instinctively reach up and seize the little creature, break its neck between his thumb and forefinger, and go on collecting.

But once, as he crushed one of them, he noticed that it was unusually hard. It was another ant, a Podomyrma, rare and desirable. After that it was necessary for him to seize each attacking ant and carefully examine it before destroying it, so as not to crush a valuable specimen by mistake.

BRISBANE

THIS WEEK

The Crown Remains
Veterans Reach the Top
The Useful Red Cross
Oxygen Is Life

Behind the gray walls of Windsor castle, on the hill above the Eton school,

where young England learns discipline and cricket, King George's coffin was lowered into the vault to lie beside his father, King Edward VII, and his grandmother, Queen Victoria.

The magnificent crown of England was taken from the coffin before it disappeared and placed before the altar. Kings go; the crown remains.

The services were broadcast, new feature of a royal funeral. The simple Church of England burial service, read by the Archbishop of Canterbury, was heard far over the earth, wherever Britain's 400,000,000 subjects live.

Veterans having successfully climbed the long, long road, the government began the biggest "pay-off" job in history, the printing of two billion four hundred million dollars' worth of bonds, to be distributed among 3,518,191 World war veterans. The mere distributing cost alone will be \$7,000,000.

Now government wonders what new taxes can be invented to pay the two and one-half billions.

Interesting news from Ethiopia sent by an American correspondent says the residence of Haile Selassie's son has on the roof a large red cross, although it has nothing to do with the Red Cross. Associated Press sends news of a Swedish "field hospital," captured by Italians in the South, carrying ammunition on five trucks adorned with Red Cross flags and insignia. The "field hospital" automobiles contained, in addition, 27 cases of munitions. In modern war, the safe plan seems to be bomb everything. The war drums of the Ethiopian hero, Ras Desta Demtu, were captured. He will miss them.

"The Blood Is the Life," according to an old Hebrew saying, and oxygen is the life of the blood. No oxygen means death, in three minutes or less; too little oxygen means premature death, inferior health meanwhile.

The Dionne quintuplets are marvelous in their health. The marvelous babies sleep outdoors every morning and afternoon; on one occasion the temperature was 30 degrees below zero.

All five walk, all have gained weight during the past month, and have new teeth. Annette has three new ones, twelve in all. All have beautiful big eyes, high foreheads, pretty faces and look as French as the Marseillaise; get plenty of oxygen, but wrap up well.

Lloyd George says the new king, Edward VIII, has the magnetism of his grandfather, Edward VII; that he comes to the throne with such great troubles ahead as few kings have ever encountered, but "his courage and his sure instinct will not fail him."

The unnecessary air disaster in Hawaii, two United States bombing planes destroyed in collision while plying "in formation" and six men killed, causes aviators to say that they object to night formation flying. They may well object; nothing more densely stupid could be imagined than sending up planes to fly at high speed, almost wing to wing, awaiting disaster and death. Even in these busy times there ought to be somebody sufficiently intelligent to stop that nonsense, at night, and in daytime also.

Mr. John Horan of Milwaukee, called by his fellow workers "Soda Ash Johnny," first used soda ash to clean locomotive boilers, a discovery that should have made him rich, but did not.

"Soda Ash Johnny," a proud man, refused to let his son accept a pension, told the authorities: "I am still able to work, and no boy of mine is going 'on the country.'"

It will surprise you to hear that the son, aged sixty-six, has applied for an old age pension.

The statement that imagination is worse than reality applies to everything—death included, let us hope.

When a colony of nudists move on San Diego, Calif., the strongest protest comes from San Diego's Braille club, an organization of blind people. They could not actually know whether the colonists were dressed or not, but they do not like the idea.

Consider how men have persecuted, tortured and burned each other for religious differences. In matters that they could neither see nor know.

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"QUOTES"

COMMENTS ON
CURRENT TOPICS BY
NATIONAL CHARACTERS

Opinions expressed in the paragraphs below are not necessarily concurred in by the editor of this newspaper.

AAA BENEFITS

By EDWARD A. O'NEAL
Head of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

THE program launched by organized agriculture must go forward. The American farmer will continue to fight for economic parity. Under the operations of the Agricultural Adjustment act the agricultural march toward parity, by giving farmers a purchasing power, has stimulated business revival throughout the country.

We are going to look to congress to take specific steps which will provide by legislation the mechanism by which agricultural parity is to be continued.

It is up to congress to provide that legislation within the provisions of the Constitution.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By MR. HOOVER

THE most ominous note of all was the President's warning that the power he has assumed would be dangerous in other hands. "In thirty-four months," he says, "we have built up new instruments of public power. In the hands of the people's government, this power is wholesome and proper."

It just happens that the ideal upon which our government was founded and hitherto conducted is that it is dangerous to the people to have any man possess such powers, or to allow any man to thus aspire to personal government instead of a government of laws.

The question is, not that these powers, having been created and now in the hands of the good, might be transferred to the hands of the wicked, if the New Deal is not continued. It is that they never should be possessed by anybody in these United States.

A DEFENSE OF CAPITALISM

By JOHN S. THOMAS
President of Clarkson College.

WE LISTEN with rapt attention while our intelligentsia tell us that the chief interest of business men is to bring on periodic collapse; that our farmers are failures; that we who work are oppressed; that we who do not are pauperized; that our statesmen are stupid, venal and hired; that criminals rule our cities; that we owe ourselves so much money we are bankrupt, and that what we do not owe ourselves, we have lent to Europe.

And poor old capitalism! Capitalism has not a leg to stand on. Being tried for life, she seems not to have a friend left in court.

And all of this, mind you, in spite of the fact that capitalism and the principle of competition in business working together in this country since 1790 have given us the most marvelous 140 years ever enjoyed by any people, anywhere, at any time.

THE PARALLEL

SOMETIMES at the close of a day I say to myself that the last national election must have been held a dozen years ago—so much water has run under the bridge, so many great events in our history have occurred since then. And yet 34 months—less than three years—have gone by since March, 1933.

History repeats in these crowded months, as in the days of Jackson—two great achievements stand forth—the rebirth of the interest and understanding of a great citizenry in the problems of the nation and an established government which by positive action has proved its devotion to the recovery and well-being of that citizenry.

Here's Record That'll Make

Holmes Do Highland Fling
One of the greatest detectives alive is a native of French Indo-China, who is known as "The Bloodhound." His captures average one murderer every 25 days for the past 28 years.

He is credited with taking 400 of the 1,200 men who are now serving life sentences for homicide on Pulo Condore, the French "murderers' isle" in the China sea, from which no one has ever escaped.—Collier's.

The Mind Meter

By LOWELL HENDERSON

The Completion Test.

In this test eight incomplete statements are made. Each one can be completed by adding one of the four words given. Underline the correct one.

1. Harold L. Ickes is the present—secretary of treasury, secretary of war, secretary of the Interior, secretary of labor.
2. The capital of Nevada is—Helena, Carson City, Reno, Denver.
3. Demosthenes was a famous—Roman lawyer, Greek orator, Greek physician, Notre Dame football player.
4. The color, chartreuse, is—brilliant red, sky blue, pale green, lavender.
5. The Rio Grande flows into the—Pacific ocean, Caribbean sea, Gulf of Mexico, Bay of Biscayne.
6. The modern birth stone for January is—bloodstone, hyacinth, pearl, agate.
7. The Grand canyon is located in—Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada.
8. The state having most square miles of water surface is—North Carolina, Florida, Texas, Minnesota.

Answers

1. Secretary of the Interior.
2. Carson City.
3. Greek orator.
4. Pale green.
5. Gulf of Mexico.
6. Hyacinth.
7. Arizona.
8. Minnesota.

Old Shoes Worth \$50

A leading department store was asked by an old client—a woman—to credit a pair of shoes, unused and in the same box they were originally delivered to her. The shoes were found to be a pair of high ones bought twenty years ago for \$25. The store gladly credited the pair of unused shoes, as they had a museum value. As such they are worth \$50 today.—Wall Street Journal.

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R.G.B. MORRIS Mgr.

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"How do I feel.... Rotten! why do you ask?"

"Because, you are not yourself!"

It is all so simple, too! That tired, run-down, exhausted feeling quite often is due to lack of a sufficiency of those precious red-blood-cells. Just build up these oxygen-carrying cells and the whole body takes on new life... food is really turned into energy and strength... you can't help but feel and look better. S.S.S. Tonic restores deficient red-blood-cells... it also improves the appetite and digestion. It has been the nation's standby for over 100 years... and unless your case is exceptional it should help you, too. Insist on S.S.S. Tonic in the blood-red cellophane-wrapped package. The big 20-oz. size is sufficient for two weeks' treatment... it's more economical.

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