

# SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL By Carter Field FAMOUS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT



Washington.—Federal taxes are now running at the rate of \$8,000,000,000 a year, with assurance they will be increased, some at this session of congress, more to follow. State and local taxes are running at the rate of about \$9,000,000,000 a year. So that the present tax burden of the United States is about \$17,000,000,000 a year, with a certainty that it will be larger before it is smaller!

The figures, not the prophecy, have been compiled by experts of the Department of Commerce. They have not been put in the form of a finished report as yet, but the gist of them has been passed along to the Treasury department officials and administration leaders on Capitol Hill now working on the present tax problem.

The startling fact is that this makes the average tax for every man, woman and child in the United States \$134 a year. But this counts people on relief, dependents whose relatives are too proud to let them go on relief, and a number of other classes which pay far below their average of taxes.

Even the folks on relief pay some taxes, of course, as for instance, the federal tax of six cents a package on cigarettes, perhaps a little liquor tax now and then, or even occasionally the ten cents a pack on playing cards.

But when it is considered that 20,000,000 people, roughly, are on relief, and that most of them contribute very little in the way of taxes, the average of \$134 per person should be marked up considerably—far more than the very heavy taxes paid by the rich would pull down the average paid by the middle class folks.

There is no scientific way of computing this, but probably the average paid by each member of the self-supporting family is not far from \$200 a year. Which means that father contributes an average of something like \$500 to \$1,000 in taxes, whether he knows it or not, of which his income tax is a very small fraction indeed unless father's income goes well up in the surtaxes. In which case, of course, he will be paying a good deal more.

## What Smith Hit At

That is the sort of thing Al Smith was hitting at in his Liberty League speech, when he said that it was no use thinking of paying this bill for governmental expenditures by taxing the rich, because the rich simply did not have that much.

Interest rates play an important part in this "redistribution of wealth" program, which is going on as surely as though the administration at Washington, and for that matter the administrations in the 48 state capitals, and the thousands of city halls, and the thousands of counties throughout the land, were all committed to the Huey Long share the wealth plan.

The middle class home owner who has a mortgage, recently placed or renewed, is saving a little on interest. The government has been fairly successful in reducing interest rates. But he is getting 2 per cent or less, instead of 4 per cent, on his savings bank account, and the dividends that reduce his life insurance premium or buy additional insurance are smaller. The insurance companies cannot obtain the return on their money that they did before the slash in interest rates.

## Labor Takes Stand

A suggestion that John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, replace Vice President Garner as President Roosevelt's running mate this fall is of course absurd, but under the suggestion is one of the most significant developments in the history of organized labor in the United States. The endorsement of the Roosevelt administration, lock, stock and barrel, by the United Mine Workers, and their arrangement of the American Liberty League as a group of labor oppressors, is far more significant than is generally realized.

For it is not just the mine workers—it is the new movement in organized labor. When the attack on the Liberty League was made every man voting for it was thinking of the Du Ponts and John Raskob in terms of General Motors. It is these big industries, now organized, which open such shining doors of hope for highly increased union dues, and power.

So that, as political observers view the situation here, it is the New Deal in labor that is backing up the Roosevelt New Deal. Of the two objectives of the labor leaders

in sympathy with Lewis and against the policies of William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, one seems sure of attainment, the other very much clouded.

The actual labor objective, the substitution of vertical unions—unions embracing all the employees of one industry—seems fairly well assured by the trend of events. It is no secret that the heads of at least one of the very large companies at present non-unionized is perfectly willing to have a union of its workers—providing it is one union.

## See Chance for Victory

Henry Ford, General Motors and Chrysler may be forced to accept such a union. The Lewis crowd believes its chances of victory here, and in the steel industry and the electric industry, will be much greater under Roosevelt than under anyone the Republicans might nominate.

But some very astute labor leaders, who for obvious reasons are not putting out their necks at the present moment, think the mixture of politics with the fight for vertical unions is highly unfortunate. They believe that the whole cause of union labor may suffer a serious setback due to the stampede to the Roosevelt band-wagon by the United Mine Workers—a stampede which of course will include all other unions sympathetic with the Lewis goal.

For, as can be demonstrated by any search of the records, organized labor has a very poor batting average in political campaigns in this country. The record is so poor, even in strong industrial sections, that it is perfectly obvious the individual members of unions, when they enter the polling booths, vote just as they please individually and seldom if ever accord first place among the motives actuating them to the recommendations of their leaders.

To hear politicians speak in public, one would never think they suspected this, but actually they know it perfectly well. Actually if there is a politician in Washington who really thinks that the chances for re-election of President Roosevelt have been affected by the United Mine Workers' endorsement, he is pretty well hidden. Privately all agree that the endorsement and the pep talks bound to follow will throw a few votes, perhaps even a considerable number of votes, to Roosevelt. But they also think that an equal number will be alienated.

## More About Taxes

What taxes will be levied at this session of congress—or more accurately—what taxes will be levied before election, depends upon whether President Roosevelt definitely decides to accept the Liberty League challenge, give up all hope of the "stockholder vote," and put all the burden on corporation profits.

Conviction among his advisers is that the President will seek to raise, at this session, about \$700,000,000. That is approximately the amount needed to make up for the loss of the processing taxes and to pay interest on the sinking fund for amortization of the soldier bonus. (In this connection it makes almost no difference to the Treasury department whether it pays interest on the bonus taken by the soldiers, and eventually pays them off, or whether the soldiers cash their bonds, in which case the treasury borrows the money at about the same rate of interest the bonds carry.)

Up until the last few days most of his advisers were convinced that the President would insist on this money's being raised by excise taxes. These would be very similar to the processing taxes just outlawed by the Supreme court, but spread over a wider base so as to get the \$150,000,000 to \$200,000,000 additional needed, and adjusted so as to avoid some of the particular hardships and difficulties of the processing taxes.

## Very Little Loss

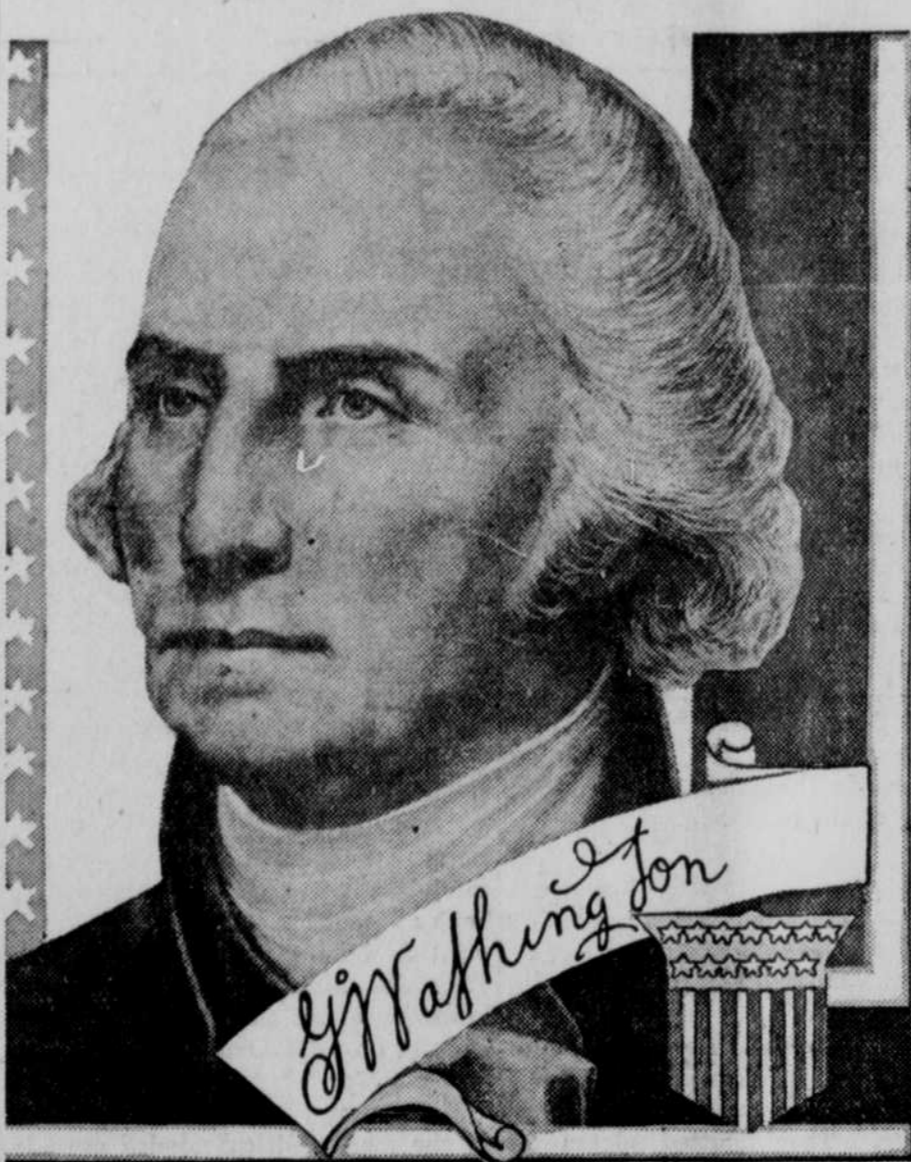
Which, they point out, is very little loss at all, because, as illustrated by the Liberty League, a considerable percentage of this type of voters is against the re-election of Roosevelt anyhow. Therefore, they argue, why not turn from the "haves" and go all the way in trying to get the votes of the "have nots," especially as the "have nots" have more votes?

Advocates of this course have another string to their bow. They point out that every one who studies the government's financial standing at all knows that the tax plan to be pushed through at this session is not seeking to balance the budget, but merely to make up for two losses—the processing taxes and the additional cost of the soldier bonus.

So that, they contend, the stock holders of the country, who might be calculated to resent another boost in the corporation income levy, are fearful that if Roosevelt is re-elected he will do that anyhow, after election. Hence they would be inclined to vote against Roosevelt to prevent that from happening.

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# Our First Leader



## Early Washington Birthdays



GEORGE WASHINGTON never occupied the White House. His executive mansions were temporary, and shifted from New York to Philadelphia while the White House was still a dream, observes a writer in the New York Times. Only his name, plus that dream, which was his, went to the city on the Potomac.

But in the stress of the formative years he was remembered with widespread festivities at his first birthday after his inauguration. Indeed, the anniversary had been hailed even earlier, since the first President was a national hero long before he grasped the reins of government.

Ragged soldiers had piped him a pathetic birthday tune at Valley Forge on the bitter February day that closed his forty-sixth year. Fellow-Virginians had trod a birthday measure at Richmond in 1781. Maryland and New York had toasted him when he was forty-nine and already in sight of success for his arms and for his country. Frenchmen who had served by his side seized the opportunity of rejoicing convivially over the anniversary of his birth in 1784, when the hostilities and the British evacuation were both in the past. Young men who had been privileged to visit him in his famous campaign tent organized birthday honors fit for a hero; and in that first February of the new era, the celebrations first began to resemble real occasions.

In Alexandria, Va., the town nearest to the General's stately mansion, the birthnight ball was inaugurated an annual affair. In Philadelphia patriots celebrated "with that hilarity and manly decorum ever attendant on the sons of freedom." In New York there met "a select club of Whigs," and drank to Washington, and hailed him with song and sonnet and declamation.

The date thus far widely honored was February 11. Washington was born on February 11, 1732, according to the British calendar usages then officially in vogue. Nineteen years later Britain adopted the Georgian in place of the Julian calendar. But the ancient dates often stuck, and it is not until 1790 that we find Washington's birthday—his first as President—being celebrated on the twenty-second of February instead of the eleventh by the Tammany society of New York.

Tammany in 1790 was patriotic, anti-aristocratic, charitable and ambitious. As yet it did not differentiate between President Washington, its adopted "Great Grand Sachem," and the second of those characteristics. In this, the initial year of government under the new Con-

stitution, New York strove to honor the Chief Executive and also to persuade the congress that had come to reside in its midst that New York city was the logical choice for a permanent capital.

Washington himself was busy in New York on that February 22. He was moving from the Franklin house, at the corner of Cherry and Pearl streets, to the McComb mansion on Broadway, near the newly rebuilt Trinity church. His diary for the day reveals him as an active superintendent of the disposal of his furniture.

In 1791, the Society of the Cincinnati held its first Washington's birthday celebration in New York, having followed Tammany's example by resolving to mark the date each year. The President and the congress (and also the capital of the United States), had meanwhile removed temporarily to Philadelphia. But even New York's disappointment did not prevent Tammany from vying with the exclusive organization of Revolutionary officers to do honor to the day.

Alas, the good feeling did not endure. By 1796, after John Jay had come back from England with his hated treaty, Tammany was fiercely for revolutionary France; Jefferson was its god; George Washington was actually being dubbed, in public, a pro-English aristocrat; and those who celebrated his birthday were coldly accused of being (among other things) bootlickers, idolaters, Royalists and sycophants. The country-wide birthday honors of that year, though even more lavish and vociferous than usual, presented for the first time the ogre of party, grinning at the feast.

By 1797, however, the Jay treaty was being regarded much more tolerantly, and certain French proceedings were being looked at a little askance. Those who refused to salute Washington on February 22, to honor a glorious record for its own sake, and to tread a measure at the evening's gala assemblies, now formed a rather conspicuous minority.

George Washington became a private citizen in that year, and was with his Alexandria neighbors at their birthnight ball of February 22, 1798—an onlooker, though, in his younger days he had excelled in the minut.

There was to be only one more birthday for a living Washington to adorn. He spent that one at home at Mount Vernon, presiding over a particularly joyous occasion. His adopted daughter, his pet, Nelly Custis, was being married to his favorite nephew, Maj. Lawrence Lewis.

The radiance went out of Mount Vernon in December of 1799 and the birthday festivities the country over were turned into mourning processions when 1800 brought the anniversary around once more. This February 22 was a universal requiem. The armlets and headbands with Washington's picture were black where once they had been gayly hued.

Throughout the country business was suspended for 24 hours. Theaters, taverns, public halls, school-rooms and college auditoriums, village greens and parks as well as churches were given over to exercises, meetings and processions expressive of the deepest grief.

# Tall Tales

As Told to:  
FRANK E. HAGAN and  
ELMO SCOTT WATSON

## A Splitting Tale

BEN SUTTON of Colorado Springs, Colo., has an Uncle Jim who never splits an armoire of kindling for his wife but that he thinks of the time over on the Western Slope when he was working for a man, splitting logs. One morning he had an immense tree half-way split open when 26 Ute Indians surrounded him and their chief, old Holey Moccasin, told him he'd have to go back to camp with them.

Uncle Jim knew darned well they intended to burn him at the stake, but he said "All right, I'll go. But first I've got to get this log split. Now, if you want me to go very soon, you've just got to turn in and help me.

The chief agreed to help, so Uncle Jim put 13 of the Utes on one side of the log and 13 on the other. "Now, all of you get a deep holt and pull," he said. "Take both hands and I'll drive the wedges in while you hold the split open."

The redskins did just as he directed and began pulling as hard as they could while Uncle Jim began tapping at the wedges. But instead of driving them in, he began loosening them.

## Little Drops of Water

ROBERT H. MOULTON, author and marketing authority, once lived among the ridge runners of Tennessee. He likes to recall the hazards of those early days when a man had to go out and get his meat before breakfast if he expected to eat at all.

"Once I was hunting squirrels in the Cumberland mountains," he recalls. "I was using pappy's old muzzle-loading rifle and was making every shot count. Had a nice bag of squirrels and started home when I discovered all my bullets were gone.

"At that unfortunate moment a huge bear appeared on the trail and began to chase me. So disturbed was I that beads of perspiration rolled off my forehead.

"Luckily for me, the weather turned cold very suddenly as I headed into the cove. The beads froze and by quick work I was able to catch one of them, ram it into the muzzle of my gun and fire it into the head of the bear.

"It probably would not have been a fatal injury to the bear, but I had no more than fired when the weather turned suddenly warm again. The bear, I am happy to report, immediately died with water on the brain."

## A Story Full of Interest

UP AROUND Spooner, Wis., it is natural, of course, that spoon fishing should be popular not only with the natives, but with the 26,444 visitors who inhabit the region every summer. At least, that is the assertion of Fred Record, of Barrington, Ill.

"One of my friends fished a lake in the Spooner region fifteen years ago, but with indifferent success," says Record. "The man used a spoon, but for some reason the lure of its whirl failed to attract the fish.

"My friend was quitting in disgust and leaned over the side of his boat. A \$10 gold piece—for in those days the possession of gold was no misdemeanor—fell from his pocket, spun in the water and was seized and swallowed by a fish, which darted away.

"Five years ago, that friend and I returned to the same lake. Again my companion's luck was poor. But just at sundown he landed an enormous pickerel which we took to camp for our dinner. You can imagine the delight of my friend on cleaning the fish, to discover a \$10 gold piece in its belly.

"The treasure was slightly tarnished, it is true. But to offset this, my friend also removed three \$2 bills from the fish. The \$6, we figured out later, represented 6 per cent interest on the gold piece for ten years. It pleased us to learn that the amount was exactly correct."

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## Headquarters of Czechoslovakia

The Hradcany at Prague has been continuously inhabited since Paleolithic times. Historical records indicate a large settlement on the Vitava river protected by two castles since the Tenth century. This fortified palace of the ancient kings of Bohemia is the headquarters of the Czechoslovak government and residence of the president. In the center of the palace area stands the cathedral of St. Vitus, founded in 980 by the saint-king Venceslas.

# CROCHET AS PRETTY AS IT IS PRACTICAL

PATTERN 1119



Lovely, lacy richness lies in this choice peacock filet crochet chair: back set that anyone can make—both easily and inexpensively—of durable string. The peacock, that most gorgeous of all birds, will add a decorative note to your home as well as protect your furniture. You'll find the large filet mesh goes very quickly. And you can also use the design for scarf ends.

Pattern 1119 comes to you with detailed directions and charts for making the set shown; an illustration of it and of the stitches needed; material requirements.

Send 15 cents in stamps or coins (coins preferred) to The Sewing Circle, Needlecraft Dept., 82 Eighth Ave., New York, N. Y.

## Vile Odor Danger Signal Used in Canadian Mines

Flashing lights and clanging gongs having proved futile, Canadian miners hereafter will be warned of danger by the smell of a skunk. In case of an alarm the engineer will break bottles of ethyl mercaptan, a chemical smelling like skunk, in air ducts leading to the mine, and in a few minutes the odor will be carried to the farthest corners of the mine by the ventilating system.

Miners are trained to run to certain designated points when they recognize the smell no one could fail to recognize.—Pathfinder Magazine.

# And So the First Hunger Strike Was a Decided Flop

Without the least cynical intent, we would point out to you the story of one of the first hunger-strikers, published in the Golden Book Magazine.

"The Widow of Ephesus," relates Petronius, was a lady of so high repute for chastity that women came from neighboring lands to see and admire. When her husband died, she followed him to his tomb, determined to stay with him until she, too, should die of hunger. But it happened that a handsome young soldier was stationed nearby to guard three robbers who had been crucified, in order to prevent anyone removing their bodies and giving them burial. He discovered the widow, and believing it a great pity that anyone so beautiful should be allowed to perish, finally persuaded her to share his food. The soldier was neither ill-looking nor wanting in address, and says Petronius, "you all know what temptations assail poor human nature after a hearty meal." We leave you to finish the story for yourself.

## Words of Wisdom

Instruct not your friend; let him profit by your impersonal remarks.

**COMMON COLDS**

Relieve the distressing symptoms by applying Menthohatum in nostrils and rubbing on chest.

**MENTHOLATUM**  
Gives COMFORT Daily

If you prefer nose drops, or throat spray, call for the NEW MENTHOLATUM LIQUID in handy bottle with dropper

# HOW TO "ALKALIZE" YOUR STOMACH ALMOST INSTANTLY

Amazingly Fast Relief Now From "Acid Indigestion" Over-Indulgence, Nausea and Upsets



If you want really quick relief from an upset or painful stomach condition—arising from acidity following over-eating, smoking, mixtures of foods or stimulants—just try this:

Take—2 teaspoonfuls of Phillips' Milk of Magnesia in a full glass of water. OR—2 Phillips' Milk of Magnesia Tablets, the exact equivalent of the liquid form.

This acts almost immediately to alkalize the excess acid in the stomach. Neutralizes the acids that cause headaches, nausea, and indigestion pains. You feel results at once.

Try it. AND—if you are a

frequent sufferer from "acid stomach," use Phillips' Milk of Magnesia 30 minutes after meals. You'll forget you have a stomach!

When you buy, see that any box or bottle you accept is clearly marked "Genuine Phillips' Milk of Magnesia."

**SIGNS WHICH OFTEN INDICATE "ACID STOMACH"**

PAIN AFTER EATING	SLEEPLESSNESS
FEELING OF WEAKNESS	INDIGESTION
NAUSEA	MOUTH ACIDITY
LOSS OF APPETITE	SOUR STOMACH
FREQUENT HEADACHES	

## PHILLIPS' MILK OF MAGNESIA

### His Peers?

A man of wit would often be very much at a loss without the company of fools.—La Rochefoucauld.

### Folly Confounds

It is the folly of the world constantly which confounds its wisdom.—Holmes.

## 5 p.m. is a test of how you FEEL

"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 90-oz. size is sufficient for two weeks' treatment... it's more economical.

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