

SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Marking up increases in receipts from 48 of 65 classes of taxes, the internal revenue bureau reported that its total collections for the first quarter of this fiscal year climbed \$164,000,000 over the same period a year ago.

The increase, a rise of almost 20 per cent, pushed aggregate collections to \$1,009,994,623, compared with \$845,471,253 in the corresponding period last year.

Treasury officials said it was the first time since 1923 that first quarter collections had exceeded \$1,000,000,000. The receipts, however, were below the January-March quarter last year, when collections aggregated \$1,079,000,000.

Leading the upturn last quarter were receipts from corporate and individual income, capital stock, liquor, cigarette, gasoline, and automobile levies. Increases of a million dollars or more were reported in tax categories.

Biggest Puncture

The biggest puncture in the picture of climbing revenues came in the agricultural adjustment tax column. These levies produced \$40,855,548 in the first quarter of last year but, because of invalidation by the Supreme court, contributed nothing this year. With the exception of this item, no decrease of as much as \$1,000,000 was shown for the quarter this year in any single classification.

Included among declines of less than \$1,000,000 were returns from taxes on wines and cordials, crude petroleum processed, brewers' wort and malt, chewing and smoking tobacco, and special taxes on brewers and dealers in malt liquor.

The largest increase in a single levy was reported for corporation income taxes, which rose \$42,344,139 to \$198,931,476.

Complication

Lewis Deschler, parliamentarian for the house of representatives, predicted possible legal complications when the next congress convenes. Unless the new house is able to elect its speaker and other officers at its opening session, January 3, the electoral votes cannot be counted in time to inaugurate the next President, on January 20.

Deschler, whose task is keeping the house of representatives out of legal tangles, blames the 20th (Lame Duck) amendment to the Constitution for the probable difficulties. "It just isn't a house until it organizes," he explained, "and sometimes it requires several weeks to elect the officers."

"Next year the house will have exactly two weeks to organize in time for inauguration of the President," he added.

No More "Old Congresses"

The famous "lame duck" sessions of the old congress were eliminated by the 20th amendment. They ran from December until March 4. The old congress was able, therefore, to count the electoral votes. Now the new congress must elect officers at its opening session so as to be able to count the electoral votes the next day, as required by law.

Deschler said that the presence of a third party in the presidential election campaign always complicated the qualifying of the winning candidate.

For instance, if a third party captured a single state and the other electoral votes were about evenly divided between the two major parties, it might turn out that neither of the big parties had a majority of all the electoral votes. In that case, the election would be decided by the house. If the delay occurred, the President might not be chosen before January 20, the day he must be inaugurated.

Investigate Bids

Justice department officials are investigating "hundreds and hundreds" of cases in which firms, seeking government contracts for supplying construction material, submitted identical bids.

Assistant Attorney General John Dickinson, head of the Justice department's anti-trust department, is responsible for the investigation of bids which might be collusive. He assigned three attorneys to the job.

"Our investigations are simply fact-finding. We are not doing detective work," he said.

President Roosevelt suggested last June that if federal agencies received identical bids they should be turned over to the Justice department for investigation. The suggestion, made to the ten regular departments and twelve independent offices, brought a flood of reports to Dickinson's office.

Steel and Cable Bids

One case involved a group of manufacturers and jobbers to supply steel tubing for the Grand Coulee dam reclamation project in Washington state. Another case concerned bids for copper cable and wire for a transmission line on the North Platte project in Nebraska.

"In each of these cases," Secretary Ickes said, "while most of the bids were identical, at least one

bidder submitted different and lower figures and contracts are being awarded."

The North Platte contract was awarded to the Nehring Electrical works of De Kalb, Ill., on a low bid of \$16,487.69. Of the fourteen bids received on the job, seven offered the goods at a delivered cost price of \$16,501.51, and two others had identical bids of \$16,501.16.

Ten bids were received for the steel tubing on the Grand Coulee dam project, and seven were identical with a delivered cost of \$22,013.22.

Dickinson and his aids are expected to complete their investigation by early December. A report will be made to the attorney general, and it is understood that the attorney general will then submit recommendations to the President.

Ask Higher Rates

Proposals for increases in permanent freight rates were filed with the Interstate Commerce commission by the nation's railroads to compensate to some extent for the loss of \$115,000,000 in revenue when emergency surcharges expire at the end of the year.

They said the proposed changes covering virtually the entire rate structure would increase some rates and reduce others, but on the whole would result in a "somewhat lower level of charges than that now in effect."

The commission was not asked to approve the changed rates, but to permit the filing of the rate tariffs for consideration as a whole instead of having to present hundreds of individual petitions.

In submitting the proposed increases, the roads told the commission they were confronted with a situation demanding "immediate steps to prevent a substantial decrease in their revenues."

Serious Situation

"For the first eight months of 1936," the petition said, "the net income of class one railroads was approximately \$16,400,000. During the same period the emergency charges authorized by the commission produced revenues to the class one railroads of \$77,000,000."

"Without the emergency charges, which will expire December 31, 1936, in the absence of further orders by the commission, class one railroads would have failed to earn by approximately \$60,000,000, their fixed charges for the first eight months of 1936."

The petition noted traffic had been improving but said the roads could not withstand the loss of revenue resulting from the elimination of surcharges without a revision of base rates. It asserted that the cost of labor, supplies and material had increased over \$300,000,000 in the last two years.

"Even with the proposed rates, the railroads will still be in dire need of additional revenues which are to be obtained, if at all, only in the event of a very substantial increase in the present volume of traffic," the petition said.

Jarvis Island

Reports reached the Department of Interior that Great Britain is watching with interest the American colonization of Jarvis island, potential air base in the south Pacific.

Richard B. Black, Interior department representative at Honolulu, said that Hawaiian youths serving as American colonists on Jarvis reported that an unidentified British warship remained near the island for a whole day last month. The ship then sailed away without attempting to put a landing party ashore.

Other information led department officials to believe the vessel was the cruiser Wellington, recently reported in the nearby south Pacific.

The visit of the warship to Jarvis followed a London report that Great Britain recently reasserted its sovereignty over the Phoenix islands, a group of eight with a population of about sixty, lying about 200 miles south of Jarvis.

Informal notice that Great Britain was not prepared to relinquish all claims to sovereignty over Jarvis and possibly Howland and Baker islands was given earlier this year in the British parliament by J. H. Thomas, then British colonial minister.

Jarvis, a mere sandbar nearly 1,000 miles south of Honolulu, is strategically situated on a potential United States-Hawaii-New Zealand air route. The government formally asserted American sovereignty over it and Howland and Baker islands, 1,000 miles to the west, in 1935.

Jackknife Important Tool

Up to a few years ago the jackknife was one of the most important tools of the home, especially in the country. We might say, notes a writer in the Montreal Herald, that our great-grandfathers lived in a wooden age, for a great many of the everyday utensils were made of wood, as metal articles were scarce. Therefore, whittling was an art with the boys of those times, and it was in winter that much of this whittling was done. The knife was for making things that were of some value or use, and not merely for passing away the time.

Fills Upholstered Furniture

Either hair or moss is used as filler for upholstered furniture. The best grade of hair is that of horse tail and horse mane mixed. Moss in order to be a good filler must be thoroughly cleaned and picked by a picking machine. This rids it of sticks and leaves which are ordinarily very prevalent in moss growth.

Sungmas of Tibet



Crowds Witness Trance of Tibetan Sungma.

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

ANCIENT Greece had her oracle of Delphi; Tibet has her Sungmas, men believed to have similar powers. Sungmas are, to the Tibetans, neither sorcerers nor incarnations, but the abodes of malignant spirits, or spirits of demonized heroes who, subdued by saintly lamas or high incarnations, have become the protectors of religion.

These roving demon spirits, obedient to the spells cast over them, are said to select either a lama or a layman as their abode during the lifetime of the person thus selected. Distinct from incarnations, they manifest themselves involuntarily as well as voluntarily in their chosen abodes.

Any lamasery with a claim to importance has its oracle, though some of the supposed Sungmas are impostors who work themselves into frenzy merely for pecuniary gain. Every Sungma has his fee, the amount depending on the importance of his demon spirit, and the wealth of the person who seeks the augury. Sometimes as much as 1,000 tankas (\$100 or more) will be exacted.

Whether oral or written, the replies the Sungmas give to questions have true Delphic vagueness and ambiguity. They confine themselves mainly to advice concerning the performance of meritorious deeds to counteract evil influences or ward off calamities. The questions usually are written on slips of paper and handed to the Sungma, who, without looking at them, holds them above his head and "answers" them with incredible rapidity.

Five Chief Ones in Lhasa.

Although there are many Sungmas, genuine or pretending, throughout Tibet, the five of real importance reside in Lhasa. One of them, recognized as the state oracle, Na chung, is consulted by the Dalai Lama.

These oracles play an important role in the selection of high incarnations, or in the search for the incarnation of a deceased Dalai Lama.

It was several years ago at the lamasery of Yungning in northwest Yunnan that a staff writer of the National Geographic Magazine learned of the existence of these mysterious Sungmas. The abbot told him that the famous Balung chu dje, one of the Sungmas of Lhasa, was to perform in Yungning at the Feast of the Lights on the day of commemoration of the death of Tsong K'apa, founder of the Yellow lama church.

The human abode, or chu dje, of Sungma Balung chu dje, was the person of a Chungtien lama, a native of the Tongwa (Tibetan) tribe, the son of a Tongwa bandit chief of northwest Yunnan. This "possessed" lama, who had been residing in Lhasa for several years, had stopped at Yungning on his way to visit his birthplace in Chungtien. He is said to be the abode of the powerful demon Chechin.

There are several Sungmas who are supposed to be the chu dje of Chechin. Of these the most important is a lama called Betin Konser chu dje from the name of Chechin's house on the market square of Lhasa; and the second in rank is the one the writer saw perform in Yungning—Balung chu dje, named after another residence of Chechin. As their names indicate, they are considered "houses" of Chechin.

Both Balung chu dje and Betin Konser chu dje, before going into a trance; that is, before Chechin takes possession of them, don the robes of a Sungma—elaborately decorated embroidered garments often made of gold brocade, the gift of some devout worshiper. Thus arrayed, they take their seats in foreign fashion—not cross-legged—on ornate chairs, usually near the entrance within the main temple of the lamasery.

Involving the Spirit.

Some of the lamas in attendance begin to chant the classic of Chechin, beseeching the spirit to take possession of his chu dje; while some ring bells or blow conch shells; and others, carrying incense burners, walk around the bowed figure of the waiting Sungma, wafting the fragrant smoke of juniper twigs as offering to Chechin.

Such was the beginning of the performance in which the writer had the rare experience of watching Sungma Balung chu dje.

The Sungma sat motionless on the throne in the somber chanting hall, his face buried in his hands, breathing the fragrant juniper smoke, while the deep, low tones of the chanting lamas, punctuated by bell

ringing and the blowing of conch shells, lent mystery to the whole scene. A tall, curiously decorated and plumed iron hat, weighing about 50 pounds, was placed beside him.

Soon the Sungma began to accompany the lamas in their mumbling prayers, while the incense went the round, and the silent audience awaited the spirit of Chechin. Suddenly sonorous blasts of large trumpets and deafening clash of cymbals burst forth, and the Sungma moved uneasily in his seat.

An Extraordinary Performance.

A deep, gurgling sound escaped him, and his hands clasped his throat. The attending lama, a brother of Balung, now lifted the huge hat upon the Sungma's head and tied it firmly under the chin. By this time the performer was fully possessed by the spirit. The gurgling sound is believed to be a sure sign of the presence of Chechin, who, the classic relates, died by suffocating himself with a kattak, a silk scarf.

Balung still sat dreaming for a while; then all at once his body began to sway and his legs to shake. Frantically he threw himself backward while lamas held him and tried to balance him. He spat and groaned; blood oozed from his mouth and nostrils; his face became purple—infused to such an extent that the leather chin strap burst.

He took a sword handed to him, a strong Mongolian steel blade. In the twinkling of an eye he twisted it with his naked hands into several loops and knots!

The Sungma tossed the 50-pound hat above his head; adjusted it again, meanwhile puffing like a steam engine. The perspiration running down his face mingled with the blood which oozed from his nose and mouth.

The attending lamas wiped his face, and tried to comfort him. A lama now stood in front of him with a round silver platter on which reposed an offering, a triangular pyramid of tsamba, or barley-flour, dough. This the lama held to the Sungma's face, so that his forehead touched it. The lamas changed the tune and tempo of their chant.

Still shaking, the possessed Sungma took a handful of rice, and threw it violently into the crowd. At this point the abbot of the monastery approached, bowing and kowtowing, only to be beaten severely on the back with the flat of a sword wielded with merciless fury by the Sungma. Fear spread among the crowd; the abbot fled; the Sungma continued to shake from head to foot with uncontrollable convulsions!

Now was the time for worshipers to receive Chechin's blessing. A regular fight ensued as the lamas of the monastery, each carrying a small silk scarf (kattak) as offering, thronged forward. Each lama tried to get to the Sungma to place a kattak on his shaking knees and receive the blessing of a blow, a puff of breath from his distorted mouth, or a gentle laying on of his hands.

Forward they surged, eager to reach the Sungma before the spirit of Chechin should leave his body. A few managed to receive the blessing, while attending lamas, laying on unsparingly with birch whips, kept off the eager mob.

Three More Seizures.

All at once the Sungma, puffing and blowing, threw himself backward exhausted and lay like a lifeless form for a few minutes. The spirit of Chechin had flown, none knew whither.

When Balung rose, he was weeping and whining. His garments now were adjusted, and a different headgear, the sort worn by minor Sungmas, was placed upon his head. Three of the underlings of Chechin were to manifest themselves in this Chungtien lama.

Seizure was not long in coming. Almost immediately the afflicted man leaned forward and began to shake. The lama near him handed him bow and arrows and a flagstaff. With outstretched arms he stood erect, spat, puffed, and blew.

The lamas again rushed to receive his blessing. The more privileged, the abbot and the Living Buddha of Yungning, came first; then the mob. The latter were less fortunate, for only two had received the blessing when the shaking stopped and the Sungma again threw himself backward, groaning.

He rested thus for only a minute; then rose and with a terrific thump fell back upon his chair, shaking like an epileptic. In this state he received the homage of the throng.

Wives, Know Yourself!

Accurate Analysis Will Do Much to Overcome Difficulty in Wedded Life

SPEAKING on the question of trial marriages, a well known writer said, "There should be no need for trial when two people know their own abilities and have measured themselves accurately. Two people who understand themselves will never, I believe, have any difficulty living happily together after marriage."

That is a new slant on the question of success in marriage, supplements a woman writer of national fame. Not "know my husband"—or "wife," but "know thyself!"

And, come to think of it, isn't most of the discontent and dissatisfaction in marriage traceable to ideas of ourselves—that may be misconceptions, no less than our illusions about the other person?

How many women's dissatisfaction with their husband has as its source the thought of all they gave up to marry him, all they "might have had" if they had married a certain other man?

How many women's discontent with the role of wife and mother springs from the thought of how much more fascinating pastimes they might have had if they had followed that career?

How many girl's impossible expectations of a fulltime lover and Prince Charming originates in an exaggerated notion of their own devastating beauty and charm?

If all discontented wives would look deeply into themselves, measure themselves, stop fooling themselves, many might discover that the other man they might have married is a self-nurtured illusion; that the career of their dreams is not a soft snap and a joy forever; but a grueling, exhausting job which might have worn them out if they had qualified for it, which they probably would have been unable to do; that they themselves are neither devastating beauties nor always charming, but women who are frequently disappointing and difficult to live with. They might discover and admit to themselves that they are greatly in debt to their husbands for many things that make life easier and better and more worthwhile—that they would not get along so well without them.

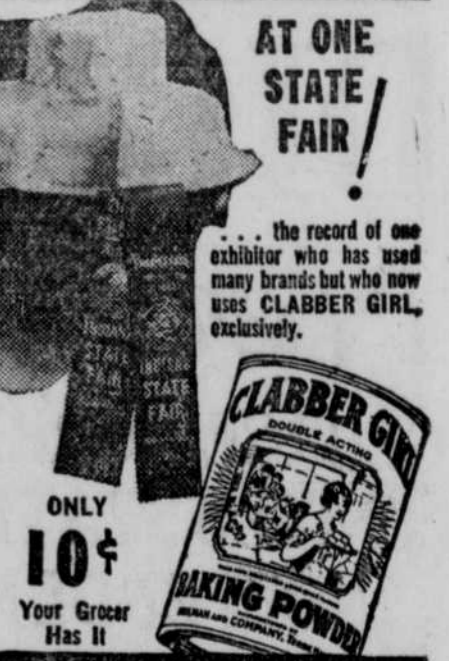
Then they might think more of doing their part of trying to make those husbands happy. And that effort on the part of one must inevitably go a long way toward a mutually happy and successful marriage.

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Building and Rebuilding

Rebuilding a ruined house or a ruined career is a much more difficult matter than building new. It takes more courage, more skill and more ability. But it is being done every day.

44 AWARDS



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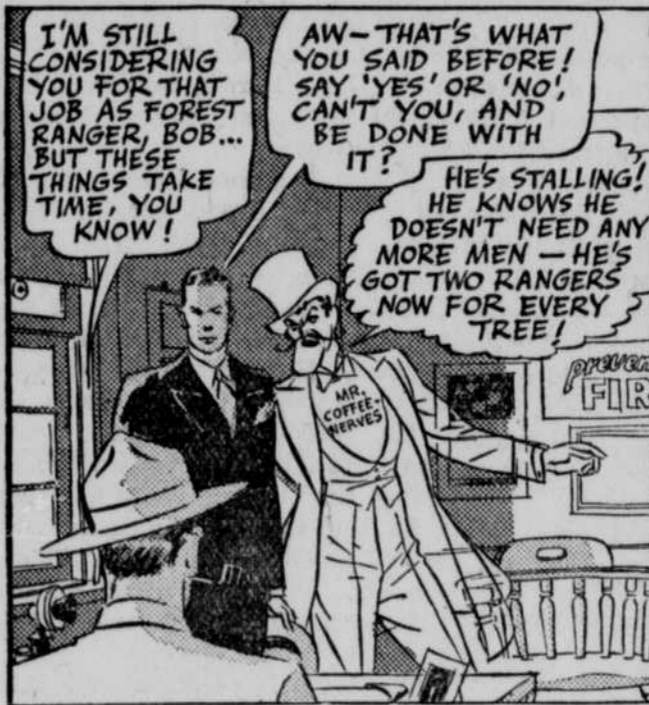
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