

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



Washington.—The "hammer and saw" man is the target of a very real drive now under way by the building trades. He's the little chap, with his "office under his hat," who buys a lot, hires half a dozen neighbors, builds a small residence, sells it, and then looks for another job.

To the building trades that chap is just a chiseler. He does not pay union wages. He cuts all the corners, and normally his one item of expense, which is bigger than it should be, is that, not being too good a risk, he usually pays liberally for any money he borrows to finance his operations.

The "hammer and saw" man has been benefiting enormously from Federal Housing administration operations. More often than not loans for improvements and the construction of individual houses made work for him. The individual borrowing cheap money from the government to finance either an improvement or a new house seldom went to a big contractor. He went to a "hammer and saw" man.

Which is the real explanation for union labor in general, and the building trades in particular, going so strongly for the PWA type of housing rather than the little individual loans. So-called "slum clearance" projects don't use "hammer and saw" men. They use big contractors, and big contractors almost invariably have to use union labor.

Any large operation, whether of the slum clearance type or not, moves in the same direction.

Despite the much-talked-about split in the building trades unions, which by the way has now been healed—though no one is quite sure who came out on top—these particular unions have been very successful so far in having their way in turning and diverting government objectives.

Most important of these was the early desire to cut labor costs in housing. In the first government announcements these costs were to be cut in several ways. One was on the high cost of financing—stiff interest rates on mortgages and second trusts. It is generally conceded that the government has reduced these costs materially.

Labor Costs Stick

But another element which was to be reduced was the labor costs. Statements of plans were given wide publicity. The idea was that bricklayers, carpenters and plasterers for instance, were paid scales of wages out of all proportion to work of similar skilled mechanics on the theory that the number of days' work they could get in the course of a year was limited and uncertain. Weather affected their employment, and one job might not start as soon as another was finished.

The government proposed to correct all this by providing steadier work, and virtually arranging, if not guaranteeing, a given number of days' work every year. It approached the "yearly wage" idea so appealing to some economists.

But the union labor boys did not take to it at all. They have been sabotaging it very skillfully. As a result, no one hears any more about it now. Certainly not from any of the government housing officials. It is considerably dearer than NRA, because one does not even hear of any little local applications of it.

Another menace that the building trades unions think they have met successfully so far is the pre-fabricated house. President Roosevelt was enormously interested in this, and had numerous discussions with heads of some big corporations, thinking this was an excellent plan for providing better homes by the mass production method, just as the automobile companies have provided cheaper cars.

Helping the labor unions on this was the insistence of all the big companies involved on loading down the pre-fabricated houses with their own gadgets, with the result that the houses were too expensive. But union labor has discouraged development of this idea in other ways.

Prediction: Lower interest rates may be here to stay, but lower labor costs aren't coming.

Delights Roosevelt

The most delighted man in Washington over the Father Coughlin-Chairman O'Connor controversy is Franklin D. Roosevelt. For a very long time indeed the Detroit priest has been getting in the President's hair. In the early days of the administration, of course, Father Coughlin was very helpful. But then in the early days Roosevelt didn't need much help. The country seemed to be behind him 100 per cent. Even two years after his own election, the country increased the stranglehold the Democrats had on Capitol Hill by voting a most unprecedented endorsement for an off year.

But now is something else, and the President has been growing more and more irritated at the Coughlin attacks. He has realized fully the danger of the attacks from the other extreme—the conservatives who think the administration

is spendthrift mad, and is piling up a debt, which will burden children yet unborn. In fact, he has been trimming his sails just a bit to meet that attack.

But right along with it to have Coughlin rousing against him the very people his policies are supposed to benefit most, the submerged tenth, was too much. Hence the desire to have someone take Coughlin's measure, and make him look foolish before the whole country.

A very delicate religious question was involved. Coughlin could call names. He could intimate that certain politicians have sold out to vested interests, but the danger in hitting back was great. Many Catholics, it was thought, who might not agree with Coughlin at all, might be seriously offended if the sort of attacks regarded as necessary were made.

Not an Accident

So it was far from an accident that John J. O'Connor, Irish Catholic, prominent member of Tammany Hall, and potent member of the oligarchy that rules the house of representatives, did the return mud slinging—promising to kick Coughlin around the streets of Washington, and alluding to his profits from silver speculation.

It is true that O'Connor, on second thought, went before the house and said his threat to kick Father Coughlin was "undignified" and that "I apologize" for the manner in which he referred to "clerical garb," but he went on to repeat his charges that Father Coughlin profited by silver speculation.

O'Connor said he would have kept his temper had not the priest indulged in a personal attack on him with reference to a bill he introduced, which was vetoed by the President. O'Connor said he could have stood for being called a "tool of Wall Street and an assassin"—even on a Sunday—until "he charged me with being a burglar."

The first stories about the late Mr. O'Connor's listening to the radio, and then dashing off his wire impulsively, seemed in character, and were interesting, but they omitted one very significant feature. Mr. O'Connor had a long talk with President Roosevelt after the radio address and before sending his telegram inviting the priest to Washington to be kicked.

Raising the Money

Non-political tax experts in the Treasury department believe there are only two ways of raising the amount of money the United States government must have in the way of new taxes, if not immediately, certainly after election.

One is by going after the small income folks, reducing exemptions and boosting the rates. The other is by a general sales tax.

Incidentally they do not agree with certain prominent New Dealers, who want to boost corporation income taxes on a sliding scale. But it must always be remembered that these experts have no power. They just advise treasury officials, and, when called in, the two congressional committees having jurisdiction over taxes—finance in the senate and ways and means in the house.

At the present moment, these experts point out, if the United States were raising all the money it is spending by taxation, levies in this country would be higher than in England per individual. Which is rather a blow to the idea so widely advertised here that the British taxpayer groans under a terrible load, whereas in America taxes are pretty light, comparatively.

It is perfectly true, they admit, that such a picture can be drawn with respect to the very small income tax payers of both countries. People in that class are hit much harder in Britain than in the United States.

Per Capita Tax

For the year 1935, the tax experts say, the per capita tax in the United States—adding all taxes, whether federal, state or local—was \$81. In Great Britain, for the same year, and again adding all taxes, it was \$98.

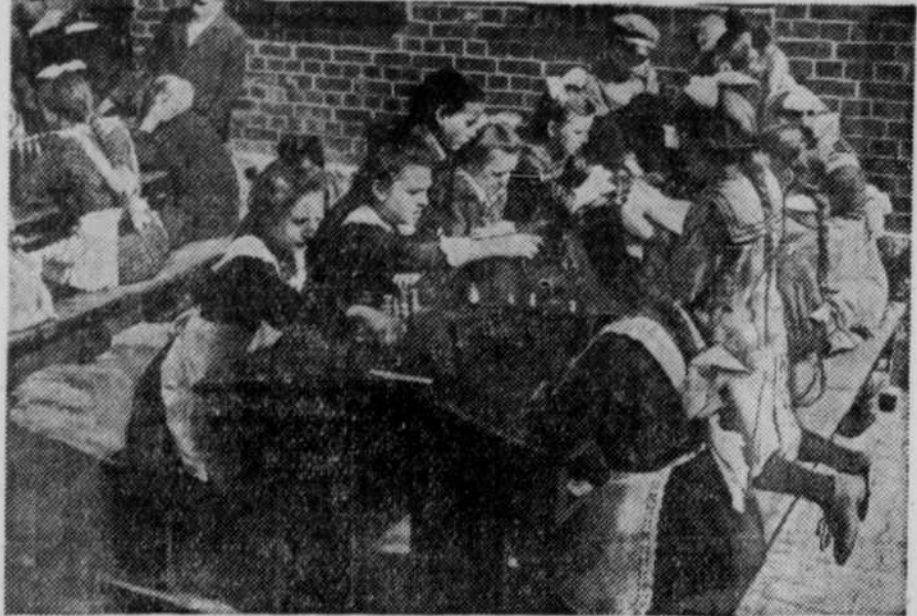
But now for the bad news. For the same year total governmental expenditures in the United States again adding in the local expenditures of states, counties, towns, etc., were \$135 per capita. Whereas in Great Britain they were \$177.

So that the rate of governmental spending in the United States is \$18 more for every man, woman and child than is the government's spending in Britain!

To put it another way, the various government units of Great Britain were going "in the red" for the year 1935 at the rate of \$19 for every man, woman and child. But the government of the United States, plus its local governments, was going in the red to the tune of \$54 for every man, woman and child.

Copyright.—WNU Service.

STROBECK, Chess Town



Chess is Taught in Schools of Strobeck.

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

"STROBECK, the chess town, is in the Harz mountains, near Halberstadt, only a step off your route from Berlin to Weimar," says the German guide. At dusk four hours after you leave Leipzig, you are deposited, somewhat bewildered, at a little brick station surrounded by yellow stubble fields and a few old elms. Not a sign of a town can be seen.

"Where's Strobeck?" you ask the agent with some concern, as the train disappears around a bend and leaves you in the shadows.

"Over yonder, where you see the gray church spire among the green trees. It's only a half hour away by foot," he replies with a quizzical smile.

With no taxis or other means of transportation in sight, you leave your bags at the station and start off toward the town.

Finally you land breathlessly in front of the village inn, the Gasthof Schattenberg, on the edge of a public square. You are in Strobeck, the only place in all Germany, if not all Europe, where the royal art of chess is taught year after year in the school.

Adjoining your simple quarters in the inn is the huge entertainment hall devoted to chess, the best room in the house. The walls are decorated with paintings and mottoes. On the tables are the chessboards, ivory pieces and pawns and other precious sets, hand-carved and charcoaled by local artists.

You may be shown the old-fashioned chessboard, not exhibited to everybody. It illustrates the character of the village and on it is the inscription that it was given to Strobeck by the Elector of Brandenburg on May 13, 1661.

"Strobeck must be a quiet place in which to sleep, after the seething capitals of Europe," you dare to hope, as you retire between feather beds to rest in August.

False hope! Across the cobblestone way is a tiny bakery shop with a bell on the door. Every time a child is sent for a loaf of bread or a cookie the bell tinkles merrily. Strobeck's innumerable dog population barks most of the night.

Ramble Through the Town.

At 5 a. m. the wagons clatter over the cobblestones to the fields; for Strobeck's 1,400 inhabitants are not only chess-minded but agriculturally-minded as well. Every driver entertains himself by cracking his whip over the brawny backs of his oxen. The geese begin to gabble there, and the hens begin to cluck, cluck to the chicks, and the cows low all over the town. Strobeck is up and doing.

You breakfast on bread, chocolate, and a dash of golden marmalade. Then a guide takes you in tow for a sight-seeing ramble.

Many of the red-tiled houses of the medieval village remind you of the picturesque cottages of old England. On some of them are black and white targets, and others suggest the influence of chess in their style of architecture.

On the fringe of the village are found men and women in a cloud of dust threshing rye, from which the everyday bread of Strobeck is made. The fertile fields surrounding the village have been swept clean and the crops of rye, oats, wheat, barley, potatoes and beets are being stored.

Finally you arrive at school, where your guide introduces you and explains your mission to the master. He, in turn, introduces you to his flock of boys and girls ranging in age from ten to fourteen. These children carry their chessboards to school as naturally as American school children carry their books.

"This is the only grade in which we teach the children how to play chess," says the master. "Here we teach the game during the last three months of the school year—January, February, and March. The children attend school, however, every month in the year—from 7 to noon in summer and 8 to noon and 1 to 3 p. m. in winter."

Chess in the School Room.

Like the royal children of the Kingdom of Cyrus, who had to learn the laws of chess "almost with their mother's milk," so the children of Strobeck learn early, with their ABC's, to master the rules and regulations of the game.

"How many rooms have you here?" you ask of the master.

"We live in 12 and all 12 are in the schoolhouse," he replies.

Returning to the classroom, you find the children ready with 16 chessboards. Soon you are forgotten, as the master explains the laws of the game and the functions of the chessmen. The children set up their black and white pieces in formal array on the checkered battlefields.

"Players with the white pieces make the first move," announces the schoolmaster.

Slowly and carefully the young enthusiasts make their moves, and it is with keen interest that you watch the uniform courtesy that they display to their opponents, their quiet and undemonstrative behavior in times of defeat or victory. The fast thinkers win their games in five to ten moves, while the slow thinkers look long at their men and move slowly. The average player wins or loses his game in 40 to 50 moves. Some are badly beaten and some resign and start all over again. While the games are being won or lost, there is no talking or whispering.

"Strobeck is the home of chess," the master reminds you, as he sends the children back to their lessons. "Don't fail to see the historical chess tower, where the chess champions of the town held their first contests a half century before William the Conqueror landed in England."

Regretfully you leave the kindly schoolmaster and proceed to the tower of chess in the heart of the village.

"You see the balcony," says the guide, when he succeeds in cajoling the key from the keeper and opens the heavy door. "The tower since the year 1011 has entertained two groups of players, one on the balcony and one on the ground floor."

Story of the Chess Tower.

That this tower should have played a part in the legendary origin of the royal game in Strobeck is most natural. When Henry the Second of Germany decreed that the Wendish Count of Gungelin be delivered to the Bishop of Strobeck, to be kept in solitary confinement, the prisoner was straightway whisked off to this stronghold.

The royal captive soon learned how to beguile the lonely hours by playing chess, a game in which he was passionately interested. He chafed out a chessboard on his dungeon floor and carved two sets of chessmen out of wood. Then being doomed to play alone, this ingenious prisoner made his right hand the opponent of his left, and the game went on.

In due time the Strobeck peasants who took turns in guarding the door of his cell became interested in the count's maneuvers on the checkered floor and were initiated into the mysteries of the game. They, in turn, taught the rules to their wives and children.

This legend of the origin of chess in Strobeck was perpetuated on the town's chess-inspired paper money.

Yearly Tournament Held.

In this atmosphere of legendary chess Strobeck enjoys a quiet, bucolic life. Once a year a chess tournament is held in the village school, usually with 48 contestants taking active part in the tourney. The victors carry off the trophies, which are always new chessboards, and are escorted home in honor. Then the village is alive with gay banners and badges, and living chessmen, kings and queens, bishops and knights, and pawns parade the streets. Visitors interested in chess flock into Strobeck from many points.

While a village merchant waits for customers, he entertains himself with the exciting problems of chess, and when business knocks he lays his chessboard aside only while the purchaser is served. So his father has done before him. So his son will do after he is gone.

Wherever people go in Strobeck for entertainment and refreshment, they find chessboards and chessmen provided for their amusement. The game is part and parcel not only of the town's educational and recreational hours, but of its business hours. The entire village breathes chess morning, noon, and night, generation after generation.

When a Strobeck maiden marries a man from the outside world, she must play a game of chess with the chief magistrate of the village before she leaves her native heath, in order to prove that she carries with her the knowledge of the traditions of the community.

HOW ARE YOU TODAY

DR. JAMES W. BARTON
Talks About

Underweight Children
IN THESE days when parents are trying to reduce weight, the fact that their youngster is a little underweight may not disturb them very much.

However just as overweight is a liability in adults past forty, so is underweight a liability or menace to health in children.

Sometimes parents who were quite thin as youngsters and are now much overweight think nothing of their youngster being underweight as they think it is a natural or inherited condition. Now there is no question but that children usually resemble their parents — it couldn't be otherwise—but that children must be thin or underweight and remain underweight because the parent they resemble was very thin, is not necessarily true. Dr. James S. McLester, Birmingham, Ala., the noted nutrition expert and this year president of the American Medical association, says, "Improvement of the stock as a result of the betterment of the diet has been observed repeatedly in the lower animals and in men. Chinese living under improved nutritive conditions in Hawaii grow taller than people of the same type or strain in China and their growth continues to a greater age than does the growth of those remaining in China. Thus the average height at twenty years of age was one full inch more than that of similar groups in the province of Kwantung from which they had come to Hawaii."



Dr. Barton

Physique Varies With Habitat.
Similarly children born of Japanese living in California show definite superiority in height, weight and other characteristics over their parents who had come to California from Japan.

Also children born in the large cities of America are taller and have a better physique than their parents who came from Europe.

It is common observation in medical schools that the Jewish students of European parentage who apply for admission are strikingly superior in physical make-up to their parents.

Better food and better living habits can improve the children of natives in any country anywhere.

However, being taller—an inch or more in height—does not always mean being stronger or more able to withstand hardships or ailments, nevertheless it is only too true that there is abundant evidence that greater strength and a better physique accompany this increase in height. This was shown recently when of 160 English school children, selected to compete in athletic events, 87 per cent of the winners were above the normal for height and weight and only 6 per cent below normal, and the winners showed a proportion of overweight three times that of the seconds, thirds, and also-rans.

Milk Increases Stature.

From Japan a public health bulletin stated that when groups of Tokyo school children were given milk in addition to their regular diet, not only was there a greater increase in weight and height, but these children were more cheerful and happy and showed greater powers in athletics than did those who were not given this extra supply of milk.

Now the best building foods for children are meat, eggs, and milk, but meat and eggs are expensive and not available to some families. However good energy giving and fattening foods can be used generously such as butter, bacon, cereals, bread, sugar with meat or eggs once a day at least and twice if possible.

In addition to this, foods rich in minerals should be eaten daily—cheese, leafy vegetables, fruits, nuts. Also foods rich in vitamins—green vegetables—spinach, lettuce, string beans, beet tops; yellow vegetables, tomatoes, oranges, bananas, grapefruit, cabbage, liver.

Besides good food, rest is of vital importance in building up undernourished children. Rest or sleep means that all the body processes are working a little more slowly than when the youngster is up and playing, thus not using up the tissues so quickly.

"In the future those races who will take advantage of newer knowledge of foods and their values, will attain a larger stature, greater vigor, increased length of life, and a higher level of living."

Dr. Cooksey's Theory

DR. WARREN D. COOKSEY of Detroit has a treatment for coronary thrombosis which consists of having the patient remain absolutely at rest in bed for at least six weeks after the attack. After this another six weeks elapse before any activity is permitted, and careful supervision of the patient's activities is continued for a whole year.

©—WNU Service.

Bath, England, City of Buns, Springs, Duels, Roman Ruins

Ancient Buildings Underlie Foundations of Once Fashionable Spa.

Bath, England, home of the Bath bun and of medicinal springs used since pre-Roman days, is also the place where charming Sally Lunn first baked the famous sweetened tea cakes that bear her name. Re-opening of her original bow-windowed shop in Lilliput Alley reawakens interest in this quaint city, once the most fashionable watering place in England.

"Situated on the Avon, about 12 miles south of Bristol, Bath's gray stone houses climb in parallel terraces up the encircling green hills. Famous as the town where England's Eighteenth century life and culture came into flower, Bath is noted also because it contains more Roman ruins than any other English city," says a bulletin from the National Geographic society. "Roman relics unearthed during recent excavations, although extensive, form only a meager part of the original Roman buildings which underlie practically the entire foundations of Bath."

Romans First to Make It a Resort.

"Bath's turbulent history began about 44 A. D. Roman legions storming westward through the Avon valley found Britons bathing in the medicinal Springs of Sul. Rededicating the springs to Minerva, Romans surrounded them with elaborate mosaic baths, temples and villas. Here swarmed gouty magistrates and wounded warriors to recuperate.

"Ruined by the Saxons, again by the Normans, Bath became a desolate city, its hot springs flooding broken corridors. When Queen Elizabeth visited the city she found it unsanitary, its inhabitants disorderly. In spite of dirt and discomfort, however, Bath's healing springs drew a steady influx of visitors. The baths presented a curious sight with motley mobs of loose-robed men and women wading up to their necks in the steaming water.

"Made fashionable finally by the visit of Queen Anne, Bath became England's most popular spa. Invalid nobility, nouveaux riches, doctors, demi-mondes, and gamblers flocked to the resort. Most famous among the latter was the dandy, Beau Nash, whose dazzling arrival marked the beginning of Bath's era of refinement and greatest prosperity. Until then, although king's sometimes held their courts there, Bath was still a maze of squalid houses crowded together on sordid streets, where pedestrians were attacked by footpads and taunted by owners of Bath chairs. Women were frequently insulted, and men danced in muddy boots, wearing swords, which they drew at the slightest provocation.

Beau Nash, Genial Despot.

"Beau Nash, upon being made master of ceremonies at Bath, made rules forbidding dueling and wearing of swords while dancing. He had the mean streets paved and lighted, a handsome assembly room built for gaming, and engaged a band for dancing. Under his genial despotism, frivolous life at Bath proceeded daily with many quaint customs.

"After Bath's heyday as a fashion resort passed, it still drew artists and writers, as Greenwich Village does today, to describe its unique life. Most Eighteenth century novels contain references to it. Frequenters of Bath were Dickens, Scott, Goldsmith, Wordsworth, Sheridan, Lord Nelson, Lord Chesterfield, Fielding, Doctor Johnson, and James Boswell. It was in Bath that Sally Fairfax, beloved of George Washington, died. Bath inspired Gainsborough's most beautiful landscapes.

Healing Springs Contain Radium.

"Bath today resembles an ancient 'grande dame,' dreaming over past glories; somewhat faded, but still keeping up appearances. Though no longer England's most fashionable resort, carriages bearing crests still drive through the streets of Bath to discharge well dressed people at expensive shops.

"Many people are still attracted to Bath, as have visitors for over 2,000 years, by its medicinal waters. Its three hot springs yield half a million gallons daily. The healing property of the waters, odorless and not unpleasant to taste, is ascribed to radium, the presence of which stains the drinking glasses yellow."

Adorable Pantie Frock That Is Easy to Make

PATTERN 2556



Here's an adorable frock for a two-to-ten-year-old, and one very easy for mother to make, too. It wears a young round-collared neckline, puffed sleeves for irresistible little girl charm, and roomy pleats for agile youngsters who want "free action." Printed percale would be ever so appealing and practical.

Pattern 2556 is available in sizes 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10. Size 6 takes 2 3/4 yards 36 inch fabric. Illustrated step-by-step sewing instructions included.

Send fifteen cents (15c) in coins or stamps (coins preferred) for this pattern. Write plainly name, address and style number. Be sure to state size.

Send your order to The Sewing Circle Pattern Dept., 367 W. Adams St., Chicago, Ill.
© Bell Syndicate.—WNU Service.

METHOD IN THAT



"Why do you always buy your clothes on the installment plan?" "They try to give me stuff that will last until the installments are all paid."

Mutual

Judge—Have you any fixed abode? Defendant—No; I'm on circuit like yourself.—Punch.

Smiles

Like to Be Sure They're Wanted
"Can't something be done for that ship in distress?" asked an old lady at the seaside.

"It's all right, mam. We sent a line to the crew to come ashore," said the surferman.
Old Lady (excitedly)—Good gracious! Must they have a formal invitation?—Bristol Messenger.

A Sharp Lot, Down Maine
"Gimme an all-day sucker," the lad demanded of the candy man.
He was handed one.
"Looks kind of small," remarked the youth looking at it doubtfully.
"Yeah, the days are shorter."—Portland Express

WRIGLEY'S IS ALWAYS REFRESHING!

BEFORE AFTER

WRIGLEY'S SPEARMINT THE PERFECT GUM

A BIT EXAGGERATED, BUT YOU GET THE IDEA

THE FLAVOR LASTS

THE STANDARD OF QUALITY