

Budget System Speeds Money Bills in House

Eleven Appropriation Measures Already Passed by Congress in Present Session; Three More Reported Out.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Has the legislative "pork barrel" been relegated to the museum...

Well, it surely does look like it. Since the budget system became firmly established in the last session...

In the palmy days of the pork barrel an appropriation bill was made up so as to allow every senator and congressman a public building, a river and harbor improvement...

Highly Developed Art. Time was when a congressman could get this and that little appropriation for his district...

The pork barrel and log-rolling brigades have found themselves up against a stone wall in efforts to get additional appropriations...

Under the new budget system the departments submit their estimates to the director of the budget...

As a result of the establishment of the budget system and the elimination of pork barrel practices...

Three other bills have been reported from the house appropriations committee. Of these, one has been passed by the house...

Even the senate, which seldom hurries on anything, has shot the appropriation bills through in such a manner as to break all speed limits.

In years past the house leaders regularly resolved at the beginning of the December session to turn over a new leaf and get the appropriations out of the way at a reasonably early date.

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Imagination Lured Girl Into Jewel Theft, Belief



CLARA MACKRASKY.

Imagination ran away with Clara Mackrasky, 19, and lured her into stealing \$3,000 worth of jewelry from the home of her employers...

She used to talk to my daughter about the screen stars," said Wilinsky. "She was refined, her attention to Mrs. Wilinsky was beyond reproach and she exhibited peerless consideration."

Miss Mackrasky was arrested at Union station where she intended to board a train for Sioux City, she said. "I was tempted," she said Saturday morning, "and I just fell. The diamonds dazzled me. I picked them up and started out."

When she was arrested she had \$5 in cash. "Have you the valuables on your person?" detectives asked her. "Yes," she is said to have replied, "they are in the bosom of my dress."

The loot included two diamond rings, two beaded bags and a platinum ring. \$5,000,000 from the estimates may have been wiped out, but the final appropriations are expected to be somewhat below the estimates.

Increases Few Items. The house appropriations committee has increased a few items above the budget estimates, but the total carried in each of the six bills has been less than recommended by the budget.

Of the four bills which have been passed by the house the amount in one, that of the Departments of Commerce and Labor, exceeded the estimates. This was due to the action of the house in adding \$300,000 for the immigration service above the amount recommended by the committee.

The senate committee boosted the total for the Navy department above the estimates. The committee added \$1,797,840 to the house bill which makes the total \$300,403 in excess of the bill.

Hold Early Hearings. Centralization of the handling of appropriations in a single committee in each house, one of the changes which accompanied the adoption of budget system is a material factor in making it possible to speed up the handling of the bills.

House Makes Cut. Figures relative to the six bills thus far reported from the house committee on appropriations give a line in the manner in which the system is operating. The six bills provide appropriations for the Treasury department, the State and Justice departments, the Commerce and Labor departments, the Navy department, the Agricultural department and the Interior department.

The budget estimates for these departments totalled \$836,623,692. Adding the totals for the four bills as passed by the house and the remaining two, those for the Department of Agriculture and the Interior department, as reported from committee, the aggregate is \$831,179,853, which shows a reduction of \$5,443,839 below the budget estimates.

The senate appropriations increased the totals carried by treasury, state and justice, commerce and labor and navy bills by \$2,705,396 over the amounts provided by the house. Some additional increases may be made when the agriculture and interior bills reach the senate.

By the time the six bills become law the greater part of the house reduction of more than

the local authorities recently to be scattered among seven or eight different committees.

In the senate the system is somewhat different. The appropriations are under control of the appropriations committee, but the ranking members of the committee which handles legislation affecting a particular department sits with the appropriation committee in the consideration of the bill affecting that department.

This system represent a compromise between the old system and that employed by the house.

Jacko Runs Amuck. Cincinnati, O., Dec. 30.—The police of Dayton, O., are convinced that there is a "monkey business" going on in Cincinnati. They telegraphed to the local authorities recently to be on the lookout for a monkey who should recognize himself by the name of "Jacko" and who had been stolen from his owner in the Gem City.

Buying of Bonds Sets Record in Last 12 Months

Stock and Bond Prices Close Year at Materially Higher Levels, Showing Business Improvement.

New York, Dec. 30.—(By A. P.)—Stock and bond prices generally close the year at materially higher levels, which is not only a reflection of the marked improvement that has taken place in business and industry during the last 12 months...

For the year closes with conditions favorable for a further appreciation of commodity and security prices in the opinion of the financial community.

Unfavorable and unexpected developments in the political and economic situation abroad are generally considered as the only probable obstacles to arrest the improvement in the business and financial world, which began in the summer of 1921, and has continued with few temporary interruptions, until the present time.

The prediction of further business prosperity is based on successful well known facts. Foremost among these is the exuberance of the money market and the huge sums available for commercial credit.

In addition, most stocks of merchandise are low, railroad traffic is close to record levels, exports are increasing, the principal European exchanges are heading back to par and the European economic situation shows signs of improvement.

Exports are increasing and unfilled orders for railroad equipment are at largest in years. Other favorable signs are seen in the fact that no big strikes are threatened or pending, a great amount of construction work is still in progress, despite a record-breaking year of activity in the building industry, automobile production reached a new peak, which probably will be exceeded next year, while gasoline consumption has been the highest in history, and electric companies are doing a record business.

Stock Sales Increase. Sales of stocks during the year totalled approximately 200,000,000 shares, as compared with 171,000,000 shares in 1921, and 123,000,000 shares in 1920. The record breaking year of 1919, when post-war inflation was at its height, bond sales this year reached the unprecedented total of approximately \$4,155,000,000 against \$3,565,000,000 in 1921, \$2,825,000,000 in 1920 and \$2,775,000,000 in 1919.

The peak of bond prices for the year was reached in the middle of September and the lowest level early in January. One of the features of the bond market was the return of United States government war bonds to par, to refunding of the Victory notes, and, barring war loans, not yet refunded, the record breaking volume of foreign government, corporate and municipal floatings, which reached a total of \$685,100,000 for the first 10 months of 1922, as compared with \$403,100,000 during the same period in 1921.

Wide Fluctuation. The widest fluctuation in the stock market took place in shares of the Atlantic Refining company, seldom dealt in, which ranged from a low of \$900 to a high of \$1,575, or \$675 difference. Among the active industrial issues, Mexican Petroleum provided the chief feature, getting as low as 106 3/4 and as high as 322, or a range of 215 1/2 points.

Another interesting development in the stock market was the declaration of stock dividends totalling more than \$2,000,000,000.

Substantial Recovery. While most industries showed substantial recovery from post-war inflation, the number of failures during the year was the largest on record and the volume of liabilities next to the largest ever recorded. Severe labor troubles, particularly the miners' and shompen's strikes, also had disastrous effects, costing each of the principal railway systems, millions of dollars and even more to business generally.

For the first time on record, there was a marked shortage of manning in labor force part to the restriction of immigration, where in 1921 the number of unemployed was estimated as high as 4,000,000 or 5,000,000.

Crops with few exceptions, were of record size and the higher prices brought vastly greater purchasing power to the agricultural regions, particularly the south. The foreign demand for foodstuffs was not very heavy until the close of the year. Exports as a whole were the smallest since 1915, although in November they were \$59,000,000 over those of November, 1921, and the highest since March, 1921.

Mellon Urges Passage of Capper Farm Credits Bill. Washington, Dec. 30.—(By A. P.)—Enactment of the Capper rural credit bill, together with the extension of the power of the War Finance corporation for nine months, rather than the Lenroot bill, which heretofore has borne the administration stamp, was urged by Secretary Mellon before the senate banking commission.

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Nebraskans View Roman Ruins in Southern France

Travelers See Best Preserved Arena, Famous Maison Carree Temple and Pont du Gard, Magnificent Aqueduct, at Nimes.

By C. W. MCASKILL, Pastor of the Methodist church at Hastings, Neb., and former pastor of the Hanscom Park Methodist church in Omaha, who is touring Europe with his wife. This is one of a series of his articles.

"Omnia Gallia in partes tres divisa est." What school boy does not remember these first lines of Caesar's commentaries? How vividly they came to us today.

We are actually here in ancient Gallia. We are treading on the very ground where Julius Caesar and his soldiers trod. These streams are the very ones over which he constructed the bridges that we labored so hard to reconstruct in miniature in our early days of Latin study.

Two thousand years ago the Romans quarried these huge stones and bulid the massive buildings that have stood the ravages of time, of rain, storm, cold and heat, of war, and even the demolishing hand of man, and are yet monuments of beauty and grandeur.

I had not realized that southern France is so filled with monuments of early Roman civilization. Hardly a city or town of any size but has the ruins of some theater, some arena, some aqueduct, some other ancient Roman building. Sober no city, however, outside of Rome itself, has more or better preserved ruins than has the city of Nimes.

Old Roman Arena. In the heart of the city, the center of the business district, is the old Roman arena. Though it is not so large as the arena in Rome or in Verona, or even in Arles, it is in the best state of preservation of any of the kind. It is an ellipse of 145 by 175 yards, 70 feet high, its masonry over 100 feet thick, and its seating capacity over 20,000. It is built of limestone blocks, 6 to 10 feet, perfectly adjusted without mortar, and the exterior walls seem almost as perfect today when they were first constructed, only beautified by age. And this is in spite of the fact that the building has suffered by man's brutality, as well as by the hand of time.

It has been used as a fortress, it has been filled with earth, mean houses have been built inside of it, and even the arena, some aqueduct, some other ancient Roman building. Sober no city, however, outside of Rome itself, has more or better preserved ruins than has the city of Nimes.

Best Preserved Basin. It is a stone-walled basin about four feet deep and at least 30 feet in diameter. One large opening at the rear, four by four feet, at the water level, the basin, as the lower openings are 10 circular openings each about one and one-half feet in diameter, to distribute the water in different parts of the city. Eight of these openings remain complete, the two in front have the top worn off. There was also a large overflow drain down from the front. The water was conducted from the openings by sideways. This is probably the most unique and best preserved Roman water basin in existence.

In the city of Avignon, not far from Nimes, are the ruins of another bridge, St. Benzet, and while not a Roman structure it has, nevertheless, a most interesting history. It is probably the only great bridge known built by a mere lay. Good St. Benzet, or "Saint Benzet" as he was called, was a shepherd boy, born at Avillar. Tradition says that he had a revelation that he was to build a bridge across the Rhone here at Avignon. When he entered the town and let his mission be known the townspeople mocked at the idea that a lay should undertake that which had baffled Julius Caesar. His reply was to help me to succeed where pagans failed.

Completed in 1188. He asked one man for aid. The man mockingly said, "If your bridge is to be of stone, take that big one lying before my door." It was a stone 13 by 7 feet. The boy knelt upon the stone, made the sign of the cross, then arose picked up the stone and carried it to the bank of the river. Tradition says this was the first stone used in building the bridge.

After much discouragement the boy finally got some persons to believe in him. They organized an order that for eight years went about all over that part of France collecting money, and under this boy's inspiration and guidance the bridge finally was built. It was begun in 1177 and completed in 1188, and at the time was one of the largest bridges in France. On the side near Avignon was built a small chapel where St. Benzet presided during his lifetime, and where his body was buried until 1672 when it was transferred to the St. Celestine church. The little chapel and three spans of the original 18 of the bridge are all that remain.

"Sage of Silver Creek." Hastings, Neb., Dec. 30.—(Special Telegram.)—Charles Wooster died at his home at Silver Creek at 12:25 this morning. The time of the funeral will be fixed after relatives are heard from. Mr. Wooster attended the meeting of the Farmers' League here Wednesday and participated in the debate. He was found ill on the road returning to his home Thursday. Mr. Wooster was widely known as the "sage of Silver Creek."

Chicago, Dec. 30.—(By A. P.)—Optimism for 1923 permeated summarizations from a business standpoint of the year now closing as made public by the annual meeting of Chicago's leaders in finance and industry. They gave their reasons for their satisfaction with the situation, chief of which were:

Upward trend of trade; a tone of greater confidence; improved conditions of agriculture, increasing business activity general; favorable condition of bank reserves; interest rates and credit structure; more normal relationship between prices of different classes of commodities, better foreign exchange quotations.

Increased prices of farm crops were generally given an important place in the statements which declared that good crops had been harvested, prices to the farmer have risen and he now is buying more freely and paying his debts. George M. Reynolds, chairman of the board of the Continental and Commercial National bank, said:

"In the year now closing, business men and bankers have had to face many obstacles. Liquidation of frozen credits, particularly in the agricultural sections was left over from 1921, the foreign situation acted as a deterrent and the coal and railroad strikes were retarding influences.

"As the year progressed, credits continued to thaw out. The farmer harvested good crops and his prices have risen so that now he is paying his debts and buying more freely. Better quotations for the exchanges of some of the leading countries of Europe point to the efforts that have been made towards economic adjustment abroad.

General Trend Upward. "The general trend of trade has been upward and we do not hear of a large accumulation of merchandise in any line or at any point. Unmistakably, there is a tone of greater confidence than has existed at any other time in 18 months."

Louis F. Swift, president of Swift & Co., said: "It has taken longer than usual to recover from the depression of 1921, because we had a greater economic upheaval than during the former depressions. But business has been on the mend during 1922, so that the country is now fairly prosperous."

Two men, one of them armed, entered the lobby of the El Beudor apartment hotel at Eighteenth and Dodge streets shortly after 2 Saturday morning and ordered W. E. Hall, night clerk, and George Cook, elevator conductor, to put up their hands.

Both Hall and Cook were then locked in a toilet while the holdup men rifled the cash drawer of \$120 in cash and several hundred dollars in checks. They overlooked a small amount of money in the safe, which was unlocked.

Cook and Hall finally broke some straps with which the door of their impromptu prison was fastened and called police. They furnished good descriptions of the bandits, neither of whom was masked.

One thousand dollars reward was posted Saturday by T. J. McCormick, Omaha manager for the Shafer Oil company, for the arrest and conviction, or information leading thereto, of the slayer of Edward Stone, who died from bullet wounds received when he was said to be defending the funds of the Shafer filling station at Sixteenth and Pinkney streets from a lone highwayman the night of December 12.

Police authorities were notified of the reward. Men wear skirts trimmed with lace and ribbons at weddings and social functions in Czechoslovakia.

"THE FINEST STORE IN THE WORLD" for Men and Women

Now Open! Leon's in the World Theater Building featuring Ladies' Furnishings and Nationally Known Standard Haberdashery for Men Phoenix Gotham Gold Stripe and Realmart Hosiery for Men and Women Futurist, Phoenix and Kayser Silk Ladies' Underwear

Good Times in 1923 Predicted by Chicagoans

Financial and Industrial Leaders See General Improved Conditions in Business.

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Sugar Beet Growers Form Sales Agency

Scottsbluff, Neb., Dec. 30.—(Special.)—Organization was perfected here of a Co-operative Beet Growers' association, which will seek to enlist all the farmers who raise sugar beets in the North Platte valley as members, giving the organization power to negotiate a contract for them the next three years.

At least 30,000 acres will be pledged to the association. In the opinion of the founders, that will give the organization control over three-fourths of the sugar beets and will force, it is believed, the most favorable terms possible with the Great Western Sugar company. A penalty of 25 cents a ton was agreed upon for farmer members who violate their contract in becoming members of the association and negotiate separate terms with the sugar company.

Bank Clearings Make Big Gain

Figures of Omaha Clearing House Show Increase of \$78,000,000 Over 1921.

Bank clearings gained \$75,570,651 during 1922 over the total clearings for 1921, according to figures furnished by the Omaha Clearing house Saturday.

Total bank clearings for 1922 were \$1,981,529,345, as compared to \$1,905,958,694 for 1921.

While clearings for the past week did not measure up with the clearings the week before Christmas, they were much larger than last year. Merchants say a big Christmas business is an unfolding sign that there will be a big January business.

The clearings for the week were \$36,567,664, as compared to \$40,434,305 last week and \$27,289,420 the corresponding week last year.

Table showing the clearings for each month during 1922 and comparative totals follows:

Table with columns for month and amount. Total for 1922: \$1,981,529,345. Total for 1921: \$1,905,958,694. Increase: \$75,570,651.

Head of County Hospital Says Doctors Seek Control

Don Westgard, present superintendent of the county hospital, Saturday charged that Omaha medical men seek to take over control of that institution.

Westgard, according to a canvass of several county commissioners, will lose his position. The rumor is that a physician is to take his place after January 4, at which time the new county board reorganizes.

"The first intimation of my ousting was when I read of it in The Omaha Bee," said Westgard. "I know nothing about it. But the medical fraternity which desires the change will not last six months."

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