

Financial Books of Government Show Big Profit

Expenditures During Last Year \$276,842,518 Less Than Receipts—Further Tax Cut Possible.

Washington, Jan. 1.—The government closed its financial books for the year last night with a record of having received \$1,164,965,500, almost \$500,000,000 more than was paid into the treasury in the calendar year 1923. Its expenditures were \$888,865,052, leaving a net balance of \$276,842,518.

The year just closed was marked by unusual activity at the treasury. It funded the great British war-time debt and the smaller obligation of Finland; it refunded into easy handling form the last of the \$200,000,000 victory loan and more than \$2,000,000,000 other government securities and made steady progress toward reducing the huge war-time debt of this country. Its budget for the last fiscal year was balanced and officials are confident that the policy of retrenchment has made possible another year of debt reduction and sound government financing.

Swelling receipts during the calendar year 1923 marked the government's two chief revenue sources—internal taxes on incomes and duties collected at the customs houses. Treasury records show income and profits tax payments for 1923 totaled \$1,868,698,422, as compared with \$1,561,604,062 for 1922; customs revenue for 1923, the greatest in the history of the country, aggregated \$582,589,015, about \$125,000,000 more than the previous year.

Treasury officials expressed satisfaction at the internal tax receipts, declaring the lowered tax rates of the 1921 tax law had borne out the prediction that lower rates would produce more revenue through a stimulation of business. They declared no small amount of the economic recovery was traceable to a return of available funds from its hiding in tax exempt places to the financing of productive enterprise which paid taxes to the government. The higher rate of the administration tariff law was regarded as responsible for the huge government income from that source. The high duties failed to act as a barrier against imports, according to official records which show continued heavy imports after the law went into effect in September, 1922, through the year ending today.

Investors Kick at Wood's Deals

Losses Suffered by Purchasers of Oil Company Securities to Be Investigated.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Stock market speculations and stock selling campaigns by members of Maj. Gen. Wood's family prompted Representative Fear of Wisconsin to announce yesterday that he would introduce a sweeping congressional inquiry. Congress will be asked to go into the whole business of stock market gambling.

The Fear resolution, originally drawn to inaugurate a probe into Gen. Wood's administration of the Philippines, will be redrafted as to provide for a searching investigation as to whether Lieut. Osborne Wood actually made his \$1,000,000 by dabbling in stocks on the New York exchange, how he got his start and how much he really made.

It now is proposed to include a probe of the stock selling activities of Leonard Wood, Jr., damaging accusations have been made against this member of the Wood family by stockholders of the Craven Oil & Refining Co., and the Acme Production Corporation, both of which he represented.

Representative Fear announced his purpose to broaden the scope of the investigation after a conference with Senator Caraway of Arkansas yesterday afternoon.

Welfare Board Has Busy Year

Superintendent Wallace Wilson of the board of public welfare reports the 1923 was the busiest year in the history of his organization. His staff handled 2,724 cases, the principal classifications being as follows: Collection, 1,148; domestic relations, 451; charity, 186; juvenile, 80; legal advice, 107. There were 200 more cases in 1923 than in 1922.

The department nearly \$15,000 through a trust fund and a revolving fund. Many persons who had wages due and were in immediate financial need, were given advances of money and assignments taken.

EDDIE'S FRIENDS



Business in 1923 Like Military Operation

Obstacles Overcome, the Year Ends With Many Records of Productivity and Prosperity Widely Diffused.

Nineteen-twenty-three was a many-sided year—one, in fact, in which the word "irregular" and its synonyms became outworn from much use. It was an improvement, first visible in the summer of 1921 and the calendar year 1922, apparently culminate in the record-breaking industrial output of the first five months. Following this came a tapering off of activity and an ebbing of optimism which almost convinced pessimistic prognosticators that they had successfully forecast the future; but following this, in turn, came a fair measure of improvement—successive gains scored in both wholesale and retail trade over the preceding year, a speeding up of the industrial pace in many lines, and a cheerful ending, in a record holiday trade, of an eventful 12 months.

All in all, the year resembled nothing so much as a military movement, at first in the form of an advance along an entire front, later checked and succeeding this in turn, came detached advance or retreats, accordingly as resistance developed or the realities of the terrain provided obstacles. Individual conditions, in other words, either called for the putting forth of renewed efforts at an advance, the consolidation of positions already won, or in a few instances made necessary withdrawals, pending preparations for a new advance.

The year had its full share of natural drawbacks. Weather conditions operated to discourage buying in the spring and again in the fall, stretches of cold and mild weather alternating, while crop yields were reduced by excessively dry or wet weather or by insect ravages. Still, yields to the farmer, these taken collectively, were better than in 1922 from a pecuniary standpoint, although some losses, notably in wheat and cotton areas, could not possibly be offset by gains elsewhere.

Taken as a whole, the manufacturing industries, after the great forward in the first few months, had a difficult year to operate in. The price situation became fairly stabilized in the course of the year, but there were enough exceptions to give serious concern to producers. It was a year, in fact, in fact, employment, with the labor scarcity present until late in the year and public purchasing ability, except in the cases of some wheat and cotton growers, at probably its highest point. The railways were called upon to handle a record volume of traffic, and rolled up unprecedented gross earnings, doing this with unprecedented dispatch at a slight reduction in operating expense ratios, unless rendering less in net profits than in years when gross receipts were far smaller. The building trades made new history in 1923, and, with the automobile industry, set up new records of production and expenditure. Export trade was slightly larger than in 1922, but the farmers suffered heavily from the loss of trade in grain, mainly wheat, this being made up by increased exports of manufactured goods and of smaller quantities of higher priced cotton. Imports for a while exceeded exports, but fell off with the quieting of trade in mid-year.

Throughout the year, uncertainties as to future prices, but certainties as to high costs of operation, kept the business world, metaphorically, on its toes. With these two great factors ever present, the tendency, especially after the outbreak of cautionary signals in late March, was to keep close to shore and buy sparingly for all but immediate needs. That this kept down the volume of business and of industry goes without saying, but that it made for safety, though perhaps for smaller profits than were expected, seems equally certain.

And yet, with all its drawbacks, foreign and domestic, our foreign markets being crippled and the exchange situation having dangers of its own, while domestic affairs were unsettled by the appearance of a new crop of radical measures put forward by political ghost dancers in the alleged behalf of the farmer, the year was a big year, a wonderful year in fact, with many records of production broken, with prosperity widely diffused, and with the man trained to a trade living better and saving more than ever before in the history of the country.

The money markets displayed a good deal of ease throughout the year and carried a record business without much, if any, evidence of strain. The Federal Reserve Bank notes that the loans and investments of the member banks were larger than in 1920 while their borrowings from the Federal Reserve were far smaller. Thus, the credit extended was \$478,000,000 larger than in the earlier year, while the borrowing was \$2,000,000,000 less.

The great surge forward in trade and industry which characterized the first quarter of the year set up many new high-record production marks, surpassing anything previously seen. The apparent culmination, for the time being at least, of this wonderful advance was heralded by the issuance of a great many cautionary signals by leaders of finance and trade in the last week of March, but the momentum obtained and the banked-up orders on hand kept production at high points for months afterward.

Cold, stormy weather temporarily retarded trade in the last weeks of February and again early in April, when the coldest weather in a third of a century was reported on Easter Sunday. An important event in the textile manufacturing trades in March was the announcement of the granting of advances in wages, of about 12 to 15 per cent, to 45,000 workers in woolen mills. Coming at a time when cotton mill workers were demanding a complete or partial return to the wage levels of 1920, this action seemed to precipitate a very general movement toward increased compensation of industrial workers, stretching well throughout the second and third quarters of the year, lines especially prominent being textile manufacturing (cotton, woolen and silk), iron and steel mills and other industries. Inability to get prices of cotton goods up to a parity with raw cotton caused a good deal of curtailment at various times in the year.

March saw imports exceed exports for the first time since the outbreak of the world war. April witnessed a slump in building at New York, which later spread to other cities and brought building expenditures in June below those of 1922. Early August saw the sudden upturn in cotton prices, on which a 70 per cent advance was scored before it culminated in December.

The death of President Warren G. Harding on August 3, and the subsequent mourning observances, accentuated the quiet in trade and industry proceeding from usual midsummer causes. Later weeks of August, however, saw the beginning of the later-than-normal opening of fall trade. Helpful in this direction, especially at the south, was the rapid advance in cotton prices from the low of late July.

The effects of the earthquake in Japan early in September were reflected in a sharp advance in prices of raw silk, with sympathetic gains in manufacturing goods and claims of diversion of much buying from silks to wools.

Mid-September witnessed a lull of the New York newspapers by an out-law article of pressmen, which had a perceptible influence on retail trade distribution in that city. Late in that month the price of corn practically doubled, while the price of wheat at Chicago, scarcely a year ago, was at a low point. The return in a slight degree of Russia to the world's grain export trade.

In considering prospects for the coming year in trade and industry, it is worth recalling that the tone of recent months has been much more cheerful than that, say, in the early summer, or even in midsummer. For this the failure of many pessimistic predictions in midyear is partly responsible, and it is evident that mass psychology has had, and will have, an important bearing upon the way men will face the uncertainties of the coming year.

As to the disposition, however, to ignore the fact that prices, and there fore fill costs, including those of labor, are high, and history may be cited to show that high costs have tended to decline as the distance from the war, which swelled these costs, increased, or building the disposition will be apparently to go forward cautiously, and to keep near shore as regards buying for the future. In this direction, undoubtedly, safety lies. But, on the other hand, the prospects seem to favor a continuance of the big construction programs, especially in the building of railways. Slight must not be lost of the fact that high labor prices have brought in their train big expenditures, which in themselves have constituted a powerful support for general trade and industry.

The automobile trade continues one of the wonders of the world, both as regards enormous output and likewise in respect to the immense buying power revealed. Not so much is heard now of location of the saturation point in the business, as to whether there will be a question as to whether there will be room on the roads to operate those in use, those being built, or those expected to be built in the years to come.

As to the fact that the year now opening will see a presidential election with presumably considerable research done not altogether confirm the popular idea that a presidential election of and by itself necessarily constitutes a danger to business. There have been some presidential elections when business was very good, and others when it certainly was poor. To instance a few, it may be remarked that 1892, 1900 and 1912 were good years in business, while 1884, 1896, 1904 and 1908 were rather poor specimens. In fact, examination of business history rather reveals other causes as mainly operative in the good and bad years.

L365 Suits for Divorce Filed

Decrees Granted in 922 Cases in 1923 in Douglas County.

In 1923 there were 1,365 divorces filed in district court of Douglas county, compared with 1,360 in 1922. Nine hundred and twenty-two divorces were granted in 1923.

Other suits of various kinds filed were as follows for the last year and the year before:

Attachment 21
Appeal and error 399
Change name 5
Contract 11
Cancellation of mortgage 11
Foreclosure 141
Injunction 26
Partition 40
Real estate 68
Assault, libel, slander, malicious prosecution, personal injury 295
Treason, conversion 25
Fraud, injury to property 48
Partition 105
Deed, quiet title 15
Replevin, quo warranto 18
Workmen's compensation 19

Total amount of verdicts returned in civil cases in favor of plaintiffs during the year was \$612,344.

During the year 301 insanity cases were filed in the court, and 79 dip-somannia cases.

The number of juvenile cases filed was 237.

Despite warnings and losses, wheat farmers again planted heavily of winter wheat in 1923, and abundant moisture has made for a high condition.

Some other outstanding events of the year, having greater or less significance to or bearing upon American trade or business conditions, were the occupation of the Ruhr districts by the French, the consequent year-long unsettlement of European political and business conditions, the year-long decline in the quotations of the mark to a point where it merely had a nominal value, our agreement with Great Britain on the debt settlement, the killing of the ship subsidy measure in congress, the rejection by the senate of the world court proposition, the decision holding valid the amended grain futures act, the successful floating of the Austrian loan with the rally in value of that country's money, our refusal twice of soviet recognition, the short-lived but exceedingly effective anthracite miners' strike, the dispute between Italy and Greece resulting in the bombardment of Corfu, the resumption of diplomatic relations with Mexico, the formal ending of German passive resistance in the Ruhr, the establishment of the Turkish republic, and the return in a slight degree of Russia to the world's grain export trade.

Looking Forward.

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STELLA DALLAS

By Olive Higgins Prouty.

Deported by her husband, Stephen Dallas, because of her frivolity and extravagance, Stella Dallas, wife of the millionaire, lives in the "cheapest room" in the city. She is a beautiful girl, blonde, with blue eyes, and she is the love of Mrs. Morrison, a friend, while she is away on a trip to Europe. Stella goes to a safe, where she meets a man who is a musical force.

On a small table beside Helen Morrison's bed there was a picture of a little girl whose pages also had never been written on. Often Helen Morrison would take the lovely little miniature of her dear child close to the strong light, and gaze at it hard and long, in a hungry attempt to recall how the soft cheek used to feel when she brushed her own against it, how the limp little body used to melt into her arms when she held it close.

It was a beautiful baby's face that smiled back at Helen from out of the picture, but it was not like Carol's face. That was the pity of it. What would she have looked like today? (Oh, never to know. Never to know) What strength and confidence and beauty would that weak little body have attained? What strength and confidence and beauty would that spark of fine intelligence, shining so dimly in her eyes, have attained? Little body under her constant care and tending? What had they both lost—this little daughter and herself, in the rare companionship and human love?

Sometimes as Helen gazed at the picture, it seemed that she caught a glimpse of her little girl. She had become tired of waiting, waiting, waiting, so long to grow up. It hurt, even after years, to think of her little girl, who had longed for something feminine of her own. She had never had anything feminine of her own. No sister, no mother. Her mother had died when she was a baby, and her father had remarried. Helen had been brought up by nurses and governesses, under the strict regime of an elderly and matter-of-fact housekeeper.

Helen used to plan by the hour what she would do for a daughter if she ever had one of her own. Even before she thought seriously about it, she had built up a picture of that little dreamgirl of hers. She should have all the joys and delights which her own childhood had lacked. She should be surrounded and surrounded by feminine tenderness and comprehension. She should have a friend always waiting for her at home, to play with her, or to talk with her, or to love pretty clothes with her, or to hold hands with her when it thundered and lightened, or when she was afraid. For there would still be somebody holding her hand, reassuring her, making facts kind and clear and familiar.

Helen had ideas about girls and what made for happiness in their lives. She would have filled the blank spaces of her little daughter's book full of colored and lovely things. When that little girl was born, Helen Morrison had been married several years. She had already had two boys and a girl, and she had a mother. A little girl, a little feminine creature of her own, was placed in the arms of Helen Morrison. It seemed as if a bit of heaven itself had slipped through the clouds. Her cup was full and brimming over. Her heart was full and overflowing. She had longed so long ago, the day she was born when her mother died, had been given back to her again!

She had two brightly happy years with her daughter (Carol, she named her). It became the sweetest word in the English language to her, and then suddenly, with the arrow-like swiftness of a bolt of lightning from the skies, death struck straight down into the holy of holies of her heart and killed her darling. By a mere accident the realization of her lifelong hope was broken into fragments—disintegrated into a thousand poignant little memories. Her little girl became a dream again, an idea, a picture on ivory. "There were her boys" comfort. Yes, yes. Of course. Thank heaven she had her boys! But, oh, her boys must be loved and loved and loved, strong and tough-muscled. The image she would have modeled out of her bit of little-girl clay was to have been as graceful and lovely as delicate as fine and exquisite as an etching.

After Carol died, Helen Morrison offered her services to a certain charitable institution for working girls in New York City. She was living in New York then. She had been living in New York ever since she married. She thought, perhaps, if something of the young and tender ideals she had had for Carol were given to other girls, then everything about her lovely baby would not remain in that state of unfulfillment which hurt her so every time she looked at the miniature.

It was soon discovered at the working-girls' home that Mrs. Morrison possessed rare genius with girls. She knew just how to approach them, just how to talk with them. She could hold the attention of a whole roomful of factory girls reading poetry—Browning and Keats—out loud to them, and telling them what it meant to her. She could interest a dozen lively little errand girls for an hour

at a time, gathered around an ant-hill in operation, at the edge of one of her garden-paths at her summer place on Long Island. Frequently she had groups from the Home come out from the city during the summer, and spend a day with her in her garden, among the illuminating bugs and bees and flowers.

Helen Morrison usually talked with her working-girls in groups. She seldom came in contact with the girls individually. That was probably why they failed to satisfy her, why they remained, always, simply a worthy charity dedicated to the memory of the little girl beside her bed. It was not until Laura came to Stella with Helen Morrison that she felt the same heart-string, which Carol had pulled so hard once so long ago gently touched again. It hurt a little at first—but Carol took the old pain. But it also brought back a little timid thrill of the old joy and ecstasy.

There was something of the same as about her own child's crystallized innocence. There were areas in Laura's soul, big white expanses, untouched by experience, unscathed by life. It was almost as if those parts of Laura had disappeared into a picture also, when she, too, was just learning to walk alone.

Laurel was nearly the same age as Carol. She was dark like Carol. She wore the same sort of clothes Carol would have worn. She had slept at night in the same bed with a little twinkle, in the same bed where Carol would have slept, sometimes, now her father was gone. Even her name was the same as Carol's. After Helen Morrison said good-bye to Laura at the end of her first visit, wrapped her own coat about her, tucked her in beside her mother in the automobile, and laughingly playfully kissed her good-bye, she hurried away quickly to her own room and closed the door. Taking the miniature close to her, even though she could not see the slow tears ran down her cheeks.

alled her? Ed had been over so generous. Every single Saturday since Laurel had been away, and one Sunday he had planned some diverting form of entertainment. It must have cost him a pretty penny! Stella was filled with remorse that she couldn't work up any real excitement over Ed. He was paying for "all wool" and delivered it, not the imitation stuff she gave him. It was all pretense with her when she returned his various little signs and signals. How pitiful to be so old one isn't even tempted to flirt any more! How amazing to be so crazy about your own child that being crazy about a man loses all interest and excitement in comparison. Sometimes, looking straight into Ed Munn's little red hippopotamus eyes, trying her utmost to pay for his expensive entertainment in the harmless coin that he liked best, the vision of Laurel would appear back there in the dark cavern behind her eyes, down there in the mysterious cave where her heart beat, like a sudden shaft of light would seem to be pointed like a sword, and pierce Stella. Her eyes would become suffused with sudden tears, and tenderness. Dear little Lollie, with her big gray eyes and her dark hair, and sharp-pointed, little-girl shoulders breaking through the hair as it fell to her waist, over her slim white body when she slipped off her nightgown in the morning. Dear precious little Lollie! In a little while they would be together again! What a dizzying thrill of joy the thought gave Stella! Good Lord, how she worshipped the kid!

Once when Stella's eyes had become suddenly soft with the thought of Laurel, Ed Munn had mistaken the cause of her emotion, and grasped hold of her hand, her arm, as much of her as he could reach across the small table that divided them; and that sort of mouth-watering look which always turned Stella's pleasure in a man's attention to distrustful, he persisted in—

England Merry as 1924 Is Born

London, Jan. 1.—Londoners and English folk generally celebrated New Year's eve as it was never celebrated before. Around almost every fire-dial merry-makers listened to the music and speeches broadcast from hotels, restaurants and cabarets.

There was probably not a home in England where a wireless set has been installed, that could not be heard at midnight to hear the chime of Big Ben broadcast.

The gaily at Claridge's was no table because of the presence there of the new American ambassador, Frank B. Kellogg, and Mrs. Kellogg, as well as a score of other Americans.

At the Savoy trumpeters from the Royal Horse Guards fanfare in the foyer at the stroke of 12. As New Year dawned in the ballroom a great electric sun rose from a bower of flowers. A giant hour glass in the Abraham Lincoln room indicated when 1923 gave way to 1924 and six masked bands in the main restaurant were accompanied by 1,000 dancing "Auld Lang Syne."

The oldest party of New Year's greeters was a score of Bohemians who partook of a dollar dinner at a modest restaurant in the theater district, sitting down shortly before midnight. They called themselves "the thin timers," each one avowing that 1923 had been a lean year.

32 Below at Lewiston.

Lewiston, Mont., Jan. 1.—Thirty-two below zero was registered here throughout yesterday. The mercury stood at about 10 below zero, dropping to 24 below at 8 o'clock last night.

For Cold, Grip or Influenza. Buy and use GAYEY'S BATHING BEAUTIES. The box bears the signature of E. W. Grove, 25c—Advertisement.

Where Laughs Await You. EMPRESS. Now Playing. "A Bachelor's Night" In Addition to Photoplays.

Swedish King Joins in Dedication of Town Hall



A spectacular feature of the opening of Stockholm's \$5,000,000 Town Hall by King Gustaf was the regatta in the harbor, shown above in full swing.

Orpheum
Now Playing—2:20 and 8:20

MINTYRE & HEATH
In Their Masterpieces
"The Georgia Minstrel"

John MILLER & MACK
"The Bing Boys"

OWEN McGIVENEY
Presents "Bill Sikes"—A Quick Change Dramatic Episode From Dickens

"THE WAGER"
An Extra Attraction, a Hit of 2 Seasons

Strand
NOW PLAYING

"HER TEMPORARY HUSBAND"
With Sylvia Bremer—Owen Moore, Sidney Chaplin

BRANDER TODAY
Mat. & Ev. Last Two Times

GUY BATES POST
Direction Melville B. Raymond
In Locke's Master-Play

"The Climax" The Song of a Soul

VAUDEVILLE NOW PLAYING
WORDS Now Playing

Happy Holiday Bill
With 6 Comedy Acts in Addition to "THOOT" GIBSON
in "THE THRILL CHASER"

NEIGHBORHOOD THEATERS
GRAND - 16th and Binney
MATTIE - 16th and Seward
in "THE WALL OF SPAIN" MEN
"Days of Daniel Boone," Chap. XIII
BOULEVARD - 33rd and Leavenworth
Ladies' 25th Street
GALA HOLIDAY MAT. AT 3:00 TODAY

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WE CAN DELIVER PROMPTLY
Consumers Coal & Supply Co.
AT 9146. "Dealers in Good Coal" AT 9146

COUGHS COLDS
Demand
35c JARNS 70c
CAMPBELL'S
OF PROVEN BENEFIT
Directions With Every Jar
At All Druggists