

KEEPING MONEY ON THE WING

Methods of Americans in Boosting Financial Aviation. BIG BILLS OF BIG NATION

House and Brand, Diamonds and Autos, Tobacco and Soft Drinks Makes the Cola Roll On.

If ever extravagance has been the national sin of the United States, it is today. And American waste is its twin sister.

Mr. Midas-up-to-date makes merry at the mere thought of it and latter-day Lucullus laughs.

Are people nowadays, they ask you, any more extravagant than the ancient pyrrhies of the days of the Caesars and Nero? How about the money-reckless profligates of the wanton courts of the later Louis, who dusted their love misadventures with powdered pearls to dry the ink from them? How about the other men and other women of other times? They want to know!

Very well, here are some of the amazing figures. Not figments, those, of the overheated brain of the zealot; not generalities that glitter and fade without so much as a figure to bolster them up.

No; here are the cold, calm, dispassionate rows of digits culled from the apparently dry-as-dust government reports issued at the end of the fiscal year, July 1, which tell their story without the hint of an accent or the drop of a tear.

Automobiles cost us more than household furniture every year. We pay our chauffeurs and garage mechanics more than we do our public school teachers.

Our bills for diamonds during the last decade has been just about enough to buy and build the Panama canal—the most stupendous engineering work of all ages.

More bartenders are needed to serve drinks to American men than workers on their clothing and shoes! We pay more for intoxicants than we do for meat—the biggest single item of all our vast expenditures.

Nor is this more than merely scratching the surface. Our wantonness of waste is right here to see in the telltale columns of figures.

Some Souling. Begin with any item—beer, for instance. All right. For the twelve months just past the American man—and woman—has consumed 64,000,000 barrels of beer, more than 11,000,000 barrels than ever before, breaking all records.

There is today on storage in the United States 263,786,070 gallons of whisky, an increase of nearly 50 per cent in ten years. There is more whisky now stored in Kentucky than there was in the whole country a decade ago.

Smoking Up. Its value last year when turned into cigars, cigarettes, plugs and snuff was \$40,000,000. This, of course, is, perhaps, half what it eventually costs the smoker.

It costs us more to light our cigars and cigarettes than it does to light our kerosene lamps and our gas jets. For the latter items are value at \$25,000,000 and \$18,000,000.

For our cigars we have paid \$28,200,000 and for our cigarettes \$20,000,000. Some 27,000,000 more cigars were smoked in the last year than for the year previous, and nearly 3,000,000,000 cigarettes more.

Some Contrasts. The United States supports 22,431 churches. Likewise, 65,000 saloons, more than all our churches, hospitals, colleges and high schools combined!

Our bumper crop of last harvest was worth \$1,500,000,000, the most stupendous of all our items of revenue. And we spent it all for beer. And for each one of several of the pearl necklaces we bought abroad we had to send a cargo of cotton to pay for it!

Drawing the long bow? None! The story is told that one gentleman says his wife's necklace that cost \$200,000. That's worth more than a cargo of cotton. And the \$250,000 diamond necklace stolen in Paris the other day was to have been shown to an American. Three ships could not have carried the cotton to pay for the bauble which you could hold in the hollow of your hand.

In ten years we have sent \$300,000,000 abroad for our diamonds. This year we have added \$42,000,000 more and \$10,000,000 for pearls. This would pay the interest on the national debt for two years and then leave enough to buy a first-class battleship or a couple of cruisers.

Searing Prices. Our American demand for pearls is greater than the supply today and prices are soaring. There are more jewels in the city of New York alone than in any other city of the world. A conservative estimate put the total worth of them at \$200,000,000. This is more than twice the value of the buildings of all the universities, colleges and technical schools in the entire country—double the money in

diamonds in New York City alone than in the buildings for higher education for all the United States, which are worth \$250,000,000! Only a tithe of our luxuries, classed by the government as "articles of voluntary use," come from abroad. Yet our bill for the last year has been more than \$20,000,000, with increases all along the line. Besides the diamonds and pearls, we bought \$4,000,000 worth of furs from abroad, about double what we bought ten years ago. Art works from Europe have set us back some \$90,000,000, a new high record.

Our soda water costs \$20,000,000 a year, as much as our leather. Our candy bill is \$18,000,000—\$10,000,000 more than our bill for paint and varnish. One ostrich feather worth \$5 a year ago now costs \$75. Some foreign perfumery brings \$2 for a twelve-ounce bottle.

Where will it all end?—New York World.

STRANGE SEA SUPERSTITIONS

Why Seafaring Men Do Things that Seem Foolish to Land-lubbers. Why does a seafaring man—captain, cook or cabin boy—consider it unlucky to ship with a man who neglected to pay his laundry bill?

Why does a sailor rearing port after a lengthy voyage gather up old clothes and shoes unfit for further use and ceremoniously commit them to the deep? Why does he like to sail on a ship which displays a shark's tail (or simply the bowsprit or jibboom)?

Why does he place great faith in the merits of a pig as a weather prophet? The simplest answer to these questions is—because the average sailor is superstitious. He may not be quite as superstitious, perhaps, as the old-timer who went long voyages in sailing vessels, but even the advent of the four-day transatlantic liner—skyscraping steamships

and floating hotels which travel from port to port on schedule time in defiance of storms, doldrums and other unfavorable weather conditions—has not quite deprived the sailor of his reputation for superstition. Some day he may become as matter of fact as an underground railway guard, but there still lingers round him enough of the romance and mystery of the sea to make an interesting study of him and his odd beliefs.

During very rough weather at sea it would be hard to convince any old-time sailor that there wasn't a Jonah aboard. Many captains of the old school, who ought to know better, are so superstitious in this respect that it is not uncommon for them to take intense dislike to officers who have happened apparently to be the harbingers of bad weather, and especially fog. It is quite usual on board ship to find members of the crew nicknamed "Foggy Jones," "Heavy Weather Bill" or "Stormy Jack."

Cats on board ship are considered lucky, and many a stray one finds a comfortable home and careful attention with Jack for its friend, although, on the other hand, our domestic friend has at times been held responsible for the continuance of very bad weather and had to play the part of Jonah to the full extent.

Perhaps the most amusing superstition of the sailor is in considering it a crime for any member of the crew to leave port with his washing bill unpaid, as this neglect is generally believed to be the cause of bad weather being encountered just after leaving port.

One of the most curious superstitions is that dealing with the capture of a shark. The natural dread and antipathy with which these monsters of the deep are viewed causes a capture to be hailed with much rejoicing. All hands, from the captain to the cabin boy, take a keen interest in the operations, and having successfully landed the shark on deck—a proceeding that causes no little excitement—it is killed and its tail cut

off. This trophy is then nailed either on the end of the bowsprit or the jibboom and is considered a valuable charm, capable of having the power to bring the ship fair winds and finest of weather. It is not uncommon to see sailing ships lying in port with this peculiar sign of the sailor's superstition, but the custom is fast dying out with the advent of the steamship, where the capture of a shark at sea is a very rare occurrence.

Another remarkable and weird belief is that connected with the albatross. These huge birds, measuring fourteen to eighteen feet from tip to tip of their wings, are only to be seen in the stormy regions of the Capes of Good Hope and Horn and the surrounding latitudes. They follow ships for weeks at a time. The peculiar belief of old sailors credit these birds with possessing the souls of ancient mariners, who, for their misdeeds, have been doomed to scour these stormy regions for eternity.

It is claimed these birds are easily captured by a contrivance of the sailors' own invention, which, being baited, attaches itself to the hooked bill on the albatross attempting to secure the bait, and the bird is then hauled on board. Few captains of ships will allow these birds to be killed by the crew, on account of the belief that the killing would be certain to bring disastrous results.

The killing of a pig at sea is always an occasion of much importance, not only for the reason that fresh meat is to be enjoyed—a great luxury on a sailing ship after perhaps months of salt provisions—but also because what is termed a "pig breeze" or favorable wind may be looked upon as a certainty. Pigs when kept on sailing ships are often let out of their pens, and their movements, which are believed to foretell the state of the wind to be expected, are watched with keen interest. Should a pig show signs of lassitude and merely lie down or wander slowly about the decks, this is considered a sign of calm weather, with little or no wind in prospect, but any friskiness and a great amount of squealing is

hailed as a sure sign of winds, a very necessary factor for the navigation of a sailing ship. Hailing on a Friday is, as many know, considered unlucky. Sunday is generally considered a lucky day, although the superstition as regards the day of sailing is almost forgotten, and seldom commented on in these days of rapid traveling.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Negro All Ready to Be Hanged Informed Execution Delayed

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Oct. 10.—No one took the trouble to tell Wesley Robinson, a negro under sentence of death for the murder of his wife and stepdaughter, that he was not to be hanged today, the date originally set for his execution, so he made all preparations for the ordeal this morning.

The gaunt black, six feet two inches tall, unnerfed, but determined to be brave, dressed himself carefully, and sitting on the edge of his cot waited for the death summons.

After an hour a deputy marshal appeared and the negro in a quaking voice asked: "Is you about ready, boss?" "Ready for what?" "For the—for the—uh—hanging."

The deputy marshal then explained that an appeal to the supreme court acted as a reprieve. Robinson seemed a little disappointed.

Robinson confessed that he killed his wife and stepdaughter and burned their bodies in his own back yard.

Pointed Paragraphs. "Dead Game Sport" is a most expensive title. "Once in a while a man doesn't forget his old friends after acquiring wealth and fame."—Chicago News.

IMPORTANT!—Wear a Tailor Made Suit or Overcoat



IT is necessary to MEASURE you in order to give you FULL MEASURE OF SATISFACTION. We take your exact chest measure, waist line, arm length, height and carriage and TAILOR your SUIT or OVERCOAT in just the style that you may desire.

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A Big Bunch of Bona-Fide Specials for Saturday Shoppers



This store never acquired the chronic Sale habit. It has always pursued a dignified course. It does not condemn special Sales—when they are SPECIAL. It believes that a good and sufficient reason for a special sale permits the use of the term. It believes that it is entirely legitimate to reduce prices at certain times to attract crowds to a store. Several such reasons are back of this Big Saturday offer and here they are.

Men Folks! Read this Special Saturday Offer. Our enlarged men's section has two very special suit offerings for men and young man. At each price the models are all new and up to the minute in style—the fabrics of new weaves, the colors and color combinations unmitigably correct. Same qualities selling all over town right now for \$20 to \$30.

Everybody Should Be Interested in These Specially Priced Items..... From Our Enlarged Knit Goods Section Children's sweaters, suitable for boys and girls, 4 to 8 years, all colors; special Saturday \$1.15

Ladies' union suits in fine white cotton; celebrated Mentor make; special Saturday \$1.15

Women Folks—from Misses to Size 45, Stouts. Read about these coats. The enlarged coat section has several very special pricings of ladies' and misses' coats up to size 45 for stout women. Very distinctive models and rare fabrics in a bewildering range of colors. By all odds Saturday will be your one best opportunity to procure a Benson & Thorne Quality Coat—if price counts with you.

Men's Furnishing Special Men's Union Suits, in celebrated Mentor make, closed crotch styles in extra values... \$1.00

Glove Special for Saturday Washable Chamotte Gloves—the famous Mark Cross make—natural color; regular price \$1.50; Saturday 98c

Special Waist Value for Saturday Ladies' lace waists—cream color—the newest roll collar effect and long sleeves—32 to 40, at... \$5.00

About Ladies' Suits For Saturday we feature several lines of new suits for ladies in new fabrics and \$25 and \$29.50

Boy's Furnishing Specials Boys' Ceylon flannel blouses, regular \$1.00 value... 69c

From the Balcony Shoe Parlors Small boys' patent leather or dull leather shoes, real leather throughout; regular \$2.75 and \$3.00 values; but to get new customers familiar with our boy-proof shoes, these will be offered Saturday at \$2.35

Specials from Our Much Enlarged and Greatly Improved Boys' Clothing Section. Knicker Suits, with two pairs of lined knickers—Norfolk style, at... \$5.00

From Our New Headwear Department To popularize our new and enlarged headwear section, we offer these very special values: Women's and young women's fancy shapes in velvets and plush—artistic trimming of wings and fancy bow effects—regular value to \$6.50—Saturday special \$4.75

Specials from Our Much Enlarged and Greatly Improved Boys' Clothing Section. An extra strong value in high class Sampeck Suits, 7 to 16 years... \$7.50

Specials from the Girls' Coat and Dress Section Girls' coats—7 to 14 years—in new Balkan low belt models, in Zibeline, Chevions, Boule and Chinchilla—special values \$5, \$5.75, \$6.50, \$7.50

From Our New Headwear Department Girls' Plush Corduroy and Zibeline Hats—values up to \$2.50, at \$1.90

Boys' Caps—in endless variety new shapes—new patterns... 50c

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