

First Budget Year Is Encouraging, Figures Indicate

Representative Madden Submits Data Showing Government Expenses Reduced

Omaha, June 1.—Representative Martin B. Madden of Chicago, chairman of the house committee on appropriations, has made a comparative analysis of government expenditures for the last few years, and has submitted data and figures of the first year's record of the budget system which show encouraging results.

Mr. Madden's figures show that a long step forward to normal expenditures has been taken by the government. "It will not be possible, in my judgment," says Mr. Madden, "to reduce the government cost much, if any, below \$3,650,000,000 per annum until the public debt is reduced sufficiently to lower the interest charges and until the period when the need no longer exists for so large an expenditure in connection with the care of the veterans of the world war."

"It may be interesting to know that the expenditures of the government in 1919 were \$19,000,000,000; that they were reduced in 1920 to about \$6,150,000,000. In 1921 a further reduction to \$5,500,000,000 was made and for 1922, the present fiscal year, the expenditures have been still further lowered, to \$3,947,000,000, and the anticipated expenditures for 1923 amount to \$3,650,000,000."

Flicker of an Eyelash

Saves Man From Morgue

Detroit, June 3.—The flicker of an eyelash changed E. M. Sarheim's destination from the morgue to a receiving hospital when Deputy Coroner Conley called for the body of the supposed suicide. Emergency measures taken by the hospital resulted in his recovery.

Sarheim slashed his throat with a razor in a fit of despondency and was reported dead. After ordering a slab of the morgue prepared for the body, Conley responded to the call with a coffin. He was about to deposit Sarheim in the coffin when a slight curving of the man's eyelash indicated that he was not dead.

Question of Who Was Right in Civil War Dropped by Oldest Twins in U. S.

"One Side About as Right as Other," Sisters Decide After 61 Years.



El Paso, Tex., June 3.—A controversy of 61 years' standing over war has been settled at Clint, near here, without any aid from Washington. In fact, the Washington peace conferees knew nothing about the dispute at Clint and the conferees at Clint had but slight inkling of the jamboree at Washington, although both had far-reaching effect.

The Clint controversy began with the civil war and the "conferees," both aged women and twins, never separated for more than a few days at a time, could never agree on whether the north or south was right in that conflict. The husband of one served with the union army and the husband of the other was in the southern army.

The Clint twins are Mrs. Mae Peake and Mrs. Bell Billings, 83. Since birth they have lived together, before their marriage, while their husbands were fighting during the civil war and afterwards. They got along well together, both say, until this war came along, and then they had their first dispute. And while they have always been sisterly and affectionate, there were times when they almost decided it was best to live apart, and the deaths of their husbands, 16 and 18 years ago, failed to end the controversy.

Decide to Bury Hatchet. The twins were born at Camden, Me., in January of 1839, went to Keokuk, Ia., in 1854, and a few years later to Missouri. The family name was Tarbell. Mae Tarbell married Dr. W. Peake, a Virginian. Bell Tarbell married at the same time John Billings, a Connecticut man. Naturally Virginia and Connecticut could not see the war in the same light, so Peake joined the southern and Billings the northern army, leaving the twins at home. The wives took up their husbands' cause. Mae championing the south and Bell the north, and they have been championing thus for the last 61 years. Mrs. Peake, the spryer of the two, acted as spokesman and told of the decision to bury the hatchet.

"You see, it was this way," she explained. "Bell is a mighty sweet girl, always has been, and we lived together fine, or did until that horrid war came along. We were both from Maine, but we stuck to our husbands' states. Bell and I wouldn't be separated from each other, and yet we would not agree on anything in that war. Only once were we apart, and that was when Bell's husband was captured. She went to the southern camp and, although officers there tried to get her to come home, she wouldn't do it without her husband, and, being persistent, she finally got him. Well, the war ended and our husbands came back, and we all went together to California, but Bell and I still argued about the war. That was the only thing we did argue about. Our husbands said they wished there never had been any war, if it was going to result in such a long quarrel, but what could we do? We're from Maine, and neither of us would give in.

Almost Had Peace. "During the Spanish-American and world wars we almost had peace, but something would always come along to start the fuss. Then a few days ago Bell and I were out in the yard making a kettle of lard. We always worked together.

"Bell! I said, 'I believe we're getting old.' 'Yes, Mae,' she said: 'I suppose we are getting old.' 'How long ago did this civil war begin?' I asked. 'Just tell me that,' and Bell

added a minute or two and '61 years ago.' Seems to me that you and I have said about all there is to say about that war," I declared. "Doesn't make any difference if we are from New England. Life's too short to worry over something that happened that long ago. I want to take things quietly from now on, and besides the papers say there ain't going to be any more war. If you'll stop and not mention the war again, I'll do the same. I think you're part right, anyway."

"Well, Bell looked at me kinda funny and smiled, and said: 'Why Mae, I've been wanting to stop talking about that blamed war all these years, but I just hated to give in. One side was about as right as the other anyway, and I'll quit if you'll quit. There's nothing in war anyway.'"

Has 13 Children. "So that's how it happened, and we're happier than we have been since 1861, and we don't care anything about the old war now, do we Bell?" and she turned to her twin for confirmation. Bell smiled a wrinkly, but kindly smile.

"We certainly don't," she said, and picked up her sewing.

Mrs. Peake has 13 children and 26 grandchildren, but her sister has no offspring. The family is as long lived as it is persistent, their mother having lived to be 103 years old.

German Forced to Sell Famous "Wasa Library"

Depleted Fortune Makes it Necessary for Owner to Sacrifice Historic Collection of Books.

Berlin, June 3.—A striking example of the back-wash of the war is furnished by the exhibition in Berlin of one of the most historic libraries in all Germany. This is the so-called "Wasa Library," dating back to the turn of the 18th century, at which time Gustav IV of Sweden laid the foundation of the collection that was to become so famous.

When this monarch's granddaughter became the wife of the Saxon

ruler, Albert, the famous library was transferred from Sweden to the palace in Dresden, where she took up her residence. After the death of Queen Carola, it passed automatically into the possession of her grandson, King Friedrich August III, who, like so many other defunct German rulers, has been forced to commercialize the family heirlooms.

Thus the famous "Wasa Library," together with countless other treasures from the homes and haunts of

royalty, was put upon the market, and is now lying in state in one of Berlin's largest department stores, awaiting a purchaser.

The larger part of the 3,000 volumes composing this library are memoirs and books of travel, with a number of splendidly engraved atlases of unusual size and elaborateness of detail. Complete files of 70 journals from the opening quarter of the 19th century furnish an ad-

mirable picture of the cultural life of that period.

The books, with their full leather bindings and rich gold tooling, are so admirably preserved that many of them look as if they might have come only yesterday from the workshop of the bookbinder.

Read The Bee at the way through. You will find it interesting.

An Open Letter to M. M. Robertson

Dear Mr. Robertson:

The first time I ever attended Masonic Lodge in Omaha, twenty-four years ago this spring, I saw you get the Fellow-craft degree—remember?

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Our lines of business being more or less related, I have watched and gloried in your success, and hope to see you do still greater things in the laundry business, as I hope to do in the dry cleaning business.

Drop in and see me, Millard, any time you are down this way. It's a pleasure to me to mull over old times with kindred spirits.

Co-operatively yours,

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