

Public Works Department Urged to Stop Huge Waste in Government Expenditures

In view of the present agitation for a budget system for the handling of the United States' finances to eliminate the terrific waste now apparent, this article by Marshall O. Leighton, chairman of the National Public Works Department Association, is interesting. That association is conducting a campaign for the establishment of a national department of public works to systematize expenditures and eliminate waste.—EDITOR.

By MARSHALL O. LEIGHTON.
Ships always leak. The finest vessel afloat must occasionally operate its bilge pumps. It is expected as a matter of course. Water is always coming into the ship, while it is afloat, but it causes no alarm among the passengers and hardly any comment among the crew. But let that leak increase in volume beyond a certain rate and it becomes the crucial feature of the ship's run. Those who are aware of it are greatly concerned. In like manner, all ships of state leak, but the direction of the leakage is reversed. Money, for which there is no adequate return to the passengers and crew, seeps through the seams, even if it does not run out through open ports. No one takes a thought so long as the taxpayer is not pinched to make good the loss. But, as in the case of a marine operation, there comes a time when the leakage becomes so great that the taxpayer takes thought of his improvident ways, and begins to investigate and protest.

Government Always Wasteful.
Our government has always been wasteful in the conduct of its business. This has not been the result of any wrongful intent. Throughout a long period of years it has been accepted by the majority and the occasions have been sporadic when much thought has been given to it.

Wealth usually begets thoughtlessness to small wastes. So long as our bank balance is large we are not likely to be vigilant as to the price we pay. A few cents more per pound, a few dollars more per yard are paid without thought of hardship. And this was particularly true with respect to government expenditures when we lived under an indirect system of taxation. Waste of \$10,000,000 by the government was hardly appreciated when spread over the price of 10,000,000 pounds of sugar, 10,000,000 pounds of wool, and millions of pounds of everything else we bought in the open market.

But now our system of taxation is direct. Every individual of more than nominal earning capacity is presented by the internal revenue office with a bill for his share. And when our annual peace time budget runs up to \$5,000,000,000, as presented by the secretary of the treasury a few days since, we begin to think about that leakage. We begin to look for open ports.

That five billion dollar estimate will be pruned—severely pruned. That means that we must go without some things that wise and prudent men think we need or that it would be to our advantage to have. Are we then so poor as all that? No one believes that we are, and yet our bill is so large that it pinches us to pay. The answer is that we are paying too much for what we get. The appropriations committee in congress will spend the greater part of their time for the next three or four months in pruning those estimates—a laudible and necessary thing to do under the circumstances. But those hard-working men are saving at the spigot and wasting at the bung-hole. Our organization is asking them to do the obvious thing. Give the government a business-like organization. Co-ordinate the functions so that the processes of government business shall dovetail. Cut out the wastes and the duplications. Abolish the rivalry between the departments. We advocate a department of public work not merely to secure technical symmetry in our federal organization, desirable as that end may be. Our advocacy is in its essential features an attempt to close some of those open ports.

When this organization was set up at Chicago I think that none of us—certainly not the writer—had an adequate idea of the scope of the movement. We saw a loose and inefficient public works organization and divided and sub-divided into many different provinces. As technical men we knew how organically wrong that was. Of the wastes and inefficiencies we were well aware. With the necessity for a co-ordinated structure, by virtue of which the technical and semi-technical fields of the government could be rendered efficient and business-like we were profoundly impressed. But that our effort, our idea, our legislative bill would become the cornerstone of a structure embodying efficiency in all departments of government we could hardly foresee. As an organization our effort is still focused on a department of public works and that alone. But we realize that with

that principle established—that example set—reform in other provinces of government business activity will occur by the mere logic of events. We are pioneers.

Project Hits Everyone.
This is the reason why our project for a department of public works strikes straight home to the business men, the manufacturer, the contractor and the merchant. The technical men who met at Chicago last April to set up this organization built better than they knew. While the project retains all the virtues that appealed to us when it was launched—of technical excellence, of rational government organization, of economy and efficiency, we now see that it reaches to national and to business prosperity, to the fiscal welfare of the nation, to the individual welfare of the productive business.

We may as well recognize and admit the fact that individual initiative in America will not continue to be that spontaneous thing that it has been in the past if the rewards are to be divided and a part of them are to be wasted in the support of a chaotic government business organization. The burdens of every business organization in the country are magnified by government business inefficiency.

We want no good and proper thing to be withheld from our government nor in turn by our government. When the time comes for this country to be a \$5,000,000,000 country we'll all turn out and pay the bill. But we want true consideration for our money.

League of Nations Office Force Is Down to Work

PARIS, Jan. 19.—The league of nations is housed not far from the American embassy in Rue Pauquet, where a considerable staff has been at work since the league entered into being officially three days ago. Its work, however, is still confined to organization, as the only act of the league council at its first meeting was to appoint members of the Sarre valley boundary commission which is not under the league's control.

It is understood that by a strict interpretation of the Versailles treaty the boundary commission will be under the direct supervision of "Paap" which is an abbreviation used by the league's staff.

SOCIALISTS RESIGN
(By Associated Press)
COPENHAGEN, Jan. 19.—Socialist members of the Hungarian government have resigned after threats from Paul Garami, former minister of commerce, and other Socialists resident in Vienna that they would be expelled from the international Socialist organization if they remained in office, according to Buda Pest news. M. Garami, it is said, believes the entente will not negotiate a peace with Hungary with a government such as would result from the resignation of the Socialists.

Bill Don't Need to Wait Summer; Mink Drops 5 3-4 Pound Bass for Him

"Bill" Patton, fisherman of Morton lake, is the hero of a winter fish yarn that beats most of the spring and summer ones. He hunts mink during the winter, and according to report, saw a big one run across the ice, the other day, with a fish in its mouth. He chased the pair. The mink, scared, dropped the fish, which flopped on the ice, and

Bill picked it up, although the mink got away. It was a bass, weighing 5 1/2 pounds and Bill sold it to a local meat shop for \$2.

Now, you summer fishermen, go back and sit down.

NEW DISORDERS REPORTED FROM AGRICULTURAL STRIKE
(By Associated Press)

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 19.—New disorders as a result of agricultural workers' strikes are reported in dispatches from Santa Fe province to La Epoca, the government organ. Police

chiefs at Firmat and Rafael were slain during attempts to round up disorderly elements. Dispatches say that the disorders are directed from this city where it is said an "organization, the sole purpose of which is to provoke unrest in the interior of the republic" is maintained. Many arrests have been made.

Stanley, Earham Grad, Will Talk on Y. M. C. A.

Rupert Stanley, for four years secretary of Y. M. C. A. work in China, will address a meeting of Richmond persons interested in the foreign work of the Y. M. C. A. at a meeting in the

local association building Friday night.

Mr. Stanley is well known in Richmond, having graduated from Earham college. He was quite prominent in athletics, receiving four letters. Having spent four years in China, he is well qualified.

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When Comparison is the Sincerest Form of Flattery anything is good enough until something comes along that's better. A good imitation pearl gains admiration until compared with the genuine. Then the difference is readily seen.

Likewise with phonographs. The market is flooded with many makes. Extravagant claims of performance run riotous. By the expertly trained musical ear, however, quality is quickly detected. To the average buyer only comparisons will tell. Compare the Brunswick Phonograph with other makes, and its superiority is noted immediately. Come in today for demonstration.

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Will be better this season than ever. We carry the celebrated Dupleau Foulards, the best line made; 25 or more designs now on display at, **\$3.75** yard

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Are better than ever before and we are prepared. From **\$2.50 to \$5.00**

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Is scarce but very desirable; 54 inches wide, assorted shades at, **\$5.00** yard

SEE WEST WINDOW FOR A SHOWING OF SOME OF THE NEW THINGS

While we have carefully avoided the use of the old thread-bare phrase "Clearance Sale", we have made startling sacrifices in every department. Both first and second floors have some desirable merchandise that must be sold next week, as the week after we invoice. We can save you money next week.

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Our delicious Chocolate Peppermint PATTIES have no equal for your parties, receptions or afternoon teas.

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SEMI-ANNUAL Shoe Sale

Literally thousands have attended the first four days of this sale and as many thousands have gone away satisfied that they have obtained the greatest bargain in shoes ever before offered in Richmond. This week we anticipate the heaviest volume of business ever done in this store. Our advice to you, if you wish to avail yourself of this remarkable low price, is SHOP EARLY! Don't wait till the last of the week. The selections are still complete.

Shoes for Ladies'



One lot Brown Calf Vamps, with fawn cloth tops; this includes \$6.00, \$6.50, \$7.00 and \$7.50 values, now—

\$3.95

Beaver Brown or Black Suede Shoes, the very best, J. & K. make—

\$13.45

All-Leather Gray Boot, leather Louis heels and plain toe, \$12.00 value at—

\$5.85

Ladies High Top Skating Boot

SPECIAL—12-inch top, lace, good soles; while they last—

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Growing Girls' Special

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Full stock Calf English, long receding toe, either light or dark—

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\$5.85

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