

World Events Through the Camera's Lens



1—Japanese soldiers pole their boats over the flooded waters of the Yellow river after Chinese troops made breaks in the dykes to delay the Nipponese advance. 2—King George and Queen Elizabeth of England, whose recent visit to France strengthened the military alliance between the two nations for defense. 3—"Big Jim" Farley shown addressing the meeting of the national gathering of the Young Democrats of America at Seattle, Wash.

Washington Digest
National Topics Interpreted
by William Bruckart
National Press Building Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON.—A national debt of \$41,500,000,000! What does it mean?

National Debt
I was staggered, as probably you were, the other day when the morning newspapers blazoned forth in black headlines—they should have been printed in red ink—that by next June 30 the American government will owe a total of \$41,500,000,000. I knew from all of the spending that is going on these days that the national debt was going higher in the fiscal year that started with the opening of July; the debt had to increase because of the lavish use of money voted by congress under the lash of President Roosevelt. But when I saw the "revised estimates" officially issued by the bureau of the budget, somehow I was startled, amazed. The implications are so many that the magnitude of this debt simply has overwhelmed me.

New Hampshire ..	160,594,040
New Jersey	1,368,210,640
New Mexico	133,406,880
New York	4,089,141,550
North Carolina ...	1,092,661,410
North Dakota	222,239,390
Ohio	2,122,180,690
Oklahoma	799,176,640
Oregon	321,504,210
Pennsylvania	3,204,293,680
Rhode Island	215,284,530
South Carolina ...	588,001,800
South Dakota	218,761,960
Tennessee	905,396,320
Texas	1,933,767,210
Utah	163,123,080
Vermont	120,129,400
Virginia	844,383,230
Washington	519,401,590
West Virginia	578,517,900
Wisconsin	919,306,040
Wyoming	73,658,290

If one desires to be technical and wishes to include in the national debt all of the obligations which the federal treasury may have to pay, the figures I have given will mount very much higher. There are numerous agencies of the government that are empowered to borrow money on their own bonds—institutions like the Reconstruction Finance corporation and the Home Owners Loan corporation and the Commodity Credit corporation. It seems to me that when those agencies borrow money, the federal government becomes liable in event the federal agency is not able to pay, and the total of those loans appears to be in the neighborhood of \$6,000,000,000. Since most people regard the federal government as having a contingent liability, there is some ground for including that total which would make the grand total of the national debt in excess of \$47,000,000,000, and each state's share would be correspondingly higher.

What is the reason for this gigantic debt? Well, anyone ought to know that when an individual spends more than his income, he goes into debt. That is what this nation has been doing. I do not know how much longer it can continue to spend, to waste money in pump priming. It seems to me that the end will have to come very soon, or people will refuse to buy bonds issued by the treasury. The banks are loaded up with them now; loaded so much that Sen. Carter Glass, the veteran Virginia member of the senate, several times has said he feared what might happen if bond prices declined.

Why This Huge Debt?
Fundamentally, there can be no doubt of the need to spend money to feed the destitute. On the other hand, can there be any justification at all for spending billion after billion in building post offices, national guard armories, etc., when there is none but borrowed money with which to do it? Every time an additional dollar is spent unnecessarily, the future taxes on you and me, our children and our children's children are pledged to the payment of the debt.

Pause to consider what it means. If we calculated the average interest on the debt at 3 per cent (which I believe to be fair), we find that if the nation pays off the current debt in 100 years, the taxes will have to be increased 33 per cent over 1933 in order to do it. If, as further example, the debt is to be paid off in 50 years, the current tax rates will have to be increased by 38 per cent over that entire period. Those statements assume that we will not increase the general cost of government over what it is now and that tax receipts will be as high or higher.

It is apparent that spending must stop, or our nation is going to be as much of a bum, even in our estimation, as the most lowly hobo who eats from a tin can and steals a ride on the rods of a freight car.

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But there it is. Forty billions and a half which Uncle Sam will owe when the spenders get through wasting, chiseling, finding spots where federal loans or new projects or just plain pork barrel distribution of money drain dollars from the federal treasury.

After the first impact of this news wore off, I began to look around to see what it means. What does it mean to me, I wondered. And to you? The first thought that I had naturally was: how is this money going to be paid back to those from whom it was borrowed by Uncle Sam? Everyone knows, of course, that the federal government has only two ways to get funds—by taxation or by borrowing. The fact that borrowed money must be repaid means, of course, that there is only one way by which we can expect the government to obtain funds. There must be taxes—odds of taxes. Or, the government must do that which every person abhors, refuse to pay its debts. That is repudiation, default, becoming a dead-beat.

Heretofore, this thing called the national debt has been more or less something 'way off in the distance from me. I could not be too much concerned, personally, how much the federal government owed, except that I realized some portion of it was going to come out of my own earnings while I am trying to pay for education of my two boys, keep my household running and buy those things which my wife enjoys. I figured, of course, that I would be working a part of each year to pay back the money that is being borrowed now. But somehow I did not get excited about the whole thing until this latest set of government statistics was released by Acting Director Daniel Bell, of the budget bureau.

I learned from the treasury that right now the per capita national debt amounts to \$285.70. That is to say, without any more borrowing or spending, each man, woman and child in the United States, whether he knows it or not, has been obligated by his national government to that extent. Well, President Roosevelt says there will be an increase of \$3,485,000,000 in the national debt between now and next June 30. That means an increase in the per capita debt, obviously. So when you do a little figuring you will find that by next June 30, the federal government will owe almost \$320 for each of us who claims the United States as our country.

Having calculated what each person has been obligated by his government to pay, I pursued the figuring further to discover what each state's share of this huge national debt is. The tabulation that appears herewith is the result. It gives the name of each state and that state's proportionate share of the \$41,500,000,000. Your state records do not show the amounts as a direct debt; your state legislature did not vote the bonds which were sold in creating the debt, but the fact remains that if it became necessary for each person to pay his share, your state would pay the amount here set down.

Alabama	\$ 905,396,320
Arizona	128,348,780
Arkansas	639,530,990
California	1,915,431,670
Colorado	336,994,580
Connecticut	548,169,420
Delaware	81,877,670
Dist. of Columbia ..	195,684,470
Florida	519,085,460
Georgia	967,357,800
Idaho	153,323,050
Illinois	2,480,039,850
Indiana	1,093,493,670
Iowa	803,918,590
Kansas	596,221,180
Kentucky	911,402,790
Louisiana	670,827,780
Maine	269,658,890
Maryland	529,201,620
Massachusetts	1,398,875,250
Michigan	1,512,049,790
Minnesota	833,002,550
Mississippi	634,789,040
Missouri	1,251,558,670
Montana	187,868,030
Nebraska	431,201,320
Nevada	31,613,000



WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

By LEMUEL F. PARTON

Louis to Fight 2-Ton Galento?
NEW YORK.—Of wide public interest is the pressing problem of who's going to join or restrain Joe Louis. It has seemed that all they could do would be to match him against a threesome—possibly Farr, Pastor and Baer. But now there is actually serious consideration of launching him against the huge, bulbous two-ton Tony Galento, the Orange, N. J., pub keeper who trains on beer and hot dogs. Tony has never been knocked down, but neither has a hippopotamus or a steam shovel.

Built like a couple of hogsheads, he is a morass in which assailants get swamped, like Japan in China. He fights with his mouth open, as if he were catching flies, which is disconcerting to his opponent, as is his flailing, free-style, generally scrambled attack. His defense consists mainly in his absorbent qualities. They cut him to ribbons, but never cut him down.

He has had about 70 fights. Dumping Nathan Mann marked his heaviest scoring in the ring. He has flattened Al Et-tore, Leroy Haynes, Charley Massey and quite a few not altogether negligible fighters, but, as yet, no maulers of championship specifications. For some of his fights he trained on applejack, but now says he has found beer is best.

Trains on Applejack And Beer
In the little family gin mill and spaghetti palace, down by the railroad tracks, he shadow boxes for the customers and yells for a match with Louis. He says he would like to have it barehanded in the cellar, with \$10,000 on the doorstep for the man who comes out. They have a two months' old baby, who, says his father, never will be a fighter or a barkeeper.

"Me—" says Tony—"they had to burn down the school to get me out of the fourth grade. I didn't know my strength and one of my spittballs knocked a teacher unconscious. I'll make this new guy behave and he'll grow up to be a professor or doctor."

Lawyer for 'Babs' Wins Big Cases
Sir Patrick Hastings, counsel for Countess Barbara Hutton Haugwitz-Reventlow in her elaborate and complicated disagreement with her husband, is one of the most interesting front-page lawyers of London, usually a contender in any exciting international wrangle in which London's West End or New York's Park Avenue might be interested. He represented Mrs. Joan Sutherland in the slander suit which grew out of gossip about the Wallis Warfield Simpson divorce suit. It was he who got thumping big damages for Princess Youssouppoff, in the suit over the Metro-Goldwyn Rasputin picture. He won the fight for the Warner Brothers to keep Bette Davis from appearing without their consent.

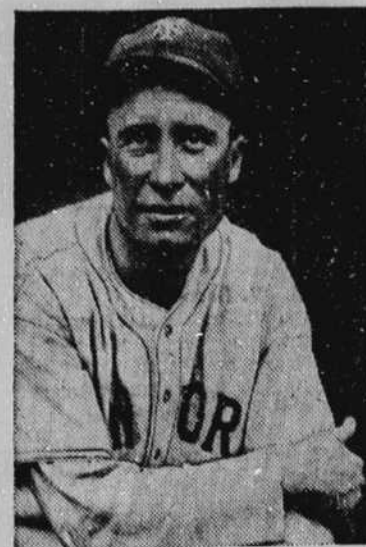
In court, he has alluded to an episode when, hungry and footsore, he was turning his back on London, but was somehow flagged back again by an indulgent fate. He was trained as a mining engineer, fought in the Boer war and returned to London to precarious years in which he sparred for an opening. He was a journalist, a "leg man" around the grubbier of the police courts. In his attic lodgings, he studied law and was admitted to the bar—with nice going thereafter. He now has one of the largest professional incomes in England. He was knighted in 1923 and was attorney general in 1924.

He is widely and intimately known in social and literary circles, but draws no class lines in his professional work. One of his most spectacular cases was his defense of the Welsh miners in 1925. He moves into his middle sixties with no let-down in mind or person.

Cagey Job Handed Sir Robert
Sir Robert M. Hodgson is a shadow but noteworthy figure in Europe's diplomatic underground, about whom a book may some day be written. He is Britain's go-between in delicate negotiations with Generalissimo Franco of Spain about the bombing of British ships. When he is on a government mission, it is an indication that some subtle business is on.

He had retired in 1936, but Neville Chamberlain called him back as a diplomatic pinch-hitter in this ship-bombing embarrassment. He is the son of an arch-deacon, of somewhat clerical mien, and was in the consular and diplomatic service for many years. From 1924 to 1927, he was British charge d'affaires at Moscow. He is usually working quietly off-stage, never in the spotlight.

RED MENACE



Wally Berger, who came to the Cincinnati Reds from the New York Giants a while ago, has regained the batting form that made him a terror for National league pitchers a year or two ago. His excellent work has contributed to keeping the Reds up among the pennant contenders.

King of the Pie-Eaters



With his hands tied behind him, LeRoy Cobb, age thirteen, of Gainesville, Ga., won with a crust to spare in a pie-eating contest that attracted lads from all over the countryside. LeRoy ate his lunch at the usual hour, but that didn't handicap him at all when it came to eating a meringue-covered chocolate pie in record time.

Daddy Has Gone A-Fishing



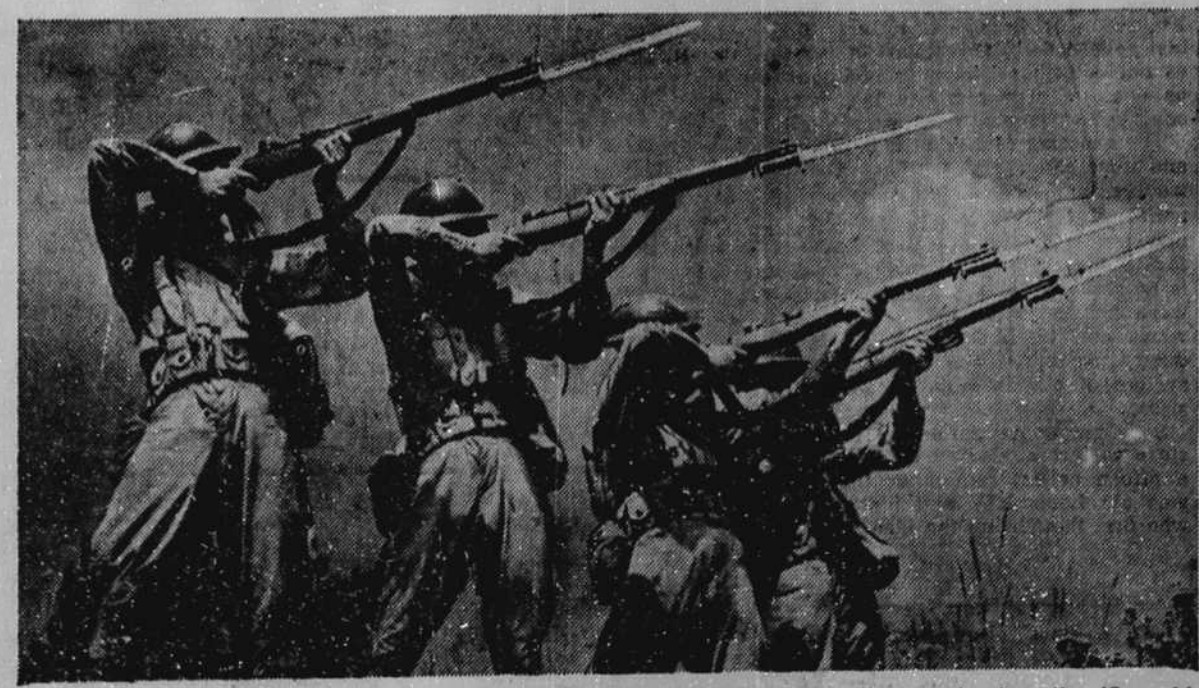
The wife was away visiting. So faced with the problem of what to do with the baby, this fisherman rigged up a seat and sunshade for her while he calmly fishes from the pier at Miami, Fla.

EMPLOYMENT GAINS



John D. Biggers, of Toledo, Ohio, who directed President Roosevelt's unemployment census last January, believes better times are ahead for industry and employment. He cited the case of the Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass company, of which he is president, which has rehired 1,300 workers in the last three months. Biggers predicted a fall upturn.

New Rapid-Firing Rifles for U. S. Army



Army privates at Fort Hamilton, N. Y., test the new Garand model, 30-caliber semi-automatic rifles which will replace the Springfield rifles they are now using. The new rifles are capable of firing 60 rounds per minute. The Springfields are capable of firing a maximum of 15 rounds per minute.