

ALMANAC

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dians of all three areas chewed tobacco, especially when playing games, another rough old habit the white man learned from the noble Red man.

Snuff dipping was not learned from the Indian, but so far as I know, history has failed to record the name of the man who first aged tobacco for three year, fermented it, ground it, flavored it, and sold it to folks who felt that smoking was a sin but still liked to use tobacco. Any modern snuff user is in good company; famous users of snuff include Addison, Pope, Napoleon, Frederick the Great, and Marie Antoinette.

Huge Tax Burden

Tobacco, which became a billion dollar industry for the first time in 1919, now retails for more money annually than dry goods and notions, which gives you some idea of the part it plays in our national economy.

And while you probably knew that tobacco bears more than a fair share of the nation's tax burden, you probably had no idea that the taxes paid on cigars, cigarettes, snuff and chewing tobacco in the United States each year exceeds the total paid on oleo margarine, playing cards, perfumes, cosmetics,

medicines and drugs, toilet articles, soft drinks, butter, flour, cheese, and cotton.

In addition to these federal taxes above, there is over two hundred million dollars a year paid in state taxes on cigarettes. I am told that in Boston, for example, you would pay 35 cents for the same pack of cigarettes you get for twenty cents in North Carolina.

Most tobacco goes in cigarettes nowadays of course; that's why cigarettes are taxed relatively more heavily than other leaf products. This development is comparatively recent. In 1920, for example, there were 8 billion cigars and 47 billion cigarettes manufactured in America; in 1945 there were only 5 billion cigars but 332 billion cigarettes made in this country — cigar production fell 40 per cent while cigarette production increased over 600 per cent.

During the same 25-year period use of chewing tobacco fell from 138,000,000 pounds to 59,000,000 pounds, while snuff use increased from 34,000,000 to 43,000,000 pounds. This last figure should not surprise anyone who has observed the large stocks of snuff carried by local grocers for their customers.

I'm sure you get the general idea, which is that tobacco is big business and getting bigger all the time — and Zebulon is right in the middle of it.

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