

# The Franklin Press

and

# The Highlands Maconian

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### How Much Can Uncle Sam Owe?

**H**OW much money can the United States Government owe before its credit becomes impaired and it can't borrow any more?

We don't pretend to know the answer, but the latest estimates we have seen from Washington place the figure a great deal higher than used to be thought possible.

At the beginning of the depression the national debt was about 16 billion dollars. That was about 10 billion dollars less than the peak of war-time; we had paid off more than a third of the national debt in ten years.

At the end of 1934 the national debt was about 28½ billions, or 2½ billions above its previous highest level. At the present rate of borrowing the debt is increasing at the rate of about 4 billions a year.

A year ago we were told from Washington that the nation could stand a debt of 35 billions and not be harmed. Now from the same sources we are told that a Federal debt of 50 billions would not be unbearable or result in harsh taxation to pay the interest. At the present rates of interest on Government loans, it would take about 1½ billions a year to pay the interest on 50 billions, and the tendency of interest rates is downward.

If we add to the possible 50 billion of Federal debt the 20 billions of state and municipal debts, the burden upon the entire people of the total load of 70 billions would be about \$560 for every man, woman and child. The present per capita Federal debt is about \$225. In Great Britain the national debt burden is about \$973 a head; that of France is \$470, while Germany, which repudiated and liquidated most of its debts by inflation, carries a debt load of only \$94 a head.

How large a debt a nation can carry depends upon how confident its people are that they can pay the interest. It also depends upon how soon the bonds fall due. England has some bonds which run for 99 years, requiring only a trifling percentage annually for sinking fund purposes. There are some railroad bonds outstanding in this country which run for more than 100 years. We commend the idea of very long maturities for future Federal borrowings.—Selected.

### A Noble Cause

**I**T WAS a splendid idea to make President Roosevelt's birthday the occasion for a great national drive for funds for the aid of sufferers from infantile paralysis. Last year more than a million dollars was raised from the balls and parties that were given in several thousand communities on January 30th.

This year, we understand, seventy per cent of all the money raised by the "Birthday Balls" will go to hospitals and sanitariums in the territory where the money is raised. This is entirely right and proper. There are some 69 hospitals equipped to care for the 200,000 or more children who are victims of this frightful disease, and every dollar that is contributed will enable them to extend their care to those whose parents cannot afford to pay for treatment.

The other thirty per cent of the funds raised this month are to go to pay for further research work into the causes and prevention of infantile paralysis. It is still obscure to the medical world, the precise method by which children are infected; and no effective means of prevention has been discovered. Hundreds of able research workers are studying the problem, and the better they are supported and equipped, the better the chance of finding out how to curb the ravages of the disease which makes cripples of tens of thousands of children annually. We can think of no nobler service that the people of our community, or of any community, can render on Wednesday, January 30th, than to "throw a party," charging a fair admission fee, and send the money so received to the Birthday Ball Committee at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York. With more money in the hands of more people than there was a year ago, and a general feeling that the crisis is past and that recovery is in sight, this year's appeal for this worthy purpose ought to result in at least doubling the amount of money raised throughout the nation last year.—Selected.

### What Comes of Writing Poetry for the Press

**T**HE following story may serve as a warning to those children of men who follow the inner whisperings of the muses and then to make a matter worse persist in sending for publication such attempts at rhyming:

An angry man dashed into the editor's office. "Look here," he cried, "I wrote a poem about my little son, and began the verse with the words:

"My son, my pigmy counterpart."

"Yes?" replied the editor.

The poet pointed to the poem in the paper.

"Read that," he stormed, "and see what your fool of a compositor has done!"

The editor read:

"My son, my pig, my counterpart."

—North Carolina Christian Advocate.

## Wouldn't We Squawk? — by A. B. Chapin



### Public Opinion

#### RANDOM THOUGHTS ON THE BOND ISSUE

1. We should endeavor to escape fire here as well as hereafter.
2. A nickel held close to the eye will hide the dollar just ahead.
3. Facts are worth more than gossip.
4. An animal that is hidebound cannot grow.
5. A wet and dry issue does not always concern strong drink.
6. If a town die, shall it live again? Look at the ones that have died.
7. A way to keep the trace chains from rattling is to press on the collar.
8. Building a town is an uphill job. Backing straps are not necessary.
9. "The first shall be last and the last shall be first."
10. "You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink"—certainly not if he has to suck to get the water out of the pipe.
11. It is better to do something than nothing.
12. It pays to play ball with Uncle Sam.

—A VOTER & TAXPAYER.

#### IS IT WORTHWHILE?

For the past few weeks I have been reading a series of articles in The Press-Maconian about the installment of a cooperative cannery at Franklin and the issuing of bonds for the purpose of obtaining money for a new water and sewer system.

Someone will ask if there is any relationship between these two questions. Do the proposed new water and sewer systems mean anything to the farmers of Macon county? Yes, there is a very marked relationship, and in this article I will try to show that if the water and sewer bonds are approved and issued by the Town of Franklin that the farmers of the county will be benefitted greatly.

If the bonds are issued and sold for the purpose of installing the new water and sewer systems, it will not only make the town more complete but also will furnish employment, perhaps take many persons off relief rolls. By assuring a plentiful supply of water to the town the year round, the community will have a better opportunity to grow and Franklin will be in position to supply plenty of water for the cannery. It is impossible to estimate what this cannery will mean to the farmers of the county and to the town as well.

Farmers in Macon county are handicapped for lack of a market for their produce. They do not

grow as many vegetables as it is possible for them to grow because there are no reliable markets. If a farmer grows truck crops extensively, he has to wait in despair for some peddler to come along and offer him a pittance for his summer's work. He is forced to sell at a low price because he has no reliable market in his home town, and there is no competition among the buyers. Macon county is a good truck farming section. It is properly located and could become one of the outstanding counties in North Carolina if the people will only cooperate. Will they? We will have to if we are ever going to get off the rocks.

If a farmer had a market for his produce, he could pay his taxes, buy more farm machinery, buy better and more feed for his livestock, purchase more clothing, furniture, even candy for his baby, chewing gum for his sweetie and a pack of cigarettes for himself on Sunday. In fact, the town would get all of his money. If the farmer has money, the townspeople will have it soon.

The cannery will furnish employment to many and will give farmers who do not sign a contract to market their produce at the cannery a better price for their produce, for truckers will have to pay more. In my judgment, a cooperative cannery will be a lifesaver for Macon county.

"There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune."

Get the new water and sewer mains for the town and the cannery for the poor farmers. Do not turn opportunity away, if by chance it should knock.

If the townspeople want our money, they had better help us get the cannery. Get those bonds over. Get the water and I think we can get the cannery.

Respectfully submitted,  
CARLOS A. ROGERS.

#### SUBMARGINAL LAND

It is announced in Washington that the \$25,000,000 public works funds allotted for retirement of arid land has started to work. Buying is underway in the Dakotas, Montana, the Southeast, and Far West. The exact locations will be kept secret in order to prevent speculation by land companies.

Harry L. Hopkins, relief administrator, is quoted as saying, "We might as well use the land for some really social purpose, and give the people who have been struggling with it a chance to get along on decent farms."

Such a movement as this is a wholesome example of valid federal aid. To those who fear that individual initiative is lessened by

outside assistance, it is encouraging to know that approximately two-thirds of the "migrating" families have made their own plans for resettling.

The government is planning to purchase about 1,000,000 acres in the immediate future. The "new pioneers" who leave the farms where life has been a hard, unequal struggle for mere subsistence will be assisted by work in the newly created public forests and parks until their farms are started.

The nation needs fewer acres in cultivation; it needs parks and forests. Several million citizens deserve a better chance. The social order will benefit by the retiring from cultivation of submarginal lands.—Christian Science Monitor.

#### FIFTH OF INCOME FOR TAXES

The American people are now paying \$9,500,000 every year in taxes. That is what it costs them to keep their various governments in financial fuel.

It's a fifth of everything that is earned in a year in the United States, which means that for every five dollars represented in the national income, one of them must go to some public treasury somewhere.

The ratio is outlandishly too high.

Some waste occurs along the line, of course, but that's not the major reason for this extravagant cost of government. Mainly, it rests with the people who lie awake nights trying to think up some new form of public service they need and can get if the political wires are working.—Charlotte Observer.

#### NEW FORESTS

The purchase of additional lands for national forests will be aided by \$10,000,000 allocated by the President in addition to the \$20,000,000 set aside in 1933 for the purchase of 6,000,000 acres of forest lands.

## Why Suffer From Headaches?

There is no need, in this day of modern medical remedies, to suffer headaches, neuralgia, head and chest colds, rheumatic, female and other general pains. We have a new, scientific preparation—easy to take—that will bring relief. Try our SPECIAL NO. 3 TABLETS—only 25 cents a box. Why endure painful aches when it is utterly unnecessary. We guarantee No. 3 Tablets to give satisfaction. Sold only at ANGEL'S DRUG STORE, FRANKLIN, N. C. (adv.)