

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
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Washington.—One of the New Deal policies about which there is an ever increasing complaint is its wanton destruction of the civil service. It used to be said, under Democratic and Republican administrations alike, that it was next to impossible to get a government job except through examinations conducted by the Civil Service commission. That is, there were few appointments available other than under civil service below the rank of Presidential selection. Now, the scene has changed to such an extent that there is little chance to get in the government through civil service and the bulk of the appointments therefore are of a purely politically-indorsed character.

I do not mean to say that the Civil Service commission has shut up shop, although it has been virtually dehorned, but I do emphasize that as of September 30—the latest pay roll figures for the government—the number of civil service workers was only slightly more than half of the total on the government pay roll exclusive of the army, navy and Marine corps and Civilian Conservation corps.

The Civil Service commission continues to issue its monthly statements on the government personnel but they are becoming increasingly less reliable because one of the most difficult things to get in Washington these days is the accurate figure on the number of workers employed by Uncle Sam. The commission records are complete as far as they go but they fall to go far enough. At this time, for example, the Civil Service commission reports that the government pay roll covers 794,467 employees. That figure, however, does not include the vast army of employees of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration who are scattered in every county in the nation. I have heard estimates that the number of these county chairmen, inspectors, investigators, etc., exceeds 110,000 but whether that is too large or too small I cannot be sure for the reason that there is no way by which the number can be checked. Similarly, it is next to impossible to ascertain the number of workers in some of the newer agencies, created under the guise of emergency conditions, because they too are scattered far and wide but the fact remains that the personnel of the government has been expanded more rapidly than ever in history and to the highest recorded peak even for war time.

The number of employees on June 30 was given by the commission as 719,440 from which it will be seen there has been an increase of more than 75,000 in three months. That is, there has been that much of an increase for which the commission has records, but again it must be remarked that the commission has no way of compelling some of the alphabetical agencies to supply it regularly with the number of employees on their pay rolls.

The number of federal employees aside from the military services when Mr. Roosevelt took office was approximately 585,000. The number of employees on the federal pay roll when Mr. Coolidge retired and Mr. Hoover became President was roughly 545,000. From these the enormous growth of the government bureaucracy is at least hinted if not demonstrated fully.

Then, there are more yet to come. Several new agencies were created under acts of the last congress and others have since been created by executive order of the President. Take the Rural Rehabilitation Administration, for example. Prof. Rexford Guy Tugwell, who used to be brain truster No. 1, has a fund of \$250,000,000 with which to play and obviously Mr. Tugwell will need a great staff to assist him. The National Youth Administration is another new one. It will not have as much money as Mr. Tugwell but it is starting its operation with \$50,000,000—and that is quite a chunk of money to most of us. The National Labor board is hardly organized yet and the Social Security board has just begun to arrange a setup. Likewise the board to administer the Gulf coal law—a little NRA for the soft coal industry—has been appointed and is operating with only a few clerks. It cannot get along without a sizable corps of inspectors and examiners and investigators. It will have to have an extensive research staff in order that it can be supplied at all times with whatever facts and figures it needs or wants. So it goes on through the list almost unending.

One newspaper columnist had the audacity to say in his column the other day that if Relief Administrator Harry Hopkins really wants to solve the unemployment problem he ought to turn his attention to the government itself. At the rate of expansion, the government probably could be made to absorb the 3,500,000 unemployed to whom Mr. Hopkins was preparing to give work by December 1.

December 1 is hereabouts. But Mr. Hopkins has not succeeded in his much publicized plan to give all of the 3,500,000 unemployed workers jobs. He was doomed to failure from the start. He announced, it will be remembered,

that all federal relief was to end on November 1, by which time he figured that made-work would be available for the 3,500,000. This figure was the top-most limit for which the federal government was to be responsible. The states and municipalities were to take care of the remainder of roughly 5,000,000 who had to have help.

November 1 came along and Mr. Hopkins changed the date to December 1. He did this after consultation with the President who announced with considerable emphasis that he meant just what he said and that federal relief was going to stop as of December 1. But it seems the machinery was too ponderous to get in motion in time to absorb all of these workers. Most folks recognized it weeks ago but Mr. Hopkins steadfastly clung to his dream and that dream, like so many others, was dissipated in the thin air and sank almost without trace.

On top of this Hopkins failure has come a serious problem. It is serious for the administration not only because of the fact that winter is coming on and people must be fed and clothed but it is delicate from the political standpoint. In the last few weeks a considerable number of complaints have reached Washington officials from those who were provided with work. They contend that the government wage rate is insufficient to meet their needs. This results from the increased cost of living—higher prices for food and clothing and the other necessities of life.

The administration is being blamed for this condition. Opponents of the New Deal are capitalizing this discontent. They are saying to the folks who find the wages too small that they have been made the victim of New Deal policies, such as tampering with the currency, nationalizing silver, paying bounties for reduced production on the farms and the like.

The upshot of the situation is that not only those on made-work who are paid by the government and those who are on legitimate pay rolls of industry are becoming thoroughly dissatisfied. They are demanding more money. I do not believe anyone can forecast what will happen. One thing is certain: If industry must increase wages, consumers will have to pay the price. There will be further increases in the things we all buy in event higher wages are obtained from commerce and industry. And, if the government raises wages to those on made-work, the drain on the treasury will be correspondingly faster. The taxpayer has to pay this. So all in all there is a difficult problem to be solved by the President and his relief advisers.

Few of us ever stop to think what a job it is to maintain the supply of money in circulation. Omitting any consideration of the paper currency which keeps the gigantic bureau of printing and engraving operating 24 hours each day and considering only the coins that jingle, it requires the operation of two or three great plants to mint our money.

The bureau of the mint in the treasury gave out some figures the other day that seem to me to be most interesting. They are interesting because of their size. On the basis of these figures, it is calculated that there are actually in the pockets of the American people the following number of coins, each figure being an approximation: 1,000,000,000 dimes, 1,400,000,000 nickels, 5,500,000,000 pennies, 400,000,000 quarters, 200,000,000 half dollars and approximately 33,000,000 silver dollars.

These figures furnish an interesting commentary as well on our present modes of living. They supply a sidelight on our system of taxation which calls for pennies, nickels and dimes here, there and everywhere as a result of sales taxes. Besides, transportation systems like the street cars call for an exceptionally large quantity of the minor coins like nickels and dimes. One could enumerate a score of factors in modern life that compel each of us to carry and use these small coins.

The mint bureau is authority also for the information that even this stupendous sum of minor coins seems insufficient. The mints, accordingly, have been speeded up and they are now working at a rate almost double that of 1934. How much further they will have to expand cannot be foretold, but as an innocent bystander, I fear that if I have to carry coins in any greater number than I have had them loaded in my pockets, it is going to mean new business for the tallors. They will have steady work replacing trouser pockets.

Discipline of Seamen
Danger at sea may bring out either the best or the worst traits of human nature. Nothing can be more inspiring than the general discipline and courage shown on shipboard in most emergencies; nothing more sickening than the manifestation of panic in exceptional cases. In this respect a great responsibility devolves upon the commander. It is he who sets the example for both crew and passengers.

STAR DUST

Movie • Radio
By VIRGINIA VALE

I HOPE you heard ZaSu Pitts when she did "Dulcy" on the radio; it was a relief to hear her and not one of her imitators. Incidentally, she's quite interested in those girls who do impersonations of her; says she's always wanted to hear one, but somehow she just never has. And I wish you might know that same ZaSu Pitts; you'd like her so much. She journeyed to New York to do that broadcast, and spent most of her time shopping for her children—her daughter, who is thirteen, and her adopted son (Barbara La Marr's little boy, you'll recall), who is a little younger. She started out at the crack of dawn each morning and was on hand when the stores opened, to buy simple frocks and sweaters and suits. And very smart she looked, too, dressed in dark blue—her favorite color.

She was besieged with offers to do more broadcasts; Ben Bernie, for one, wanted her on his program. She was urged to go on the stage; one remarkably good offer was made for her to do a sketch in a new show—but she turned them all down. Wanted to go home to her family. For she's a family woman; children and husband come first, and her career afterward.

Nancy Carroll seems to have sidetracked her screen career in favor of night clubs. She is seen about a lot, looking a bit plump.

Have you heard that early, early morning program on the radio—the Milkmen's Matinee? It's very popular, not only with the milkmen, but also at open-all-night lunch carts, and lots of requests pour in for special numbers.

Remember Julia Faye, without whom no DeMille picture was complete in the old days? She recently married a scenario writer, in California.

Major Bowes' genial "All right, all right" is fast becoming a byword all over the country; one of our best football announcers loves to use it. Incidentally, honors are being heaped on the Major so fast that it's hard to keep track of them. Recently a new wing of the Kernan Hospital for Crippled Children, in Baltimore, was dedicated to him.

Fred MacMurray's rapid climb to the movie heights should encourage everyone who wants to go into the movies. Two years ago he couldn't get even an extra job. One year ago he worked in "The Gilded Lily," with Claudette Colbert, the first screen work he'd had except for a small part in "Grand Old Girl" with May Robson. Since then he's been rushed from one picture to another, because you and I and all the people like us liked him. He's played opposite Katharine Hepburn, Carole Lombard and Claudette Colbert again.

Well, we had our Dickens cycle in pictures (and it isn't over yet, apparently, for W. C. Fields will probably do "Pickwick Papers"), and now we're in for a round of Kipling, "The Light that Failed," "Kim" and "Captains Courageous" being the first of his stories to reach the screen. And unless Paramount's Gary Cooper plays the hero in the first named of these, there's no justice!

It looks as if "She Married Her Boss" might prove to be Claudette Colbert's most successful picture; theaters in the big cities have been holding it over.

Paramount will cast Charles Boyer opposite Marlene Dietrich in "Invitation to Happiness." Welcome news to all the Boyer enthusiasts, isn't it? Perhaps he'll inspire Marlene to greater heights.

Leslie Howard wants Anita Louise to go to New York to play "Ophelia" to his "Hamlet" on the stage. Well, she'd look too lovely for words, but whether or not she could handle the role is something else again. However, the talented Howard doesn't usually make mistakes.

ODDS AND ENDS . . . Wallace Berry is doing excerpts from his pictures on the air, and it looks as if Sophie Tucker would do the roles played by Marie Dressler . . . When rehearsing for a broadcast, Joan Bennett wore bedroom slippers . . . Under similar circumstances, Joan Crawford worked in her stocking feet . . . All the interviewers are cheering for Eleanor Powell, because she's so likeable . . . Connie Bonnell is back on the air, after a long absence, but her sisters aren't . . . The French Academy decorated Frank Black for giving us so many French compositions on the air . . . All the movie companies want Joe Louis, who defeated Max Baer.

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All Around the House

A little olive oil rubbed over paper that has stuck to a polished surface softens paper and makes it easier to remove.

Rings of canned pineapple browned and sprinkled with chopped green peppers and pimientos make an attractive garnish for steak, chops or roasts.

Always iron ecreu linens on the wrong side. Ironing on the right side robs them of their luster.

When pressing neckties, cut a piece of cardboard the shape of the tie and slip inside of it. Cover tie with a cloth and press with hot iron. There will then be no marks left by seams and hems.

House palms should not be exposed to the direct rays of the sun nor should they be placed near a radiator.

When potatoes are baked in their skins the moisture in potato supplies the steam that makes the texture of the vegetable soft and mealy, at the same time preserving the flavor.

Gravy will not soak through the lower crust of a meat pie if the

white of an egg is brushed over lower crust of pie.

Put the fork in the fat of steak when turning it. If put into meat, the juice will escape.

Varnished dark woodwork will have a fine gloss if washed with warm water and kerosene. Add a cup of kerosene to a large pail of warm water.

Some stucco walls may be washed with soap and water, but a coat of stucco sprayed over the whole surface is much more satisfactory than washing.

Sheer wool crepe in the brighter colors makes very attractive slide draperies. They are lined with egg-shell satin.

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The most stubborn cases of itching and scaling skin that defy every other treatment usually yield to Dr. Porter's Antiseptic Healing Oil. Try it on your itching or broken out skin and see how effective it is. Dr. Porter's Antiseptic Healing Oil is made by the makers of Grove's Laxative Bromo Quinine and sold by all druggists at 30c and 60c with guarantee of satisfaction or money back.

Our readers should always remember that our community merchants cannot afford to advertise a bargain unless it is a real bargain. They do advertise bargains and such advertising means money saving to the people of the community.

BLACK-DRAGHT

PEOPLE HEAVIER, TALLER

People of today are taller and heavier than their ancestors, writes F. W. Christmas, Boston, Mass., in Collier's Weekly. The best evidence of this fact is the costumes which adorn the numerous wax effigies in the historical museum. These clothes were actually worn by persons who lived from 50 to 500 years ago, and they are much too small for the average-sized citizen of the Twentieth century.

Quick, Complete Pleasant ELIMINATION

Let's be frank. There's only one way for your body to rid itself of the waste matter that causes acidity, gas, headaches, bloated feelings and a dozen other discomforts—your intestines must function. To make them move quickly, pleasantly, completely, without griping. Thousands of physicians recommend Milnesia Wafers. (Dentists recommend Milnesia wafers as an efficient remedy for mouth acidity).

These mint flavored candy-like wafers are pure milk of magnesia. Each wafer is approximately equal to a full adult dose of liquid milk of magnesia. Chewed thoroughly in accordance with the directions on the bottle or tin, then swallowed, they correct acidity, bad breath, flatulence, at their source and at the same time enable quick, complete, pleasant elimination.

Milnesia Wafers come in bottles of 20 and 48 wafers, at 35c and 60c respectively, or in convenient tins containing 12 at 20c. Each wafer is approximately an adult dose of milk of magnesia. All good drug stores carry them. Start using these delicious, effective wafers today.

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MILNESIA WAFERS

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TWO EXTRA LAYERS OF Gum-Dipped CORDS UNDER THE TREAD Locks it to Body

Gum-Dipped CORD BODY Prevents Internal Friction and Heat

CERTAIN construction features must be built into tires to give you the greatest safety and lowest operating cost in your type of service.

To make Firestone Tires blowout-proof, the cord body is built up of Gum-Dipped cords. To give you greatest non-skid safety and long mileage, the Firestone tread is scientifically designed, with a flatter contour and more rubber on the road. There are two extra layers of Gum-Dipped cords, to lock the rugged tread securely to the Gum-Dipped cord body.

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