

Treasury Lost Eight Billions

On June 30, the fiscal year ended. The treasury closed its books and struck a balance. The figures are interesting and significant.

During fiscal 1937, the government spent \$8,001,000,000. This marked a decline from fiscal 1936, when \$8,477,000,000 was spent. However, if allowance is made for the soldiers' bonus, paid in 1936, 1937 was greater.

Federal income was 23 percent higher than in 1936—\$5,294,000,000.

The 1937 deficit was \$2,707,000,000 as compared with a 1936 deficit of \$4,362,000,000. The national debt soared to a new peak of about \$36,500,000,000. Unpledged assets that, if considered, lessen the debt, include \$1,000,000,000 in gold against which no notes have been issued, and \$4,000,000,000 in recoverable loans owed by industry to government branches, principally the RFC. Foreign governments also owe us \$11,000,000,000, but the treasury does not consider this a recoverable asset.

Secretary Morgenthau recently forecast that the budget will be almost balanced in fiscal 1938, and that in 1939 income will exceed outgo, leaving a surplus that may be applied to reducing the debt. This year's deficit was the seventh successive one.

"Our Gang" Now An Old Timer

The oldest single unit in motion pictures—Hal Roach's "Our Gang"—rounded out on Sunday sixteen continuous years of film comedies. "Our Gang," winner of the Academy award for the best short comedy last season, is now preparing for a new series of twelve one-reelers.

There is wide-spread interest and sentiment in these juvenile screen performers, both present and past. Hal Roach retains them as the only short subjects on his new production schedule of super feature comedies, the first of which is the sensational "Topper."

During the sixteen years of "Our Gang" there have been about forty children under contract with hundreds of others used as extras or special assignments. There has been four complete groups, Johnny Downs, Jackie Cooper, Dickie Moore and Spanky McFarland winning popularity and fame as the "All-American Boy," or leader of the gang.

Spanky has been a member of "Our Gang" for six years and his current playmates have been with him for more than a year. Here's how the "little rascals" line up:

"Spanky" McFarland, Dallas, Texas, age 8; "Alfalfa" Switzer, Paris, Illinois, age 8; Darla Hood, Leedey, Okla., age 5; "Buckwheat" Thomas, Los Angeles, Calif., age 5; "Porky" Lee, Ft. Worth, Texas, age 3; "Baby Patsy" May, Gosport, Indiana, age 3.

Gordon Douglas, a young man in his twenties, continues as director with Mrs. Fern Carter starting her seventeenth year as school teacher. Hal Roach Jr., son of the producer, is breaking into the motion picture business as second assistant director of the "Our Gang" comedies.

Bay Gives Up Mystery Ship

SAN FRANCISCO. — Jack Burns, driving piles for the ferry slips on Treasure Island, site of the 1939 World's Fair here, stared in open amazement as he watched the water before him.

Slowly, a 200-foot mass was rising from the bottom of San Francisco Bay.

Seconds passed, and the mass broke through the surface, revealing itself as the rotted hulk of what once had been a graceful sailing ship. Her superstructure was gone, her sides crumbled away, with huge ribs encrusted with shells.

Investigation showed the mystery ship to be the Mohican, a navy bark.

Built at Mare Island in 1882 as a training ship, the Mohican served faithfully until about the turn of the century, when Dewey's White Squadron sounded the death knell for American wooden ships.

Then she was sold to a wrecker, who stripped her eight 9-inch guns, a 20-pounder, a howitzer, and assorted metals and burned her to the water's edge.

Immense Bridge Buried By Dam

A steel bridge, 3,000 feet long, and 175 feet high, has been completed across the Columbia river at Grand Coulee dam, John C. Page, Commissioner of Reclamation reported to Secretary of Interior Harold I. Ickes.

The bridge is unique in that within six months it will have disappeared, having been imbedded in the concrete of the growing dam and thus swallowed up by the stupendous project.

Three standard gauge railroad tracks cross the bridge, which extends from the two great concrete mixing plants located at the west and the east abutments. It is one of the busiest bridges in the world, since a relay of trains are moving back and forth across it continuously hauling concrete in four-cubic yard buckets for placement in the dam. Already nearly 6,000,000 tons of concrete has been handled by cranes which move about on the bridge to serve the workmen far below.

The bridge contains 7,000 tons of steel and it costs more than half a million dollars. Despite the fact that burying such a structure in the concrete of the dam would appear to be a loss, it is the most efficient means devised, and less expensive than any other method proposed for placing the enormous yardage of concrete required over the foundation area 500 feet wide and 3,000 feet long.

From the high bridge cranes swing buckets loaded with eleven tons of concrete to any point within a strip 125 feet wide across the river. A second and lower bridge, which has not yet been completed, will cover the remainder of the foundation area. The lower bridge also will be swallowed up as the dam grows.

A postal card mailed by a soldier in a French infantry regiment in 1915 has just been delivered to M. Foques at Martigues, France.

Range Reseeding Tests Under Way

An extensive experiment looking toward the reseeding of Nevada's range lands is now under way in Paradise Valley, Humboldt county, under the direction of the U. S. Forest service.

In two experimental areas at the Lamance ranger station, seeds of thirteen range forage plants are being broadcast to determine their adaptability to northern Nevada soil and climate conditions.

The work, under the direct supervision of Dr. George Stewart and Dr. R. H. Walker, is in charge of the intermountain forest and range experiment station of the Forest service at Ogden, with Reed W. Bailey as director.

"Seeding in both spring and fall should yield information concerning the proper season to sow the various species," Bailey explains.

"It is also planned that as the work progresses considerable attention will be given to the study of ways and means for sowing the seed and getting it worked into the soil properly. This is an important point and will constitute one of the major phases of our work."

Both native and imported seeds are being tried out in the experimental plots.

Body Of Pilot Is Third Found

The body of S. J. Samson, pilot of the Western Air Express plane which crashed on a Utah mountain last December, was recovered by searchers near the top of Lake Hardy Peak, where it had been hurled when the ill-fated liner struck.

Samson is said to have had seven thousand flying hours to his credit and was considered one of the best flyers in the United States. His was the third body of the seven who went down to their death in the

WHAT NEXT?



This mail box is the answer to a postman's prayer since it provides plenty of space for all types of mail matter and includes a rack for outgoing mail as well. Designed by a mail man and constructed of weather resisting materials, the box when opened as illustrated, will accommodate all manner of packages, as well as ordinary mail, in the V-shaped receptacle.

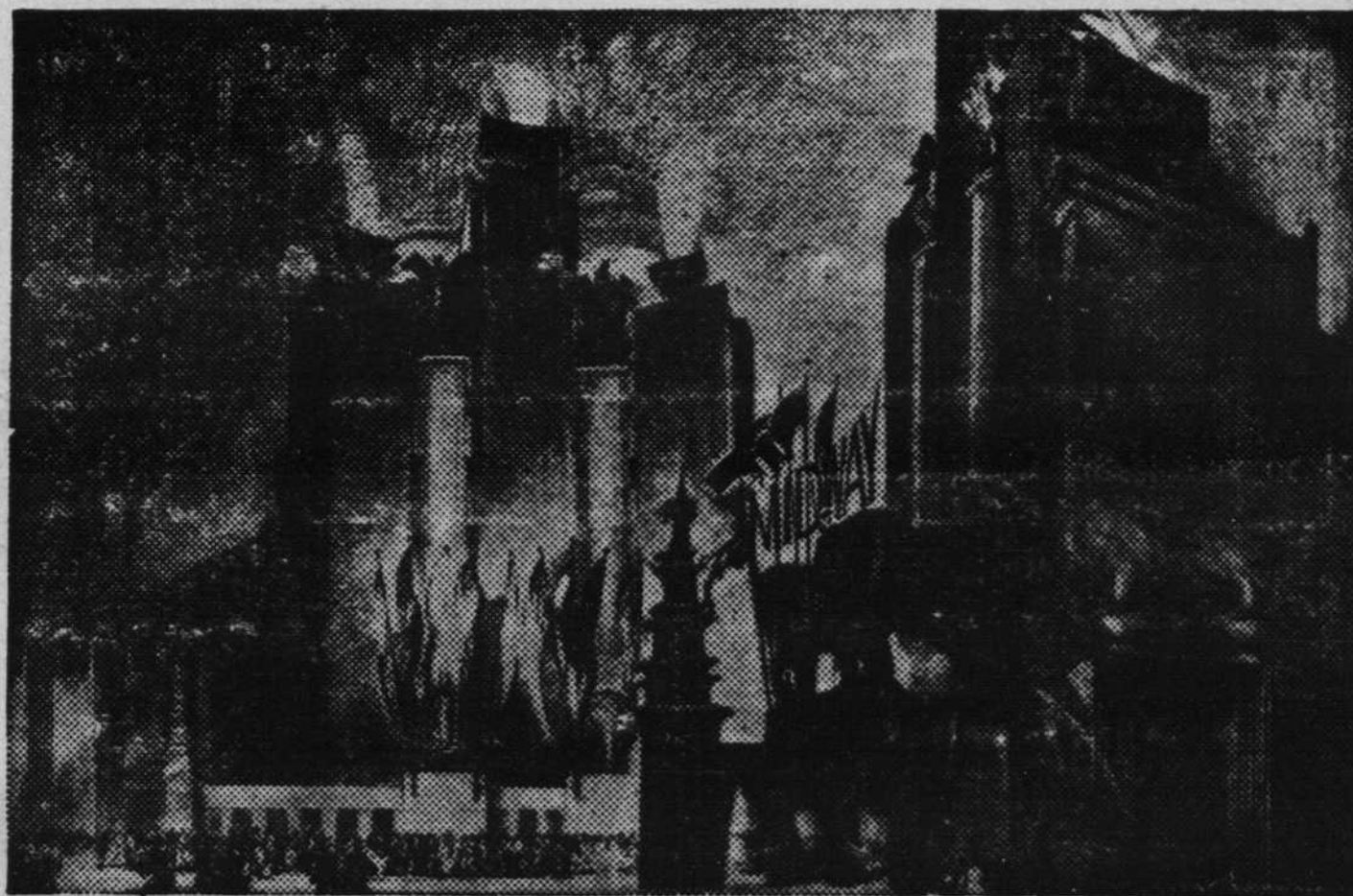
plane to be recovered, the other two bodies recovered being those of Mr. and Mrs. John Wolfe of Chicago, found about a month ago. Four bodies still remain undiscovered, and it is very probable that most or all of them will never be recovered.

GOERMAN TO PALO ALTO

Secretary Oliver Goerman of the Chamber of Commerce left today by Western Air Express for Palo Alto to attend the annual conference of Chamber of Commerce representatives.

O. A. Kimball, president of the Chamber of Commerce, plans to join Mr. Goerman at Palo Alto for the meeting.

FORTY ACRES OF FUN AT S. F. IN '39



This artist's sketch of the entrance to the Midway at the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition, to be held on Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay, gives an idea of the pyrotechnic and electrical display which will greet millions of visitors to the World's Fair fun zone. Amazing as well as amusing, the Exposition's forty-acre Midway will be a sportive Pageant of the Pacific.