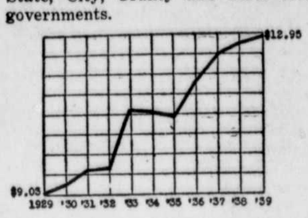
1939 TELEPHONE TAXES IN MARYLAND AVERAGE $12.95 PER PHONE USER

Figures Reveal Amount Has Increased About 43% Over 10 Year Period

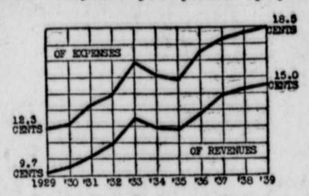
Nearly every American at one time or another during his life has had to make a visit to the Internal Revenue Collector, State Comptroller, or the City Collector. He has to make such a visit because he pays taxes. But not every American realizes that the major portion of the tremendous annual tax bill is obtained in the form of indirect or hidden levies.

Telephone, gas, electricity, cigarettes, railroads—all are invisible, unofficial tax collectors who extract their share of the 22½¢ out of every American-earned dollar which goes to pay the cost of maintaining the Federal, State, City, County and other local governments.



Taxes Per Telephone Subscriber.

For example, if you were one of the thousands of average telephone subscribers in Maryland in 1939 you paid $12.95 in taxes for the privilege of having telephone service. That figure, according to statistics, has increased nearly 43% since 1929 when taxes per telephone subscriber totaled $9.03. Out of the estimated 24¢ a day paid by the average Maryland telephone user for service in 1939, 3½¢ was extracted for City, State and Federal taxes. And everytime you picked up your



Taxes Per Dollar of Telephone

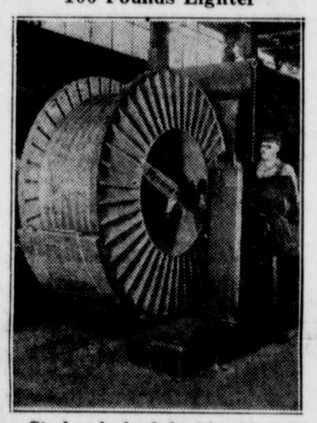
telephone and made a long distance call, which cost more than 50¢, you had to pay the Federal Government a toll charge which averaged in 1939, $1.41.

Although telephone expenses in Maryland in the ten-year period from 1929-1939 have been reduced by an average of $4.74 per telephone per year, repeated rate reductions have decreased revenues $7.58 per telephone per year as taxes increased $2.38 per telephone per year.

Briefly, the telephone user pays these taxes because the money paid by them for efficient speedy telephone service constitutes practically the only source of revenue.

WOODEN CABLE REELS TO BE REPLACED BY STEEL ONES

Reels Carrying Western Electric Cable Are Stronger And 100 Pounds Lighter



Steel reels, loaded with cable, are here being "wrapped up" for shipment at Western Electric's Hawthorne Works.

A familiar sight for decades on city streets from Maine to California, the wooden reels carrying Western Electric cable will gradually be replaced by an all-steel reel which, besides being sturdier, actually weighs less than its wooden counterpart.

At present there are two standard members of the steel reel family, one six and one-half feet high and the other five and one-half feet high. Smaller sizes will appear as the corresponding wood reels are depleted. Though made of steel, these reels weigh 100 pounds less than the average of the wood reels they replace.

Steel reels were originally developed to reduce high maintenance cost of large wooden reels used for shipments of wire-armored cable, and later a smaller reel was designed for shipments of long lengths of toll and tape-armored cable.

Indian Relics Unearthed In Coulee Backwater Area

SPOKANE, WASH.—Hundreds of artifacts have been found by workmen who opened almost 1,000 graves in the area in northeastern Washington that will be flooded by backwater from Grand Coulee dam.

Most of the graves were those of Indians. Their bones and those of pioneer white settlers were removed to other cemeteries. All articles of historical value were preserved, however. They include copper spearheads, trinkets and beads.

Big world source of insecticides is Yugoslavia, where the pyrethrum flower that makes bug killers is shipped but at a rate of four pounds a minute..

Chrysanthemum Held Sacred

In China the chrysanthemum is revered as a sacred thing, and pilgrimages are made yearly to the River Kai where natives drink of the petal-strewn waters in the hope of gaining long life. The type of chrysanthemum which grows there is a tiny plant or bush, with blossoms little larger than a "bachelor button." It is called chrysanthemum indicum and is a far cry from the giant ostrich feather types we grow in the United States. Whereas we wear our flowers and decorate our homes with them, the ancients worshiped them. In Japan a yearly festival is held in their honor, at which time a festive drink is made from the petals. The imperial emblem of Japan represents a 16-petaled chrysanthemum.

Midget Kitchen

Home builders are cautioned not to condense the kitchen so as to make it too small for use. A kitchen can be efficient even though it may not be as small as a Pullman car kitchen. Despite the fervor for "step-saving," a happy medium should be maintained between the Pullman kitchen and the old-fashioned kitchen. The kitchen does double duty. It serves as a cooking center, and at the same time it is a storage place for dishes, utensils, cleaning materials, and other household gadgets and equipment. Sufficient space for storage is of vital importance in the planning of a kitchen for a small modern home.

Extinct Dodo Bird

The dodo was a clumsy, defenseless bird, about the size of a swan, found living on Mauritius when the island was discovered in the Sixteenth century. It had a stout, hooked beak, short, stocky legs and was covered with downy feathers. Its wings were small and incapable of flight. This helpless bird was soon exterminated and no specimens are preserved.

Case Dismissed

A Paris, Mo., judge discovered there had been a divorce case on the docket nine years. When he questioned the attorney for the plaintiff about it and the attorney admitted he didn't know what had become of his client or the defendant, the judge decided it was time the case was dismissed.

Want to Rent a Duck?

A group of Austin, Texas, boys invented a new wrinkle in profiting from birds, according to the National Wildlife federation. These lads among them owned a number of tame ducks. The housewives of the neighborhood were having insect trouble in their gardens, so the boys rented the ducks at 50 cents apiece per day for the purpose of destroying the insects. The birds did a good job and everybody was satisfied.

Sweden's agricultural output is worth $500 a minute!

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Poor Electrical Wiring Rated as Fire Hazard

The use of cheap and poorly made, exposed extension wiring in the home is to be avoided at all times, because it is considered one of the greatest fire hazards of today.

With several safe types of surface extension wiring now on the market which are both inexpensive and easy to install, there is no longer any excuse for the use of cheap light cord for extension wiring in rooms where there are insufficient outlets. The safest thing to do is to consult an expert electrician.

Before installing any exposed extension wiring, the electric outlet from which the extension wiring is to extend should be carefully inspected in order to make sure that all connections are tight and that the outlet and the house-wiring circuit to which it is connected are of sufficient capacity to carry the extra load of the extension wiring.

If all is in good order, then a selection of the type of extension wiring can be made. Several types are available in which wires are completely encased in a flat rubber or composition strip of good insulating quality which may be rigidly attached to the wall.

These strip-wiring systems all have special fittings for outlets: splices, crosses, and other connections. In order to be sure of their safety, it is advisable to purchase only materials having the inspection label of the Underwriters Laboratories and in no case to provide more than two outlets from any one extension from a built-in outlet.

Ancient Teaching Device Was Helpful to Students

The ancient hornbook in form is not a book, though one in name. Strictly speaking it is simply a prayer, the alphabet and numbers to be learned.

It was made of a thin piece of board, shaped roughly like a butter-paddle, usually four or five inches long and two inches or so wide, with a sheet of paper or vellum on one side. Printed on the paper at the top was the alphabet in large and small letters. Then followed the Lord's Prayer. This is always found on the early examples. Over the whole printed page was a thin sheet of transparent yellowish horn to keep the paper clean. Both the paper and the horn were fastened to the board by a narrow strip of metal. The handle served for holding during study and also for attaching to the child's girdle.

Hornbooks were used to teach children their first lessons and gradually the name came to signify a child's primer. Another name sometimes given them was battledore, due to the shape and to the fact that hornbooks were often used for playing shuttlecock.

Hornbooks came into use in the middle of the Sixteenth century and were common until the end of the Eighteenth. They were made by the thousands of wood, ivory, stone, leather, brass, copper, and other metals, and were so common they were not thought worth saving.

HEADS AGRONOMY DEPARTMENT

Appointment of Dr. William B. Kemp as head of the department of agronomy at the University of Maryland is announced by President H. C. Byrd.

Dr. Kemp is a native of Baltimore county and with the exception of three years he has been engaged in agricultural work in this state since his graduation from the University of Maryland in 1912. He received the degree of Ph. D. from American University in 1928.

During Dr. Kemp's association with the department of agronomy, two valuable varities of grain--Leapland wheat and Marnobarb barley--have been developed and are now grown extensively in Maryland and adjacent states. In recent years, he has been working on development of improved pasture plants for this area. He is author of a number of experimentation bulletins and also of papers appearing in scientific journals on subjects pertaining to statistics and genetics, particularly as applied to plant improvement, and on crop-weather responses.

OPENING CHAPTERS OF "THE ROAD TO ZION"

Told for the first time—the epic march of the Mormans to find their "Promised Land"—and what befell them along that perilous trail. One of many fascinating features in the June 16th issue of

THE AMERICAN WEEKLY
the big magazine distributed with the
BALTIMORE AMERICAN
On Sale At All Newsstands

Largest traffic originating in England is from London buses and coaches which get a combined total of 4,000 passengers every minute of every hour!

Something like a League of Nations was proposed for the 21 American republics in 1812.

Number of U. S. Farms Has Tripled Since 1860

Since 1860 the number of farms in this country has more than tripled. But the size of the average farm has steadily decreased; as population grew, farms were subdivided. In 1880, according to census figures and estimates compiled by the Farm Security administration, about 10 per cent of the country's farms were of less than 20 acres, but today, 18 per cent are of less than 20 acres. In 1880 nearly 30 per cent of the farms were less than 50 acres in size. Today, nearly 40 per cent are less than 50 acres.

The problem of the too-small farm has been intensified in recent years. It was less serious as long as the expansion of industry continued to absorb millions of people from farms. But with a shortage of jobs in the cities, beginning with the 1929 depression, too many farm people, who would ordinarily have migrated to urban areas, have had to remain in rural areas.

Meanwhile the productivity of millions of acres of farm land has been impaired by erosion and wasteful farming; drouth has routed many families from their land. Areas still being cultivated are too poor to support adequately the present population, much less a growing population. Mechanization has displaced many former hired hands from the rich lands who, if they are going to continue farming, must add to the millions competing for and subdividing the remaining small farms in poorer areas.

U. S. Volcanic Activity Limited to California

Though there is considerable volcanic activity in Alaska, the United States proper has only one active volcano, and that one has been reasonably quiet for most of the last quarter century. At Lassen Volcanic National park, in California, says the National Geographic society, visitors go to see fantastic lava fields, boiling springs, ruined forests and Lassen peak itself, reaching 10,453 feet skyward.

It was in the spring of 1914 that Lassen, after some 200 years of good behavior, began a series of eruptions climaxed in May, 1915. Then a giant mushroom-shaped cloud thrust upward four miles over the volcano and was seen as far away as the Sacramento valley. Fireworks-like flashes illuminated the night, and blasts of hot gasses, pouring out of the mountain, turned snowy slopes into torrential rivers that drowned meadows, split boulders and uprooted trees in miles of devastation. Named for Peter Lassen, one of John C. Fremont's guides in the growing days of the republic, Lassen peak is a "dormant" volcano. Scientists estimate that the next outburst may come about 1980.

Disease Catching Ages

The acute communicable diseases have always been a matter of considerable concern to school authorities because of the relatively high incidence of these diseases in children of school age. More than 50 per cent of the reported cases of four of the common communicable diseases—scarlet fever, whooping cough, measles and diphtheria—occur between the ages of 5 and 14 years, writes Dr. Ernest L. Stebbins in the New York State Journal of Medicine. With the tendency toward concentration of educational facilities into larger units, it has been assumed that there has been an increase in the opportunity for exposure to infection. Fortunately, effective control measures have been developed for one of these diseases which has more than offset the greater possibilities of exposure, and there has been a consistent decrease in the incidence and mortality from diphtheria in the school age group as well as in younger children.

Indian Battle Site Marked

Among the interesting features of the Lava Beds National monument in California are the battlefields of the Modoc war, fought in 1872-73. These include "the stronghold," where may be plainly seen numerous cracks, ridges and knobs utilized by Captain Jack and his band of Indians in defending their position against United States troops. Not more than 53 Modoc warriors are estimated to have represented the resources of the Indians. These fighting men of the tribe protected the remainder in the area against 530 soldiers. Although they escaped unharmed from the stronghold through a crevice left unguarded during the movement of the troops, the Indians were later brought to terms.

Prize Fish Story

Abner Roe, a prominent Izaac Walton of Washington, D. C., has verification for the prize fish story of the year. Bass casting on the Potomac river, Roe was frequently annoyed because his line was snubbing on subsurface roots and other obstructions. One especially vigorous cast placed the plug close to shore. As Roe attempted to reel in, the line grew taut. He had hooked a redhead duck through the fleshy part of the wing. The bird had been crippled and was unable to fly. Next season, Roe says he's going to take his rod and reel with him when he goes duck hunting. "If I can't shoot 'em, I can hook 'em," he believes

New Ore Testing Method Saves Cash for Miners

The small miner and desert prospector who formerly had to pay as much as $100 a ton for analysis of ore samples now can obtain the same service for as little as $2.50 by use of spectroscopic equipment similar to that installed at the University of Arizona.

Although the newer method costs but a fraction of the former outlay, the results are just as accurate, never varying more than 5 per cent as to quantity content. University engineers say that some elements, hard to isolate by chemical processes, could be identified easily by the use of spectroscope.

The basic principle of the spectroscope is that each chemical element, when burned, has a characteristic color, dependent on the frequency of the light emanated. This light is concentrated on a prism of glass. As the light strikes the pyramidal-shaped glass, it is bent and separated into its various colors, each color representing a specific element. By comparing the colors with a prepared chart, the nature of the ore content can be learned.

This spectroscopic method requires only a few hours to complete, whereas the older chemical system necessitated as long as several weeks to assay ore.

Gold may be identified with a spectroscope only if the ore runs about three ounces to a ton. Platinum metals, such as iridium, osmium, palladium, platinum, rhodium and rethenium, must be run about two and a half ounces before they can be recognized.

Presence of numerous commoner and more economically important minerals can be determined easily by the spectroscopic method. These metals include:

Aluminum, antimony, beryllium, bismuth, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, columbium, copper, iron lead, magnesium, manganese, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, niobitum, tantalum, tin, titanium, tungsten, radium, silver, vanadium and zinc.

There are other elements, however, which cannot be identified readily by the scpectroscope. Some of these are argon, bromine, carbon, chlorine, fluorine, helium, hydrogen, iodine, krypton, neon, nitrogen, oxygen, radon, selenium and xenon.

Here Are a Few Tips For Amateur Painters

There is nothing paintable that does not look better with a fresh coat of paint. Paint and a sense of humor may transform the drabest room into a thing of beauty and a joy forever (or at least a long time, depending on the quality of the paint). Remember this when the urge to paint hits you.

For the little jobs you do yourself read the instructions on the can. For the big jobs consult a reliable painting contractor—it pays in the end. Stir the paint thoroughly—thin it according to the instructions on the can. Be sure the surface is clean and dry before painting. The perfection of the paint job depends on the paint and the brush it is put on with. Be sure you select the right one for your purpose. If the surface has not been painted before find out about "undercoats" and let the first coat dry before putting on the second.

Color affects lighting. Light colors reflect more light than darker colors. Flat finishes are best for large wall surfaces, high gloss for woodwork, furniture and floors. Semi-luster paints are excellent for walls of bathroom and kitchen because they are easy to keep clean.

'Polonium' Spark Plugs

Polonium, a rare element discovered in 1898 by the late Mme. Curie which costs $2,000,000 an ounce, will be used in an alloy compounded for the electrodes of a new spark plug. Sufficient quantities of the metal are included in the alloy to fill the air immediately around it with enormously powerful alpha rays, said to be the most potent ionizing rays known to science. Ionization of the air is expected to cut a better path for the spark, making it possible to start a motor more quickly, accelerate it faster and make its performance more economical. Polonium is said to emit 4,000 times as many alpha rays as radium. Its use in spark plugs has been the subject of six years of research. Mme. Curie discovered the metal in pitchblende before she and her husband discovered radium. The element is named for her native Poland.

Protecting Scottish Homes

Scotland's courts, as well as those of England and Wales, have been given far-reaching powers to protect the average citizen and his home from creditors and landlords. A law provides that, with certain exceptions, no creditor may enforce any previously obtained judgment or order or any decree or warrant authorizing the seizure of any one's property without leave of the court. In Glasgow it was explained that under the law judges will not grant applications of creditors for seizures or evictions if the court is satisfied that the debtor is engaged in national service or is unable to pay by reason of war conditions. Exceptions relate to workmen's compensation, damages for civil wrongs, maintenance ordered paid married women, fines and other penalties imposed by courts.

Trailer Dark Rooms New Army Addition

Fully Equipped for High Speed Photography.

CHICAGO.—A fleet of more than 150 auto trailer dark rooms, fully equipped to develop and print aerial pictures in the field under actual wartime conditions, will soon be a part of the United States army air corps.

For more than two years, the air corps has experimented with various types of trailer coach dark rooms perfected by auto trailer manufacturers. As a result of those protracted experiments, army officials have decided to build the fleet.

The new "portable photographic laboratories"—that is how the army officially describes them—are intended to take the place of the old-style field dark rooms, which were more or less stationary because they required tents to be erected, equipment and materials to be packed into trucks, followed by unpacking, and too much time before being put into operation.

Airplanes flirting with the clouds are the "eyes" of the army, thanks to the aviation photographic corps, but films are of no value in war unless they can be quickly and efficiently developed and printed. The trailer coach dark room was designed and built to fulfill that need for quick action by being rushed to scenes of action. Films are dropped from airplanes by parachutes to be finished.

D. D. Arehart, president of the Palace Travel Coach corporation, which built the first portable photographic laboratories for test purposes, said the vehicles are "constructed of non-corrosive metals and built to be used in any temperature or weather conditions in the world."

"They are constructed so as to travel at high speed over rough land and open ditches," Arehart said. "They contain all the delicate equipment and instruments for modern photography. They are air-conditioned and furnished with drying equipment for high speed printing and developing. They are equipped with their own power plants and are capable of operating in any location and give high speed and accuracy in developing pictures during field operation under conditions of warfare."

Briton Has $10,000 a Day; Can't Get a 'Thank You'

LONDON.—Sir John Reeves Ellerman, Britain's richest young man, whose income is about $10,000 a day, has given the British admiralty a $150,000 torpedo boat—and it can't even thank him. It doesn't know where he is.

Ever since 1933, when Sir John, who is 30 years old, inherited the bulk of his father's $171,709,771 estate, he has made a fetish of secrecy.

Shortly after he inherited his wealth he married Esther de Sola of Montreal, Quebec.

Living under assumed names, Ellerman leaves his vast business interests in the hands of a grizzled soldier, Lieut. Col. Sir William Cox. At his farm, near Sunningdale, Berkshire, he sometimes produces plays and issues invitations printed on gold leaf.

Sir John has many hobbies—and five lines in the British "Who's Who."

Worshipers Attracted By Chapel in Back Yard

DOGTOWN, ALA.—Old age has caused Mandy Graham to build her own chapel—and a large congregation has grown up around it.

Several years ago the 92-year-old farm woman decided it was too much effort to walk to church each Sunday, so she built a chapel in her back yard. It has attracted many worshipers and pastors of all denominations have delivered sermons in it, because Mandy isn't a stickler for a special creed.

"Church folks are all heading for the same place," she explains. "They're just traveling different roads."

Batman Shows Initiative To Get Trousers Pressed

LONDON.—An officer weighing 225 pounds could not understand why he slept so badly. Something was always sticking in his back. So one day he stripped his bed and found under the blankets his batman's trousers, which had been put there for pressing purposes.

The officer asked his colonel what he ought to do with the batman for his "cheek."

"Promote him, he shows initiative," was the prompt reply.

Here's the Latest Ice Fishing Story

WOLFEBORO, N. H.—It happened in New Hampshire:

Betty Gilman, 16, grand-niece of fishing guide Harry Parkins, went fishing through the ice.

She brought up a 10-pound, 30-inch cusk. The hole in the ice had to be cut larger so the catch could come through.

Inside the cusk were four other fish—a four inch cusk and three small perch.