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PORK BILLS FLOOD HOPPERS OF HOUSE

EXTRA APPROPRIATIONS

Millions in Excess of Budget Demanded If These Pass; All Sorts of Ways to Spend Money

Up to April 1 there had been introduced at the present session of Congress, now in its fourth month, more than 12,000 bills and resolutions. Of this number not less than a thousand call for appropriations in addition to those estimated for in the President's Annual Budget as required for the proper maintenance of the Government during the coming fiscal year. The total amount called for by these extraordinary measures is more than \$3,329,000, according to an analysis in the current issue of The Budget, published by the National Budget Committee, by William P. Helm, Jr., its Washington correspondent. The introduction of these bills he characterizes as "the greatest raid on the Federal Treasury in the history of our national life."

"Frenzied Finance"
"In frenzied finance," he says, "this session of Congress apparently is the wildest that ever rode to Washington. The schemes which roll into the hopper of each house under the label of bills fairly stagger the imagination in the wealth of their expenditure and the originality of their proposals."

"There is, for instance, a plan to create a new Department of Education with \$100,000,000 to spend as 'encouragement' money for the states to lead us into the realm of higher and, presumably, greater education. There is a project to create a bureau for marketing agricultural products with \$500,000,000 to spend and virtually unlimited powers to achieve the end. There are other plans for helping the farmer, the total proposed expenditure coming under this head aggregating more than \$2,250,000,000."

"Park" Unlimited
"There are 795 public building bills, with more on the way. There are waterway bills whose cost would run into hundreds of millions. There are bills to raise the pensions of everyone on the rolls of the Civil and Mexican War list. There is a bill to give Spanish-American War Veterans more money, in line with the suggestion of an official of the Pension Bureau at a recent meeting of those veterans in the South."

"In the opinion of some members of Congress we need \$1,000,000 to locate potash deposits; \$1,350,000 more for National parks; \$300,000 more for schools for mountain children; \$4,800,000 for embassy and legation buildings; \$11,500,000 to purchase the Cape Cod Canal; \$50,000,000 to stabilize banks and trust companies; \$5,700,000 to improve the Illinois River; \$4,500,000 for a National Military Park in Louisiana; \$360,000 for the purchase of valuable seeds; \$3,200,000 for a bird and fish refuge; \$30,000,000 more for road-building; and \$90,000 for eradicating the grasshopper."

How Distributed
"Roughly, most of the additional expenditures proposed would be distributed as follows:

Department of Agriculture, \$1,783,320,000; Department of Commerce, \$500,000,000; Department of the Interior, \$140,571,578; Department of Labor, \$8,145,000; Navy Department, \$44,076,953; War Department, \$162,088,231; Post Office Department, \$120,127,487; Department of State, \$30,426,400; Treasury Department, \$19,503,293; Veterans' Bureau, \$9,329,234; Miscellaneous, \$509,150,000; District of Columbia, \$2,268,000; total, \$3,329,606,176.

Are Extra Expenditures
"All of this money which Congress is seeking to withdraw from the Treasury would be expended in pursuits entirely apart from the present authorized activities of the Government. If, through a miracle, each of these bills should be enacted, the activities of the Federal Government would be doubled or tripled, and the services of approximately 1,000,000 employees would be necessary to carry on the work. At the present time, the force on the Federal pay roll, exclusive of military and naval forces, is approximately 550,000 persons."

"The government would be virtually made over. Further, the resultant confusion would be endless. Tax reduction would go by the boards for many years and heavier taxes than those which burdened the nation in wartime would be required to raise huge levies necessary to provide funds for the work. Federal expenditures would virtually double in their entirety and expenditures for ordinary activities, as distinguished from expenditures incidental to the national debt, would rise to nearly three times their present volume."

The old proverb says that the worm will turn, but those worms that eat up our farm crops show no sign of turning away from their customary food.

During the war "the man behind the gun" was exalted, but he does not look so good on a lonely street on a dark night.

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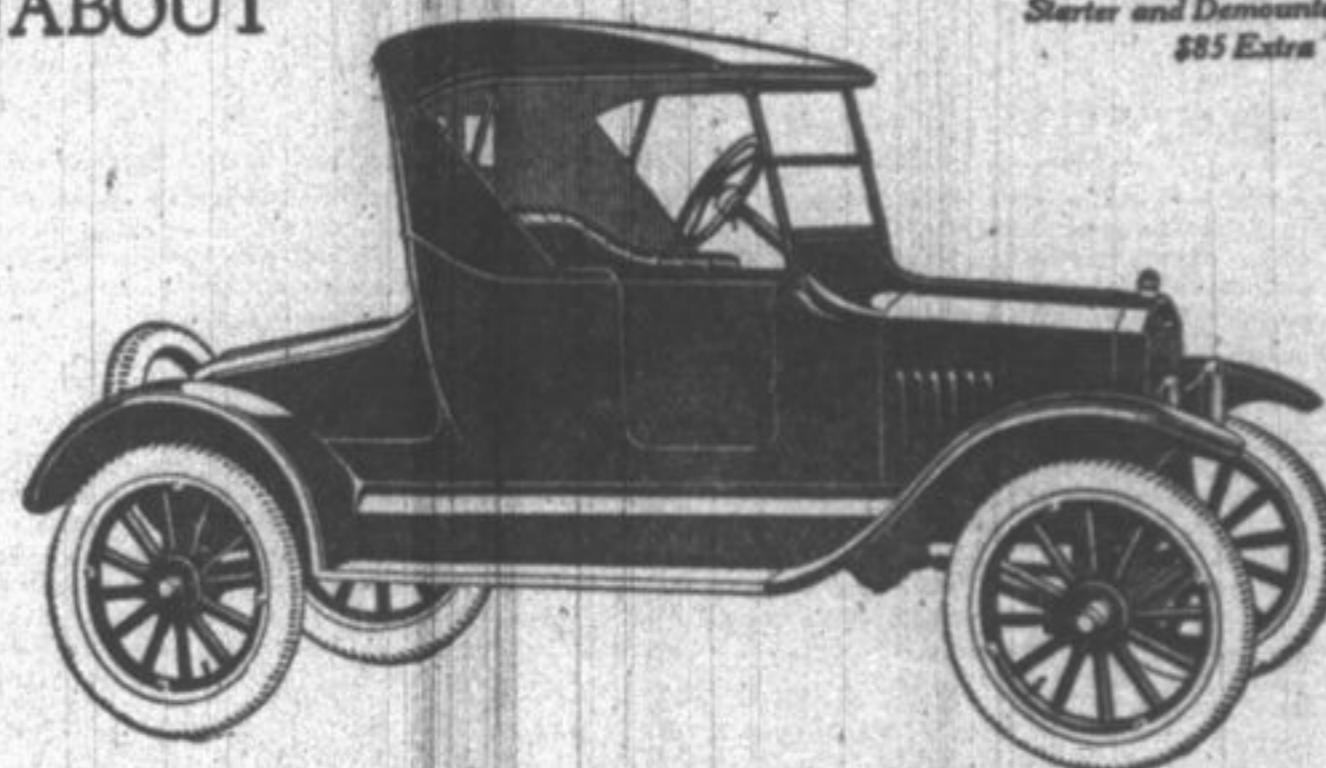
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