

**INCOME TAX RETURNS INDICATE CONDITION**

**Barometer of Business, In Opinion of Fiscal Statisticians Just Now**

It was estimated by treasury officials that the full income tax returns for the month of March would approximate \$400,000,000 and the returns have now been sufficiently canvassed to indicate that the officials will not be disappointed in their estimates. A total of this kind would only fall forty-one millions short of last year's returns, and is regarded as a very satisfactory showing for the new tax law.

The situation is very gratifying to officials who were depending on the \$400,000,000 figure in estimating the government receipts for the year. Had the figure fallen greatly below the estimate it would doubtless have caused some embarrassment and might have brought about a serious situation.

If things turn out as now indicated for March collections this year, it also is probable that the collections of income and profits taxes for the complete fiscal year 1925-26 will be but a few millions less than for the fiscal year 1924-25, all of which came under the old and higher tax rates. It is considered not improbable that the total collections for the current fiscal year will reach \$1,750,000,000 the estimate being made on the basis of the data now at hand.

Such a result would not only be highly satisfactory but would come as further evidence of the soundness and prosperity of business interests. Tax receipts during the fiscal year 1924-25 were larger than had been estimated, principally because the unusual prosperity of business brought greater returns in taxes than otherwise would have been the case, and it now appears that there is to be proof of the continuance of satisfactory earnings by business in the shape of tax payments even under the new and lower rates which will meet the needs of the government and watch or exceed the expectations of the officials.

**FAR WEST SUPPLIES "IRONSIDES" MASTS**

Fir trees from the far northwest cut on Bainbridge Island in the state of Washington, will be used to remast the United States Steamer Constitution, better known as Old Ironsides, when she sets sail on her trip down the Atlantic coast for the Philadelphia Sesquicentennial. The trees are the gift of the West Coast Lumberman's association. There is a little fine sentimental thought in this, that the new northwest makes this contribution to the colonial east.

**ILLINOIS DEATH RATE LOW**

Records show that the adjacent death rate in Illinois in 1923 was only 11.9 per 1,000 population as compared with 13.1 in California and 13.9 in Florida, says a bulletin of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. The death rate in Illinois is lower than in Maine, Massachusetts, Colorado, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia and a number of other states.

**HEAT MUCH USED IN MAKING RADIO SETS**

**Gas Fuel Largely Utilized In This Operation, According to Statistics**

The radio set of today, intricate, efficient and handsome, is the result of mass production and scientific heat application. From the polished cabinet and panel to the delicate tubes and condensers, accurately regulated heat plays an important part, and manufactured gas has come to be the chief fuel in many processes.

The cabinet is made of wood which has been dried in a gas-heated kiln, and the pieces are held together by glue from a gas-fired pot, while the front panel is made of molded bakelite, fused into its mold by gas-heated plates automatically held at an exact temperature.

The tubes, the most delicate part of the apparatus, are made by a process similar to that used in manufacture of ordinary electric bulbs, in which gas heat is used both for heating and annealing. Gas and glass have been closely linked ever since the development of mass production of glass specialties, and the making of radio tubes is one of the most successful applications of heat held within narrow variations of temperature.

**ILLINOIS FACTORIES BUSY**

Factories in Illinois are busier than they have been at any time since early 1924 and more than 43,000 persons have been added to payrolls in Illinois since last July, says the Illinois Chamber of Commerce in a bulletin issued in March.

**U. S. MARINE BAND IS OLDEST IN COUNTRY**

Nearly every one in America has a radio nowadays, and nearly everyone who has a radio has tuned in sometime or other to hear the United States Marine Band, the music of which is regularly broadcast from Washington. This band, according to Peter Roman Sterling, who writes entertainingly on the subject in the current issue of the National Republic, is the best known and oldest musical organization in the republic.

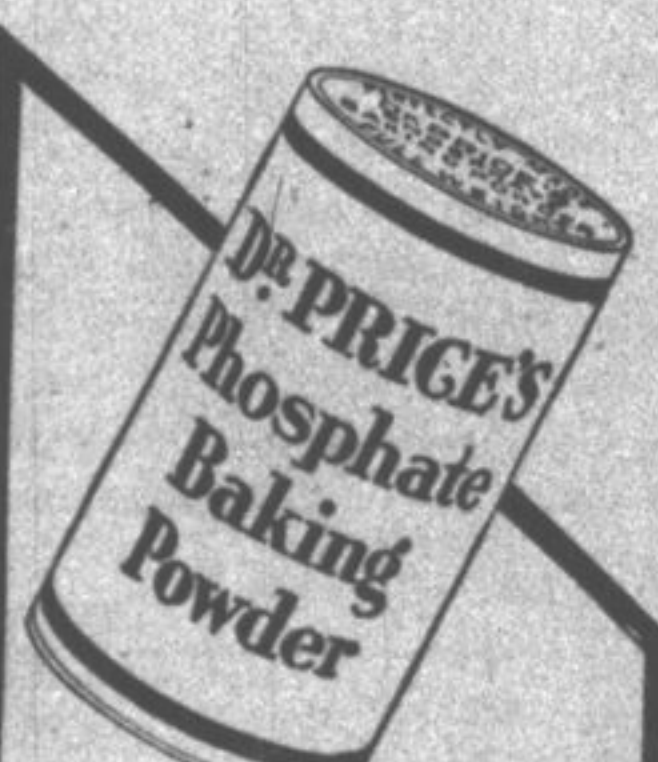
The band was started on its career by the Continental congress in the exciting days of the Revolutionary war and Benjamin Franklin was much impressed by the martial airs played by the band which was assisting in the recruiting of the first United States marines.

In 1798 a law was passed by congress putting the U. S. marines on a permanent basis, and in conjunction with the marine corps there was created "a drum major, a fife major and thirty-two drums and fifes." Since that time the band has been the republic's finest. With the gradual development of musical instruments the fifes and drums were superseded by horns and reed instruments.

Among the first presidents, Jefferson took a great interest in the Marine band and at the inauguration of President Madison when the new chief executive entered the inaugural ball with the beautiful Dolly on his arm the band played a brand new composition known as "Madison's March."

The music for the White House weddings has always been furnished by this band. This was the case when Nellie Grant, daughter of President Grant, became a bride, and when Alice Roosevelt became the wife of Nicholas Longworth.

Abraham Lincoln was very partial to the Marine band and during the days of the Civil War insisted that its concerts be continued as usual. The historic band was present when Lincoln made his immortal Gettysburg address.



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