

ISSUING A STATE CHECK INVOLVES A LONG OPERATION TO COMPLETE

Harrisburg.—More than a dozen individual operations are necessary in preparation of each of nearly 65,000 checks written each business day by the state treasury in the conduct of the \$250,000,000 a year enterprise which is the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Equally exacting—but less numerous—are details of handling another 25,000 checks not written in the department, but audited and signed each day to cover unemployment compensation payments.

Successive steps in this fool-proof system of checks and counter-checks which safeguard expenditures of state monies were explained by State Treasurer F. Clair Ross.

Requisitions for payments of commonwealth bills originate, Treasurer Ross points out, with the department, board, commission, or other branch of the government responsible for the expenditures. These requisitions are forwarded in duplicate to the treasurer where they are received and docketed.

Their requirements are studied by department auditors and, on approval, requisitions are routed to appropriations bookkeepers whose duty it is to see that each contemplated expenditure is charged against the proper account. In this regard it is important to remember, Treasurer Ross said, that the state monies are kept by the Treasury in 39 specific funds, each subject to its particular restrictions.

With these details satisfied, the requisition is checked and approved by the Bureau of Disbursements which then sends the original to the department of the auditor general with a request for a warrant authorizing payment. This warrant is issued only after a detailed scrutiny of the requisition by the auditor general, and no bills are paid without such an order.

Meanwhile—so that accounts may be handled with all possible dispatch—the duplicate requisition is sent to the treasury check writers where a check is drawn in duplicate in the proper amount and against the fund designated.

Checks—originals and duplicates—then go to the proof readers who inspect them for errors, erasures, etc., void bad checks and have substitutes drawn where necessary. When this work has been completed the total of all checks written against a particular requisition is struck and examined.

By this time the auditor general's warrant is received and entered formally on department records. From these records proof readers insert the proper warrant number on checks already written and audited. They are ready for a signature.

Checks covering sums in excess of \$500, are signed manually to comply with banking regulations; those for a lesser sum are signed mechanically. Both then are listed in a master receipt.

Those destined for the judiciary and for special legislative boards are mailed directly to payees by the treasury. Others are picked up by special messengers who must sign the master receipt before the checks are turned over to them for delivery to the department in which the requisition originated.

PUBLIC INTEREST IN DRIVE AGAINST SYPHILLIS BEING NOTED

Harrisburg.—Public interest in the problem of syphilis, its detection and treatment, is increasing in Pennsylvania, Dr. John J. Shaw, secretary of health, declares.

"There has been an amazing reversal of the former refusal to have even the word syphilis mentioned," said Dr. Shaw. "The disease is now accepted as a public health problem which must be solved with the assistance of every citizen.

"I believe the barriers have dropped much more quickly than they did in the case of tuberculosis. We are relatively much further ahead in our fight against syphilis than tuberculosis workers in the corresponding period of time when they began their drive twenty years ago."

Interest on the part of the public has stimulated the drive of private

A RUG OF GLASS



The young lady can roll this "glass rug" because it really is a broken sheet of the new safety plate glass for automobiles. A new type of solvent has been placed between two thin layers of plate glass. The broken fragments cling to the solvent. It was introduced at a scientific meeting at Franklin Institute in Philadelphia.



In the perpetual campaign to stamp out man-caused fires that burn over 40,000,000 acres annually, the United States Forest Service in cooperation with the state forestry agencies and organizations interested in conservation, will distribute in poster form nearly a million reproductions of the above painting by the famed illustrator, James Montgomery Flagg. The painting is the property of the American Forestry Association.

physicians to more active participation in the state program the secretary declared.

Free drugs for treatment of syphilis have been available to physicians in Pennsylvania for some time, and recently the profession has made an appreciably greater demand for them. The department of health furnishes the medicine for use in cases where patients might not be able to continue the long course of treatment because of financial difficulties.

"In 1938, a total of 807 private physicians received anti-syphilitic treatment and drugs from the department of health," Dr. Shaw said. "For the first two months of 1939 the demand shows an appreciable increase over the same period for 1938.

"Surely that is indicative of steadily-increasing interest. From all indications the demand will continue to grow for the year 1939."

CRACKER EATING POLLY DIES AT FIFTY

Blairsville.—The tamar requests that "Polly wants a cracker," heard for many years at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Campbell of Derry township, have ended. "Polly," a parrot, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, died last week at the age of fifty years. The bird was 19 years old when Mr. and Mrs. Campbell purchased it and it had been in the family for 31 years.

The parrot was an intelligent bird and seldom failed to greet members of the family when they returned home after being out. The bird was well known to residents in the Derry township section.

"Your work speaks more convincing than your tongue."

B. C. Forbes

TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PATIENTS CURED OF THE DREAD CANCER, 5 YEARS

Philadelphia.—More than 25,000 patients in the United States have been cured of cancer in the past five years, physicians attending the recent cancer forum of the Womens' Auxiliary of the Lankenau Hospital Research Institute were told.

Despite the fact that victims still view the disease with alarm, records of the cures can be found in the files of the American College of Surgeons, speakers at the forum said. More than 30 men and women of all ages who had had cancer, were guests at the forum.

Dr. George E. Pfahler, veteran radiologist and chairman of the Philadelphia County Medical Society's Cancer Commission, presented the former patients with the announcement that he himself had been cured of the disease.

All of the "exhibits," he said, were cured by surgery, X-ray or radium from five to twenty-seven years ago. One man was a Pittsburgh minister who suffered from a stomach cancer 15 years ago. Another couple, man and wife, testified they had been cured 15 and 15 years ago, respectively.

At least half of the 15,000 lives taken each year by cancer could be saved if all the knowledge on cancer now in possession of the medical profession were promptly used by doctors and patients, Dr. Pfahler said.

Dr. William Carpenter McCarty of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, blamed physicians for failure frequently, to recognize the disease in its early stages.

WAGNER LABOR ACT REVISION PETITION IGNORED IN HOUSE

Washington — A House drive to force action on proposed revision of the Wagner Labor Act by the discharge petition method bogged last week as both Democratic and Republican factions refused to accept responsibility for a determined battle on the issue.

But four members of the House had signed the petition of Representative C. Arthur Anderson, Democrat, Missouri, to discharge the Labor Committee from consideration of his revision bill and bring it to the House floor, despite the fact that he began his drive two weeks ago.

The four members placing their names on the petition to force a vote were Anderson, Representatives Burdick, Republican, and Lemke, Republican, North Dakota, and Hoffman, Republican, Michigan. Signatures of 218 members must be placed on the petition to make it effective.

DEBT WILL PASS FORTY BILLION PEAK, IN U. S.

Washington.—Treasury statistics indicated this week that the public debt will rise to an all time high of forty billion dollars this week.

This will be equivalent to \$307 for each man, woman and child in the country.

When the United States entered the World War the debt was \$2,975,618,585 or a per capita of \$28.57. When former President Hoover left the White House it was above 20 billions and reached 22 billion 538 million dollars 3 months after the New Deal moved in.

On Tuesday, the Treasury reported, the debt was \$39,972,052,542. That has not changed materially, but with the beginning of April a bookkeeping entry will increase it well over forty

million dollars. The entry will be a transfer to the old age pension reserve account.

Old age pension taxes are not earmarked but placed in the Treasury's general fund. Congress appropriates funds for the old age reserve account but the Treasury does not put up the cash.

Instead it provides the fund with the certificate of indebtedness which, in reality, are I. O. U.'s. Treasury officials explain that if they do not borrow the money from the old age reserve account they would have to borrow it from the public.

The law does not provide an increase in the public debt beyond 45 billion dollars.

"Books are the ever-burning lamps of accumulated wisdom." G. W. Curtis



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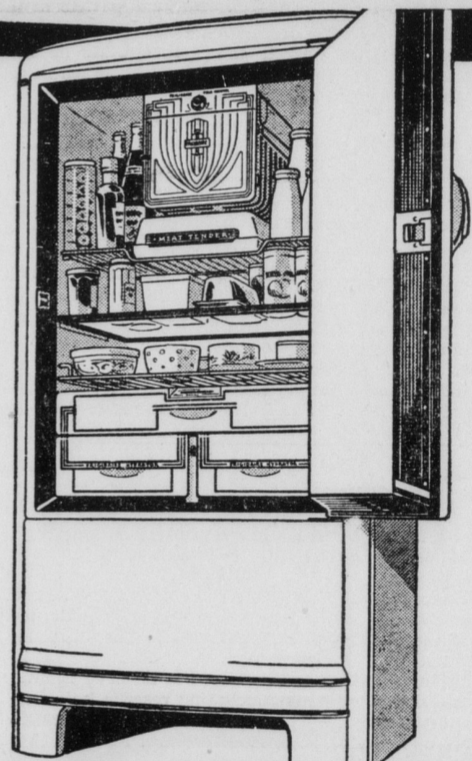
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