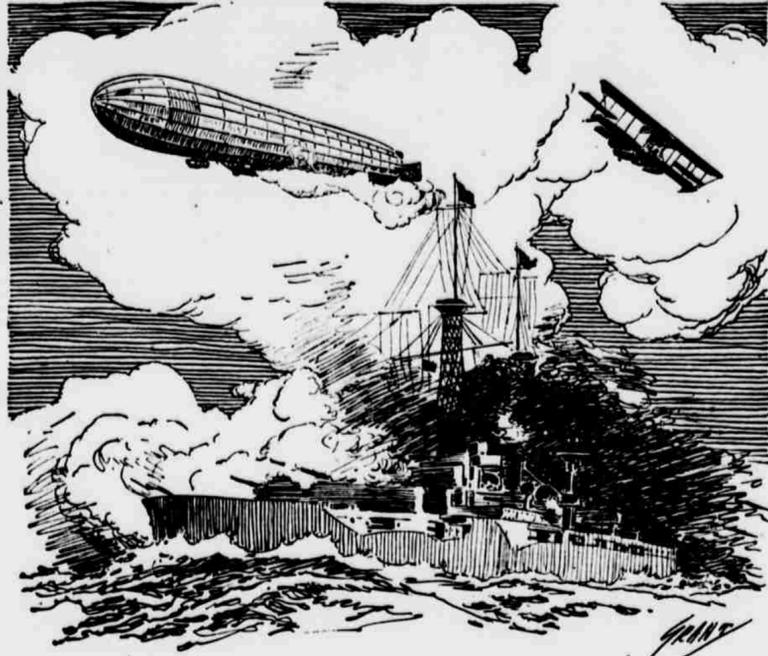




FATHER KNICKERBOCKER, SPENDER



New York's budget would pay for a fleet of twelve battleships of the latest type and sixty destroyers or would build 300 Zeppelins.

It Will Cost \$211,000,000 to Run the City Government Next Year--Here Are Comparisons to Show What Such a Sum Really Means

MANHATTAN ISLAND was bought from the Indians for \$24 worth of trinkets. It will cost \$211,115,915 for the city's upkeep in 1917.

Father Knickerbocker was granted this spending money last Wednesday morning. Never in New York's history, nor in that of any other municipality, has such a tremendous outlay been required. Yet the total represents economy, bespeaks efficiency, as city experts know it nowadays. The budget makers say it represents cost paring to a degree almost unsave.

Not a cent less would be sufficient for the health, safety, comfort and happiness of Pa Knickerbocker's five and a half million children, they assert. And only \$15 square miles are comprised within the city limits.

It is a wonderful document, the city budget. It is a sailing chart for Father Knickerbocker. It is a curb on his naturally luxurious habits. Within it is set forth what he is to pay to his policemen, to his firemen and to his army of civil servants.

To the cent it is designated how the entire \$211,000,000 is to be expended. So much for protection, the budget says, so much for sanitation, so much for recreation, so much for physical comforts, so much for the enjoyments that come to the mind. It would be less, the budget makers tell, were it not for the wild oats that Pa Knickerbocker sowed in his youth.

This condemnation is contained in the debt service item, the largest in the budget. It is stipulated that \$69,744,588.95 shall be paid out on account of the debt that the old Dutch daddy rolled up. This total debt is \$1,475,572,596.38.

A good part of this debt dates back to the days when Father Knickerbocker was a roisterer and a waster, to the days when he ran around with the sons of that famous chief of the Delaware Indians, Tammany. Wonderful times those for Pa Knickerbocker, when his friends not only gave him all the money he could spend but helped him to spend it. It is because of those times that the budget of last week was such a close fitted document.

The aggregate amounts to a fifth of a billion dollars. It is hard for the mind to grapple with money in that magnitude. Perhaps reducing the sum to physical terms would help to understand it.

It comes to few people to see a bill of \$1,000 denomination. Picture a room five feet square. Pack that closely with \$1,000 bills, new and crisp--old ones would overflow to double the dimensions. That represents the money put at the disposal of Father Knickerbocker.

Take an expert teller from the National City Bank and set him to work counting this money. He would come away eyecore and exhausted at the end of twelve hours. If he applied himself to the job with his usual carefulness, counted back, tallied and bound the money he would use up more than a day.

Many times you have gazed at the Woolworth Building and marvelled at its height. If the money the city is to expend in 1917 were stacked up in a

single pile of \$100 bills and set against the building the flagpole of the Woolworth's tower would be shut out of view.

The earth has a circumference of 24,872 miles. Making a dollar bill belt of the city budget, the equator would be encircled for three-quarters of its distance.

Dip into your pocket for \$6.75 and take out your watch. With every tick of your timepiece during the entire year of 1917 that \$6.75 will have vanished. That's what it takes to run New York. And this brings us to more than \$400 a minute, \$2,400 an hour. Now grasp this! It will cost for the operation of New York any single day in the year 1917 a trifle more than \$575,000.

That's money--and that's New York. What of ancient Babylon now?

It costs more for the upkeep of New York for twenty-four hours than it does for the annual education of the thousands of young women in Hunter College, Manhattan's normal school. Compute for yourself the interest at 4 per cent, on a day's maintenance. There are men in Wall Street, millionaires now, who had less than that when war brides began to dominate the stock market.

Sounds staggering, doesn't it, that daily figure? It suggests that almost anything and everything might be obtained with money. New York gives you just that--anything and everything. Here are some of the privileges of living in New York, privileges that could not be assured for a dollar less, the budget makers declare:

Asleep or awake there is a police force constantly guarding you and your property. Your homes are protected against fire peril by the best men and the best firefighting appliances in the country. Disease, pestilence and minor ill health are warded off through a constantly vigilant Health Department and street cleaning force. Your children have the free advantage of highly paid instruction in luxurious school buildings.

Water flows into your homes from the distant reservoirs. Parks that represent the last word in landscape architecture are laid out for the delight of your eye and the refreshment of your body. Should you fall ill there are hospitals. Were you to seize the city's charity is yours. Father Knickerbocker will find you a job.

Does your mind crave greater development there are lecture courses, night schools and the Public Library. All that is art is set before you in the Metropolitan Museum. The world of flowers and animal life is put at your disposal through the zoological parks, the Aquarium and the botanical gardens. There are roads and ferries and bridges for your feet, your carriage or your motor car.

These are only a few of the things it means to be a New Yorker. Pretty good return on your money, what?

You are paying for it in a hundred different ways. You indulge Father Knickerbocker without stint and like a true aristocrat he gives you the best that money can buy, what the rarest

good taste and the finest judgment can supply. Now this is how you pay for it:

The bulk of the money comes through taxation, personal and realty assessment. Every year--you will hear it again in the coming week--there is an unholy howl about the tax rate. Father Knickerbocker gathers within his limited dominion the bulk of the country's wealth and he makes that wealth distribute to the community. It is a brand of socialism, although Father Knickerbocker, the patron, would deny it.

It comes through bank taxes, mortgage taxes, excise and franchise taxes. Part of it is derived from bridge tolls and ferry fares. City offices contribute to it in fees. It is made up, in a minor fraction, from rentals and concessions. There are myriad channels through which it filters, but it has to develop through many sources because of the city's needs.

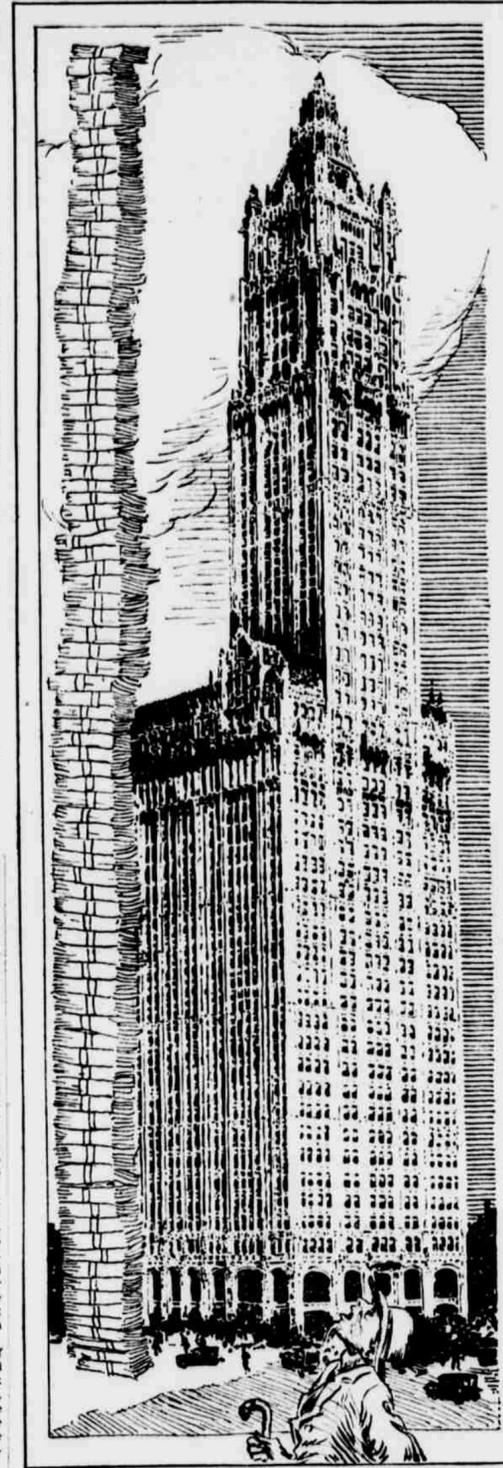
As has been said before, the greatest sum mentioned in the budget is devoted to paying up Father Knickerbocker's debts. This debt reaches the imagination defying total of \$1,475,572,596.38--calculated to the cent, you will notice. Part of this is what Father Knickerbocker had against him before he gathered in the other boroughs. It dates back, a lot of it, to ante-bellum days.

Then when he acquired the city of Brooklyn and took in Staten Island and the upper reaches of The Bronx he saddled himself with their debts, like the generous old soul he is. As he reached out for villages in Queens he took them, lock, stock and barrel, the barrel being empty and the stock unpaid.

Next to debt comes education. New York goes the whole route for its little ones. It leads them from the kindergarten through to college. It's costly, this carrying of youngsters from the cradle to man's estate. The next year will require an outlay of \$41,425,000. Yet, despite its bulk, there was less hanging over the bill than this than on any other appropriation.

No doubt can linger over the statement that New York has the most efficient and complete police force in the country, and there are experts who match it against any other in the world. For 1917 it will cost \$17,700,000 to keep the bluecoats up to the standard that Arthur Woods, as Commissioner, has set. This will include eight increases in pay and an increase of the force by 245 men.

For firefighting Father Knickerbocker will spend \$9,295,000. When it is considered that the volunteer system has been ousted from the city and that every scientific improvement has



Stacked in a single pile of \$100 notes the money needed to pay Father Knickerbocker's yearly bills would overtop the Woolworth Building's flagpole.

been given the department this sum is not wasted a dollar's worth.

The Department of Water, Gas and Electricity needs \$6,652,000 for next year. Charities will take up \$4,351,000. The Street Cleaning Department has had \$7,741,000 set aside for it. The Health Department \$3,325,000 and the Department of Correction \$1,536,000.

Add to this the hospitals for several millions, the Docks and Ferries Department, the Law Department, the Park Board, the Civil Service Board, the courts, the National Guard, the Tenement House Department, the needs for the various borough offices, the institutional requirements, and you may gain an idea of the heavy cost of operating a city like New York.

Were it not for the debt that was piled up in his prodigal days Father Knickerbocker to-day would be maintaining this town at a surprisingly low figure. The debt alone is equal to that of the United States, if certificates and Treasury stock are excluded. It aggregates more than the combined debts of New York State, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. But debt, as economists point out, is a demonstration of credit and credit is character.

Until the preparedness wave caught the country after the outbreak of the European war the country spent less on its army than New York spends in a year. The army budget for the coming year is \$367,600,000, which is \$165,000,000 more than the previous year.



To count the sum of \$211,000,000 would keep an expert bank teller busy for twelve hours if the money were in \$1,000 bills.

Budget Would Build a Battle Fleet, or Pay Nation's Gasoline Bill--Or Defray Cost of War in Europe for Two Days

The naval budget is \$213,500,000, an increase of \$163,000,000 over that for 1916. Prior to the great war the British army budget was \$143,331,000, and England maintained her place as mistress of the seas for \$256,000,000. That wonderful military machine, the German army, had been supported for \$293,289,155. France spent less than the amount of the new budget, \$202,141,122.

Were the New York budget to be expended for military uses exclusively it could have covered the combined costs of the armies of Italy, Japan and Austria. When it is considered that these figures, taken in the early part of 1914, were made up after Italy and Japan had come through wars that made them increase their army budget, the cost of supporting peaceful New York can be appreciated. The city's \$211,000,000 would have paid in full the expenses of the German and French naval programmes.

It may sound prodigal in the extreme that any enterprise, even the biggest city in the country, should require \$211,000,000 for a year's running expenses. Gigantic! Colossal! Yes, all of that--but yet how puny when set beside the cost of the great war.

In just two days the Allies and the Central Powers sat and shoot that much, according to figures compiled by the Mechanics and Metals National Bank. One-third of this is paid by Germany and her allies; England and her allies pay two-thirds.

The interest on the war loans issued thus far is little short of three times Pa Knickerbocker's entire debt. New York encompasses 315 square miles, yet its upkeep imposes a heavier burden than the whole of Texas, Montana and Alaska, which represent an area of more than 1,000,000 miles. This too allowing for the \$26,000,000 that has been appropriated for the construction of the Susitna Railroad in Alaska.

While on the subject of Alaska and Texas it may be pertinent in these comparative statistics to tell that the United States paid a little over a third of the money New York is to spend for the Louisiana Purchase, the Gadsden Purchase, Florida, Texas, Oregon, part of California, Alaska, the Hawaiian Islands, Porto Rico, Guam and the Philippines. To be exact, 2,851,171 miles were purchased for \$79,900,000.

Before revolution upheaved Mexico and the war riddled the finances of Canada the joint expenses of their upkeep were less than that required for Pa Knickerbocker's town. The budget would have borne the united operating costs of Bulgaria, Denmark, Greece, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Norway and Switzerland. That's fairly heavy for a municipality that can be covered in an automobile in one day.

It may be well to interject here--now that automobiles have been spoken of--that if New York were to spend its \$211,000,000 in gasoline it would supply just enough fuel to operate for a year all the motor cars in the United States. The last total of automobiles was a fraction over 2,000,000, and the annual consumption of gasoline for these is estimated at 1,000,000,000 gallons.

To return to the military uses of money. On October 24 bids were considered for the building of four battleships of the first class and twenty destroyers, to be added to the United States navy. The average bid per battleship was \$11,000,000, and the destroyers were estimated to cost \$1,500,000 each. All told, the average bid for the whole addition was \$67,000,000. New York's budget, if confiscated by the Government, would build a fleet of the times that size, with a few more destroyers thrown in for good measure.

Assuming hypothetically that Father Knickerbocker, in a spasm of patriotism, contributed all of his next year's spending money to the Government to be used for military purposes, it would build 300 Zeppelins. Were it to be expended solely on aeroplanes, the flying machines would blacken the sky.

Turning imagination under water, the money would buy a fleet of submarines that would form a chain completely across the ocean and give only a head start to any vessel that would endeavor to cross. A merchant marine that would be an industrial armada could be built with Pa Knickerbocker's money.

Of course our city daddy under present restraints cannot spend what he has not got. The money will come to him through the courses described before. Were he dependent upon his Uncle Sam for the money and he had to get it in a hurry his avuncular patron would have to turn over to him the total collections of the income tax, both from individuals and corporations, add to it the taxes collected on fermented liquors and tobacco and then complete the amount with the capital deposited in the twelve branches of the Federal reserve banks. Those would just about make up the \$211,000,000.

On the other hand, did he uncover the building of an other Panama Canal all he would have to do would be to convert to himself the budget for two years. This would complete the work and allow for two sides like the one that has just been overthrown. The old Dutchman has had a few big enterprises of his own on hand and he has more under way. For instance, it cost \$75,000,000 to build the old subway--old in the sense that was laid another under way. Figure with your own pencil what he could do if the \$211,000,000 for next year was not chortled; if it was "velvet".

The subway now being constructed has taken or will take \$165,000,000 of Father Knickerbocker's money. What is being done may afford another idea of the utilization of the budget total. To go further into the realms of possibilities, assume that the money supply sources failed and New York threw itself upon the charity of the country to make up the \$211,000,000. Every year the colleges throughout the country receive benefactions. If those who give to learning were to feel the same sentiment toward New York they display toward their alma maters there would just be enough in a year to keep the town running.

Why, all the churches of the country are maintained on half what it costs to support New York. New York eats up as much money as there was gold in the treasury of the non-belligerents in Europe a year ago. The combined gold resources of Denmark, Greece, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland in 1915 were only \$219,500,000.

The budget represents more than double the gold production of the United States. The last figure reported for this production was \$91,731,800. And in discussing mineral products it is known that if all the copper, silver, platinum, quicksilver, nickel, tin, manganese ore and manganiferous ores were lumped the total would just equal

or fall below the \$211,000,000 that is so come out of Daddy Knickerbocker's pockets next year.

It does cost to keep Father Knickerbocker in sound health and spirits. Such is the speed and vigor of metropolitan life that the cost of governing the city has increased \$12,000,000 within the year. But the budget of 1916 was \$212,056,111, or, in point of figures, more than next year's contemplated upkeep. In point of fact the 1916 budget was \$198,981,155. It had to tack on \$13,000,000 because the State felt itself verging on bankruptcy. This city, as always, had to take up the main burden.

Many times in the last three years there have been cries that New York city was bankrupt. Every time a clerk in the Tenement House Department asked for an increase of \$600 a year in his pay, somebody would rise to assert that the starting of a new increase would provoke a financial crisis.

Of course, New York is not bankrupt. Instead it is in better financial condition than ever before, according to some authorities. Father Knickerbocker has not so much money in his pocket, to be sure, but there have been devised ways and means that eventually will give him a bank account of size. Mayor Mitchell, Comptroller Trendergast and the other guardians of his property and person have saved the old man from himself until he has

They have told him, for instance, that it is not a fair or sportsmanlike thing for him to go off on a spending frolic and leave the bill to posterity. So they have set out for him a pay-against-policy. It is a simple plan. Its operation can be compared to the payment to a bankrupt of his debts. He has been over for the next generation. Naturally the immediate cost is felt and the budget reflects it.

It is because of the operation of this scheme that Father Knickerbocker cannot indulge himself on the pocket for his own business. He has his eye on for a long time. He must wait until he gets out of the hole first, if he goes into building he must have some money set aside, his financial administrators tell him, or else invest in something that will yield returns.

Another measure that had to be provided for the widows pension, which now is operative. This social service outlay for 1917 is \$1,283,000. To make up the deficit caused by people swearing off their taxes another \$1,000,000 had to be set aside. The debt service completed the increase with an impost of \$6,000,000 extra due to the maturing of old obligations.

Despite these increases there will be no extra burden imposed on the more or less patient taxpayers. This is due to the fact that real estate has taken on an added value in the year and the tax returns are forming a rate will bring enough to make up the increase. If the State of New York will only play fair with this municipality, contend its present executives, the tax rate will be reduced in surprising fashion. The Mayor and his colleagues on the Board of Estimate fought last winter with the Brown committee for a share of the tremendous wealth in taxes that the State takes out of New York city. It is a labor of the State to step in and take away motor license taxes, corporation taxes and other assessments on property with an impost of \$6,000,000 extra due exclusively to the city.

Now and again the State has grudgingly given up part of its spoils, but never with good grace. The city asked more through the Brown committee and there were lavish promises, but Pa Knickerbocker has not yet seen the color of the State's money. Maybe the children of our children's children will find Father Knickerbocker eventually out of debt. It probably will be just the day before the millennium.



The city's appropriations for 1917 would pay the expenses for a year of Alaska, Montana and Texas, more than 1,000,000 square miles of territory.