



Whose cheese is being divided?

TWO cats could not agree on fair division of a tasty cheese. "Let's go to the monkey," said one, "He is all-wise and can divide our cheese fairly." So to the monkey they went.

The monkey immediately broke the cheese evenly and judicially put the two pieces on the pans of his balance. But one was slightly heavier. He shrewdly nibbled that piece a bit and put it back on the scales. Now it was the lighter piece. So he bit off some of the other piece only to find it the lighter. Thus while the two hungry cats watched, the monkey kept taking bites of the cheese, first one piece, then the other, until finally the cheese had almost disappeared.

"What's left is too small to divide," sagely pronounced the monkey, as he popped the remaining fragments into his mouth.

Observers of the American scene see a direct parallel between the record of federal taxation and this ancient parable of the trusting cats, the greedy monkey and the cheese. Business and the individual citizen have been content to trust government to rule on the disposition of their earnings. And Uncle Sam keeps taking bite after bite out of the shares of both individual citizen and business.

Already government bites are so large as to severely penalize citizens and business alike. If allowed to continue, it will seriously impede further industrial progress and growth, stifle initiative and threaten the strength of our free enterprise system. Beware the day—goal of the socialists among us—when the monkey says, "What's left is too small to divide."



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Power

Maintenance Is Booming

IN THE WEEK of January 19, Cleveland will welcome the fourth annual Plant Maintenance Show and Conference. Last year's in Philadelphia set a world record, yet the 1953 Show and Conference will be bigger and better in every way. Number of exhibitors will grow from 276 to over 300; Conference registration from 2000 to 2500, and total attendance at Conference and Show from 14,000 to 16,000. This year there will be 61 conference sessions plus the banquet.

The general conference sessions, in particular, are an amazing demonstration of industry's practical concern with maintenance. Last year 2000 engineers sat down together in one session to discuss lubrication. And 2000 gathered again to debate preventive maintenance.

These are startling statistics. Yet it now seems likely that some of the individual sessions at Cleveland this year will bring together as many as 2500 engineers who are vitally concerned with doing a better maintenance job. Nothing like this has ever happened before.

For this booming evidence of interest in maintenance there are many reasons. One is the fact that maintenance men are at last finding a time and place to get together. Another is the present inflated hourly cost of maintenance labor. Still others are the growing complexity of industrial machinery and the increasing insistence on reliability and on continuous operation.

As our readers are well aware, *POWER* has been hammering away at practical maintenance for nearly three-quarters of a century. Every month now our Plant Operation and Maintenance Section carries many articles and items showing better ways to maintain all kinds of power equipment. And this month, to tie in still closer with the Show and Conference, every article in this section is focused on some practical maintenance problem.

Starting on page 103, you will find a great variety of useful methods and suggestions: Coating condenser tubes and pump impellers with neoprene to cut corrosion—revamping a feedwater system—a better way to remove sludge from fuel-oil tanks—an amazingly ingenious way to regrind a sprung diesel crankshaft in place—how to tell just when to overhaul a pump—how to ground portable electrical tools—tips that will get you out of tight spots with electrical equipment—maintenance tips for refrigeration—check list for the maintenance of heating systems (steam, hot water, hot air)—and many other maintenance ideas in the regular departments.

Yet, all in all, this is just a little more than our usual monthly diet of maintenance material, for as we said at the start, *POWER*'s interest in this subject is continuous. Telling the story of practical maintenance is a year-round job for an editorial team broadly experienced in every phase of power-service generation and application.

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