WHERE THE TAX-PAYER GOES TO THE TAX-COLLECTOR

Collecting the hut tax in Natal. Seated in the centre is the magistrate, who is giving a receipt for tax paid by the man kneeling behind the chiefs. The natives in uniform are police boys.

plant is a native of South America, and is said to have been introduced into England by way of Spain and France about 1596. It was valued especially because of its pungent and aromatic juices, which were supposed to ward off the dread disease of scurvy, so common among sailors on long voyages. There are about 20 species of nasturtiums. The flowers and leaves are often used in salads and the green seed pods are sometimes pickled.

Scientific name, *Tropæolum majus*. Flowers irregular, spurred, yellow and orange, 5 sepals united at base and on the upper side of the flower, extending into a long, descending spur; corolla 5-petalled, the lower 3 petals fringed at the base while the other two are inserted at the mouth of the spur; 8 unequal stamens; leaves circular and peltate; stem either climbing or creeping.

NATAL (*nȧ-tăl′*), South Africa. A British colony on the south-east coast of Africa, and one of the original provinces of the Union of South Africa. It is rich in minerals, the chief product of the mines being coal. On the coast and in Zululand there are vast plantations of sugar and tea. In the level districts of the interior, where cereals of all kinds (especially maize), fruit, vegetables, etc., grow prolifically, agriculture is an extensive industry. Pietermaritzburg is the capital of the province, and Durban an important port through which passes a large foreign trade. Population, about 1,430,000, of whom about 136,000 are Europeans. (*See* South Africa.)

NATIONAL DEBT. Nations as well as individuals and business concerns often have debts. If an orderly progressive nation has a debt in times of peace it usually means that it has spent large sums of money for improvements to benefit future generations.

Naturally the government does not wish to burden the present tax-payers with the entire expense; so part of the cost is postponed to a later time—that is, the government borrows money and gives the lenders bonds which show the date on which the money will be repaid, and the amount of interest that will be paid each year to the bondholders. These bonds may run 10, 20, 30 years, or even longer. In the case of a great war the expenses of a nation may be too large to be paid through taxation; or it may be thought no more than right that future citizens should help to pay the cost of the war. Hence war loans often make up a large part of national debts.

Effect of the World War

The World War added enormously to the national debt of every country that took part in it. During the seven years ending with 1914–15 to the financial year 1921–22, the national debt of the United Kingdom was increased to about eleven times what it was in 1914. From £706,154,110 the gross liabilities had swollen to the enormous amount of £7,742,526,100. The annual cost of this debt is £338,210,700.