

Forestry Department Budget Made Up.

The budget of the Department of Forestry for the period from June 1st, 1917, to June 1st, 1919, made public a few days ago, gives a completely itemized account of the funds needed for every branch of the work to be carried on during the next two years. Following is a summarized statement of the amounts asked:

Salary, Commissioners \$8,000
Salary, Deputy 5,000
Salary, two clerks 6,000
Contingent expenses 5,000
Traveling expenses of Commission 5,000
Salaries and expenses of foresters and rangers 375,000
Draftsmen, bookkeepers, stenographers, etc. 18,000
Surveys 10,000
Labor 250,000
Equipment and materials expenses 100,000
School taxes 42,000
Road taxes 42,000
Land purchase and examination of titles 600,000
Forest fire prevention and extinction 185,000
Forest Academy 25,000
District foresters 15,000

The first three items in this statement are fixed by law, as are the amounts for school and road taxes. Two cents per acre per year for schools, and the same amount for roads, is paid to the townships within which State Forests are located. The largest single item in the budget, \$600,000 for land purchases and examination of titles, is the exact amount allowed by the act approved April 15th, 1903. Last session only \$40,000 was allowed for this purpose, but Department officials point out the fact that it would take just a century and a quarter for the State to acquire another million acres with an appropriation of \$40,000 every two years, provided land could be bought for the same price as in the past. They also say that the State's present holdings need consolidation by the purchase of other areas should be purchased by all means at the headwaters of many of our streams. If reforestation is the part it should in the campaign for flood prevention, the first step undoubtedly should be the reforestation of the lands to be reforested, and the provision of sufficient seedlings to care for them. The appropriation asked for this purpose is about 225,000 acres within the next two years. The State of New York, which already owns almost twice as much forest land as Pennsylvania, within the past year authorized a bond issue of \$10,000,000 for the purchase of additional lands. The amount required for foresters' salaries and expenses is just sufficient to provide for one forester and two rangers for every 20,000 acres of State forest. The rangers' salaries now average less than \$50 per month, and the foresters, who must have three years of technical training before receiving appointment to the Forest Service, receive an average of less than \$100 per month, the highest salary paid being \$125, with no allowance for expenses. Some of the State's chauffeurs in other departments are as well paid.

New Coins a Delusion and Ditchers.

"Republicans have been so used to criticizing the Democratic administration for economic and diplomatic blunders that criticism of more executive acts probably would go unheeded, yet the Administration, through the Director of the Mint, I presume, has made a blunder in accepting the designs for the new silver coins that will last for years," remarked George Christian, of Marion, Ohio, to the Washington "Post."

"The new quarter and half dollar, which recently made their appearance, are fair to look upon. They would make beautiful medals, but as coins they are greatly inferior to the old designs. In the first place, both are dirt collectors. They have 'pockets' that will collect all sorts of germs and will certainly prove that the proposed new washing machines for coins are a necessity."

"But it is from an artistic point of view that I have heard much criticism. A sculptor of national reputation told me a few days ago that every artist is supposed to know that the third feather of an eagle is always the longest, yet in the eagle on the new half dollar the longest feather is the sixth. Any ornithologist can tell you, I presume, that this is erroneous. The half dollar, I believe, was designed by Weinman, who was a pupil of Saint Gaudens."

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GEORGE WASHINGTON AT SCHOOL.

In his early school days Washington was taught by a schoolmaster who was a bondsman, or semislave, on the plantation owned by the boy's father. This bondsman was a slow, rusty old man named Hobby.

The school over which Hobby presided was what was known as an "old field school," that is, the building was in a plantation field which had been exhausted by successive tobacco crops and allowed to grow up to pines. Such a school was often started by a planter for the benefit of his own children and the other white children who chanced to live on or near his plantation. It was sure to be extremely rude and little more was taught than the three R's—"readin', 'ritin' and 'rithmetic."

The building was of logs. It stood on blocks about two and a half feet from the ground and the space underneath formed a convenient rendezvous for hogs and poultry. The interior had neither plastering nor ceiling. When it stormed the teacher went outside and propped a square board against the window opening with a broken rail to exclude the rain. And yet the inhabitants of the vicinity referred to the rough structure in which he taught as "the academy."

While attending old Hobby's school Washington used to form his schoolmates at playtime into companies, and with cornstalks for guns and drums for drums, they paraded and marched and fought mimic battles. Washington was always the commander of one of the parties. No doubt this taste for playing at war was in part due to the fact that his eldest brother had served in a campaign in the West Indies.

Blankbooks are still preserved that Washington used when he was attending school, and in one of these is a code of morals and manners, consisting of one hundred and ten "Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation." The writing is round, fair and bold, and the lines run straight and even. These rules were probably taken down from the lips of the teacher. They sound rather stiff now, but it was a common thing then to set such precepts before children and Washington very likely committed them to memory. They touch on things great and small, and in some instances throw a rather curious light on the rude habits of the times.

They included such advice as, "Rowl not the Eys, wry not the mouth. Spit not in the Fire. Be no Flatterer. Take all Admonitions thankfully. Think before you Speak. Cleanse not your teeth with the Tible Cloth Napkin Fork or Knife." Last of all is this: "Labour to keep alive in your Breast that Little Spark of Celestial fire Called Conscience." The character of the rules and the serious care with which they were written seem to suggest on the boy's part an effort to bring a naturally apart temper under control. He was an unusual youth and even as a schoolboy was recognized by his companions to be a person of remarkably clear-headed fairness, so that they often referred their disputes to him as umpire and always accepted his decisions.

The school book that he seems to have perused with the greatest diligence was the Young Man's Companion, a work that was enormously popular at that time, and written, as its title page said, "in a plain and easy style," so a young man could master what it had to impart without the aid of a tutor. This book apparently came into Washington's possession when he was about ten. After some general instruction in reading, writing and figuring there are departments devoted to correspondence and the preparation of wills and deeds. Among the rest of the contents of the Young Man's Companion, were sections that gave instruction in measuring, navigating, house building and grafting and how to doctor and attend the sick.

Planters' sons often went to England to finish their education. Washington's father had been thus educated and in due time he sent his two eldest sons to the same place. George would probably have had the same advantage, but when he was eleven his father died. He then went to live with his brother Lawrence and attended a local school for a time. Still later, while at his mother's home in Fredericksburg, he went to an excellent academy.

Washington left school for good in the autumn preceding his sixteenth birthday. During the final two years he had paid special attention to the study of surveying, for which he had a decided partiality. Moreover, to make a practical application of his knowledge, he surveyed all the fields in the neighborhood of the school and entered the measurements with formal accuracy and precision in his notebooks, as if his figures had to do with important land transactions instead of being mere school exercises. It seemed to be his habit from his earliest years to leave nothing half done or done in a hurried and slovenly manner, and all his boyhood manuscripts are remarkable for the care with which they were kept and the neatness and uniformity of the handwriting.—Sunday Magazine.

Swat the Billboard.

a farm that thousands of railroad passengers see every day is the possibility that some of them will fancy and want to buy it. If statistics on the subject could be had it would be astonishing that so many sales come this way. Well, the farmer who plasters his land over with circus paper and patent medicine propaganda is in effect saying: "I can't make this land pay—just farming it."

SCIENTISTS DISCUSS IMMIGRATION.

At the sixty-ninth annual convocation of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in session late last year in New York, many of the problems facing the United States consequent to the war in Europe were discussed. Of particular timely interest was the strong plea of Professor Robert De C. Ward, of Harvard, for post-bellum restrictions on immigration. The lecturer doubted whether it would be to the advantage even of the nations now at war to encourage migrations to this country. Are we likely thereby to hasten or retard the coming of political and social reforms in Armenia, Syria, Hungary, Poland and Turkey? Answering his own question, Professor Ward stated his belief to be that "our duty as Americans, interested in the world-wide progress of education, of religious liberty, of democratic institutions, is to help the disoriented millions of Europe and Asia to stay in their own countries and to work out there, and for themselves, what our forefathers worked out here for us."

This is taking a novel point of view on the immigration question; and it presents our duty to enlighten the world in an aspect which is worthy of consideration. With regard to selective exclusion of immigrants Professor Ward was concerned about the physical and moral stamina of the future Americans, and greater care be taken in weeding out the unfit. He felt that the more subtle and less easily detected disease rampant in great armies in war time and the mental breakdowns among soldiers at the front will make the problem of health inspection more serious. Great numbers of men, though not visibly afflicted by any disease, will be physically enfeebled and mentally unstable, as the result of exposure and psychological shock. And it is the cullings of war-worn populations which are likely to be sent over the ocean. The sound and fit will be retained at home by every conceivable governmental effort.

Against the inroads of such immigrants, crippled in body and mind, the existing laws offer no protection. Neither would the proposed literacy test be of the slightest value. Among the weaklings there would, probably, be included a larger proportion of individuals capable of reading and writing than among the stronger men who have not been able to resist the debilitating influences of living for three years under war conditions. Professor Ward's paper has the merit, at least, of directing thoughts to unconsidered phases of the immigration problem.

New Game Code is Introduced.

Harrisburg, Feb. 14.—With the introduction in the House last week of the new game code by Representative Milliron, of Armstrong county, the bill appropriating the hunters' license funds to the protection and propagation of game, introduced by Representative Richard Powell in the House, the new bounty bill introduced by Senator C. A. Snyder, and the new non-resident hunters' license bill introduced by Senator T. Larry Eyre, the program of legislation regarding game, as contemplated by the Game Commission, is fairly complete. These bills have not been submitted as yet to the representatives of the sportsmen's organizations of the State in their present form, but will be so submitted in the very near future, and in the meantime the Wild Life League of Pennsylvania is taking care that they do not escape from committees.

The new game code is the most important of the measures as yet introduced and its purpose is rather to codify existing laws than to make any radical changes. It does make many changes in the seasons and bag limits. In regard to seasons the code provides the following seasons for game birds and animals:

Table with columns for species and seasons. Includes Wild Turkey, Ruffed grouse, English, ringneck or Mongolian pheasant, Green-winged teal, woodcock, wild rabbits and hares, etc.

The code gives permission to any property owner to kill a bear actually doing damage to live stock, person or property, and authorizes the Game Commission to remove any deer, bear, elk or rabbits that may be destroying property.

Discouraged. Said a man who was sick, Mr. Proctor. "If I don't very shortly get better The calls of this fancy-priced Dr. Will make me forever his Dr."

The Reason. "Why are Indians more stoical in the face of death than white men?" "That's easy. Indians are accustomed to dyeing."—Baltimore American.

His Achievement. "Who is this General Mackensen, anyway?" "He's the man who is putting the 'rule' in Rumania."—Baltimore American.

—If you find it in the "Watchman" it's true.

HOW OUR ARMY CAN BE MADE INVISIBLE.

Painting Soldiers Out of Sight.

If a regiment of soldiers were to march through the streets of one of our cities in a uniform of checker-board pattern, arranged in squares of bright red, green and yellow, it would create, to say the least, a popular sensation.

Yet it is by no means certain that this style of costume, or something like it, may not be adopted by our fighting men in the next war—not, be it understood, that they may strike the eye; but, on the contrary, that they may not be seen at all.

One of the oddest of the new departs of the present war is the utilization of optical illusions for cheating the ever-watchful eyes of the enemy, and in this line the most curious expedient is that of painting things out of sight. Thus, for example, an effort is made to render the big guns invisible by scattering daubs of the primary colors over the weapons and their carriages.

Our own War Department has recently been making experiments of the same kind, the great guns of the sea coast forts, among their concrete emplacements as well, being painted green, yellow and red; and, thus chromatically adorned, they are found to be actually invisible at a distance of only 1,000 yards.

The expedient in question, in the European war, has had its most important usefulness in making guns less visible to enemy aviators flying overhead—an all important aim in up-to-date artillery work being to prevent the foe from ascertaining the location of batteries. A battery once located may be destroyed by concentrated gunfire. The daubs of colors confuse the eye of the observer in the aeroplane.

Such a method, however, is very crude. It represents only a first attempt in the development of a new idea which is destined later on to be applied in a scientific way, in accordance with certain well-known principles of optics. The daubs of paint confuse the eye, but if the colors were properly employed they would make the guns actually invisible.

Daylight, of course, is made up of all the colors of the rainbow mixed together. In other words, the colors properly mingled make no color. It follows that a gun and its carriage correctly painted would have no visibility at all at any considerable distance. Neither, for that matter, would an aeroplane flying overhead. We may have before long invisible flying machines.

Warplanes and military balloons nowadays are painted light grey, to harmonize with the sky and render them less visible. But a grey object in the sky can be seen; if of no color it cannot be seen, because daylight is of no color.

The only problem is so to arrange the colors that, optically, they shall mingle. This cannot be properly accomplished by a mere scattering of daubs of paint. The thing has to be done on scientific principles. Whether it would be better to adopt a rainbow, a series of horizontal, vertical or wavy parallel, narrow stripes remains to be determined by experiment.

Probably any of these arrangements would serve the purpose. The result would be a chromatic scheme corresponding in effect to a rainbow. The colors of a rainbow mixed together make no color. So, in like manner, the colors applied with paint in the manner described would so mingle to the eye of an observer at a moderate distance that the object (gun, aeroplane or what not) would be invisible.

One naturally asks: How might this idea be utilized to lend invisibility to ships? Our Navy Department is even now experimenting with that. It is trying color-daubs on torpedo-boats and submarines, and with some success, the craft being thereby made much less distinct as targets. But the method is crude; it calls for development along the scientific lines above suggested.

The sea is blue. The sea is green. The sea is of varying tints, according to the color of the sky, which it reflects with its own modifications. But, generally speaking, the color of the sea is a mixture of violet and green; and it is urged by one theorist on the subject that ships could be made at least relatively invisible by painting them with a checkerboard or other pattern of these two colors.

Warships nowadays, to render them as little conspicuous as possible, are painted grey; so, likewise, are guns and military automobiles. The German soldier is uniformed in "mist-grey." But grey means obscurity, not invisibility. To obtain the latter the armies and navies of the future may have to resort to the most brilliant color patterns for the concealment of the fighting man and the fighting machine from hostile view.

Graduation Fees Reduced by State College Trustees. With living costs soaring on every side the trustees of the Pennsylvania State College have cut the expense of higher education. Announcement was made recently that graduation fees at State College have been marked down from \$6.50 to \$4.00 for each student. The reduction will go into effect next June, when the class of 1917 will receive diplomas. Because of the constantly increasing size of the graduating classes, the trustees found it possible to make the change.

Who is this General Mackensen, anyway? "He's the man who is putting the 'rule' in Rumania."—Baltimore American. —If you find it in the "Watchman" it's true.

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