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THE COLUMBIAN. ESTABLISHED 1866. THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

ESTABLISHED 1837. CONSOLIDATED 1869.
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING,
At Bloomsburg, the County Seat of
Columbia County, Pennsylvania.

GEO. E. ELWELL, EDITOR.
GEO. C. ROAN, FOREMAN.

TERMS:—Inside the county \$1.00 a year
in advance; \$1.50 if not paid in advance.
Outside the county, \$1.25 a year, strictly in
advance.

All communications should be addressed
THE COLUMBIAN, Bloomsburg, Pa.

HURSDAY FEBRUARY 18, 1909

Profligacy Rampant.

It is not to be wondered at that those who give attention to such matters, are feeling more convinced every day that an early return to the oppressive war time taxes, when every thing we used, from a box of matches to a bed-room suit, was ornamented with a government tax-stamp, will be a necessity, unless a general change in methods, in administration and in the purposes of the Federal government is made very quickly.

A steady outlay of over two and one-half million of dollars each year, — (\$1,008,000,000 annually) — is a matter that should concern those who are taxed to raise this amount to sit up and take notice. And then when it is known that of this enormous sum, seventy per cent., or almost three-fourths of the entire amount, is going to pay for what war has done or is going to do, and to still further enlarge the navy and increase the army thus fastening this vast expenditure upon us for all time, and making excuses and reasons for still increasing it, the necessity for some protest from the people is the more imperative and necessary.

And even with this two and a half million per day of our outlay, the government expenditures for 1908 exceeded its income over \$143,000,000; and for 1909 the estimated shortage is placed at \$15,000,000 per month or a total deficit for the year of \$180,000,000.

It is for those who must make up this enormous sum — and every man, woman and child in the country, who wears clothes, eats food or buys any of the necessities of life, pays his proportion of it in the tariff taxes that are charged up against everything he must have — that should awaken to the enormity of the wrong that is being done them through the extravagance and profligacy of those in power.

It is but few who know that "a single broadside from the 12-inch guns of the new 26,000-ton battleships which Congress is expected to authorize will cost some \$20,000. Each time a single gun is fired it will send forth a shot weighing 860 pounds, and costing \$370. Each shot requires 250 pounds of powerful powder, which costs \$200, making \$510 in all. But even this is not the total expense of firing one of these big guns. Each of them costs \$65,000, and when one hundred shots have been fired through one of them it is about ready for permanent retirement. This means \$650 per shot to be charged to depreciation. Therefore, without counting the labor required for firing one of these guns, the total cost of firing it reaches the tremendous total of \$1,160 per shot."

Would you believe it? And yet these are the official figures showing why the expense of the navy has grown to such an enormous amount. And with these figures staring the administration in the face, and with a deficiency of \$15,000,000 a month being charged up to the tax account of the people, a fleet of sixteen vessels, carrying anywhere from sixteen to thirty guns each, has been sent around the world to burn up coal, salute royalty and show to all countries what reckless and consummate asses

we can make of ourselves when it comes to a matter of spending money.

Is it not time for the masses to awaken to the condition that is upon them? Congress can put a check to the profligacy that has brought a state of affairs now existing, and the people can put a stop to the political existence of the Member of Congress who fails to do his duty under the circumstances.

But will they?
Or do they prefer still higher taxes and harder times? — Ex.

A Proper Veto.

We are in sympathy with the president in his veto of the act to take the next census, because of its provision for the appointment of the army of men needed in the work, or, at least, to be used in the work, without going through the civil service examination, which is provided for the permanent employes of the government, and which can be well adapted to determining the fitness of those who will take the census, and who should not be appointed without adequate examination, even though the appointments are required to be non-partisan.

We know all about non-partisanship in such matters, and that all we get from it is a tickle-me-and-I'll-tickle-you selection of men who are not fit for the work and cannot be expected to be fit, since the only qualification they have ever shown for it is ability to do the dirty political work that is required from them by the boss politicians they serve, and who seeks their payment out of the public treasury for service to him.

It does not matter to the country what politics a census taker may profess, but it does matter to it that he shall be competent to do his work well, and that he should do honest work. There are good men in all parties, and when the politicians offer to make non-partisan appointments to office, we have learned to understand their agreement is wholly selfish and never in the public interest; but only made so the work of supporting their adherents at the public expense may be made easier.

The census has come to be a great grab game for these men, and the consequence is that it has become costly to a degree far beyond its value, and we do not think that the country will suffer if the bill to take the next census should die. All the needed work of the census can be done in a few days, and yet it hangs on for years, resulting in production of mighty volumes that produce stale data of little use or interest. — Lancaster Intelligencer.

Senator to be Honored.

The Postmasters' Association of Pennsylvania on Saturday evening, March 20, will tender an elaborate dinner at the Bellevue-Stratford hotel in Philadelphia to Hon. Boies Penrose, chairman of the United States Senate committee on post-offices and post roads, and chairman of the United States joint postal commission. Among the distinguished guests will be the next postmaster general and his assistants as well as prominent men from all parts of the United States. This dinner is being given in honor of Senator Penrose assistance in furthering the advancement and betterment of the postal service. — Ex.

It may also be said that the dinner is being given to the Senator by the Postmasters as a mark of appreciation for his goodness to them in helping them to the jobs they are now holding down.

CASTORIA.
Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Hitchcock*
The Kind You Have Always Bought

WASHINGTON

From our Regular Correspondent.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 15, 1909.

After the fourth of March the seasons will doubtless come and go, but we will not see his like again — at least not in the White House. Another important message with the solemnity of a farewell address has been sent to Congress and there is no telling how many more the President may be intending to send. The last message sent by the President is the outcome of the investigation of country life by the commission not long since appointed by him. This message was sent with the report of the commission and it dealt with the disabilities of rural life and its needs, characterizing it "the foundation on which rests the physical life of the nation which in turn is the substructure to the social and political edifice". The document is didactic — almost elegaic in its seriousness. The commission made no discovery; it invented nothing; it has really told nothing new; but it cannot be useless to have the attention of the whole country riveted, if only for a day, upon the important questions of improving, refining and elevating industrial and social conditions in the soil, in that preponderant area from which not only the means of physical life are derived, but from which comes so much of the brain and brawn that, however refined and changed in school, university, or city, must ever characterize a people.

It is of course interesting to have confirmation of the fact, however well known, that country life in America has attained a high level as compared with former times and other countries. The two remedies suggested are cooperation and leadership. Much insistence is placed on good roads and improved school teaching. The President emphasizes the harm that threatens the farmer in the encroaching monopoly of water power for electrical purposes, holding that this power should be reserved for the farmer for the purpose of lighting and for farm motor uses. It will indeed be a remarkable advance when the stables, the dairy and other outhouses of the farm and the residence of the farmer, can be cheaply illumined like the streets of the city. This is, nevertheless, done in some localities and need not appear too remote when it is remembered that farmers are now, some of them at least, riding in automobiles.

The commission appointed by the President advises a sort of rural settlement work and declares there is in this country an opportunity for intelligent and trained persons to effect a rural regeneration.

Certain Senators have not been able to await the return from Panama of the President-elect and the expert engineers who went with him, to express their pessimism with reference to canal conditions. Senator Kittredge, chairman of the Committee on Inter-oceanic Canals, with Senator Foraker and Senator Teller, have taken time by the forelock and denounced the present plan of a lock canal and shown their intention of urging a sea-level canal before further outlay has been made in construction under the present plans. Mr. Taft is expected to arrive in New Orleans before the end of the week and it is understood that he will, in an address in that city, make an announcement that will express the opinion of the Administration, fortified by a careful inspection of the canal with the assistance of competent engineers; and this will at least settle the administration policy with reference to the great work. The question, it will be remembered, was thoroughly threshed out three or four years ago when a number of distinguished engineers from all parts of the world went to the canal territory, and when a majority of these engineers pronounced in favor of the sea-level canal. President Roosevelt then, for the reason that it was understood that the sea-level canal would cost more and require a longer time to complete, urged a canal with a system of locks; and his preference, although backed by only a minority of the engineers, was potent in the adoption of the plans upon which work has since

been carried on. It appears, however, that it is not too late — though it soon will be too late — to adopt the sea-level canal system and this is the phase of the question that is at present agitated in the Senate and to some extent in the House. Doubtless what President-elect Taft shall have to say will have the effect to elucidate and possibly settle the controversy.

A flurry of excitement has been caused in high official circles by the discovery that Senator Knox is ineligible for a cabinet position for the reason that he voted to increase the pay of cabinet officers from eight thousand to twelve thousand dollars a year. It will no doubt surprise Mr. Taft when he learns that the office for the head of his cabinet which he had supposed was fixed and settled is anything but established and is on the contrary a subject of serious doubt. The senate has been disposed to remedy Mr. Knox's ineligibility by moving the salary of the Secretary of State back to the original and long established sum of eight thousand dollars. This may or may not do. There are constitutional lawyers in the Senate, both democrats and republicans, all of whom are friends of the proposed Secretary of State, who are doing a great deal of study and investigation and it is possible that some means will be evolved through which the Pennsylvania Senator may assume the high office.

Too Much Legislation.

Seven hundred bills have been presented in the Senate and House so far this session although the Legislature of 1909 is but three weeks old as far as business is concerned. This number is so far ahead of all previous records up to this time that some of the members and officers of the two houses are wondering when the end will be. Practically none of the department bills have come in yet and it is said that some of them will take at least a fortnight to put into shape.

Speaker Cox says that it will soon be time to put a limit on the presentation of bills as there will be an enormous mass of legislation to digest between now and the fifteenth of April. Last session the time for presentation of bills expired about the middle of April, leaving the law-makers close to four weeks in which to do their work.

As in the former session the House leads in number of bills put in, having 482 to its credit, 118 of which were read on the first night on which bills could be received. The Senate has 218 as its total, ninety having been put in this week. — Washington, (Pa.) Record.

Impure Liquor in Pennsylvania.

"This State is the dumping ground for all the impure liquor manufactured in the world and other States," declares Dairy and Food Commissioner Foust. He was speaking about the bill that is being prepared to stop the sale of adulterated liquors and beers.

This bill makes it unlawful to sell or offer for sale wines, liquors and beers containing any chemical matter injurious to health. It is the opinion of the State chemists that most of the imported beers contain salicylic acid, which is used as a preservative. This act will make it necessary to label all blended brands. A fine of from \$60 to \$1000 will be imposed upon the dealer offering for sale any adulterated drinks.

Change at Eaglesmere.

A movement which may mean big things for Eagles Mere, the famous mountain resort, is under way, and it is expected that within a few months a new company will have been organized for the purpose of taking over the entire interests of the Eagles Mere Land Company and the Eagles Mere Boat Company, in both of which Williamsport capitalists are at present interested. The new company will include a number of Harrisburg capitalists, together with Representative Edgar R. Kiess and Captain E. S. Chase, who has been at the head of affairs at Eagles Mere for years. The change of title is expected to occur about May 1.

The February Sale of FURNITURE AND LINENS Began at Pursel's Monday, February 1st.

In this Sale we have "buzz-sawed" Furniture prices and "torn" a good bit off Linen prices!

But then you EXPECTED THAT, and we only mention it to emphasize the importance of this Sale to every person having a home to furnish. Your main interest will center 'round THE VALUES. You already know that Pursel Furniture, like Pursel Linens, is of "first" quality — that goes without saying.

Linens of all Kinds at Big Reductions.

BLEACHED TABLE LINENS.	MERCERIZED TABLE DAMASK.
56 in. bleached table linen reduced to 22c, was 28c	58 inch mercerized table damask reduced to 39c was 50c.
56 in. bleached table linen reduced to 49c, was 59c	58 inch mercerized table damask reduced to 49c was 59c.
72 in. bleached table linen reduced to 60c, was 75c	70 inch mercerized table damask reduced to 59c was 75c.
72 in. bleached table linen reduced to 72½c, was 85c	
72 in. bleached table linen reduced to 85c, was \$1	
72 in. bleached table linen reduced to 90c, was \$1.15	
72 in. bleached double damask reduced to \$1.15, was \$1.39.	
72 in. bleached double damask reduced to \$1.25, was \$1.75.	
72 in. bleached double damask reduced to \$2.00, was \$2.50.	
72 in. bleached double damask reduced to \$2.19, was \$2.75.	
UNBLEACHED TABLE LINEN.	TOWELINGS.
56 in. unbleached table linen reduced to 20c, was 28c	These prices are merest hints of the prices, but should suffice to convince you that now is the time for buying all the towelings you will need for months to come. Best Cotton Toweling 4½ yd. Brown linen crash reduced to 8½c, was 10c
62 in. unbleached table linen reduced to 35c, was 45c	Stevens' 22 inch crash reduced to 12½c, was 15c
72 in. unbleached table linen reduced to 39c, was 50c	Stevens' 20 inch crash reduced to 11c, was 14c
62 in. unbleached table linen reduced to 49c, was 60c	Bleached Russian crash reduced to 11c, was 12½c
66 in. unbleached table linen reduced to 85c, was \$1.	Unbleached Russian crash reduced to 10c, was 12½c
	Red border bleached crash reduced to 10c, was 12c
	READY MADE TOWEL BARGAINS.
	Plain all linen Hucka back Towels, 18 x 40 inches, (very heavy) reduced to 22c, regular value 12½c

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