THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE- MONDAY, MARCH 26, 1900.

THE DYING CENTURY **PASSED IN REVIEW**

SOME IDEA OF UNCLE SAM'S GROWING DUTIES.

Responsibilities of Government Beginning with Hardly More Than Police Power Expand Wholesomely in the Great Branches of Public Bervice.

From the Chicago Times-Herald.

Government as designed for man by man, and as it started to keep pace with the growth of civilization, had behind it the assertion of a police power Order was of first necessity. only. Law, in its first relation to society. bearing upon order only. Before the dawn of the nineteenth century government had taken cognizance of a possible duty toward society beyond the mere keeping of the peace, but in this century, of all others, the province of government has widened until it concerns itself with almost every form of individual and collective endeavor. It has become even a close, jealous monopolist in the interest of its people, as in the conduct of the postoffice department of a nation. Within the last hundred years the United States has given characteristic proof of this growth of government, and in its institutions it has stood as

a world example in progress For a government upon new lines. laving the foundation for an unexampled, material growth that time was to prove, the experimental processes by which the currency and the banking systems of the United States came into being are most vital in interest. For experimental as were the processes, they have led to a governmental currency aggregating \$2,000,000,009 and to bank deposits of \$5,000,000,000, upon which are based checks and drafts that are doing 96 per cent of the busi-ness of the country. Storm and stress and blood ha⊀e marked this progress toward a present system that even now is in question, but it has been a wonderful accomplishment withal, from the time that Hamilton in 1791 became the founder of the "Bank of the United States."

WEBSTER ON HAMILTON.

Of him Webster said in a famous "He was made secretary of the treas-

ury; and how he fulfilled the duties of such a place at such a time, the whole country perceived with delight and the whole world saw with admiration. He struck the rock of national resources and abundant streams of revenue gushed forth. He touched the dead corpse of the public credit and it sprang upon its feet."

But President Jefferson had opposed the new institution and for more than forty years after its establishment the national bank in one proposed form or another was a political issue. In, 1510 the question of rechartering the bank was defeated, largely through the influences of the ninety state banks then in existence. With the war of 1812 and its drain upon the country, banks were compelled to suspend specie payment and in the general panic the government was loser by \$9.-000,000, Re-established in 1819, with a capitel of \$35,000,000, the Bank of the I'nited States became the nucleus of a accounting." system of mismanagement, jobberles and even robberies that gave rise to the United States leads in this governand even robberies that give rise of the United States leads in this Alaska ended only when President Jackson, in 1825, overturned the national institution. It was the period of "wildcat"

flat to be a legal tender, was one of the historical tragedies in government, and at the end of this great war the banks of the country had \$390,000,000 of this of the country had \$390,000,000 of this currency. Specie payment had been suspended by banks and by the na-tional treasury and for more than seventeen years gold and silver were at a premium. Not till January, 1879, was specie payment resumed, spurred perhaps by Horace Greeley's senten-tious philosophy: "The way to resume is to resume." is to resume." Today every form of currency, legal or semi-legal in its nature, is at par and unquestioned as a circulating

ment

tury.

world.

medium. One of the problems for the twentleth century may be the taking of banking cares from the shoulders of government, and one of the great dreamed-of possibilities of an interna-

tional currency may be for its attain-England has learned of the century division of the Northwestern Railway he demonstrated the feasibility of disin the business of banking. The banking act of 1844, under which the Bank of England could pay only £3 17s 9d an ounce for gold, brought trouble to that country when France began to take the world's supply-coined uncoined-at £4 an ounce. Under this English act as the bank's gold reserve should decrease the issue of bank notes had to be curtailed. The result was the panic of 1847, and, incidentally, the repeal of the banking act. Under a new enactment the bank was allowed to issue notes at its discretion and with-

out regard to the bank's gold reserve. ENGLAND'S POSTAL SAVINGS SYSTEM.

When in 1857 a panic again threatened, with the gold reserve at only £387,-000, as against bankers' balances alone of £5,458,000, the bank began to issue paper, and not till it had issued £7,370,-000 in paper was a normal state of

finance restored. In its postal savings institutions England has set an enviable example to the world. The United States has sought to profit by the system, but hours the experiment has not taken form. Friends of the institution are looking

for its adoption early in the new cen-In every country that has adopted civilization in all that the term implies banking methods have been the index of that country's growth. If any one of the intricacies of banking may

stand for the world progress of the institution it is the traveler's circular letter of credit, whereby he may deposit a half ounce to 2 cents in 1883, and two noney in one bank in one country and draw it again in sums to suit from a score of banks in a score of foreign countries. International banking methods have grown as trade grows. Today an international commerce is more a barrier to war than is all the diplomacy of the world. It is through this trade relation that the optimist has seen, in fancy, an international currency-a greenback, perhaps-based upon government credit and prosperity that shall finally prove the impossibility of war between civilized nations.

An ally to banking in this millenial future may be the institution of the bracing in its conduct almost every postoffice and the international postal union that already has made such advances in world progress.

No compact of nations, perhaps, is more strongly significant than is this of the governments in the postal union. It is the strongest tie in the international relationship. It is an agreement by which one nation says to all the others. "Receive the mail of my people at your ports and distribute it to its destination and I'll do the same for all of you and we won't bother about any

And of all nations in this compact

tem was established, and in January. million and declared by government 1857, the prepayment of postage was made compulsory. With this prepay-ment exacted, however, the deficit in the department for the year 1859 was nearly \$25,000,000, due in great measure to the abuse of the franking privilege. The much-agitated free delivery sys-tem was established in 1863, and in that year an international postal union convention was held in Paris, giving a great impetus to the cause of inter-national facilitation of the mails. The money order system was introduced in the year following, the franking privi-lege was abolished, and the distance specification in postal rates was set aside, leaving the domestic letter rate at 3 cents for each half ounce. Postal cards came in 1873.

The rallway mail service, the wonder of the postoffice department, was test-ed for the first time on Aug. 21, 1864. George B. Armstrong, of Chicago, was the founder of it and on the lowa

tributing mail in a railway car, instead of hauling it as so much freight and dumping it by tons into some terminal postoffice. Today, 5,500 postal clerks distribute mail in 3,500 railway postoffices, traveling over 175,600 miles of railroad. Seventy-one miles of electric and cable railway are traversed and apartments are reserved in sixtyfive steamboats. In 1898 these men handled 12,225,000,000 pieces of first, second and third class mail, to say nothing of city drop mail and the enormous business of the registry office. In the same year 28,753,000 money or-

ders were written, aggregating \$204,-593,000 in value. The railway service has developed beyond the dreams of its founder, until now the examination of railway postal clerks upon the intricacies of mail routes and postal geography is one of

the most difficult in any branch of public service. From the Chicago center alone eighty-four railway postal cars move in and out every twenty-four

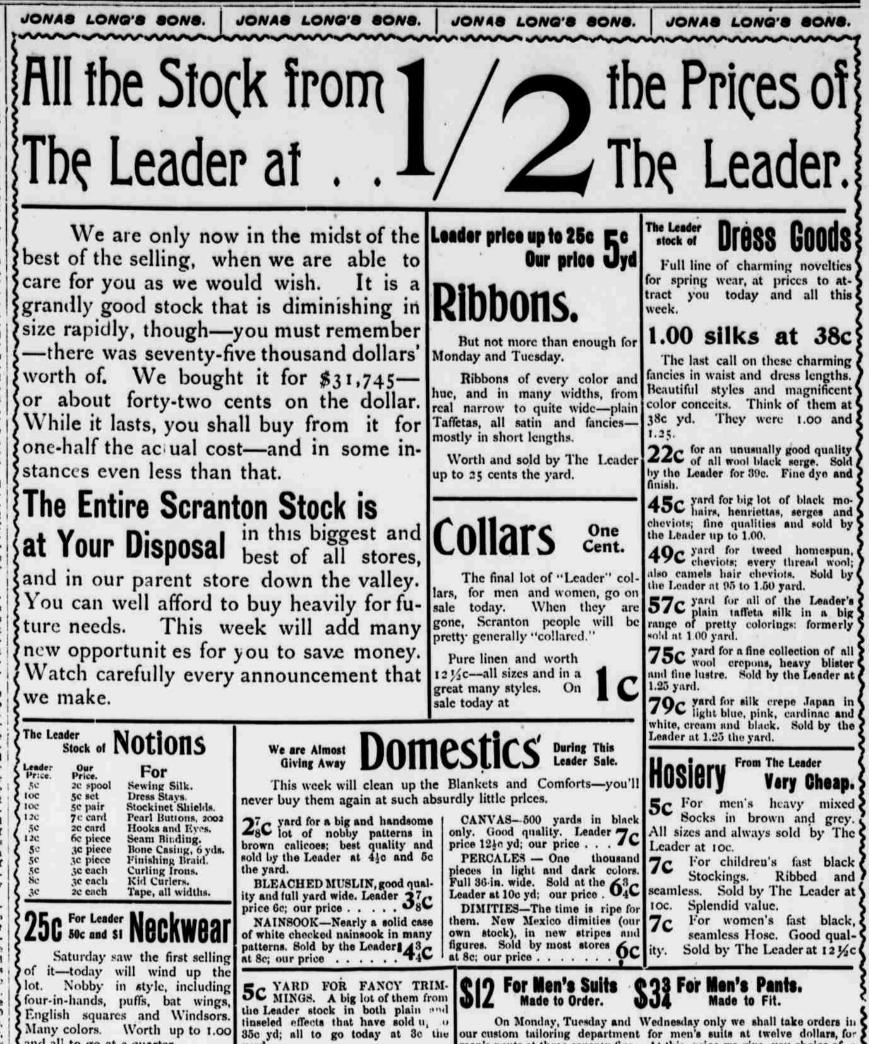
DECREASE IN POPULAR RATES. Civil service came in 1883; was scoffed, praised, blamed; grew and was obstructed; waxed and waned. But it is an institution today almost universal in its embrace of the department

and looked upon as the great incentive to perfect conduct of the postoffice service. Letter postage was cut from 3 cents

years later congress doubled the permissable weight of each letter under the 2-cent rate. An enormous increase of mail followed each of these concessions. After these came the special messenger service, the newspaper rate of 1 cent a pound, pneumatic tubes, canceling machines and the scores of economical makeshifts that have lent so much to the rapid hand-fing and distribution of the United States mail. The fast mail service of the department is one of the wonders of this age of wonders. The institution itself in all its ramifications is one of the great creations of civilization, em-

range of human interest. No age of the material world, per-haps, ever will make man insensible to the stress of wind and weather. That they should be the subjects of governmental concern, however, was of late necessity, made so by the increased knowledge of meteorology, as well as by the business of agriculture and the hazards of shipping. As an institution, however, the weather buerau of the United States in 1898 sent out 108,600 bulletins and 5,240,000 weather maps, interesting alike to farmer, gardener, stock raiser, sailor and even the young woman who, according to season, might have been counting upon a picnic or a sleigh ride. Boards of trade, busi-

nces and th



men's pants at three seventy-five. At this price we give you choice of a big and varied assortment of suitings, including all of the newest styles. This new department of ours has jumped into immediate and lastng favor. Well dressed men appreciate the great saving in buying

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teach you a good lesson in economy.

currency and Jackson's "specie circu lar," forbidding the sale of public lands except for coin, brought on th great panic of 1837. In the crash of the banks the government, as a depositor, again was loser by nearly \$3,000,000.

From a special session of congress called by Van Buren on Sept. 4, 1837. down to Aug. 1, 1846, when the independent Treasury Department of the United States finally was established. the independent treasury scheme had its ups and downs as a political issue It made and unmade politicians. Today the treasury and the subtreasuries of the United States are banks of issue and redemption, and the largest manipulators of United States money, There is an extreme reaction from the old cry of 1846-"Separate the government and the banks"-and the treasury at Washington and the subtreasuries at Boston, Baltimore, New York, Phila-delphia, Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis, New Orleans and San Francisco are vitally linked to the banking systems of the country.

BANKING DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

The beginnig of this condition dates from the national banking act passed on Feb. 25, 1863, under which law these national banks were to become government depositories. This bank cur rency was given a semi-legal tender power, and a government gold certificate enabled banks to store gold re serves in the national treasury.

The civil war, then in progress, had established the relationship between banking and government. An irredeemable greenback, printed by the

\$90 000 0 schools and colleges of the country reenues and spends \$100,000,009 to perceived most of these diagrams of ect the service. As against these chief figures Great meteorological conditions.

er classes of matter intricate and con-

Postage stamps came into use in

1847, and four years later congress fixed the three letter rates: One cent

fusing tables of rates were listed.

Britain has _0.398 offices and spends SOME FAMOUS WEATHER OB-0,000,000 a year on the service. France tas fewer than 9,000 offices. Germany Torricelli, as the pupil of Galileo, has more offices than has France. discovered the principle of the baromabetter general service and one of the ter in 1643. Fahrenheit's thermometer best conducted • parcel posts in the

was nearly a hundred years later in Germany was the founder of the ostoffice in 1497, when Emperor Maximilian made Francis, Prince of Thurn, his postmaster general. Until 1836 however, all the systems patterned after it were cumbrous, intricate, inadequate and costly beyond measure. In that year Rowland Hill in England began the agitation for uniform postage rates according to the present penny measure. The United States felt the impulse of this successful movement, but the difficulties of transportation in a new and wide country made it im-possible of adoption. As late as 1857 bureau, writes: there were three rates of postage in the United States, according to the dis-tance that letters traveled. On all oth-

on drop mail, 3 cents on letters within 3,000 miles, and 6 cents for points bebureau, proved that he took several yond that extreme, Railway mail routes readings." ad been authorized in 1838 in both the These readings, taken at 6 o'clock United States and Great Britain, and with this the development of the department in the United States had be-

IMPROVEMENTS SINCE 1854. On March 3, 1854, the registry sys-

making its appearance. Dr. John Lin-ing, of Charleston, S. C., began to k ep the first record of temperatures in 1738. Benjamin Franklin, in 1747, made some interesting and higaly valuable weather observations, pointing to the fact that a storm-wind always blows toward the storm-center. Jefferson at Monticello was a weather observer, and through him an interesting fact has been established as to the temperatures on the day of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In The Forum for May 1898, Professor Willis F. Moore,

SERVERS.

chief of the United States weather "Contrary to the statements which I believe have been made by some historians, the Fourth of July 1776, was a cool day; for the great author of the Declaration of Independence did not fail to read his thermometer in Philadelphia on that day. An examination of his papers in the State Department. made by an official of the weather

and 9 o'clock in the morning and at 1 o'clock and 9 o'clock, afternoon and evening, show that the maximum temperature for the day was 76 degrees, with a minimum of 68 degrees. These men were the pioneers of the

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service that today appertains to the ever for an enlarged vision, and it is of Agriculture, Isaac Department in this field that the new experiments Newton, the first commissioner for the of the bureau are to be made. department, made suggestions of such a national weather service in his re-THE LIFE-SAVING SERVICE. Akin to the weather service and its

ports of 1862-3, but not till Feb. 9, 1870, was congress induced to provide for a tentative bureau. For twenty years thereafter the work was carried on by the chief signal officer of the army as the meteorological division of his office, On Oct. 1, 1899, an act was passed establishing the present weather bureau

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and making it an adjunct to the Department of Agriculture. Now, after nine years, the bureau has 150 meteorological stations fully equipped and employing from one to ten men. It has 252 stations for the display of danger signals to mariners; 261 stations for the making of daily reports by telegraph, touching temperatures and rainfall in the corn, cotton and wheat regions; 3,000 volunteer stations where records of temperature and rainfall are made daily from standard instruments. wrecked and 10,000 crop correspondents who re port weekly to state centers during the crop seasons.

THE BUSINESS WORLD'S AD-VISER.

In forecasting storms, frosts, floods, and cold waves the weather bureau has become of incalculable value to the business of the country. The telegraph and the telephone as distributing agents for these forecasts have put the whole country in touch with weather age. news. A distinct feature of every daily newspaper, too, is its official forecast of the weather for the next twenty-four hours-a feature that is Of the many West Indian hurricanes

recent years not one has escaped the vigilance of the weather bureau, which has warned shippers and shipping in advance. On two occasions, where investigations have been made after the passage of such storms, it has been shown that vessels and cargoes repre-senting \$34,000,000 and \$38,000,000, respectively, were held in ports on the

Chief Moore of the bureau, feels that with the present instruments in the aboriginal in man. service the height of efficiency in the department has been reached. In upper-

There are 99,000 trees in the city of Paris, including 15,000 willows, 17,000 chestnuts and 25,000 plane trees. air explorations, made possibly by the perfected kite, he sees a chance, how-

LIFE IN MARS If There Are Human Beings There

They Are Probably Giants. from the National Review storm signal equipment-and to a great Mars possesses so many features in

extent depending on it-is the United seranion with the earth that it is im-States life-saving service, also under government patronage and control. possible to resist the thought that it also has inhabitants. This is, however. by no means equivalent to saying that Private means established a system of he kind in 1871, and its work for dis-Martian folk are constituted in the same way as human beings; indeed, ressed humanity was such as to atevery consideration points to the conract the attention of the government. 5. S. Cox of New York brought the sub-Whatever atmosphere exists trary. eet to the attention of congress, and on Mars must be much thinker than on June 18, 1878, the act was passed ours, and far too rare to sustain the which has led to the great chain of life-saving stations along the salt watlife of a people with our limited lung capacity. A race with immense chests er coasts and on the shores of the ould live under such conditions, or a great lakes. Each station is manned folk with gills like fishes could pass a by a crew of experienced suffmen and comfortable existence in spite of the equipped with everything that necesrarefled air. The character of life anywhere is, in fact, molded by the external circumstances, and as these sity and ingenuity have suggested as available in saving lives of the shipare known to be different on Mars Today there 's scarcely a stretch of from what they are on the earth, Martian inhabitants must have devel-

Worth three and four times the amount they are priced for this SC for men's fine No limit to quantities and plenty for all who come. A gigantic SC cameric handker-chiefs, with wide IOC for box of chil-dren's handker. Pretty ISC for choice of a wool mufflers in

opportunity that economic folks who revel in pretty laces will be more and narrow borders, and sold by the Leader pretty styles. Sold by Leader at 10c, at 25c box, the Leader at 49c.

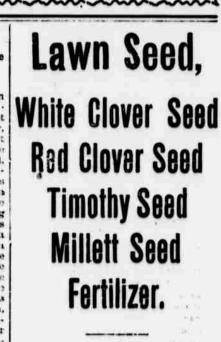
thore on which a vesel could be wrecked without attracting the attenoped peculiar characteristics in order ion and services of a life-saving crew. to adapt themselves to their environ-Thousands of lives are saved every ments-the forms of life capable of flourishing in attenuated air have

year by these crews, and suffering and disasters are alleviated beyond all survived, while those reauiring denmeasurements. The service is signifiser air have diorped out of existence. cant of the value that is placed upon human life at this end of the century The tenuity of the atmosphere of Mars is not the only fact which sugand suggestive of the fact that heroism gests that the inhabitants of that has not died on the altar of a material

planet are not fashioned after the ini-age of man. It is known beyond the These institutions, as the modern possibility of doubt that the force outgrowths of republican government with which a substance is attracted to are pointing to larger duties of governthe surface of Mars is but little more ment to the people of the future, to than a third as strong as it is on the the simplifying of criminal codes of the earth; or, to express the point in fig-ures, 100 pounds on the earth would statute books and toward a liberty that implies something more than freedom from manacles and the fetid atmosonly weigh 38 pounds on Mars if tested in a spring balance. In consequence of this weaker pull, it would be possiphere of prison cells. While, individ-ually, man may be denying still his responsibility as his brother's keeper, ble for a human being to perform actonishing feats on Mars without exoclety is accepting it more and more cessive muscular exception. A man

Civilization imposes upon the indi-vidual an increasing sacrifice of his who could jump five feet here could top fifteen feet there: he could lift three hundredweight by putting out the same strength as it required to raise one hundredweight on the earth. individualism, and the higher civilzation of the future cannot fail to rec-ognize the duties that come with this trammeling of nearly all that was he could spring across a road as eas-

carry him to the top of a flight of stairs.



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smaller a planet, and, consequently, the less the pull of gravity at its surface, the greater is the probability that its inhabitants are giants compared with us. Terrestrial giants are generally weak in the knees: they are crushed by their own weight. But ily as he now leaps over a mud pud- on Mars they would only weigh one-die, and a courde of bounds would third as much, and would therefore be able to move about in a sprightly fashion, so that an elephant there

But, paradoxical as it may seem, the might be quite a nimble animal



Says the 19th

to the 20th Century

of perennial interest to all readers. that have swept the Atlantic coast in strength of the weather signals.