

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 Service.

From the Chicago Times-Herald.

Government as designed for man by man, as it should be, has kept pace with the growth of civilization, had behind it the assertion of a police power only. Order was of first necessity. Law, in its first relation to society, had 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, laying 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 \$2,000,000,000 and to bank deposits of \$5,000,000,000, upon which are based checks and drafts that are doing 96 per cent of the business of the country. Storm and stress and blood have marked this progress toward a present system that even now is in question, but it has been a wonderful accomplishment without 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 speech: "He was made secretary of the treasury, 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 1810 the question of rechartering the bank was defeated, largely through the influence 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 \$3,000,000. Re-established in 1816, with a capital of \$35,000,000, the Bank of the United States became the nucleus of a system of management, jobbery and even robbery that gave rise to the famous "bank war" of politics, ended only when President Jackson, in 1835, overturned the national institution. It was the period of "wildcat" currency and Jackson's "specie circular" forbidding the sale of public lands except for coin, brought on the great panic of 1837. In the crash of the banks the government, as a depositor, again was loser by nearly \$2,000,000.

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, Philadelphia, 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 beginning 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 currency was given semi-legal tender power, and a government gold certificate enabled banks to store gold reserves in the national treasury.

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

million and declared by government fiat to be a legal tender, was one of the historical tragedies in government, and at the end of the great war the banks of the country had \$300,000,000 of this currency. Specie payment had been suspended by banks and by the national treasury and for more than seventeen years gold and silver were at a premium. Not until January, 1879, was specie payment resumed, spurred perhaps by Horace Greeley's sententious philosophy: "The way 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 medium. One of the problems for the twentieth century may be the taking of banking cares from the shoulders of government, and one of the great dreamed-of possibilities of an international currency may be for its attainment.

ENGLAND'S POSTAL SAVINGS SYSTEM.

When in 1857 a panic again threatened, with the gold reserve at only \$357,000, as against bankers' balances alone of \$5,458,000, the bank began to issue paper, and not till it had issued \$7,375,000 in paper was a normal state of finance restored. From the Chicago center alone eighty-four railway postal cars move in and out every twenty-four hours.

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 a half ounce to 2 cents in 1883, and two years later congress doubled the permissible 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, canals, and the scores of economical makeshifts that have lent so much to the rapid handling and distribution of the United States mail. The fast mail service of the department is one of the wonders of this age, and the institution itself in all its ramifications is one of the great creations of civilization, embracing in its conduct almost every range of human interest.

No age of the material world, perhaps, 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 navigation. It is in the weather bureau of the United States in 1898 sent out 108,000 bulletins and 5,240,000 weather maps, interesting alike to farmer, gardener, stock raiser, sailor and even the young woman who according to seasons might have been counting upon a picnic, a sleigh ride, boards of trade, business houses, public offices and the schools and colleges of the country receive most of these diagrams of meteorological conditions.

As against these chief figures Great Britain has 2,238 offices and spends \$10,000,000 a year on the service. France has fewer than 9,000 offices. Germany has more offices than has France, a better general service and one of the best conducted parcel posts in the world.

Germany was the founder of the postoffice in 1497, when Emperor Maximilian made Francis, Prince of Thurn, his postmaster general. Until 1836, however, all the systems patterned after it were cumbersome, 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 impossible of adoption. As late as 1857 there were three rates of postage in the United States, according to the distance that letters traveled. On all other classes of matter intricate and confusing tables of rates were listed.

Postage stamps came into use in 1847, and four years later congress fixed the three letter rates: One cent on drop mail, 3 cents on letters within 3,000 miles, and 6 cents for points beyond that extreme. Railway mail routes had been authorized in 1838 in both the United States and Great Britain, and in this development of the department in the United States had begun.

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

tem was established, and in January, 1857, the prepayment of postage was made compulsory. With this prepayment exacted, however, the deficit in the department for the year 1859 was nearly \$28,000,000, due in great measure to the abuse of the franking privilege. The much-agitated free delivery system 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 international facilitation of the mails. The money order system was introduced in the year following, the franking privilege 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 1875.

The railway mail service, the wonder of the postoffice department, was tested for the first time on Aug. 21, 1864. George B. Armstrong, of Chicago, was the founder of it and on the Iowa division of the Northwestern Railway he demonstrated the feasibility of distributing 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 175,000 miles of railroad. Seventy-one miles of electric and cable railway are traversed and apartments are reserved in sixty-five steamboats. In 1898 these men handled 12,225,000 pieces of first, second and third class mail, including city drop mail and the enormous business of the registry office. In the same year 28,753,000 money orders were written, aggregating \$204,592,000 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 hours.

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SOME FAMOUS WEATHER OBSERVERS.

Torricelli, as the pupil of Galileo, discovered the principle of the barometer in 1643. Fahrenheit's thermometer was nearly a hundred years later in making its appearance. Dr. John Linning, of Charleston, S. C., began to keep the first record of temperatures in 1753. Benjamin Franklin, in 1742, made some interesting and highly 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, chief of the United States weather bureau, writes:

"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 fall 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 bureau, proved that he took several readings.

These readings, taken at 6 o'clock 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 63 degrees. These men were the pioneers of the

JONAS LONG'S SONS. JONAS LONG'S SONS. JONAS LONG'S SONS. JONAS LONG'S SONS.

All the Stock from 1/2 the Prices of The Leader at 1/2 The Leader.

We are only now in the midst of the best of the selling, when we are able to care for you as we would wish. It is a grandly good stock that is diminishing in size rapidly, though—you must remember—there was seventy-five thousand dollars' worth of. We bought it for \$31,745—or about forty-two cents on the dollar. While it lasts, you shall buy from it for one-half the actual cost—and in some instances even less than that.

The Entire Scranton Stock is at Your Disposal in this biggest and best of all stores, and in our parent store down the valley. You can well afford to buy heavily for future needs. This week will add many new opportunities for you to save money. Watch carefully every announcement that we make.

The Leader Stock of Notions

- 5c 2c spool Sewing Silk. 5c set Dress Stays. 10c pair Stockinet Shields. 10c pair Pearl Buttons, 2002. 12c 7c card Hooks and Eyes. 12c 5c piece Seam Binding. 5c 3c piece Bone Casings, 5 yds. 5c 3c piece Finishing Braid. 5c 3c each Curling Irons. 8c 2c each Kid Curlers. 3c 2c each Tape, all widths.

25c For Leader Neckwear

Saturday saw the first selling of it—today will wind up the lot. Nobby in style, including four-in-hands, puffs, bat wings, English squares and Windsor. Many colors. Worth up to 1.00 and all to go at a quarter.

Laces An Extraordinary Sale Begins Here Today.

Without question, the most phenomenal offering of Laces ever made by any store. Three big lots at

- 3 cts yard Torcheons up to 4-in wide. 5 cts yard Torcheons up to 7-in and 8-in. 8 cts yard Vals and Pt de Paris up to 9-in.

Worth three and four times the amount they are priced for this sale. No limit to quantities and plenty for all who come. A gigantic opportunity that economic folks who revel in pretty laces will be more than glad to take advantage of. On sale, main aisle.

Jonas Long's Sons

We Deliver All Goods Free No Matter Where You Live.

Immediate and Careful Attention To All Mail Orders.

Leader price up to 25c 5c Our price 5c

Ribbons.

But not more than enough for Monday and Tuesday.

Ribbons of every color and hue, and in many widths, from real narrow to quite wide—plain Taffetas, all satin and fancies—mostly in short lengths.

Worth and sold by The Leader up to 25 cents the yard.

Collars One Cent.

The final lot of "Leader" collars, for men and women, go on sale today. When they are gone, Scranton people will be pretty generally "collared."

Pure linen and worth 12 1/2c—all sizes and in a great many styles. On sale today at 1c

Dress Goods

Full line of charming novelties for spring wear, at prices to attract you today and all this week.

1.00 silks at 38c

The last call on these charming fancies in waist and dress lengths. Beautiful styles and magnificent color concrets. Think of them at 38c yd. They were 1.00 and 1.25.

22c for an unusually good quality of all wool black serge. Sold by the Leader for 39c. Fine dye and finish.

45c yard for big lot of black moiré, hairs, Henriettas, serges and chevrons; fine qualities and sold by the Leader up to 1.00.

49c yard for tweed homespun, chevrons; every thread wool; also camels hair chevrons. Sold by the Leader at 95c yd.

57c yard for all of the Leader's plain taffeta silk in a big range of pretty colorings; formerly sold at 1.00 yard.

75c yard for a fine collection of all wool crepons, heavy bluster and fine lustre. Sold by the Leader at 1.25 yard.

79c yard for silk crepe Japan in light blue, pink, cardinal and white, cream and black. Sold by the Leader at 1.25 the yard.

Hosiery From The Leader Very Cheap.

5c For men's heavy mixed Socks in brown and grey. All sizes and always sold by The Leader at 10c.

7c For children's fast black Stockings. Ribbed and seamless. Sold by The Leader at 10c. Splendid value.

7c For women's fast black, seamless Hose. Good quality. Sold by The Leader at 12 1/2c.

\$12 For Men's Suits \$33 For Men's Pants.

Made to Order. Made to Fit.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday only we shall take orders in our custom tailoring department for men's suits at twelve dollars, for 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 lasting favor. Well dressed men appreciate the great saving in buying here. We give you first of all a grand assortment and add to the making every detail of perfect fit and finish—guaranteeing you better made-to-order clothing than you get in any other store.

Isn't a 12.00 suit worth the trial, or a 3.75 pair of trousers? It will teach you a good lesson in economy.

3 Lots of Good Handkerchiefs At 3 Little Prices

5c for men's fine camera handkerchiefs, with wide and narrow borders, and sold by the Leader at 10c.

10c for box of children's handkerchiefs. Pretty and sold by the Leader at 49c.

19c for choice of a big lot of fine wool mufflers in pretty styles. Sold by the Leader at 49c.

Lawn Seed, White Clover Seed, Red Clover Seed, Timothy Seed, Millett Seed, Fertilizer.

GUNSTER & FORSYTH, 25-27 PENN AVENUE.

BUY THE GENUINE SYRUP OF FIGS. MANUFACTURED BY CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO. NOTE THE NAME.

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 knee; they are crushed by their own weight. But on Mars they would only weigh one-third as much, and would therefore be able to move about in a sprightly fashion, so that an elephant there might be quite a nimble animal.

Says the 19th to the 20th Century We need a Biscuit. The biggest and best legacy from the old century to the new. Packed in the only biscuit box absolutely airtight and moisture proof—the only box that preserves the biscuit with all its crispness, just as it comes from the oven's mouth. Insist on getting the genuine Uneeda Biscuit, 5 cents a box. Take no imitations. National Biscuit Company.