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Reclassification. The Senate appropriations committee continues to hold hearings on the reclassification bill, which, after approval by the committee on the civil service, was referred there for further consideration. Action at the present session is urgently desired, to the end that the proposed reorganization of the departmental service may be effected by the beginning of the next fiscal year.

Reclassification in principle is demonstrated to be necessary to permit the establishment of the government service upon the basis of efficiency and standardization of duties and compensation. It is an essential in all business institutions that workers should be rated according to their responsibilities and paid in keeping. The economies grown in the course of the government from a few thousands of employees to 75,000 in this city, alone of the large employers fails to maintain such a system.

The bill that has already passed the House and has received the approval of one of the Senate committees is the product of a long and careful consideration of the subject by a group of departmental and bureau workers who have contributed to the project their judgment as to the most efficient and equitable division of labor and classification of duties and pay. Their recommendations, modified in certain respects and co-ordinated with the general scheme of departmental organization, have been embodied in a measure that is recognized as a fair attempt.

Delay in the consideration of the measure by the Senate endangers its chance of passage at this session. It is desirable that the Senate should give the support of all who believe in the principle of reclassification. At the short session obstruction may mean defeat for even the most meritorious measure. Therefore if the present consideration by the appropriations committee works to the end of adjusting differences it is well spent.

Failure to pass this bill, in some form, at the present session means that a great work will have to be done over again in the next Congress, for it will die with this session. Despite the number and importance of the measures that are now before the body it would surely seem that the Senate can find time before adjournment to take up and pass to conference this bill, which means such a material economy to the government and such an advance toward the highest efficiency in its working force.

The head of a bankrupt New York firm of "business builders," it is stated in court, said that his salary was \$1,500 a week. The question arises, whose business was built by such means?

A Connecticut tramp, denied aid at a back door, stepped into a touring car and drove off, search of a warmer welcome. Perhaps the car was the cause of his distress.

The chief of the weather bureau should be added to the fact-finding commission in order to assure full command of the situation.

Skip-Stops and Traffic. Consideration of the skip-stop system is about to be undertaken by the Public Utilities Commission, with a view to determining whether that expedient, adopted during the extreme congestion of war times, should now be continued. Two questions are involved, the movement of the traffic in the streets and the convenience of street car passengers. Undoubtedly from the latter point of view the skip-stops is a nuisance. It lengthens the distances that must be covered by passengers in reaching and leaving cars. It entails delays on their part which are not compensated for by the slightly more rapid movement of the cars. It exposes them unduly to the severities of the winter weather.

The retention of the rule requiring vehicles to be halted fifteen feet behind street cars that are stopping to take on or to let off passengers renders it advisable, for the facilitation of the street traffic, to reduce the number of car stops to a minimum. The more frequently the cars are halted in the downtown streets the more often motors are blocked on car line streets, save those that are equipped with car-loading platforms. Plainly skip-stops are necessary in the crowded downtown section unless more platforms are installed, to the end of reducing the delays incident to the observation of the protective fifteen-foot rule.

It would seem to be possible to adjust this matter on the basis of the traffic. Let the skip-stops stand in the crowded sections and abolish them in the outer ranges of the city, where the traffic is lighter. Study of the street conditions should readily disclose the radius at which corner-by-corner stops can be restored without hampering the movement of vehicles. It should always be remembered

that the street railways carry more passengers than the motor vehicles, and that the convenience of the greater number is conserved by the adoption of rules which will give to car passengers the greatest facility of access. At present in outlying sections of the city, where the traffic is light, it is frequently necessary to walk two or perhaps three blocks to reach a street car beyond the distance formerly required. The time covered by these morning and evening walks must be added to the travel time required of the car riders in going to and from their daily work. Facilitation of car movements means no gain to them.

The skip-stops were adopted as a means of lessening, not the street congestion but the traffic congestion, at a time when the city was overwhelmingly filled with newcomers. Meanwhile the traffic problem has become acute. The problem for the Utilities Commission is to determine where lies the point of greatest public convenience.

The World's Biggest Business. The biggest business of the world is conducted right here in Washington. Its treasurer's office at the corner of Pennsylvania avenue and 15th street is the scene of the greatest transactions known to man. Take Friday's record, for example. In one day one billion dollars worth of victory notes were redeemed, \$275,000,000 was collected in income and profits taxes and two issues of notes totaling \$700,000,000 were floated. Here was a day's "overturn" of \$1,975,000,000. Of course, this was not a regular or average day. It was one of the exceptional cases, but at that it was an index of the volume of business that Uncle Sam transacts annually.

Few Americans realize the magnitude of the operations centering here, the vast numbers who are directed from headquarters in this city and the tremendous sums that are handled. The magnitude of the government business has increased enormously since August, 1914. There has been a reaction, to be sure, but still the size of the government machine has remained much enlarged over that of nine years ago. The departmental population of this city, for example, is about double what it was in 1916, though much reduced from the peak of the period when the United States was in the war.

A day's business of nearly two billion dollars requires a most effective organization. The United States has such an organization, the product of years of development. There are some misadjustments in the government's system, some overlappings and lack of coordination between departments, but the Treasury stands as a model of efficiency and integrity. It handles these big sums, reaching hundreds of billions, without slip or slackness.

Despite all that is said in criticism regarding the "red tape" of government procedure, Uncle Sam's work is carried on with remarkable expedition and effectiveness. A certain amount of red tape is necessary to check against errors and losses. In the Treasury these checks are especially required. As a result of them that department stands today with probably the highest record ever secured in the history of the world in respect to precision and with the lowest record of losses.

"Back to the mines," says Commissioner Keller, in search of facts regarding high prices and short supplies. The phrase is as pregnant as when it is used to herald the end of a strike.

Somewhat the spectacle of a motor car that has been smashed in an accident does not seem to cure the habit of reckless driving, however large the crowd it attracts.

The householder is far from cheered as he looks at the vacant fuel bin and then goes upstairs to read that "hope" is entertained that there will be no coal strike next year.

It will be quite safe to call almost anybody in Washington "governor" tomorrow, with nearly half of the state executives in conference here.

If Poland persists in cutting its presidential term down to two days it may be difficult to induce anybody to run for the office.

Friday's turnover of \$1,975,000,000 is calculated to make the European nations feel all the more certain that America is destined to play Santa Claus to save them from collapse.

If the householder is to be stopped from "shopping around" for his coal surely some arrangement should be made to guarantee him deliveries from some quarter.

Three comets and a brand-new star simultaneously in evidence are giving the astronomers the busiest season they have had for years.

So far Germany has not hinted at offering Bergdoll as a security for an American loan.

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Virginia Avenue Extension. A proposal to extend Virginia avenue from Rock creek to the north end of the new bridge in Georgetown has been made in a bill introduced in the House yesterday. The purpose is to provide a suitable outlet for traffic from the bridge and to prevent congestion on M street, which is now the only practicable means of approach to the bridge from the east. M street, or "Bridge street," as it used to be called in the old days, is crowded now, and moreover carries double car tracks. It cannot be widened without destroying business property. Nor, indeed, can Virginia avenue be extended west of Rock creek without entailing some destruction of property. The choice lies between a widened thoroughfare or two streets. In the circumstances there would seem to be no doubt as to the better method.

Owing to the topography of the river side of Georgetown conditions are difficult in adjusting modern traffic to the inconceivable, however, that this problem should remain unsolved simply because of those difficulties. Greater obstacles have been overcome in the past, and this should not be permitted to remain indefinitely, entailing delays and involving dangers.

Until the proposed Arlington memorial bridge is built the new bridge at Georgetown—which it is hoped will be officially named the Key bridge—will remain the chief means of access to

Arlington and Fort Myer and the Virginia area, which is so rapidly developing. Even with the memorial bridge constructed and in use it will be an artery of first importance. And it is essential that the approaches should be free, with a maximum of room for the flow of traffic.

This matter demands early consideration. Plans must be prepared and estimates made for the work of cutting this avenue through to the bridgehead, and if the project were approved now, with the utmost speed in these preparations and in construction, several years must elapse before the highway can be opened. Meanwhile, the traffic, which is sure to increase as the region across the river becomes in population, will become burdensome with only a single artery of approach.

A persuasive opinion expressed is that it was largely a matter of temperament. Mr. Roosevelt was down-right, determined, and at times stubborn, but much that has come to light since his death—personal letters and that sort of thing—shows that he often sought counsel, and not infrequently was guided by it in the more important matters of policy.

Mr. La Follette, on the other hand, if we may believe some of his appraisers, is more on the Wilson order. He has no counselors, but only lieutenants. He plays a lone hand, and holds his cards close to his vest. He not only does not ask advice, but he sends it when volunteered. He plans his battles without assistance, makes his dispositions after his own notions, and holds his leaders to the strictest accountability.

In this latest movement the senator is associated with some strong men, built on his own pattern, and, like him, accustomed to issuing orders and insisting on their acceptance. So much will they hit it off together? So much in the scale, and so much depends on nice adjustments, this progressively-play is certain to attract a great deal of the closest attention.

The Conventions and 1924. Although a year will elapse before the two national committees meet to choose the convention cities for 1924, discussion of the subject has already begun.

The west has been remembered in Denver and San Francisco, and both cities were complimented on their hospitality. Both gave the candidates presented a square deal.

The middle country has repeatedly been remembered. St. Louis and Kansas City have played host to the politicians, and played it well. Chicago has been chosen so often, she has come to be known as the Convention city. In the matter of railroad connections and hotel accommodations she "holds over" her rivals for recognition in convention years.

In Minneapolis the northwest was recognized some years ago, while ten years ago Baltimore, a southern city, entertained the democrats.

For many years the east has not been a bidder. New York city has not housed a national convention since 1858, nor Philadelphia since 1900. But what is the matter with Boston, with Providence, with New Haven, with Trenton? Are they not all right? And shall we see them get their dander up and try for the coming honors?

The lower southern cities are barred by the climate. Midsummer finds them all pretty hot, while politicians, milling around in a contest for a presidential nomination, generate sufficient heat to suit all tastes and purposes.

There will be the usual talk about sticking up prices and gouging guests, and pledges demanded—and given—about such practices, but that has come to be a comedy feature of such contests. Nobody takes it seriously, remembers it twenty minutes after the convention cities have been chosen.

Chairman Hull's Suggestion. Did Chairman Hull err—diplomatically, let us say—in asking for the national celebration of the November election returns in the name of Jackson? Jackson day dinners are recommended to the faithful throughout the country. Should it not have been in the name of Wilson?

Let us consider a thing or two. Mr. Hull is a Tennessean. He was "raised" on Jackson. The Hermitage is near Nashville. How natural in him, therefore, in thinking of a democratic celebration to thank it in the name of his hero! Disloyalty to, or neglect of, the memory of Old Hickory would cost a Tennessee democrat his standing at home.

Mr. Wilson is not only alive, but is politically speaking, kicking. He is politely defying the figure in the next great election. He is in both parties that he aspires to dominate the next democratic national convention, not for the purpose of taking the nomination for himself, but for that of bestowing it on some man he thinks best prepared to champion Wilsonism in that year's campaign.

So that if Chairman Hull had made his suggestion in the name of Wilson instead of Jackson, he might have been accused of using his office improperly—of putting it at the service of the Wilson boom and maneuver.

There are three brands, so to say, of democracy. The Jeffersonian and Wilsonian brands are severely intellectual. They make good talk for the library, or for the lecture hall, but for the hustings, where the plain people gather and demand the real stuff, the Jacksonian brand holds over both.

And at this day the democratic party is making the effort of its modern party to appear as the friend and representative of the plain people, and as willing to do everything possible for them and in their name.

The "unspeakable Turk" may yet succeed in putting all the European nations on speaking terms—Cincinnati Enquirer.

A reader asks why typewriters are so seldom any good after the first visit of a repair man. But why limit that question to typewriters?—Kansas City Star.

Maybe one reason that the men have made a failure of running the world is because the women have made a failure of the men.—Columbia Record.

Nice thing about applauding movies is you don't get an encore.—Pittsburgh Press.

Politics at Home

Roosevelt and La Follette. Mr. La Follette is the most prominent, and uncontestedly the most active, of those at present agitating in favor of what passes hazily by the name of "progressivism," and popular expectation picks him as leader two years hence if a third party results.

This occasions much talk about the Wisconsin senator, his talents and temperament, and one encounters the question as to how it came to pass that Theodore Roosevelt overlooked and sidetracked him as a crusader in the cause of reform. The senator had the start, and in some things the advantage, but Mr. Roosevelt "got there," and the senator is still struggling for first place.

The old-fashioned man who read Apostle Paul's diatribes against marriage no doubt was impressed with the logic of the apostle's argument upon this much vexed social relation, until and unless he happened to see the one fair woman beneath the sun, who would marry him if he would only cast the humped-backed Paul into the discard, notwithstanding the canon of holy Scripture was rent in twain. It is lucky that all men are not compelled to face the question of marriage from the standpoint of whether they can afford a wife and children.

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The quarrel goes on whether environment or heredity makes the men. One can successfully uphold either side of the controversy. Much as we think we know about it, we know it about as little as we know anything in the middle west that it is just three generations from shirt sleeves to shirt sleeves. The expression epitomizes that an unskilled workman may by perseverance, thrift, foresight, make a fortune, that his son may regard his sole business in life to be to spread the fortune, and that the grandson may be back to the pick, shovel or ax. It is unfortunate that we did not establish the economic limitations to the right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness early in the history of our country. If we had proclaimed it, say, along about 1800, the unskilled, incompetent Thomas Lincoln would have been denied the luxury of a family.

The world's work by machinery, in the words of the Englishman, is the formula that marriages would be happier if they were all made by machinery. In this new pronouncement in the social and economic life of the present day there is more than a smile or a sneer.

If there ever was a time when need of plain men to do plain work existed this is the day. Unskilled labor, conscientiously performed, is the backbone of the nation. The claim to be skilled workmen in fact are not. To deny this would be toying with the truth. The improvement in machinery has made the so-called skilled workman, liberally speaking, half skilled and half machine. Whether we have been educating the people or not I do not say, but from innumerable instances we are learning that the men who are the backbone of the nation are the ones who are being educated.

Real reforms always have and always will start in the masses of society—not in the brains of men and women who never associated with the masses. The best of us have a feeling as the worst of us have a feeling, and we are about many things, which we would be good for us, which we prefer to discover for ourselves. With timidity I venture to assert that the world is being uplifted to such a degree that the fruit of the tree of knowledge in the Garden of Eden is being eaten by the masses of people. It is just as if some things it is just as well for us not to know. It will be a good thing if the people go on marrying in the old way. It will accomplish much if the people go on marrying in the old way. It will accomplish much if the people go on marrying in the old way.

Financing Farm Surplus Exports. PROPOSAL to restore world-wide industrial activity and general prosperity through financing the marketing abroad of the surplus products of the farm is made by Representative A. P. Nelson, republican, of Minnesota, himself a financier, in a bill which he has introduced in the House, and which Senator Peter Norbeck of South Dakota is fathering in the Senate.

The Nelson-Norbeck bill does not provide for anything but what is safe and sane financing. It calls for a sufficient amount of money to guarantee so as to reduce losses of the Finance Corporation to what are ordinary business risks. Representative Nelson calls attention that the joint resolution that called for the establishment of the War Finance Corporation was executed with a view to assisting in the financing of the exportation of agricultural and other products to foreign countries. But in the act itself, section 27, the operations are limited to the bakers on ninety States when it says: "All notes or other instruments evidencing advances to persons outside the United States shall be in terms payable in the United States, in currency of the United States, and shall be secured by adequate guaranties or assignments in the United States or by warehouse receipts, acceptable collateral, or other property, or by conveying or securing marketable title to agricultural products in the United States."

Under this bill an exporter in this country might ship 1,000,000 bushels to an importer in Spain. The exporter would draw a draft for three months for \$1,000,000. The Spanish importer would accept it by writing his name across the draft, and the government would then take it to the Spanish government, which would be indemnified by the proper officer, which would make the government also responsible to the United States. He could cash it in at the bank, or he could ship it to another foreign country or the same country.

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Question of Unskilled Worker's Right to a Wife and Family

BY THOMAS R. MARSHALL, Former Vice President of the United States. WE are gravely told that the unskilled workmen should be paid a wage which is inadequate to enable them to support a wife and child. This suggests that society does not need or wish children of such sires, and, inferentially, that these children, if not nuisances, are at best a source of worry and vexation.

The old-fashioned man who read Apostle Paul's diatribes against marriage no doubt was impressed with the logic of the apostle's argument upon this much vexed social relation, until and unless he happened to see the one fair woman beneath the sun, who would marry him if he would only cast the humped-backed Paul into the discard, notwithstanding the canon of holy Scripture was rent in twain. It is lucky that all men are not compelled to face the question of marriage from the standpoint of whether they can afford a wife and children.

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SOME INSIDE STORIES ABOUT NEW YORK

BY WILLIAM JOHNSTON. NEW YORK, December 16. I mean New Yorkers, whether they get five or fifty thousand dollars a year, live up to it beyond their incomes, when the Christmas season approaches, the many charitable institutions of the metropolis are driven to all sorts of expedients to try to raise the funds they need. Every mail is burdened with their appeals, and I wonder sometimes if the printing and postage do not absorb too large a proportion of the donations for charity.

Most of these institutions now use so-called "efficiency" methods. An off-look envelope arrives, bearing the name of the donor, and a woman has been joined together as husband and wife by either God or a marrying man, and a moment whether parents or preachers or political economists advised the step. In the future, in the past, youth will be served.

The quarrel goes on whether environment or heredity makes the men. One can successfully uphold either side of the controversy. Much as we think we know about it, we know it about as little as we know anything in the middle west that it is just three generations from shirt sleeves to shirt sleeves. The expression epitomizes that an unskilled workman may by perseverance, thrift, foresight, make a fortune, that his son may regard his sole business in life to be to spread the fortune, and that the grandson may be back to the pick, shovel or ax. It is unfortunate that we did not establish the economic limitations to the right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness early in the history of our country. If we had proclaimed it, say, along about 1800, the unskilled, incompetent Thomas Lincoln would have been denied the luxury of a family.

The world's work by machinery, in the words of the Englishman, is the formula that marriages would be happier if they were all made by machinery. In this new pronouncement in the social and economic life of the present day there is more than a smile or a sneer.

If there ever was a time when need of plain men to do plain work existed this is the day. Unskilled labor, conscientiously performed, is the backbone of the nation. The claim to be skilled workmen in fact are not. To deny this would be toying with the truth. The improvement in machinery has made the so-called skilled workman, liberally speaking, half skilled and half machine. Whether we have been educating the people or not I do not say, but from innumerable instances we are learning that the men who are the backbone of the nation are the ones who are being educated.

Real reforms always have and always will start in the masses of society—not in the brains of men and women who never associated with the masses. The best of us have a feeling as the worst of us have a feeling, and we are about many things, which we would be good for us, which we prefer to discover for ourselves. With timidity I venture to assert that the world is being uplifted to such a degree that the fruit of the tree of knowledge in the Garden of Eden is being eaten by the masses of people. It is just as if some things it is just as well for us not to know. It will be a good thing if the people go on marrying in the old way. It will accomplish much if the people go on marrying in the old way. It will accomplish much if the people go on marrying in the old way.

Financing Farm Surplus Exports. PROPOSAL to restore world-wide industrial activity and general prosperity through financing the marketing abroad of the surplus products of the farm is made by Representative A. P. Nelson, republican, of Minnesota, himself a financier, in a bill which he has introduced in the House, and which Senator Peter Norbeck of South Dakota is fathering in the Senate.

The Nelson-Norbeck bill does not provide for anything but what is safe and sane financing. It calls for a sufficient amount of money to guarantee so as to reduce losses of the Finance Corporation to what are ordinary business risks. Representative Nelson calls attention that the joint resolution that called for the establishment of the War Finance Corporation was executed with a view to assisting in the financing of the exportation of agricultural and other products to foreign countries