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MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1920.

How to Stop a Billion More of Government Spending.

The Sixty-sixth Congress meets today to spend the money of the American people.

Senator Smoot says he is going to make it his special business to knock a billion dollars out of the present Administration's estimates.

For the present fiscal year the Administration's estimates, regular, supplemental and deficiency, were \$6,334,812,929.46.

The amount actually provided by Congress was \$4,838,890,327.30—a cutting of the Administration's estimates by not far short of a billion and a half of dollars.

The amounts finally voted, the total regular appropriation bills were as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Category and Amount. Includes Agriculture (\$1,712,784.00), Army (\$92,558,266.00), Diplomatic and Consular (\$2,518,527.91), District of Columbia (\$1,373,043.87), Fortifications (\$1,383,442.29), Indian (\$1,040,635.27), Legislative, Executive and Judicial (\$104,745,726.11), Military Academy (\$2,142,212.70), Naval (\$432,279,000.00), Pensions (\$79,150,000.00), Post Office (\$67,379,199.60), River and Harbor (\$1,400,000.00), Sundry Civil (\$47,406,806.92).

In addition there were permanent annual appropriations for interest on the public debt, payments into the sinking fund, etc., \$1,363,708,080.29.

There was also a miscellaneous item of \$707,800,000 to cover \$725,000,000 on account of the railroads, with other expenditures, such as increased salaries of Government employees.

They were finally, to cover deficiencies for previous fiscal years, \$186,495,948.23.

The sum total therefore stood as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Category and Amount. Includes Regular (\$3,314,126,298.78), Permanent annual (\$1,363,708,080.29), Miscellaneous (\$797,800,000.00), Deficiencies (\$186,495,948.23), Grand total (\$4,838,890,327.30).

The colossal interest on the Government debt must of course be met.

The Post Office appropriations, furthermore, are not a Treasury drain, because the Post Office receipts offset the disbursements and more.

The diplomatic and consular items of more than nine millions may not be excessive in view of foreign conditions the world over; it may not be enough.

The pensions are unavoidable and the Military Academy expenditures are too low rather than too high.

But before the war, when every great nation of Europe was a peer magazine ready to explode, the United States Government would not spend vast treasure, would not spend even reasonable insurance against that incomparable danger.

Therefore there is no justification now for continuing such staggering military expenditures when the great nations of the world have neither the desire nor the power to make war against us.

And, whatever our policy, there is no sense, after the danger has come and gone, in going on pouring hundreds of millions into ships that have become antiquities in modern warfare and equipment that has proved to be futile.

The eight hundred millions of army and navy appropriations of last year therefore may easily be reduced enormously.

Perhaps they might just as well become half of that sum so far as any practical need of it now or in the immediate future is concerned.

The millions of river and harbor improvements must be shrewdly shopped.

The hundreds of millions of sundry civil expenditures must be changed. The scores of special interests and commissions that spend money must be reduced to zero.

But principle is generally supposed to be more important than size.

Liechtenstein formerly had an army of ninety-one men, but this was abolished in 1836, and not a single Liechtensteiner enlisted in the forces of the Teutonic Powers.

Financially the country is in excellent condition. It has no public debt. Its population of 11,110 is fairly prosperous, with neither poverty nor riches.

Yaduz (Sweet Valley), the capital, has 1,870 inhabitants.

The ruler and owner of this domain, JOMN II, was the oldest sovereign in Europe after the death of the Emperor of Austria.

He was born in 1840. He levied no taxes, for he had estates in Austria and elsewhere which yielded an income of \$500,000 a year to him before the war.

To prevent any compulsion on the part of Austria the Diet of Liechtenstein on November 7, 1913, declared its absolute independence.

Liquor in Bond.

The report of the United States Internal Revenue Commissioner for the year ended June 30, which covered six months of war prohibition and the first six months of constitutional prohibition, shows that 23,220,910 gallons of alcoholic liquor were withdrawn from bonded warehouses in the twelve months, and that 53,833,745 gallons were in bond on July 1.

In this rate of withdrawal were maintained all the liquor which lay in bonded warehouses when nationwide dryness officially began would be withdrawn before July 1, 1922.

But it is unlikely that the rate will be maintained. It should be remembered that under the war time prohibition law liquor could legally be exported largely on Great Britain and the United States for manufactured articles.

In return she exported raw materials. Unlike the United States and the Far East, she gained nothing in foreign trade from the war.

BRASIL'S AMAZING EXPANSION.

Just as reconstruction is bringing closer the actual measurement in terms of money of the property destruction in Europe, so the progress of deflation has set out in bold relief the dramatic period of industrial development in other parts of the world as an incident of the war.

Not merely the United States and the Far East show how modern war galvanizes the whole world into feverish activity; there are others.

It is to Brazil, on the South American continent, that history probably will concede the pre-eminent place as an exhibit of what a war thousands of miles away and on another continent can force a nation to do, even though that nation previously had been thought to lack initiative, full blown commercial and industrial experience and capital.

Brazil has a territory of 3,200,000 square miles, larger than the United States excluding Alaska, but the population is only one-quarter as great as ours.

In 1913 Brazil was dependent largely on Great Britain and the United States for manufactured articles. In return she exported raw materials.

Unlike the United States and the Far East, she gained nothing in foreign trade from the war. In 1913 her imports were \$326,000,000 and her exports \$313,000,000.

In 1918 her imports were \$247,351,000 and her exports \$284,275,000, with prices higher all around, which made the shrinkage in the volume of her foreign trade much greater than the shrinkage in price.

But Brazil gained a favorable balance of trade.

The change which came over Brazil was principally internal. Unable on account of England's preoccupation in the war and the lack of ocean tonnage, to obtain manufactures from abroad, Brazil set to work to satisfy her own needs.

Cotton had been raised and used by the natives before the discovery of the country by Europeans. Yet at the outbreak of the war the republic obtained most of its cotton goods from England.

In the principal manufacturing State of Sao Paulo in 1913 the imports of cotton goods amounted to \$2,000,000 and the domestic manufactures to \$2,750,000.

In 1918 imports stood at \$2,700,000, but manufactures of cotton for home consumption amounted to more than \$25,000,000.

This new institution was founded primarily for the purpose of protecting Belgian purchasers of foreign goods from excessive fluctuations in exchange rates, but it exposes and endeavors to combat the very cause which is making so much trouble in all international transactions.

A large volume of bids and offers of futures in French, Dutch, German, English and American exchange is concentrated in the Belgian clearing house daily, giving the Belgian merchant, through his banker, the broadest possible market from which to obtain funds to pay debts abroad.

This scheme differs from the ordinary practice of exchange trading, which is done chiefly by individual bids and offers over the telephone. It is a counterpart of the original Dutch suggestion for an international clearing clearing house along the lines of better put on a practical working basis.

The Dutch plan was to reduce international commerce to a concentrated bookkeeping transaction by exchanging through one agency the products of various countries at prices in terms of commodities instead of money.

But it was found that strikes, fire shortages and other unforeseen incidents of production, trade and transportation might change the values of commodities in the period intervening between the making of a contract and the delivery of the goods.

Thus, if a shipment of Dutch cheese were exchanged for German rails, and before delivery of the rails the cost of their manufacture advanced or the German market for cheese declined, the German party to the contract might be thrown into bankruptcy by his inability to make the proceeds from the cheese cover the cost of producing the rails.

The Belgian exchange clearing house lifts this burden of price fluctuations from the shoulders of the merchant and puts it on the foreign exchange market, where it properly belongs.

The purchaser of exchange through the clearing house is obliged to put up a margin to assure fulfillment of his part of the contract at maturity, and instead of being paid for his product with some other commodity he receives money.

This scheme of course limits the advantages of the clearing house to those who are able to put up a margin. But the plan embraces all the elements necessary in a practical international clearing house to eliminate unnecessary fluctuations in exchange.

A more dependable tone is provided not by price fixing or "pegging" but by concentration of bids and offers, thus making for a broader and therefore more stable market.

The margin required by the Belgian clearing house is equivalent to the revolving credit which would be one of the requisites for an international clearing house.

But principle is generally supposed to be more important than size.

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FIRE TRAPS.

A Fire Risk Inspector Wants Certificates of Safety Issued for Homes.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: Let me take issue sharply with your conclusions in regard to fire traps.

By holding officials responsible you are opening the door through which owners of buildings not in compliance with laws and ordinances can and will escape.

As long as some people can get away with violations just so long will they take chances.

Has the owner of a building no duty? One of your sentences points the drift of opinion toward a target at which I have been shooting for years—the issuance of a permit by competent authority for the occupancy of every building in order to regulate its use, its population and its fire traps.

Was the building to which reference is made a fire trap? People have perished in far better buildings, and people have escaped from buildings measurably worse.

Greater individual care in fire matters will save many lives.

NEWARK, N. J., December 4.

PLEA FOR STENOGRAPHERS.

Their Expenses Continue to Be High Though Their Pay May Decrease.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: During the present period of adjustment the secretaries and stenographers are suffering on account of lowered salaries and ever increasing expenses.

Prices for rooms and board are certainly not lower than they were, lunches are just as expensive and clothes, shoes, stockings and the like are still far from inexpensive.

We are finding it hard to make ends meet on the salaries we must take in order to get employment at all.

I am speaking of efficient, experienced young women, who have worked for ten years and upward and are capable of rendering real assistance in an office. The beginners and those with less experience are paid better than they were in the past.

For \$12 to \$10 a week should not be too much for a girl with ten or more years experience. She could not live on less even if she lives at home, as her contribution, in view of the enormous need to be paid, must be greater than ever before.

So during this period of adjustment, which will be hard for us all, business men should be kinder in their minds when employing help. We must live; they want us to dress properly and well; so why not give us half a chance?

SECRETARY.

THE REAL ISSUE.

It is How America, Not Ireland, Shall Be Governed.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: What are we going to do about it—the condition disclosed at Fifth Avenue and Fifty-first street on Thanksgiving Day?

Having written our letters to the newspapers we must not fall back into inaction, feeling we have done our patriotic best. The real task lies ahead.

It was a great incident, that Thanksgiving Day celebration. Let us make it serve a great end. Let us get back the moral tone of the country which has been battered away for years by "war" in Washington and local politicians and betrayed by officers of the law who did not do their sworn duty.

Let us organize and have a definite program laid out by able men, the biggest we can find, and supported by enthusiasm and money.

The issue, thank God, has been made pretty clear. It is not a question of Ireland; it should be governed but how America shall be governed. Let us never have that in doubt again.

MINNIE CURTIS.

NOT AFRAID OF LEPROSY.

A Layman's Observations in the Philippines and Chinese Cities.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: I have read your account of the precautions taken in shipping a Filipino leper from Albany to San Francisco, and your editorial article headed "In His Brother's Keeping." I wonder if any such precautions are necessary.

I have travelled extensively in the Far East and come in contact with lepers in many places, and like all other Europeans and Americans sojourning in that part of the world, look upon them as unfortunate and not as being in any way dangerous as regards transmitting the disease.

In 1908 I was shown through the San Lazaro Hospital in the outskirts of Manila. One of the buildings is given over entirely to lepers, and I was taken by the American superintendent of the hospital through the building, talking with the inmates and distributing cigars and cigarettes to them. There was no thought apparently by the officials in charge of that hospital that I was in the slightest danger of contagion.

Travelling in China, I saw thousands of the purely native lepers, some of whom pronounced leprosy, some of foodstuffs, and no one, European or Asiatic, seemed to be in the least afraid.

I am very much of the opinion that leprosy is very difficult to transmit, that it, from a leper to a healthy person, is an under the impression that of the many thousands of Americans who sojourn in the Philippines as soldiers or civilians, from the time we penetrated the island in 1898, but one American became a leper. My observation, as a layman, is that leprosy is a painless disease.

This letter is not written in any spirit of criticism, but if my observation of leprosy during a period of several years in fifty or sixty Oriental cities has given me wrong impressions I would like to have them corrected. I am of the opinion also that there are in the Southern States several hospitals in which are confined American negro lepers. Also in North Carolina are several hospitals for lepers or colonies in which Finnish or Scandinavian so-called lepers reside. If this is a fact and leprosy is so contagious that sealed compartments in trains are necessary are we not endangering the health of many people in various parts of the country?

HOWARD A. NORTH.

HOHENZOLLERN ANCESTRY.

A Connection With the House of Nassau-Orange in the Female Line.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: Your reference to the efforts of the Dutch, to protect the Netherlands from the possible accession of a German dynasty recalls the fact that the Hohenzollerns are descended in the female line from the elder branch of the House of Nassau-Orange.

After the death of William III, King of England and Stadtholder of the Netherlands, in 1702, King Frederick I. of Prussia inherited through his mother, an Orange Princess, the little Westphalian county of Linzen, the small Rhenish county of Moser, south of Cleve, and the French Protestant principality of Neuchâtel, in western Switzerland.

Frederick I. even became heir to the little sovereign French principality of Orange, east of the lower Rhone near Avignon, but transferred his claim to the King of France.

The Kings of Prussia kept their hold on Neuchâtel until the revolutions of 1848, and held Linzen and Moser for seventy years longer. In 1614 the Hohenzollerns for political reasons became Protestants of the Reformed Dutch type instead of Lutheran. E. G. LEVICKI.

WOMEN DID IT.

A Florida Town Where a Non-Partisan Spirit is Conspicuous.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: The Democratic Party in the Republican Victory," to which you call attention, is not confined to the North.

The Democrats of the South can claim a good share of that credit. In this part of Florida it was the first election in its history—coinciding with the first woman's vote—in which a Republican organization and ticket appeared.

St. Petersburg in its short existence has ever stepped to the front vigorously. It gave a majority of more than 200 votes for Harding and Coolidge when no Republican candidate had ever shown before.

The women did it. They formed a Republican club and an organization, the first known in this part of the State, six weeks before election. Crowds flocked to its meetings, Democrats as well as Republicans, men and women, in a proportion not far from your estimate of one-part Democrat to two Republicans, the equity in the vote North.

The outcome was a surprise to both parties, and Democrats are still puzzled to find so many Republicans among them who are just like other people, and pretty good company. But there is good humor and no feeling over the situation, and there are numerous indications of entire satisfaction.

Many of the Democratic women and men voters have strong Southern sympathies going back to civil war times, and they have been active in the local efforts for Harding and Coolidge, but the South Carolina woman, always outspoken with her State's frank opinions; another was of Tennessee Democratic associations; one Democrat is a prominent St. Petersburg banker.

It is not so remarkable when it is remembered that the Sunshine City's residents came down here from all States, Ohio, Michigan and Indiana especially, as well as from Kentucky and Georgia. The outcome was a surprise to both parties, and Democrats are still puzzled to find so many Republicans among them who are just like other people, and pretty good company. But there is good humor and no feeling over the situation, and there are numerous indications of entire satisfaction.

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