

The Washington Times

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Falling Estimates.

In estimating the needs of the Government for the next fiscal year at \$589,000,000, Secretary Shaw hews to creditable lines of prudence and economy.

The figures sent to the two houses should effectually dispose of that empty clamor raised now and again in certain quarters about the undue and appalling growth of our public expenditures.

It is gratifying, therefore, to find that last year's figures represented an abnormal excess in the cost of Government, and that a reduction of \$30,000,000 can easily be effected in next year's account.

But in a spirit of caution which neither grudges a proper expenditure nor encourages a useless one, the Treasury has planned this year to satisfy all the actual wants of the Federal service and yet make ends meet—or more than meet—at the next annual settlement.

To no one, perhaps, will the Treasury's latest estimates give more gratification than to the veteran chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, who a year from now is to assume the Speaker's gavel.

Alfred Lacroix, the government geologist of France, will remain in Martinique this winter to study seismic conditions; that is, he will remain in the activity of Mont Pelee leaves any island on which he can stay.

Hurry Coal to Washington.

Having ascertained by careful investigation the causes leading to the present coal shortage in Washington, and having obtained from the Reading Railroad a promise to increase the shipments to this city, the local committee of citizens may advantageously continue its admirable service by keeping a close watch on the situation in order to insure the necessary relief.

In addition to the fifty cars a day, with a probable increase to seventy-five, which the Reading Railroad pledges itself to deliver, every effort should be exerted to bring about an increase of consignments by the Pennsylvania line, operating through its Baltimore representatives in the coal business.

In other words, the slogan of the movement in which the local committee is so zealously and capably engaged should be "Hurry coal to Washington!"

A bitter cold spell is likely to come at any moment, however, and with its coming a host of poor people will experience actual suffering unless the existing coal famine is terminated.

Major Sylvester should not derive undue comfort from the fact that burglary has been somewhat epidemic in all American cities.

Those members of the President's party who are now disposed to minimize the significance of his anti-trust utterances should remember that the recent Republican victories at the polls were largely due to the people's indorsement of the President's views.

It is averred that Senator Depew has a cat, which is credible, and that it is a fine and intelligent cat, which is also within the bounds of possibility.

If the truth is kept constantly in evidence that the Nicaragua canal route will be chosen in the event of continued difficulty with regard to the Colombian treaty, the negotiation of the latter may be greatly facilitated.

A Rescue in Extremity.

So rarely does gentle woman permit herself to deal with man in a spirit of impartial justice, that certain concessions made recently by the Women's Health Protective Association are so notable as to call for the most grateful appreciation.

During the progress of a discussion as to the necessity of reform in the matter of overcrowded street cars, this vigorous organization of New York femininity drifted into a consideration of masculine manners.

This was rather a serious indictment, and, for a while, things looked pretty black for the one-time Lord of Creation, in so far as his treatment by the Woman's Health Protective Association was concerned.

"O, pshaw!" said the former. "Men are as much entitled to seats as women. They work hard and are tired. I would not let them get up for me."

And said the latter: "Women are far more selfish than men. They fill the seats full of parcels and children, and haven't the slightest regard for anybody else."

It is such incidents as these which tend to reduce the gooseflesh on the cuticle of modern man and to diminish his shiverings at the prospect of utter subjugation to the New Woman.

It is evident that some of these old-fashioned women are members of the Woman's Health Protective Association of New York city, and man, whom they have just defended so dauntlessly, should lift his hat and bow down to the earth before that excellent organization.

EXPRESSION—A VIOLINIST'S GREATEST GIFT.

By FAROSLAV KOCIAN.

A VIRTUOSO, broadly speaking, is one skilled in the fine arts. A virtuoso in the art of music is one who is skilled in the execution of some special form of musical expression.

Execution by a musical performer is simply the carrying into effect of the musical notes before him. Superimposed upon, or guided by, the skill of a virtuoso, execution becomes the outward and tangible proof of those notes so played as to present the whole composition clearly and as perfectly as possibly to the auditor.

Taste is the nice perception of the music by the executive. Added to the execution of the virtuoso, it gives a balance to his work—a manner of playing.

But thus far something is lacking. The player has become proficient in the mechanics of his work, he has sufficient execution to play the music, and he plays it with taste. But is this all?

The English poet, Alexander Pope, has summed up the want in his lines:

With every pleasing, every prudent part, Say, what can Chloe want? She wants a heart.

Your virtuoso Chloe wants a heart, and without it and its expression in his music he may play with the execution of a Paganini and the taste of a Joachim, but he will never reach a higher plane than that of an automaton with taste-ful springs.

And so it is this heart beat, this expression, that becomes the key to the highest perfection of artistic interpretation. Expression means literally the forcing out by pressure. And so must the heart of the virtuoso force out by pressure the esoteric sense of the composer, surcharge the mere notes with a meaning expressed in the handling of his bow and the pressure of his fingers upon the strings of his instrument.

In the Public Eye.

Senator Cullom's early ambition was, it is said, to become a drygoods clerk, and eventually to own the store. He tried to get a clerkship, but failing, began the study of law.

Ben Austrean, an American artist who is living in Paris, has imported two American hens for his studio. His reason is a queer one. He wants the hens to pose for him, as he says that French hens cannot do it properly.

Mr. Hormusjee, a rich Parsee of Bombay, is spending some time in St. Louis making observations of the industrial conditions in that city. It is likely that his stay in this country will result in some sort of industrial development on a large scale in his native land.

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The grave of John Sherman in the cemetery at Mansfield, Ohio, has just been marked by a huge granite block bearing his name as the sole inscription.

Henry Labouchere says of the House of Commons that many Liberal members while advocating drastic reform measures, in their hearts thank God that there is a House of Lords which would veto such measures in the end. He con-

"Unconsidered Trifles."

The Bird.

"The American people," said the politician as he cut deep into his Thanksgiving turkey, "may be said to resemble this bird. When first stuffed, and then roasted, it gives us reason for thanksgiving."

"And," added his guest, "after you're through it, it is in the soup."

"I hear that the ancient Assyrians wrote on bricks."

"Then those fake inscriptions which De Milyuns trustfully bought from the natives must have been written on gold bricks."

"Stern man," said the blue-ribbon lady youngly, "beware of the first youth. It is your ruin."

"Hi, Brer Jake, what struck you? You look like you done had a tussle wid a wil' cat."

"I has. I los' my las' cent in er poker game las' night, en when I git home, Marth' Ann she git me inter another poker game on skin what wuz lef'."

QUEER HAPPENINGS OF THE PASSING HOUR.

WHEN Novelist Horning wrote his "Adventures of an Amateur Crackman" and followed up that criminal narrative with "Raggles," he was presumably in ignorance of the inflammable nature of the Kentucky imagination, being himself an Englishman of a sober turn.

IF there is anything in the theory of the transmigration of souls, a mighty vigilant human psychological outfit now animates the mortal frame of a parrot belonging to Mrs. Pratt, which is the younger and admiration of Syracuse. The other night a thief broke in to steal where this amazing bird chanced to be swinging on its perch.

ALL things in this entertaining world of ours tend to ultimate good, and if we were only wise enough to remember this it would save us much worrying and tribulation of spirit.

DISSENSION is said to have been caused in the office of "The Bookman" over the question, "What did Sherlock Holmes give his friend Watson for a wedding present?"

A new edition of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's history entitled "The Great Four War" is in preparation, and will contain chapters which bring the history up to date.

Sir William Harcourt has a peculiar aptness in quoting poetry, which is illustrated by several anecdotes. On one occasion the late Sir Raimond Knightley was entertaining an after-dinner company with the story of his pedigree and the deeds of his ancestors.

that cherishes other heroes. The ingenious school board of Strassburg, Pa., has engaged Stewart F. Shiffer, the once-renowned halfback of the Dickinson College football team, to preserve order among the hitherto unruly boys of the grammar school in that town.

NOW, surely it is in order for all who admire pluck and a rightful pride in man or woman to cheer pretty Melissa Carter, of Tullahoma, Tenn., to the echo. Last Monday night Melissa was to have been married to Collin Cunningham, and the wedding guests were assembled and the wedding feast was spread.

JUDGE TEMPLETON, of the justice's court in Toledo, Ohio, has just ruled that an engaged girl has the right to accept the attentions of other men.

"LETTERS of a Self-Made Merchant to His Son" contains this sententious observation: "The lady on the dollar is the only woman who hasn't any sentiment in her make-up."

"MUSINGS Without Method," a volume of political essays on English subjects, which recently appeared anonymously, has attracted merited attention.

A new edition of "Oriental Rugs," one of the most notable books of the season two or three years ago, has been announced.

Frank Norris is said to have written "McTeague" in eighty-nine days. But it is only right to add that he had the idea of the novel all blocked out when he was at college, some years before.

Statesmen and Their Ways.

"Wanted—A Leader." This is the plaintive cry which has gone up from the Republicans of Jersey, the land of the mosquito and the home of the trust. Prior to the time when the silver craze disrupted and demoralized the Democracy of that State, Republican leadership largely was one of empty honor, not much sought after, and promising little results.

with a slight advantage in favor of the Republicans. Indian Territory is overwhelmingly Democratic. There the influence of Texas and Arkansas, from which States its white settlers have chiefly migrated, predominates.

There are others, of varying degrees of ability. Jersey Republicans have learned things since they came into power, and one of them is the fact that they must follow the course of their brethren in the surrounding States and select a general to command.

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PAINE AND JEFFERSON.

Did the Former or the Latter Write the Declaration of Independence?

To the Editor of the Times: Sir, Thomas Paine, as I discovered many years ago, was a secret writer until 1791, when he published in England, at the age of fifty-four, his "Rights of Man."

And the late Dr. Van Buren Denslow, as literary editor of the "Chicago Times," after an elaborate argument on the question of its authorship, said: "Enough! The Declaration of Independence must hereafter be construed as a fabric whose warp and woof were Thomas Paine's."

John Adams knew that Paine wrote as "Common Sense" and was annoyed at being supposed to be the author of the first essay in 1776. He was violently opposed to some of the sentiments expressed therein; but though he was a member of the committee who reported the Declaration of Independence, he never knew or suspected that Paine was its secret author.

Jefferson's memory of the instrument was so defective that in referring to it he said that a certain paragraph containing the words "Scotch and other foreign auxiliaries" was stricken out by Congress because it was offensive to one or two gentlemen of that country.

In spite of the mutilation it underwent the Declaration of Independence stands forth as a masterpiece of rhetoric, beyond the most eloquent orator of our time, the late Colonel Ingersoll, was constrained to say:

WILLIAM HENRY BURR. Washington, Dec. 4, 1902. Hard to Suit. The woman who has most to say about her husband's failure to enter into her life would object most strenuously if he took it into his head to come into her kitchen and tell her how things should be done.