

THE ALMA RECORD

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

THE END OF A YEAR

We have arrived at the end of the first year of the Harding administration and there are many differences as to what has been accomplished and how much.

It is generally agreed that the new administration assumed big problems as the result of the war, and consequently opinions differ quite largely on party lines, for all the contest is between the two old parties, Republican and Democratic.

Probably the best way to get at what has really been done by the administration during this first year is to make a study of the reports made upon the subject, and get the facts from these, which must be admitted by everyone regardless of political beliefs, and leave out the exaggerated statements, made by enthusiasts of both parties for political consumption and party propaganda.

First we must give honest consideration to the legacy of the war which left many new problems, in addition to a tremendous debt.

Despite the obstacles, the Republican Congress of 1919 reduced the appropriations \$1,500,000,000 by making them a billion and a half less than the Wilson administration asked for in its last year, and \$3,000,000,000 less than was appropriated in the fiscal year preceding. This surely was doing something, but before we go further, we wish to call attention to the simple fact that one result of the war was to impose upon the country as a permanent appropriation a billion dollars to pay the interest on the debt incurred by the United States, and that interest account was within one hundred millions of the total appropriations for the government for the year ending June 3, 1916.

To be perfectly exact, the appropriations for that year were \$1,114,000,000. The appropriations for the next year, ending June 30, 1917, when we had been in the war three months, were \$1,625,000,000; for the year ending June 30, 1918, after one year and three months of war, the appropriations were \$18,892,000,000; the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1919, were \$27,065,000,000.

Then the Republican party came into power in March, 1919, and they repealed war appropriations aggregating more than \$8,000,000,000. For the fiscal year, ending June 30, 1920, the first under a Republican Congress, the appropriations aggregated \$6,495,000,000, and remember that the year before they had been \$27,000,000,000. For the next fiscal year, ending June 30, 1921, they were decreased by the Republican Congress to \$4,780,000,000 and for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1922, \$3,309,000,000, just short of \$4,000,000,000.

Since the present Congress has been in they have reduced appropriations asked for by the departments of \$5,337,000,000 to \$1,428,000,000. This work was the work of the present Congress. This is partly owing to the fact that during the year ending June 30, 1921, 93,634 people were dismissed from the public service, and since the armistice 320,278 employes have been dropped from the civil pay rolls.

Congress has done the following things: It has passed the revenue act of 1921, passed the budget act, the emergency tariff for the benefit of the farmers, established the veterans' bureau, providing for the care of disabled soldiers, passed a law restricting immigration, passed a bill adding twenty-five million to the farm relief loan, and the war finance loan act. This legislation has had such a tendency to stabilization that war bonds have returned practically to normal, and there is a decided improvement in business conditions, and most valuable of all, has been the result of the armament conference.

We must admit that much has been done, and we must also face the fact that much remains to be done, which requires the best effort of all of us to bring our country back to a sane, safe basis.

ARMAMENT REDUCED

When you consider the accomplishments of the Armistice conference, remember one thing—that its achievements are not to be measured by reductions in military expenditures only. Prior to the conference, all the nations were in competition for greater navies and armies. Our annual appropriations for military purposes were on the increase, and but for the conference, they would have continued to increase. The most that anyone hoped to accomplish at the conference was officially referred to as a conference on "Limitation of armaments." But under the Hughes' proposals, much more was accomplished than anyone thought possible. There was not only a checking of increases but an agreement for decreases. Therefore, when you figure up the saving, you may properly add to the reduced military appropriations the sum that certainly would have been appropriated in excess of previous expenditures if the old practice of keen competition had been kept up.

TELL THE OTHER SIDE

When you have occasion to speak of this town, what is the burden of your remarks?

Some complaint, or grievance, perhaps. The good things of our community life we take as a matter of course. We feel that they are coming to us. We can see no reason for comment. We are mum.

But when anything goes wrong our first inclination is to blow up. Somebody is to blame. Somebody needs a good cussing. And somebody gets cussed—perhaps.

Having let off steam, we are ready for the next round, and become quite human again.

But let's take a new tack and tell the other side next. It is far more pleasant—to those with whom we speak.

It takes a truly brave man to sidetrack a fight when he knows he could lick the other fellow.

Lazy people would find one comfort in living up a tree. They could come down without exertion.

The silly age is the time when they think they know the most.

The greatest of all safety is in silence.

Where Your Taxes Go

How Uncle Sam Spends Your Money in Conducting Your Business

By EDWARD G. LOWRY

Author of "Washington Close-Ups," "Banks and Financial Systems," etc. Contributor Political and Economic Articles to Leading Periodicals and a Writer of Recognized Authority on the National Government's Business Methods.

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XIII. WHY GOOD MEN DODGE

The government service must look largely to the graduates from colleges and universities in recruiting for its technical work. Replies to an inquiry addressed to some forty of the leading colleges and universities of the country to discover what class of men took civil service examinations, whether the number is decreasing and, if so, the reasons, disclose vividly what the training schools of technical and scientific men think about the government as an employer. They warn their graduates against government service, and the graduates heed the warning.

Carnegie Institute of Technology at Pittsburgh, reports: It is certainly true that the best of our graduates are not interested in government employment because they feel that, first of all, it does not pay adequate salaries, nor does it offer opportunity for advancement that private enterprise jobs. This spring I interviewed all the members of the graduating class, except the women, and none of them would consider government employment, although there were many positions open. There are now about 1,500 male graduates of the institute, and I will venture to state that not more than ten are employed by the government.

Replies of similar tenor and import were received from the University of Chicago, Leland Stanford University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Princeton University, Indiana University, and the University of Wisconsin. Inequality of compensation is one of the chief reasons that deter scientific men from going into the government service. Congress fixes the salaries of most of the government employees. I can give a concrete illustration of how it determines the salaries of scientific men.

Dr. Leland O. Howard and Dr. Edward W. Nelson are two scientists in the employ of the government who have national reputations.

The appropriation bill for the Department of Agriculture was under consideration in the house on January 30th, 1920. The secretary of agriculture had been recommending for five or six years that Doctor Howard's salary be increased from \$4,500 to \$5,000. He proposed it again in that year's bill. When the item was reached in the discussion on the floor, this colloquy ensued:

Mr. Stafford—Mister Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the paragraph in the appropriation bill, whose salary you propose to increase the same person recommended for an increase last year?

Mr. Lever—Yes, he has been in the government service many, many years.

The Chairman—I make the point of order.

Mr. Lever—I concede it.

Mr. McLaughlin of Michigan—Will the gentleman reserve his point of order?

Mr. Stafford—I will reserve it.

Mr. McLaughlin—The committee made the recommendation to increase the salary \$500, took testimony on it and considered it very carefully. In our judgment the increase in salary ought to be made for an official who has been in the department, as the chairman says, for a long time at the head of this bureau. He has performed able and faithful services. The salary is less than that paid to the heads of other bureaus. We felt, after listening to all that was said, and with a knowledge of the work he has done, and has done, the salary proposed is not too large.

Mr. Stafford—How long has he been there?

Mr. Lever—He has been there forty-two years.

Mr. Stafford—What is his age?

Mr. Lever—Over sixty, perhaps nearer seventy, but he is still vigorous and able to do good work. He is one of the greatest entomologists in the world.

The Chairman—The point of order is sustained.

Five minutes later the matter of Doctor Nelson's salary was reached. The secretary of agriculture recommended an increase of his pay from \$3,500 to \$4,000. This happened:

Mr. Stafford—Mister Chairman, I reserve the point of order on the paragraph. Will the chairman of the committee inform the house as to how long this biologist has been in the service of the government and how long he has been receiving the present salary of \$3,500, on which you recommend an increase of \$500?

Mr. Lever—Mister Chairman, this gentleman, whose name is Nelson, has been in the service of the department since November, 1880. He has served as chief field naturalist from 1891 to 1912, and was assistant in charge of the biological investigation, from 1913 to 1914. On August 4, 1914, he was appointed assistant chief of the bureau, and on December 1, 1915, was made chief of the bureau. He took the place of Doctor Henshaw.

Mr. Stafford—And the salary has been \$3,500 since 1912?

Mr. Lever—Yes.

Mr. Stafford—What is his age?

Mr. Lever—I should think that Doctor Nelson is round fifty years of age.

Mr. Stafford—He is not superannuated.

Mr. Lever—Oh, no; he is a very vigorous man.

Mr. Stafford—Mister Chairman, I withdraw the point of order.

Doctor Howard was refused his increase of pay because he was too old, "over sixty, perhaps nearer seventy."

Doctor Nelson was allowed his increase because he was not superannuated but in his prime, "round fifty years of age."

Now, as a matter of fact, Doctor Howard is more than two years younger than Doctor Nelson. Is it any wonder that scientific men of any attainments are reluctant to enter a service where the measure of the value of their services is set down in any such haphazard and casual way?

invents iceberg warning.

Because light from melting ice is rich in infra red rays which penetrate fog, a Frenchman has invented a reflector that receives them and electrically warns ships of the nearness of icebergs.

AUNT WIN

By LUCRETIA M. GARDNER

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"Want to get up, Tom? This is the tenth time you have brushed against my dress. You ought to know better. This isn't any time of day to beg me to take you up; dishes not washed, nothing done. But come along!" And the frail little lady suited the action to her words and lifted the sturdy man into her lap.

"I am just as blue as a whetstone, Tom," she said, "and I ought not to be, for that was as good a sermon as I ever heard preached. Just boiled down common sense, and there ought not to be any dregs left to worry my soul. You can't say anything, can you, Tom, but you're purring like a music box."

A sudden knock sounded at the door, was followed by a girl's voice. "It's only Molly, Aunt Win." Then when the frail little lady drew the bolt, the young voice exclaimed: "Why, I never knew you to bolt the door at this time of day. Are you sick?"

Molly rushed across the threshold, gave Aunt Win a hearty hug, then looking at the table in the living room, with its barely touched food, said: "You must be sick for you have not eaten a bite for dinner."

"Sit down, child," Aunt Win answered quietly, "I was just talking with Tom and wondering what the matter was with me."

"That was a tip-top sermon, wasn't it, Aunt Win? It just made me sit up and take notice, but you didn't need to take it to heart," Molly said, patting her listener's cheek.

"Dear child, that's just it! Of course," Aunt Win explained, "when it comes to making a loaf of cake or knitting, to help my church I do my mite, but—" a pause emphasized by the solemn ticking of the tall clock, and then, "but, Molly, when it's a case of dollars and cents I haven't any to give, and yet I love my church and what it stands for as dearly as anyone in this place. Why shouldn't I?"

It has helped me when everything was swept from me, and isn't that a test? I have found my faith fit to live by and expect to die by it when my call comes."

"Perhaps this dreary dark day has upset you," suggested the girl, "but you aren't ever blue. Let's pile on the wood. Oh, these beauty andirons! You polished them yesterday, I know."

A sudden gleam flitted across the shining tops and seemed to bring an illuminating thought to Aunt Winifred. She choked back a sigh and half sob, then sunk into the nearest chair while Molly put on fresh logs. In a trembling voice the little lady said: "These are very precious andirons, they are more than 100 years old and were given to my great-grandmother in payment for teaching Maria Hussey's children at Cent school."

"Cent school?" repeated Molly in surprise. "What on earth was a Cent school?"

"That was long before your generation, dear, when little children were taught the three Rs by dear old ladies and carried their cents in corners of their handkerchiefs to pay. I set my eyes by these andirons." She murmured as if alone in the room, "Can I do it? Can I make up my mind to do it?"

Molly glanced up suddenly at Aunt Winifred. Was she just right in her mind? she wondered.

"Oh, don't worry, I'm not out of my head, child, but these andirons have preached me a sermon, too. Do you know Mrs. James has been wild to buy them, and now I've made up my mind I'll sell them for \$15—would you say?"

"Fifteen?—nothing of the kind. Why?" exclaimed Molly, "you're not a bit of a trader. They are worth \$50. But, oh, dear, how can you part with them? What will you do without them? How keep warm?"

"Have a fire in the air-tight and forget them. Fifty, do you say? Then," Aunt Win added breathlessly, "I'll give \$30 to my church and \$20 to the Red Cross in memory of our Will, dear boy!"

Then fell the first tears as Aunt Win's thoughts sped across the seas to a lonely grave in the Argonne.

"I just hate, dear Aunt Win, to have you give them up," murmured Molly once more.

"Sh—not a word! I'll just go to work and rid up these dishes."

"Yes," interrupted Molly, "and if you really mean it I'll have John take them over to Mrs. James this afternoon or tomorrow."

"No, no, the quicker the better!" Aunt Winifred bustled around so briskly that Molly felt the spirit of the hour and said:

"I'll slip away now, before John goes for the afternoon."

She appreciated the situation, and by 4 o'clock the andirons of blessed memories no longer shone on the hearth, but in Aunt Win's hand at the close of the day lay a check for \$50, and wiping away the unbidden tears she murmured:

"More precious than my andirons is my Faith, and all that it has meant to me and mine."

Family Affair.

"Senator Shortworthy says he has been mentioned for the presidency."

"Indeed? Who mentioned him?"

"The senator maintains an air of profound secrecy, but I suspect his private secretary."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

One great trouble in doing a mean action is that you are compelled to associate with yourself afterward. If you could only have nothing to do with a man who was guilty of such meanness, it would be a relief.

Record Directory

FOR READY REFERENCE

President and Congress

President, Warren G. Harding, Ohio, Salary \$75,000, with allowance for traveling expenses up to \$25,000 extra, and \$100,000 more for diet, livery and White House expenses—\$200,000 in all. (Subject to change)

Vice-President, Calvin Coolidge, Mass., salary \$12,000. President pro tem of senate, Albert B. Cummins, Iowa.

Speaker of House, Frederick H. Gillett of Mass.; salary \$12,000. The 96 Senators and 435 Representatives of 67th congress receive \$7,500 salary each, with mileage extra at 20 cents a mile each way, each session, figured on distance between their homes and Washington; also \$125 extra for stationery, newspapers, etc. Each is also allowed \$2,000 a year for clerical help, basis of representation, one member to each 211,817 population.

Party Division in 67th Congress: House 301 Rep., 133 Dem., 1 Soc. Senate 89 Rep., 37 Dem.

U. S. Senators—Chas. E. Townsend, Truman H. Newberry.

Representative in Congress—Joseph W. Fordney.

The Cabinet

Arranged in order of presidential succession: Sec'y. State, Charles E. Hughes, N. Y.; Treasury, Andrew W. Mellon, Pa.; War, John W. Weeks, Mass.; Atty-Gen., Harry M. Daugherty, Ohio; Postmaster-Gen., Will Hays, Ind.; Sec'y. Navy, Edwin Denby, Mich.; Interior, Albert B. Fall, N. Mex.; Agriculture, Henry C. Wallace, Iowa; Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover, Calif.; Labor, James J. Davis, Pa. Salary of each \$12,000.

The Supreme Court

Chief Justice, William Howard Taft, salary \$24,000. Associate Justices, salary, \$14,500 each: Joe McKenna, Calif.; (Rep.); Oliver W. Holmes, Mass.; (Rep.); Wm. R. Day, Ohio; (Rep.); Willis VanDevanter, Wyo.; (Rep.); Mahlon Pitney, N. J.; (Rep.); James McReynolds, Tenn.; (Dem.); Louis D. Brandeis, Mass.; (Dem.); John H. Clarke, Ohio; (Dem.)

Michigan Government

Governor, Alex. J. Groves, salary, \$5,000; Lieut. Gov., Thomas Reed, salary, \$3,000; Secretary of State, Charles J. Deland, salary, \$2,500.00; State Treas., Frank E. Gorman, salary, \$2,500.00; Auditor Gen., Orasmus H. Fuller, salary \$2,500.00; Attorney Gen., Martin Wiley, salary \$2,000.00; Supt. of Public Instruction, Thomas E. Johnson, salary, \$1,000.00; State Highway Com., Frank J. Rogers, salary \$750.00; Senator from District, James G. Thompson, salary \$1,000.00; Representative of District, David G. Locke, salary \$700.00; Supreme Court Justice, salary \$7,000.00; Joseph Moore, Joseph H. Steere, Howard West, Grant Fellows, John W. Stone, Geo. M. Clark, John E. Bird, Nelson Ehlers.

County Officers

Circuit Judge, Edward J. Molinet, salary \$2500.00; Judge of Probate, James G. Cross, salary, \$2400.00; Sheriff, A. T. Wilbert, salary, \$2400.00; Clerk, Bernice Case, salary, \$1500; Treas., Sidney Evey, salary, \$1500; Pres. Atty., Benjamin Clark, salary, \$2200; Register of Deeds, Chas. Heister, salary, \$1600; School Com., Howard Potter, salary, \$1600; Circuit Court Com., Archie McCall, Wm. A. Babble, fees; Drain Com., Erva Laycock, salary \$1500; Coroners, W. K. Ludwig, Dr. Hall, fees.

City Government

Mayor, Chas. R. Murphy, salary, \$300.00; City Commissioners, John C. Chick, Floyd Glass, A. J. Archer, Philip Cremer, salary, \$200.00; City Manager, Wm. E. Reynolds, salary \$500.00; City Clerk, Francis C. Hayward, salary \$300.00; City Treasurer, D. W. Adams, salary, \$180.00; City Attorney, Wm. A. Babble, salary, \$1200.00; Health Officer, Dr. John N. Day, salary, \$1500.00; Chief of Police, James E. Campbell, salary \$1750.00; Supervisors, 1st ward, Jesse E. Fuller, 2nd ward, Nicholas E. Sand, 2nd ward, Albert P. Cook, 4th ward, Jacob D. Helman, salary, \$5.00 per day on actual time.

The scratch pads for sale at the Record office are handy and just the thing for the grocery list.—advertisement

Think this Over

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THURSDAY SEENA OWEN

—in— 'The Woman God Changed'

Fox News Pathe Review

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"THE MIKADO"

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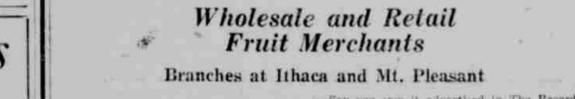
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