

UNCLE SAM WELL HEELED

STILL CONGRESS MUST EXERCISE CLOSE ECONOMY

TO PREVENT A DEFICIT

Secretary Loeb's Failure as Press Agent.

Washington, Jan. 5.—It may yield some measure of consolation to less fortunate stunted individuals to know that Uncle Sam has started on the new year with an available cash balance of \$149,000,000. In addition to this available roll, the government has stored away in a sock, so to speak, an item of \$150,000,000 gold coin and bullion known as the reserve fund, and another item of \$1,012,592,869 held as a trust fund for the redemption of the same amount of gold certificates, silver certificates and treasury notes outstanding. Yet, with all these evidences of a plethoric purse, congress will have to trim and save in every possible direction to make ends meet, and congress has already been called upon to authorize a bond issue to reimburse the treasury for money spent in the Panama canal venture. Thus far this fiscal year the receipts from customs, internal revenue and miscellaneous sources have aggregated \$295,000,000, and the expenditures \$293,000,000, leaving a deficit of \$2,000,000. The expenditures for the last fiscal year up to this time were \$298,861,747, or, approximately \$4,000,000 less than this year. The greatest difference this year over last lies in the expenditure for public works, which has aggregated \$34,000,000, against \$26,000,000 last year. On the other hand, the expenditures by the war department this year have been about \$5,000,000 less than last year. The navy department has also spent about \$4,000,000 less than last year, while the civil and miscellaneous, the Indian and the pension accounts all show heavier expenditures than for the same period of the previous fiscal year. There are other heavy expenditures in sight which have been authorized and must be met, and only the closest kind of shaving of appropriations will avert a deficit that could be provided for only by reopening the tariff fight, a loud public demand which the stand-patters hope to stifle through the autocratic rules of the house.

The inefficiency of Secretary Loeb as presidential press agent, through whom all blessings flow, has been lamentably demonstrated in the past few weeks. It is perhaps not entirely Mr. Loeb's fault, for the difficulty of getting the news out just right for an administration, or rather for a president, who gets to the level of practical politics in order to bring about the consummation of high political ideals, must be apparent at first glance. If there is one thing about President Roosevelt that stands forth prominently, it is the fact that he is practical. There is about him a favor of the man in defunct populism to make a show of results, and some of the things that he has done would indicate that he will as readily play to the weak side of men as to their higher elements in order to execute some reform. It is a revival, in a sense, of the rule of ethics that the end justifies the means. Perhaps if the president were dependent on no power save his own will, and accountable to no source of power save that to which Emperor William acknowledges fealty, he might give an exhibition of governmental administration, at once so immaculate as to dazzle, and so guileless that even a child would have no occasion to wonder. It would also greatly lighten the job of the presidential press agent.

There are two striking instances in which the president's policy is vividly demonstrated. One is his efforts to stop some prosecutions in Indian Territory, and the other is his effort to secure the conviction and effective punishment of certain alleged evil doers in Nebraska. In the territory case some indictments were found which shocked the president's sense of justice. They were against men whom he believes are being persecuted for some excellent work which they have done in behalf of the Indians and the government. He had the department of justice make an ex parte investigation, which culminated in the present charges, and he ordered the indictments dismissed. This United States Attorney Johnson of the Southern district of Indian Territory, flatly de-

clined to do. Thereupon Mr. Loeb authorized the press associations to announce that the president had removed Johnson from office. Before the story had time to get into print there came the announcement that Johnson would not be removed, but that he would be permitted to serve out his time. This straight cut to results which the president had undertaken in the case was sure to bring about his head such a storm of protests against unwarranted interference of local government that the bill was hastily corrected, particularly since the same results will be obtained by letting Johnson serve out the full term of his office, which expires the day after the indicted men are called to answer to the indictments against them.

The most remarkable case, however, is that of David E. Thompson, late envoy extraordinary to Brazil, who has recently been nominated as ambassador to Mexico. When Solicitor Penfield of the state department returned from Rio De Janeiro, where he had investigated the charges against Thompson, Mr. Loeb was permitted to let it be known that the case against Thompson was of such serious character that his usefulness in the diplomatic service of the United States was at an end. Thompson holds from Nebraska, and among his political assets in the fast friendship of the Nebraska senators. Now, it happened that the president has a fight on his hands in Nebraska where he seeks to secure the services of a competent United States district attorney to prosecute some cases of grafting. In this and in some other matters in the senate, where the president is weak, the assistance of the senators from Nebraska is in such demand that after a series of conferences at the white house Mr. Loeb was permitted to announce that the president would send to the senate the name of this same David E. Thompson of Nebraska as ambassador to Mexico. The senate, with a great show of indignation, promptly held up the nomination in order to investigate, and Solicitor Penfield, who made the investigation into the charges against Thompson also promptly tendered to the president his resignation. Answering the general speculation as to why he resigned, Judge Penfield took occasion to deny that he had been requested to write a whitewash of the quondam minister extraordinary to Brazil, but overlooked entirely the excellent opportunity to deny that his resignation was in any way connected with the game of practical politics in the consular service in order to execute a move for purer and loftier politics in the state of Nebraska.

The sudden interest that the tariff barons have shown in the political welfare of the "people" is one of the pathetic extremities to which the stand-patters of the republican party have been driven to stem the tide within their own ranks in favor of tariff revision. An alluring appeal has gone forth to the press and to the people, urging them to take advantage of the sentiment against machine rule to overthrow the whole country by demanding direct primary elections. Of course, the tariff barons do not figure in this movement, but they thoughtfully permitted one William P. Wakeman of New York to become identified with, and in fact undertake, the launching of this crusade. This Mr. Wakeman is the secretary of the "American Protective League," the bureau through which the tariff barons have done business with public sentiment since the palmy days of the late President McKinley. Mr. Wakeman's document is so persistent in its suggestion that this question of direct primary election be made a national issue as to reek with suspicion. Wherever the circulars have fallen they have been promptly recognized as an effort to divert public attention from the tariff issue. The following are some of the gems in the circular, showing the tender concern of the tariff bosses in the political freedom of the people:

"Under the present political system the person nominated by the dominant political party is generally elected. Very frequently he is put forward by some special interest, boss or clique, not by the people.

"Direct nominations will restore this condition by restoring to the people their constitutional rights in selecting nominees for office. Direct nominations mean that a stated percentage of electors may, can, and shall, name all persons for elective office without the intervening of delegates or conventions. I trust that patriotic citizens of all parties will make direct nominations their one political demand for the year 1906.

"Any politician or leader of any party opposing this plan is open to suspicion."

Since the tariff barons in the republican stronghold usually furnish the steers of war and dictate to the machine which controls the dominant party whose nominees are "generally elected," the entire sincerity of this movement to free the people from the grip of these very same machines can not be questioned. Even the stand-patters in congress do not lay much store by the effectiveness of this new move, but cling to Speaker Cannon and the rules of the house as at least a



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JOE GRIM VS. YOUNG MAHONEY.

(By Associated Press.)

Milwaukee, Wis., Jan. 5.—Joe Grim, the "human punching bag" from Philadelphia, makes his pugilistic debut in the West tonight. He is slated to meet "Young Mahoney" of Racine, in an eight-round bout before the Milwaukee Boxing club. As both of the middleweights are of the slugging variety, capable of taking any amount of punishment, the bout is expected to be a hammer-and-tongs affair from start to finish. Malachy Hogan of Chicago, will referee.

PENSION DECISIONS.

By the Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior.

Marriage—Texas.—Claimant was first married in Wisconsin in 1874. Her husband deserted her soon thereafter, and she married the soldier in Texas in 1885. It is shown that her first husband survives and that the marriage has not been terminated in divorce. It is, therefore, held that the second marriage is invalid, and that she is not the widow of the soldier.

Service—Record—Evidence—Prior Service.—In the absence of a record in the war department of a prior military service of the deceased soldier, the allegation by his widow that he had such prior service was immaterial, and the rejection of her claim for pension upon the ground of her inability to furnish evidence showing in what organization such alleged prior service was rendered was improper and erroneous.

Line of Duty.—The soldier was killed by being run over by an electric car while absent from his command by permission. Held, that his death did not occur while "in line of duty" within the meaning of the pension laws.

Discharge.—The deceased soldier was never discharged from the military service during the war of the rebellion, but was murdered while in the service under his first and only enlistment at a time when absent from his command on a pass. Held, that his widow is not entitled to pension under the provisions of Section 3, act of June 27, 1890.

Marriage—Resumption.—Claimant and soldier continued to live and cohabit together as husband and wife for ten years after the death of his first wife and up to the time of his death, during which time, and for fifteen years prior thereto, they were generally reputed and acknowledged to be husband and wife. Held, that under the laws of Missouri a contract of marriage between the parties subsequent to the death of soldier's first wife may be presumed, and hereby is presumed, and applicant is the lawful widow of soldier.

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BANKER CLEARED.

Court Holds There Can Be No Trespass on Ceded Land.

Special to Daily Leader.

Lawton, Okla., Jan. 5.—Judge F. H. Gillette has rendered an important decision in the case of the United States vs. L. W. Myers, a banker of Ardmore, in which the government sought to collect \$1,000 from Myers for trespassing illegally on Indian land. The decision sets aside the suit and clears Myers so far as the trespassing charge is concerned.

It will be remembered that Myers was alleged to have placed himself as an Indian and entered the precincts where money was being paid by the government to the Kiowa Indians at Rainey Mountain and attempted to collect money from them by the Indians. The court holds that the land in question was ceded by the Indians to the government by the treaty of 1852, which was ratified June 6, 1859, and that there was not in said treaty or the act of congress ratifying the same any reservation of title of this tract of land to the Indians and that the title thereto passed to the United States and to the control of the government of the United States.

APPALLING DISCLOSURES

WERE MADE IN THE INSURANCE INVESTIGATION

A FINANCIAL EARTHQUAKE

Result of the Insurance Agitation the Past Year

New York, Jan. 5.—With the old year ended the investigation of the gigantic life insurance frauds by the New York legislature's committee.

The reputations of a score of men who have stood as models are tarnished black as the result of the disclosures.

This financial earthquake was started by a personal squabble between Jas. W. Alexander, president of the Equitable, and Jas. Hazen Hyde, nominal vice president, but the real power of inheritance from his father, the founder of the Equitable.

Inquisitor Chas. E. Hughes has examined Hyde, Thos. F. Ryan, E. H. Harriman, of the Equitable; John A. McCall and subordinates in the New York Life; McCurdy in the Mutual; Frederick A. Burnham, of the Mutual Reserve; John A. Hegeman, the one-man power of the Metropolitan, and many others, including Senators Platt and Dewey, all forming cogs of the great wheel of insurance graft.

The policy holders' money, it was shown, was commonly diverted to the use of the companies in which Equitable directors held stock and which, in turn, unloaded their mortgages on the Equitable.

Millions of dollars belonging to Equitable policy holders were deposited in banks controlled by Equitable directors, only a nominal rate of interest being charged in place of much higher rates gladly offered by independent banks.

Of a profit of more than \$12,000,000 made by the Equitable in syndicate transactions, not one dollar reached the coffers of the society. No record was kept on the books of syndicate operations amounting to \$685,000 by G. H. Squire, the financial manager of the Equitable.

From President McCall and Vice President Geo. W. Perkins (partner of J. Pierpont Morgan) Hughes learned that the New York Life had contributed \$150,000 to Republican campaign funds.

Upwards of \$525,000 was paid at one time or another to the "Yellow Dog" fund, which the insurance companies maintained to influence the legislatures of the country.

To one man, "Judge" Andrew Hamilton, who looked after the interests of the New York Life particularly in the Albany legislature \$100,000 in one sum had been paid for a purpose not disclosed. Hamilton declined to return from Europe for the purpose of examination, and sent over an evasive accounting of a \$720,000 balance known as the "Yellow Dog" fund.

The New York Life entered into a secret agreement with Morgan's First

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Hotel X, Ripley	American	1.50
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National bank to advance millions on loans and charge only 1 1/2 per cent interest. Perkins admitted that he, representing the New York Life, sold to his partner, Morgan, \$800,000 worth of International Marine stocks and the following day, as the representative of J. P. Morgan & Co., sold this stock back to the New York Life at par.

After this the public heard the story of an appalling nepotism in the Mutual Life. McCurdy's salary of \$150,000 fixed by himself, has been reduced to \$50,000 a year, now that McCurdy is out and Peabody is in. McCurdy's son, Robert H., general manager, had an income of \$250,000 a year from various sources in the company. A total profit of \$932,823 was made by McCurdy's son-in-law, Thebaud, on sales and commission. The Mutual paid \$9,500 to the Republican campaign fund. McCurdy was a member of the firm of Chas. H. Raymond & Co., who, as chief agents of the Mutual, drew enormous profits on commission.

United States Senator T. C. Platt admitted that the Equitable had paid him \$10,000 a year regularly for the state campaign funds. He also admitted getting campaign funds from the Mutual and New York Life in staggering amounts. He frankly said that these contributions would put the legislators under "moral obligations."

The Equitable's old crowd is out, with the affairs of the company in the hands of a committee of "reform" headed by Grover Cleveland. Alexander is prostrated with nervous disorders and Hyde has sailed away to Europe "for a rest." The McCurdy crew has been forced out of the Mutual, but McCall has been succeeded in the New York Life by Orr.

Ryan has gobbled the Equitable, but he may have to operate it under reform laws. Interests representing the Standard Oil have become heavily involved in the Mutual and are understood to be tunneling under the New York Life.

State and district attorneys are at work upon the evidence, and in addition to litigation now pending, some criminal proceedings are imminent.

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