

"To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

The National Tribune

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NOTICE

When you send in your subscription

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sure to give former address.

Jan. 31 the total bonded debt of the

United States was \$913,597,490.

The cash balance in the Treasury, exclu-

sive of reserve and trust funds, was

\$148,701,585.48, being a decrease for

the month of \$19,719,831.86.

Montana is after the Japanese as

hard as the other States. A bill has

been introduced which will prevent

after five years the holding of lands in

Montana by aliens. It is aimed at the

Chinese and Japanese, and is said to

be patterned after the California bill.

The people of Texas are up against it

hard. They want a two-cent rate on

the railroads, and they want more

roads. They cannot have both. Men

will not build any railroads thru that

sparsely settled country and expect to

make money on a two-cent rate.

The rainfall on the Isthmus last

month was heavier than any January

since American occupation. It averaged

for the 15 stations along the line of

the canal 4.37 inches. In spite of this,

there were 2,224,551 cubic yards

excavated on the 25 working days.

All the Western papers are complaining

about the nuisance to which the tag

business has grown. When first invent-

ed the tag was a useful method for col-

lecting money for desirable purposes,

but now it is being used for all sorts of

things, and the people are becoming

very tired of it and the taggers.

If the liquor men in Tennessee were

the instigators of the murder of ex-

Senator Carmack, they made as big a

mistake in a business way as the slave-

holders did in firing upon Fort Sumter.

The Tennessee House has already

passed a bill, by 60 to 36, prohibiting

the manufacture of intoxicating liquors

in the State after Jan. 1, 1910. An

amendment providing that the State

reimburse brewers and distillers for 50

per cent of the loss they would sustain

by this was tabled by a decisive vote.

Somehow, in spite of the ridicule and

denunciation which President Roose-

velt's ideas encounter, they take hold

on people and become living facts. Gov.

Hadley, of Missouri, has adopted the

Rooseveltian idea in regard to officers

being equal to horseback riding, and

has issued an order that every one who

was appointed on his staff shall do a

stunt of 60 miles on horseback, making

20 miles a day for three days. The

Governor wants to have Missouri prop-

erly represented in the grand parade,

and he does not want the State, which

has the reputation of raising the finest

horses and mules in the country, hum-

iliated by any of his glittering Colo-

nelles falling out of their saddles upon

the hard and unsympathetic pavement

of Pennsylvania avenue.

Gov. Hadley, of Missouri, has begun

a determined fight for a two-cent rate

on the railroads of the State. In his

argument before the Federal Court in

support of the rate which had been

prescribed by the Legislature, he said

that at first the people were so anxious

A COPPERHEAD YELL.

The veterans and their wives have

reason to congratulate themselves that

the serenity of their later years is being

less and less disturbed by the bitter

Copperhead virulence which has pur-

sued them since the old war days. There

has been a most gratifying decrease

within the past few years of the mal-

evolence of the past. The facts of the

war are becoming better known, the

justice of the pension system is every-

where more generally conceded, the lies

with which the system was attacked

have been exploded, and reputable pa-

pers generally have become ashamed

of attacking old men and women on

account of the little pittance of \$2 or \$4

a week which the Government bestows

upon them for the few years that they

yet have on earth. The Democrat of

Johnstown, Pa., is one of the papers

that proves odorous to good sense,

good taste and plain, undeniable truth.

In a recent issue it has an editorial on

the pension question with the rank

Copperhead twang which has disap-

peared from so-called reputable papers

for many years. It says in part:

"Where is this pension riot to end?

The Federal Government has been in-

duging in a magnificent orgy in the be-

stowal of gratuities. No other country

ever dreamed of such prodigality. Year

by year its expenditures for the main-

tenance of its army and navy have in-

creased to such an extent that the ap-

propriations grow in volume. And

when Congress begins to lag in the

work of lengthening the pension rolls

an executive order of sweeping reach

is brought into play.

"Since the close of the war of the

rebellion the United States Government

has paid out \$3,709,090,000 in pensions.

Every dollar of this has been taken

from the people who work. In over-

whelming proportion it has come out of

the weakest and the least fortunate.

The burden has fallen in proportion

with 10,000-fold greater weight on the

shoulders of the scrub woman and the

day laborer than on the Carnegies and

the Rockefeller. Yet the burden has

been borne with patience. It has ex-

ceeded scarcely a murmur. As the money

has come thru indirect taxation and

has been paid in large part by those

ignorant of the cause of the "bad

times" which they felt, the Government

has gone on from one extreme to an-

other, until to-day the pension check

reaches the stupendous total of \$153,-

000,000 annually.

"But this is not all. The fever has

attacked the States, and Pennsylvania

now proposes to enter the competition.

No fewer than five pension bills are now

pending. These bills contemplate the

inauguration of an independent pen-

sioning system that eventually must

pay a tremendous burden on the tax-

paymasters of the State. These bills carry

all the way from a million or two to

four or five millions, and they furnish

in part the excuse offered for the new

proposal to tax trust funds and bank

deposits and personal property. The

bills also provide for a great addi-

tion to the official class. There are to

be Pension Commissioners at fat salar-

ies and a big working force of clerks,

all at liberal pay. Thus more patron-

age will be at the disposal of Mr. Pen-

rose and his friends. They will be

able by this means to pay off a larger

number of their political debts. They will

pay these debts with your money. The

pensions and the salaries and all the

costs of this proposition will be saddled

as a burden on the toilers of the State.

The officials in favor will have more.

The people who work in mill and mine

and who risk life and limb on the rail

or in the lumber camps will have less."

There is absolutely no truth in the

assertion that the people of the United

States are pressed with taxes to pay

pensions, and that this comes from the

pockets of the very poor. It is wicked

and demagogic to say this, and try to

excite the anger of the poorer people

against pensions. Not a dollar has been

received by the Treasury which would

not have been collected if there had

been absolutely no pension list. The

TROUBLES OF WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

The recent trouble which the Navy

Department had in communicating

with the fleet off the Azores brings

lively attention to a world of legal and

other difficulties which surround wire-

less telegraphy. In the case mentioned

the operators claimed that they could

not send messages because a line of

students and school boys in Brooklyn

were "putting bugs in the air;" that is,

their messages prevented the transmis-

sion of the waves which the naval op-

erators were sending. Just what is

going to be done with regard to wire-

less telegraphy is a question to puzzle

lawyers. Any boy with scientific in-

clinations can easily put up a wireless

telegraphic station, and amuse himself

conversing with another boy in the

next block or the next Township. A

wireless telegraph station is one of

the easiest things for a boy with me-

chanical and electrical tastes to install.

It need not cost more than \$5. He can

get some cheap instruments, fasten his

wire to the lightning rod on his father's

house, and there he is, ready for

unlimited talking with any other boy

who has similar instruments and light-

ning rod. He would seem to have the

most perfect right to do this, and talk

with his boy companion as much as

he pleases without infringing upon the

dignity and power of the United States.

Yet he can infringe, as was shown in

the above instance, most effectively.

Teachers in industrial schools set up

wireless telegraph stations for the in-

struction of their pupils, and these are

in pretty constant operation. All of

them make waves which are in the

highest degree detrimental to the send-

ing of messages. This has been done

maliciously. At the time of the yacht

race one enterprising firm sent out a

yacht with newspaper men and a com-

plete wireless outfit to report the race.

Another firm of wireless telegraphers,

who had been left out and were as

jealous of the successful one as two of a

trade always are, deliberately went to

work filling the air with cuss words

and remarks highly derogatory to the

successful firm. It succeeded in break-

ing up the transmission of the reports

of the race, and making its competi-

tors very cross and to saying all sorts

of cuss words on their own account.

This will give an idea of the possibili-

ties of wireless telegraphy and the dif-

ferences there is going to be to make

legal regulations. Of course, when the

United States Government wants to

communicate with its fleet or any other

great event is on the tapis everybody

ought to shut up. But the diffi-

culty is how to arrange this. Theoret-

ically every man owns the air above

his house to the full extent of the 45

miles of the atmosphere, precisely as

he is supposed to own the ground to

the center of the earth. He has a right

to do anything not illegal on that spot

of ground, and if he does anything il-

legal it is a matter for his own State

to regulate and not for the Government.

Neither State nor Government has

the slightest desire to interfere with

the individual's liberty, and will not

except for grave reasons. The method

that first suggests itself is that there

should be an announcement when the

Government or State wishes to make a

communication. This would be some-

thing like the old proclamations by

the heralds of the Eastern despots that