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Thursday, December 3, 1908.

STUBBORN FACTS.

Thoughtful citizens, and equally thoughtful members of the incoming general assembly, will find much to interest and concern them in the annual reports of the state treasurer and state comptroller this year. They point to the fact, not so much that Connecticut is already in a financial condition to call for serious investigation, as that the tendency she has taken on is towards a condition which may sooner or later call for either marked retrenchment in expenses or an increased revenue.

So far as the treasury is concerned, the report shows that the state spent last year in excess of her revenue \$316,000. This being the funded debt of the state to \$74,100 and the net debt to \$348,586. This is by no manner of means an alarming showing compared with many other states, which have on the whole followed a less thrifty policy, but it does nevertheless suggest the need of prudence in the management of affairs. It is true that many of the items, which have brought the expenses of the year up to a large figure, may be called unusual and not to be soon repeated, but the fact remains that there are always unusual demands upon the public purse and they are escaped only by the exercise of the sharpest judgment. There is, for example, a widespread and intelligent demand for a state reformatory and should it be gratified, in accordance with the conservative report of the commission which reported four years ago, there would be immediate need for an additional half million.

Some idea of the way expenses have increased in the state in ten years may be gathered from these figures, while at the same time they suggest of themselves the approach of the time when a more business like administration of the public purse will have to be introduced. Contingent expenses have grown in that number of years from \$17,000 to over \$126,000. The cost for carrying state papers has run up from \$1,000 to \$21,000. The needs of the humane institutions have increased from \$34,000 to \$96,000. The agricultural interests of the state, which ten years ago, were satisfied with \$48,000, used up \$138,000 during the last fiscal year. Nearly twenty thousand dollars more was spent last year in the printing of public documents than was spent ten years ago. The same proportionate increase is shown in the expenses of the fish and game commission. Good roads take twice as much money and more today than they did that number of years ago. The total increase in expenditures, not including state bonds and interest, in ten years has been over \$2,000,000. Other expenses connected with the judicial department, the department of education, the common schools and the normal schools and the state library have gone skyward with the rest.

It is not so clear where the additional revenue will come from if a continuance of the liberal policy is assured, or even assured in part. The bulk of the income of the state is now derived from the corporations. There are a few other sources of reasonably large revenue, but they are not important enough in comparison to make reliance upon them possible. It is a question whether the telegraph and telephone companies, which pay only a little more in excess of the fees received from automobiles, pay enough, but as a general proposition it would be against public policy to tax the corporations more. They collect from the public and an extortionate tax would therefore become a tax on the service, which the public must receive to transact its business. So that while there is no theoretical limit to the expenses the state may create, there is a practical limit to its ability to obtain revenue. Its credit is first class, but even that may become impaired in some opinion before it is actually exhausted by a failure on the part of the state to introduce more and more business methods of doing the people's business. The point, in other words, involved in this part of a study of the financial

condition of the state, is not an immediate fear of embarrassment but rather the pressing need of ascertaining whether every just dollar finds its way into the treasury and every dollar finds its way out justly. The state commission on receipts and expenses, which made its report eight years ago, showed how a round half million could be saved without impairing the efficiency of government. Governor Woodruff made several recommendations to the general assembly, which had for their purpose the operation of the government at less cost. Is it not, under these circumstances, proper to suggest that a reopening of the subject is in order and that for the purpose of knowing that the best business judgment prevails at the present time? It would seem so, from motives of prudence alone.

VAN CLEAVE AND THE TARIFF.

The serious charge has been made by James W. Van Cleave, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, that the congressional committee on ways and means that is now holding hearings in Washington upon the tariff question, has had no real intention from the first of offering anything other than a bogus revision of the tariff to congress when next it meets. It would be a momentous evil, did this committee go about the important problem of tariff revision without the intention of accomplishing anything of real reform. If that were the case, it would reflect not only upon the committee and the congress from which it has derived its status, but also upon the republican administrations of Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Taft, both of whom are pledged to bring about a substantial and creditable tariff reform.

It is curious that Mr. Van Cleave should take this stand in view of the fact that in the campaign there were no more ardent supporters of the tariff ticket and the republican national platform than he and his association. If Mr. Van Cleave has reason to believe the republican party has no intention of bringing about real tariff reform before its committee has vacated taken up the matter, why was it then, that he so assiduously urged its support? He bases his belief upon the fact that he heard the committee did not send out sufficient notice of its hearings to the manufacturers of the country. "I am told," says he, "that only about 100 of the 250,000 heads of factories in the country received notice to appear before the committee. In most cases the notice which they received was too short to allow them to present carefully prepared statements."

Is it fair to suppose that the committee would have had to send a special and individual invitation to every man interested in tariff reform anywhere in the country, asking him to please appear at the hearings, in order to make everything appear perfectly above-board to Mr. Van Cleave? It was far from a state secret that these hearings were to be held. The fact was proclaimed long in advance in every paper in the land. If the manufacturers, with whom the tariff means most, have not had the interest to appear at the tariff hearings without a special invitation, they have little right to kick about things being bogus.

Then, again, what Mr. Van Cleave, who sets himself up as such an authority on this general subject, says would have far greater weight if he himself showed a little more willingness to share his knowledge with the committee. He has had a special invitation to appear before the committee, and thus he has no excuse, but still he has shown no willingness to do so, and Chairman Payne has openly expressed his determination to request authority from congress to subpoena him and others, who have been harshly criticizing the committee, and thus make them appear to tell what they know.

Mr. Payne has asked the country not to prejudice the work his committee has in hand and his request is worthy of consideration by every fair-minded man. The task of reforming the tariff is not a pleasing one at best. All cannot be satisfied. The committee can only do its best. Let the future be judged when the time comes.

HOMEWARD BOUND.

Although making no apparent change in its world-circling course, the American battleship has at last "turned" toward home with its second departure from Manila. Now events will crowd each other in quick succession—the Indian ocean, the Suez, sunny southern Europe, and finally, the dash across the ocean in time to be reviewed by President Roosevelt, who had the sailors-men Godspeed last December, before he should have stepped down from his high office. The wonderful trip has literally proved to be the big event of a lifetime with many. If not with most of the men of the fleet, such sights, such ovations as few sailors of any navy are privileged to witness, they have seen time and again in South America, on our Pacific coast, in the Far East, and in the island ports. Such occasions will be their great opportunity to witness many more things before they sight their native shores. The welcome of Europe may be considered by them and by us as scarcely less significant than the welcome of

THE CHRISTMAS STAMPS.

Where and How It Is Hoped They Will Be Used.

THE following statement, made by the promoters of the Christmas stamp movement of the American National Red Cross Society, of which President-elect Taft is president, explains all about the uses of the little stamps on sale at the Journal-Courier office:

"We want all factories to use the stamp upon their payrolls at least once during the holiday season, and to put it upon all their correspondence. We should like all department stores and other stores to use at least one stamp upon packages going out from their stores. We should like women's clubs to take up the sale of stamps among their friends. We want school children and teachers to assist. We want Sunday schools and churches to co-operate. In every possible way we want to extend this movement. Philadelphia and vicinity expect to sell 10,000,000."

The Orient, giving proof of the goodwill of all nations toward the United States.

It was a praiseworthy decision on the part of the authorities to come to anchor once more in Manila harbor before starting the long, homeward trip. When that port was visited by the fleet not long ago it was in the throes of a cholera epidemic. How serious a matter it would have been had that dread disease gained a footing among the sailors may be imagined. But, while the fleet of sixteen white and buff colored floating fortresses has been to Japan and China, remarkable work has been done in Manila in wiping out every evidence of the cholera. The completeness with which the medical men have won their victory has been shown by the ready decision of Admiral Serry to make a second visit and even to allow his men to land, if only for a short time.

It would have been too bad had our jacksies been unable to visit Manila. That port is, or, at least, should be the one of greatest interest to them and they, in turn, should be more vitally interested to our newly acquired countrymen there than the men of any other navy. The Philippines are now as much a part of us as are the Hawaiian. Manila has quite as much interest in welcoming the boats as Honolulu. It was little more than to be expected that the waterfront of Manila was abuzz with thousands of handkerchiefs waving farewell and Godspeed on the day the boats weighed anchor to leave in spite of the pouring rain which was falling.

The long home-going pennant will have a particular significance when it is flung to the breeze. Our men will be sorry to return in a way, and yet it is safe to assert that they will be never so happy during all the trip as when, next February, they sight the blue waters of Hampton Roads.

HOBSON'S CHANCE.

The "gentlemen's agreement" just entered into between this country and Japan, must be a cause for sincere satisfaction on the part of every diplomat and executive concerned with it. On the other hand, we doubt not but it will come as a hard blow to Lieutenant and Congressman Hobson, because of his singular policy which are so near to his heart. Mr. Hobson's predicament in the more embarrassing view of the fact that the announcement of the international agreement has been met with almost universal approval both here and in Japan, as well as in Europe.

The only discordant note that has come to our notice is that of the Russ of St. Petersburg. The Russ has continually preached war between the United States and Japan and is thus quite worthy of classification with Mr. Hobson in this country and with Prince Okuma in Japan. His argument is that the new agreement means that the inevitable war will be postponed for a few years, until the end of Mr. Taft's administration and that, in the meantime, the United States will be perfecting its fortifications on the Pacific coast and in its island possessions, while Japan, on its part, will be straightening out its financial difficulties, which came as the result of the late war with Russia, as best it may. "The outcome of a naval conflict to-day between the two countries," says the Russ, "would be uncertain, but, under cover of this new agreement, each will push its war preparations to completion."

We must not be surprised if our war lord, Mr. Hobson, pounces upon this argument and palms it off on the country at large for all it is worth. It is best for the country to be prepared for him. Consistency is not wholly an evil and Mr. Hobson is consistent, but no one can help reflecting to what worthwhile ends this Hobson consistency and this Hobson energy would come, if only it were enrolled in some worthwhile endeavor.

A two-cent postage has now been announced between this country and Germany. This marks another step toward a universal two-cent postage the world over. France, Italy, Russia and Spain may well get in line next.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

A Vigorous Rattling.

If the report from Waterbury that Governor-elect Lillie is planning to recommend a comprehensive scheme of excise reform is true, there is likely to be a vigorous rattling of dry bones on Capitol hill this winter.

Christians Rousing.

Many thoughtful people have adopted the practice of buying Christmas gifts early so that by the time the presents are piled upon the shelves at the last moment may be lessened. More of us ought to be roused. Beyond this consideration of buying for the store people there is the peace of mind which follows forethoughtful action at all times. It is a good idea when one has been subjected for centuries to oppression. Despite his struggles to earn a living and to get family and friends from Italy, plus unfamiliarity with the English language, he quickly shows a realization of the use and power of the ballot and is eager to become an American. The Italian leaders soon win and swing organizations with the skill and dexterity gained from observation of the political methods of the natives, no detail of whose methods they cannot comprehend and improve upon.

The Italian in American Politics.

There is nothing to fear in the entry of the Italian into our politics. He has a natural adaptability for politics. He hates slavery because he has been subjected for centuries to oppression. Despite his struggles to earn a living and to get family and friends from Italy, plus unfamiliarity with the English language, he quickly shows a realization of the use and power of the ballot and is eager to become an American. The Italian leaders soon win and swing organizations with the skill and dexterity gained from observation of the political methods of the natives, no detail of whose methods they cannot comprehend and improve upon.

The Nursery Venture.

Mr. Munsey's venture into Sunday afternoon journalism in the national capital is an interesting experiment. Washington is overloaded with Sunday morning newspapers. Four of them, the Washington Post, the Washington Herald, the Washington Times, and the Washington Evening Star, are now in the field. They are too much for the city to assimilate. Mr. Munsey plans to relieve the pressure on the Sunday afternoon paper. It won't take Mr. Munsey long to find out whether it is a good idea. He has a good deal of money and a good deal of influence. He is a Sunday afternoon paper. If the public doesn't cry for it, as the children are wont to cry for candy, he will not like the Arab and as quietly steal away.

China's Government Change.

Anything like a wholly representative and responsible government is impossible in China under the present conditions of popular ignorance, superstition and indifference, but it is not impossible that some leader shall arise who will fuse the intelligent classes in a demand for a modernized government, which will be put to the execution and inefficiency now prevailing. Educated Chinamen are not unmindful of what has been achieved by their neighbors, the Japanese, nor can the movement for free government in Turkey and Persia have been without an effect upon them. It will surprise no one should they seize the opportunity presented by the removal of the dowager empress and press their demands upon the recent even so far as to precipitate a complete revolution.

Vigilance of Fox.

The vigilance of Attorney Fox of New Haven in enforcing the provisions of the current practice act, promises to be of great interest to Connecticut, especially as just such work as he is doing is needed, and there are few, apparently, so willing to pick it up and carry it through. There is no more important work in the state than that of seeing to it that the provisions of this act are carried out according to the intent of the framers. Moreover, it is probable there are few legal undertakings which involve greater risk of personal popularity. Why this is so is hard to explain, unless it is because there are so many tied up to politics and its portmanteaus are so inter-delegated that an attack upon any one of them, even though it is made in behalf of the government, is considered a reflection upon all of his bedfellows.

QUID PRO QUO.

Note—Hon. Timothy L. Woodruff's friends say that if he relinquishes the United States senatorship he must have a quid pro quo.

What is a quid?
And what is a quo?
That Timothy gets if he doesn't go?
Butting in to the senate show?
Say, is a quid the same as a quo?
Is it? Well, now, we want to know.
What is the dickens is a quo?
What's that you say? A quo is a quid.
Aw, pipe the jelly! You shouldn't kid.
A civil question like that; by gosh!
This is too serious for a josh.
If a quo is a quid.
And a quid is a quo.
Some thousands of people would like to know.
If he gets the quid will it tickle him?
The same as a quo would, they don't want Tim.
To do anything he never did.
By taking a quo which he thought was a quid.
And after a while wake up to find.
That a quo was a very different kind of a scam from a quid, and he had been quidled out of his rights, by gosh!

That's what it stands, and Timothy L. Will never be satisfied with a quid. Which is why the people want to know.
If a quo is a quid.
Is a quid a quo?
—New York World.

SAVINGS AND DOINGS.

Soldiers of Berlin built a pontoon bridge across the river Spree in forty minutes recently.

The famous machine rapids of the St. Lawrence are to be spanned by a bridge and the channel widened.

The most approved design of storm door construction represents an investment of no less than \$2,400.

A \$40,000 wireless telegraph plant is being erected at Newport, which will have a working radius of 1,250 miles.

An attempt to establish a municipal brew in Berlin resulted in a dismal failure. It did plenty of business but lost money.

As a proof of the lasting qualities of cypress, a coffin recently was excavated at New Orleans which had been buried since 1802, yet the wood was as sound as when new.

A new ice cream freezer, by using a glass can, claims to do away with the arduous labor of turning crank and freezing its contents by packing in crushed ice and salt.

In a once famous tea district of India the cultivation of rubber has driven the promotion of the former to second place, nearly 17,000 acres being devoted to rubber plantations.

It strikes me that a "kicker" should be better equipped with intellects and better equipped with intellects before putting on the kick. The old saying according to Davy Crockett, "Be sure you are right, then go ahead" is quite applicable in this case.
G. N. M.
New Haven, Dec. 1, 1908.

BREAKFAST DIGESTERS.

Scribbler—What is your idea of a successful poet? Scrivener—One who is able to earn his living at something else.—Philadelphia Record.

"Have you lived in this town very long, Miss Sears?" "Of course not. I look old enough to have lived anywhere very long."—Cleveland Leader.

Mrs. Dyar—Have you had any experience in taking care of children? Applicant—No, ma'am. Hereafter I've only worked for the best families.—Puck.

"Nature plans well for mankind." "As to how?" "Gives the men ears for hanging spectacles over, and the ladies crosses suitable for pinning hats to."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"This," said a teacher to her class of small arithmeticians, "is a unit." She held up a pencil. "This book is a unit, too," said she. "These are units." And she showed them a ruler, a flower and an apple. Then she pointed the apple, and holding up the pencil, said: "Now, children, what is this?" Silence. "Come, you know what it is," she urged. Little Billy's hand went up slowly. "Well, William," said the teacher, "I think, ma'am, the skin of a unit."—Philadelphia Record.

READY FOR CHRISTMAS.

Sometimes people have paid us the compliment of being "high-priced." We say "compliment" because the statement has been usually qualified by a remark to the effect that "we know you have good goods." The terms "high-price" and "high-grade" have been used synonymously. But as a fact we are also "low-priced." Compare our regular prices on standard goods with those of other larger stores and catalog houses and you'll find them as low as, or lower than, the other fellows. But it is manifestly unfair to compare some of the stuff that is sold during the Holidays with the goods we sell year in and year out and on which we have built our reputation.

In the matter of Cutlery, Tools and Kitchen Goods we stand alone locally both as to quality and assortment. And yet, grade for grade, our prices are low and not high. That something to remember in buying Christmas Gifts.

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In accordance with a growing sentiment in favor of early holiday shopping, we have received a large stock of beautiful things that are suitable for gifts and which include the newest things in cut glass, brass ware, bric-a-brac, antique silver, reproductions, Sheffield plate, etc.
This is a most opportune time to have your Christmas picture framing done—before the rush begins. We will gladly hold the work till you order it delivered.
Visitors Always Welcome.

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Kodaks and Cameras

Premo . . . 4.50 to 25.00
Kodaks . . . 10.00 to 35.00
Century . . . 10.50 to 50.00
Graflex . . . 75.00 up
Beauvigne . . . 1.00 to 9.00
Expo Watch . . . 2.50
Blair . . . 4.50

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