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A very lively comedy.

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THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS
Editor and Owner.

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TAFT PRACTICED ECONOMY

President Taft more than any of his predecessors in the White House has given strict attention to placing the government upon a business basis as regards its receipts and expenditures. Economy and efficiency became one of the cardinal policies of his administration as soon as he entered upon the presidency, and it was well for the country that this was so, for his administration inherited a deficit in the treasury of \$38,000,000, which has now been transformed into a surplus of \$30,000,000. The average citizen and taxpayer will be interested in this fact, because the problem which confronted the president at the outset, although upon a gigantic scale, was similar to that of the ordinary shopkeeper or business man, farmer or wage earner or even housewife who is called upon to make "both ends meet" either in business or in the home.

By law the secretary of the treasury is called upon every year to submit to congress in December the "estimates" of governmental expenditures for the next fiscal year, beginning the following July 1. As congress has to provide the money to run the government, the money has to be appropriated for specific purposes before it can be expended, and if this were not done before the beginning of the fiscal year the machinery of government would

stop unless emergency provision could be made.

How Estimates Are Made.

The "estimates" are prepared by the executive departments of which each member of the cabinet is a head. The cabinet officers get the "estimates" in their respective departments from their chiefs of bureaus and then combine them as the "estimates" for the department. The "estimates" from all departments are then sent to the secretary of the treasury to be submitted to congress, and they then become the "estimates" for the cost of running the entire government during the next fiscal year. Upon these figures congress makes the greater part of its appropriations, amounting to more than \$1,000,000,000 annually.

Until 1908 a more or less lax method of making estimates for the annual appropriations obtained throughout the government. The figures sent to congress each year, instead of showing indications of a careful "pruning" all along the line, showed there was a disposition among the departments to vie with each other in getting as large appropriations as possible without considering whether or not the money demanded could be advantageously expended during the coming year. There was no standardization of supplies, and the various departments were paying varying prices for the same article.

What President Taft Did.

As soon as President Taft took office this system ceased. At the outset President Taft impressed upon his cabinet officials the absolute necessity of economy and efficiency in their departments. He admonished them that not a dollar beyond what was necessary to run the government efficiently in their departments, including a fair margin for progress, which is a part of efficiency in the program of President Taft, should be asked of congress. The effect was immediate. Every department began work at once to investigate its own expenditures and to devise ways and means of curtailing extravagances. The result was that congress received the lowest estimates it had seen in years. This was followed by a reduction in appropriations to correspond, always allowing for the natural growth of the government's activities, which represented a net saving to the taxpayers of the country.

President Taft was not, however, satisfied that all had been done that could be done. He realized that the departments of the government, like individuals, are naturally prone to be proud of their own achievements and by reason of their familiarity with their own endeavors often insisted that their work was more important than the work of the other departments, relatively speaking. In order to correct that evil he asked congress to give him \$100,000 for a commission of disinterested experts to investigate and report on the business of the government, with a view to further economy and efficiency. Thus came into official being the commission of that name.

This commission, among other duties, was directed to prepare the receipts and expenditures of the government on a "budget" basis, which is the system followed by practically all the leading nations of the world except the United States. Under this system it is possible for the humblest citizen to analyze the finances of the government at any time and to lay his finger upon the responsible political party in the event of extravagance or of stinginess. The system under which appropriations for the government of the United States have been made has even defied the experts in their endeavors to unravel the tangled skeins of expenditures, so that it is a fair statement to say that no citizen of this country up to the present time has ever thoroughly understood where his taxes were expended.

Superb Easter Display of Fine Millinery



Just One Week Left To Select Your Easter Bonnet

EVERY DISTINCTIVE, NEW SEASON'S STYLE IS HERE IN AN ENDLESS VARIETY. SAFE TO SAY THAT A BETTER SELECTION CANNOT BE FOUND IN THE EXCLUSIVE CITY MILLINERY SHOPS—AND OUR PRICES ARE BUT A FRACTION OF THEIR EXORBITANT MARKINGS.

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Easter Fashions In "Ready to Wear" Garments for Ladies and Misses

A brilliant array of authoritative spring fashions, featuring all the wanted styles and materials. Our moderate prices are an added attraction to this department.

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White Nubuck shoes, white canvas shoes and colonial pumps in many charming styles. (All widths, all sizes, and all prices.)

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Have you selected your Easter suit? Better get your spring clothing now and enjoy the satisfaction of a full season's wear.

Benjamin Suits\$20.00 up
Society Brand Suits.....\$20.00 up

N. K. WEST

The President's Position.
At the present time the Democratic house of representatives is endeavoring to end the usefulness of the economy committee by cutting it out of the budget. In a recent speech to congress he made to continue the great work it has begun, which is thinking men and women approve. President Taft pointed out that the people of the country as a whole are interested chiefly in the following governmental objects: The national defense, the protection of persons and property, the promotion of friendly relations and the protection of

American commerce and industry, the regulation of commerce and industry, the promotion of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and mining, the promotion of manufacturing, commerce and banking, the promotion of transportation and communication, the postal service, including postal savings banks and parcels post; the care and utilization of the public domain, the promotion of education, art and science and recreation; the promotion of public health and the care and education of the Indians and other wards of the nation. There are many other public questions, of course, but these are the vital and comprehensive ones, and the "budget" is proposed for the purpose of giving information as to the needs of these matters. The president, in order that his policy of economy and efficiency may be concluded and become one of the greatest achievements of his administration—that of placing the government on a business basis—wants congress to appropriate \$250,000 more for the support of the commission now doing that work.

The economy and efficiency commission has already saved to the taxpayers of the country more than \$3,000,000 annually by its suggestions and by the time it has completed its work it is believed ten times this sum can be saved annually to the taxpayers. In the matter of railroad fare for government officials alone it has found that \$12,000,000 was expended in a single year at the highest prevailing railroad rates. At least a fourth of this can be saved by the application of business methods such as President Taft has applied and has insisted shall be applied to all the departments of the government.

lay delegates are in attendance at the Iowa conference of the Evangelical association which opened here this morning with a meeting of the Board of Conference Examiners. The conference will continue through the entire week and will close on Sunday evening with a sermon by Bishop Bowman of Allentown, Pa.

To Dedicate New High School.
Spokane, Wash., April 2.—Hundreds of alumni and alumnae of Spokane's high school and noted educators from various cities in the northwest have arrived here to attend the formal dedication here tomorrow of the Lewis and Clark high school building, which cost \$500,000 and is considered by experts the best equipped and most modern high school building in the north-

west. The school will accommodate 1,700 pupils.

Birthday of Oldest Ruler.
Berlin, April 2.—Duke George II. of Saxe-Meiningen, the oldest of European rulers, received congratulations today to his 86th birthday anniversary. The duke was born in 1826 and came to the throne in 1835.



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Is spent in your working clothes. Are you satisfied with the kind you are wearing? You will be more than satisfied if you wear DAYS' BIG FIVE BRAND

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Few people realize the possibilities of our French Dry Cleaning Process both as the work and as a source of economy. We clean anything in Ladies' or Gents' wearing apparel; also household draperies, etc. This service has a wonderful life restoring effect and makes any article look better and wear longer. We recommend French Dry Cleaning as one of the most effective means of economizing. Our services are the most thorough and satisfactory in the west.

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Its spirit of accommodation,
have attracted customers whose deposits aggregate over \$700,000.00.
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CAPITAL \$ 100,000.00
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Each package will make twelve angel food cakes, and the cost to you will be less than

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Has no equal for
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PIE CRUST
SHORT CAKE
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If you take a pride in the cake you bake call Main 79 or Main 80.
We have it.

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Two Phones Main 79 and Main 80.

JOINT DEBATE WANTED.

E. H. Flagg, of Elgin, Wishes a Discussion With Ed. E. Kiddle.

Elgin, April 2.—(To Mr. Ed. E. Kiddle)—Dear Sir: As we are both seekers for public employment, and our prospective employers (the general public) are entitled to be informed as to our ability to serve their interests, I suggest that we arrange for a joint meeting and discussion of measures and methods, at the La Grande opera house at such date, within the next two weeks, as may be most convenient to you, the expenses to be shared equally.

Respectfully yours,
E. H. FLAGG.

Iowa Evangelical Conference,
Cedar Falls, Ia., April 2.—Between 70 and 80 clergymen and a number of