

NATIONAL DEFICIT PROVES REAL PERIL

Two Leading Democrats Admit Extravagance Brought Country to Straits.

MORE REVENUE NECESSARY

House Fails to Meet Situation and Senate Is Relied on to Act—Preparedness Programme May Suffer Curtailment.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 24.—That the Republican cry of extravagance, hurled at the Democrats in the late campaign, was founded on solid fact is now attested by the two Democrats most competent to speak on the subject of Government finances, the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. McAdoo, and the chairman of the House committee on appropriations, Mr. Fitzgerald, of New York.

The former, in his annual report, warned of a deficit at the close of the fiscal year that may exceed \$150,000,000, and the latter, in a recent speech in the House, pointed out the probability of a deficit of \$200,000,000 at the close of the next fiscal year.

Efforts at Economy Not Observable. Committee of Congress, nevertheless, are forging ahead with appropriation bills and making no more effort at economy than was manifest at the recent record-breaking session. Advocates of "pork" legislation are more active this session than last, and no one in Congress, except Mr. Fitzgerald, seems to realize the necessity for curtailing Federal appropriations. Even Mr. Fitzgerald is fearful that economy alone will not avert the deficit.

Mr. Fitzgerald has warned the House that it will soon face the necessity of raising even more revenue than is provided by the regular tax laws, the income and corporation tax, the so-called war tax and the later Kitchen revenue law.

So far as is now evident, there is no purpose to pass a revenue bill this session, nor is there any indication that Congress will authorize a bond issue. What is equally startling is the fact that there seems to be no clear purpose to hold down appropriations.

House Deaf to Appeals. If there is to be economy in appropriations at the present session, it must come from the Senate, for the House apparently is deaf to appeals and determined to disregard the warnings of the appropriations chairman and of the Secretary of the Treasury. If the Senate also should fail to heed these warnings it is more than likely the President will be compelled to exercise the veto power.

Once economy is forced on Congress, good projects will suffer with the bad, for the advocates of "pork" are strong and are as selfish as they are powerful. The President has not the power to veto specific items in any appropriation bill.

This state of affairs still causes many Republicans to question the advisability of making a fight for the control of the next House. They point out that Congress must do something to provide more revenue or authorize a bond issue and leave the deficit ultimately to be made up in the future. If a Republican House should bring in bills levying more taxes they would share the blame for this burden on the public.

Preparedness Plans May Suffer.

Those Democrats who are seriously concerned over the outlook hope the Senate will defeat not only the river and harbor bill, but the public building bill as well, thereby saving about \$30,000,000. Another \$50,000,000 or more could be saved by passing the Borah bill repealing the National Defense clauses of the Hay Army reorganization bill. How many millions could be saved by holding back the preparedness program authorized at the last session is a matter of speculation, but there is a growing Democratic belief that the country will go along for a while without all of the increase provided in the last naval bill.

There is no indication that the 30,000 new officers voted under the Administration bill will be abolished in the interest of economy. Signs point the other way, for, as the result of the recent campaign, there are new "deserving Democrats" to be rewarded, and few of those appointed in the last four years are to be dropped.

It lies in the President's power to hold down appropriations, and, in fact, it lies in his power to say pretty much what appropriations shall be made and what shall not. He can only do this, however, by vetoing bills that are objectionable and by making his fight in the open. To do this, he must engage in a quarrel with Congress, unless Congress, taking a hint, shapes its bills to meet the President's approval.

PISTOL PRACTICE ENDED

PORTLAND CAVALRY RECRUITS DO WELL ON CALEXICO RANGE.

Lieutenant Hogan Finishes as Best Rifle Shot Among Officers, Besting Tacoma Captain.

CALEXICO, Cal., Dec. 19.—(Special.)—No longer are there any recruits. Lieutenant Hogan finished his pistol target practice Saturday, and Monday the 15 rookies joined the Oregon Cavalry and took part in the morning drill. They have also changed their sleeping quarters and have moved into the second tent.

While on the rifle and pistol range these new soldiers gave a splendid account of themselves. It remained for one of them to qualify as an expert pistol shot, having the distinction of being the only member of the militia organizations in camp to qualify as such. He is George Lawton, who enlisted from Portland. Private Lawton had been from Davenport, Ia., although he had moved to Portland intending to make it his future home. Lieutenant Hogan also came out of the target practice with the added honor of being the best rifle shot, finishing with a score of 177 out of a possible 200, two points higher than Captain Palmer, Troop B, Tacoma, who, up to that time, held the highest score.

SHRINER MEETING WANTED

(Continued From First Page.) Campaign it has undertaken. He says the Shrine gatherings are the most spectacular and the largest in the United States. It is freely estimated that if the Imperial Council session is brought to Portland the visitors will leave \$2-

900,000 in the three days that they will be here.

The attendance of delegates from 175 temples will be marked by innumerable competitive drills and concerts. The extensive programme that Portland will undertake will include the chartering of steamers for trips down the Columbia, automobile outings and entertainment for both the members and their families that will occupy all their time spent in Portland.

The first big guns in the campaign will be fired at the Northwest Ceremonial that will be held here in January, when 40 or 50 candidates will walk the hot sands into the realm of Shrinedom. On the committee in charge of the arrangements for the 1919 gathering are: George W. Burns, H. E. Hutchinson, Dean Vincent, W. J. Hofmann, O. M. Clark, Franklin T. Griffith, George L. Baker, Ira F. Powers, Phil Metzchan, Jr., Louis G. Clark and J. G. Mack.

Among the temples in the West expected to pledge support to Portland in the movement are those at San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, Ashland, Boise, Salt Lake, Butte, Lewiston, Helena, Spokane, Seattle, Tacoma, Denver and Victoria.

TIME CARD UNCHANGED

ONTARIO-CRANE BRANCH SCHEDULE STANDS FOR PRESENT.

Rival Contentions of Burns and Vale Probably Will Be Heard by Public Service Commission.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—The Public Service Commission today refused to suspend a new time schedule on the Ontario-Crane branch of the Oregon Short Line which became effective this morning, and Commissioner Corey telegraphed to General Superintendent Knickerbocker at Pocatello, Idaho, that such action could not be taken by the Commission without a hearing.

The new schedule has been the storm center around which a war between the towns of Burns and Vale has revolved. Vale objects to the new schedule because its citizens cannot receive their evening mail, and Burns demands the new schedule because without it its citizens are deprived of their evening delivery. A telegram received by the Commission from Vale today said that 300 citizens of that city were forwarding a strong protest against the new time card.

It is probable a hearing will result, with all citizens along the branch having the privilege of being heard from, but in the meantime the new schedule will prevail.

CAROLS SUNG IN SNOW

LA GRANDE HOLDS CHRISTMAS CEREMONY IN BLIZZARD.

Churches Hold Midnight Services After Programme at Municipal Tree in Downtown Streets.

LA GRANDE, Or., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—Despite a typical January blizzard and deep snow, with considerable cold snap, hundreds of persons gathered on a downtown intersection tonight about a monster civic Christmas tree and listened to brief addresses and the singing of Christmas carols by the combined choirs of five churches.

Topping the tree was a monster star, made by the manual training class, and the illumination and wiring were contributed by merchants.

Tonight at midnight several churches conducted special services. A big delegation of Knights of Columbus met at 11:20 and marched in a body to the Catholic Church to participate in mass. The Episcopal Church held special services at midnight.

The Elks Lodge and Salvation Army today distributed great stacks of goodies and food to more than 100 homes and each will give a Christmas tree tomorrow.

JAPAN IN 'PEACE ROBE'

WAR DEFENDED AS MOVE TO OVERTHROW MILITARISM.

President Wilson's Note Arouses Interest and Prediction Is That Reply Will Be in Like Spirit.

TOKIO, Japan, Dec. 23.—President Wilson's note to the belligerent powers has been delivered to the Japanese government. The note has aroused extraordinary interest.

The general view by the press is that, while it is not connected with the German peace proposal, it is not unreasonable to suppose the two eventually may be joined and lead to peace negotiations.

The prediction is voiced that Japan and her allies will reply to President Wilson in the spirit of his idea, but it is commented that they entered the war "in the robe of peace" and that their efforts to "overthrow German militarism" are based upon a desire to solidify permanent world peace.

OIL KING'S IDEA ASSAILED

Cleveland Pastor Says Rockefeller's Conception of Heaven Wrong.

CLEVELAND, O., Dec. 20.—John D. Rockefeller's conception of heaven and the saints is all wrong, Rev. Dan P. Bradley, pastor of one of the opposition churches to John D.'s on Euclid avenue, said recently. Rockefeller said that St. Paul would have been a financier had he lived in the present age.

Rev. Bradley said: "St. Paul would not have known Wall street or Fifth avenue. He would not have been like Mr. Rockefeller. "Mr. Rockefeller made this statement under two false impressions—first, that all great men are financiers, and, second, that the amassing of an enormous fortune is proper."

WOMEN OUST POLICEMEN

Thirty-Five Hundred Resent Attempt to Prevent Speaking.

LINCOLN, Neb., Dec. 20.—An attempt of Secretary Whitten, of the Commercial Club, to prevent Anna M. Lowry, self-styled ex-nun, from speaking in the city auditorium here resulted in a riot in which a constable and two policemen were roughly handled and thrown out of the building by the women.

Thirty-five hundred women packed the auditorium, when the officers entered and attempted to arrest the woman on a warrant sworn to by Secretary Whitten, alleging trespassing. After throwing out the officers the women proceeded with the meeting.

Former War Correspondent Dies.

FORT WORTH, Tex., Dec. 24.—J. J. Roche, former newspaper war correspondent, died here today aged 65 years. A native of Ireland, Roche came to the United States at the age of 17

Your Portland and Mine

OPTIMISM is abroad in Portland. Optimism linked with that great, glad Christmas spirit, going hand in hand to build a bigger and better city—your Portland and mine. Powers has been an institution in Portland for 50 years; a part of the city's life, feeling its ebb and flow of prosperity; but never in the years that have passed has this concern felt so strongly the spirit of better things to come for city and state than in the year just about to close.

Our business has been far beyond expectation, great in volume; steady in character, substantial in quality, a gratifying indication that "good times" are here. We rejoice in the fact that the commercial awakening has been general—an awakening in which all merchants have shared in proportion to their service. In the new year—the golden year about to dawn—many things must be accomplished for city and state. In this accomplishment the Powers Furniture Company pledges to do its share. To earnestly co-operate with our fellow merchants in the big upbuilding for the good of all. To our patrons, to those whose confidence we work for and enjoy, we wish to renew our promise of a service that shall always mean satisfaction.

THE IRA F. POWERS FURNITURE COMPANY

J. J. Powers

President.

December 25, 1916.

TROOP A IS MERRY

Christmas Eve Brings Tree Laden With Gifts.

ONLY FOUR OF TRIBE LEFT

Indian Expects to Go to Washington to Represent Himself.

TACOMA, Wash., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—Jack McKee, known as "Cyclone Jake," is one of only four surviving members of the once flourishing "settler" Indian tribe.

While the Duwamish people were being enrolled last week at the home of Chief Charlie Satacum, "Cyclone Jake" was nonchalantly clearing land nearby.

"I suppose," he said, "I'll have to go in Washington to represent myself, for there seems to be no one left to represent me."

RAILROAD EMPLOYE DIES

Louis Altpeter Succumbs to Heart Disease at Vancouver.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—Louis Altpeter, 55 years old, and for the past four years in the employ of the North Bank road in the 10-cent shops, died at St. Joseph's Hospital last night from heart trouble. The body was removed to the Knapp funeral parlour and will be taken to Woodland, Cal., where funeral services will be held.

Mr. Altpeter is survived by his widow, a daughter, Mrs. Helen Hamshire, of Chico, Cal., and a son Charles Altpeter, in Woodland Cal. and a brother Edward A. Altpeter in San Francisco. Mr. Altpeter passed most of his life in California.

BUFFALO BILL IMPROVING

"You Can't Kill the Old Scout," Patient Tells Reporters.

DENVER, Dec. 24.—Colonel William F. Cody (Buffalo Bill), 61 at the home of the cavalry here, was much improved today and his physicians expected his early recovery.

"You can't kill the old scout," Colonel Cody remarked to newspaper men who visited him today.

AGGRESSIVE POLICY URGED

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conference met a cordial response among many of the rank and file Republicans who desire to prevent the present ranking minority members of several committees who are classified as irreconcilable standpatters from getting chairmanships unless they make declarations of progressive principles.

TROOP A IS MERRY

Christmas Eve Brings Tree Laden With Gifts.

SANTA ARRIVES ON BURRO

Every Member Receives Big Box of Candy From Portland Cavalry and Battery A Are to Celebrate With Dinner Today.

WITH THE OREGON TROOPS ON THE BORDER, Camp John H. Beacom, Calexico, Cal., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—The little blue devils of Christmas on the Mexican border were routed by the Oregon Cavalry tonight in a Christmas eve celebration that will live long in the hearts of the troopers.

What had been looked forward to as a night of gloom turned out to be a joyous occasion, and the festivities are continuing far into the night in the big troop mess shack.

An Oregon Christmas tree, laden and banked with hundreds of Christmas packages, was the center of attraction. The hall was brilliantly lighted with electric bulbs and candles and decked with foliage of Imperial Valley and the border country. Palms, pepper plants, young mesquite, chapparal, cotton plants and tulle were used effectively.

The affair was planned by Captain White as a surprise, and put into execution by committees of troopers headed by First Sergeant C. Jeddiedt, Mess Sergeant Durant, Sergeant Riley, Corporals Sloan and Stone and Privates Virgil, Venable, Gerber and Brown. After the distribution of presents by the cavalry Santa Claus, who arrived aboard the troop mascot, a Mexican burro, there was a programme of music by troop talent. Every trooper received a present from Portland, a big box of candy, refreshments and the giving of comic presents and the reading of mock orders and messages made the late hours merry.

The troop will have another programme tomorrow, with the big dinner which has been provided for each Troop A Auxiliary of Portland. Battery A will have a Christmas dinner and entertainment in the afternoon.

A. F. PATRICK TO WED AGAIN

Man Sentenced Three Times to Die Announces Engagement.

TULSA, Okla., Dec. 24.—Albert T. Patrick, wealthy oil man, who was sentenced three times to die in Sing Sing prison on a murder charge, announced here today his engagement to Mrs. Mildred West, daughter of a Tulsa oil operator. They will be married in June.

Patrick was pardoned after a long

fight by his brother-in-law, John T. Milliken, St. Louis millionaire.

American Educator Dies in China.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—The Rev. William Alexander Parsons Martin, formerly president of the Tung Wen College of Peking, and the Imperial University of China, died December 18, at the American Presbyterian mission in months. It is said that a 12-hour shift

will be established shortly after the first of the year.

Mill Has Big Lumber Orders.

CENTRALIA, Wash., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—It is reported that the Onalaska Lumber Company has sufficient orders ahead to ship 12 cars a day for eight months. It is said that a 12-hour shift

Snow and Snowballs.

Judge.

Crawford—As you watch those kids playing in the snow I suppose you wish you were a boy again.

Crabshaw—You bet I do. Then I could catch that young rascal who just soaked me with a snowball.

THE Columbia Theater

wishes you a MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR

Now Playing Douglas Fairbanks in "THE MATRIMANIAC"

A Mile of a Mile-a-Minute Merriment.