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but as Republican officials they stand practically for the same things, and would generally co-operate. It is not probable that Cannon can be defeated for reelection, but since it is known that if the house has a Republican majority he will be elected speaker, it would not be strange if enough Democrats were elected to the house to prevent the reelection of this calamity to the country.

NATIONAL EXTRAVAGANCE.

CRITICISM of the government's extravagance in spending the people's money is deserved. And it is especially deserved because of some of the ways in which the money was expended. The army and navy cost this year something like \$250,000,000, this being about \$120,000,000 more than their cost 10 years ago. And according to the present program the increase will go on steadily, until in a few years the taxpayers will be obliged to pay more than \$300,000,000, perhaps nearer \$500,000,000, a year to support the army and navy. And this in time of profound peace, and with no prospect of war with any other nation for generations to come. The last congress also created 59,000 new offices at a cost of \$70,000,000 a year. But it would appropriate nothing for interior waterways, and nothing except to carry on continuing contracts for rivers and harbors. The railroads oppose these. And on the other hand the railroad mail-carrying graft was continued. The idea seems to have been: Tax the people to the limit for the exploiters and grafters; give the railroads anything they ask for.

As a writer has said: "Prodigality will weaken a nation always. Economy will strengthen it." What a mockery of taxpayers it is to ask them to burrah for a party that compels them to pay more on account of wars, past and possible or imaginary in the future, than for all other expenses of government combined. Representative Tawney says that almost 65 per cent of the government's revenues, aside from postal receipts, goes to the account of war. Is this wise? Is it necessary? Is it not a great evil, demanding correction?"

Meanwhile the cost of living mounts higher regularly, in proportion to men's ability to earn. This is due in part to this enormous waste of the people's funds to maintain great establishments that earn nothing, produce nothing, are wholly a burden. On this score alone the administrations of the past few years are censurable.

THE GRANGE'S NEW PLAN.

IT IS of significance that the Grange of Oregon is working out a new plan that is to be educational in character. The uplift of country life, and the endeavor to make it more attractive is a worthy cause. The drift of population to the cities is not without its reason. All the movements of life have something back of them that gives them motion and direction. The belief of the country boy and country girl that opportunities lie most in city life have something, fancied or real, for a groundwork. The American boy and girl who seek to do things have a fancy that the big things to be done in the world are not in the field, the forest or by the stream. The glamour of the distant city, and the hum of seething industry beckon and will continue to beckon to the enthusiasm of youth, unless a counter inspiration can be set up in the country, with a promise that things worth the while of ambitious youngsters are within reach in the rural communities. The accomplishment of purpose, and the inception of achievement must have a foundation of training and inspiration. The plan evolved by the Grange of Oregon is a school in which the popular and practical questions of the day pertaining directly to the farm and the home are to be studied in the granges every month throughout the year. Programs prepared by the state lecturer with the assistance of President Kerr and Dr. Withycombe of the Agricultural College, State Superintendent Ackerman and the state librarian are to be the educative agency, and are destined to be of great utilitarian value. This movement, and every other promotive of interest in country life is constructive work for the glory of the nation.

CANNON.

THE recent primary election in Illinois showed that a good many voters of that state are not very well satisfied with political conditions there, and are becoming restive and independent. Senator Hopkins secured a moderate plurality for re-election, but he was backed with all its power by the state machine, as well as the federal administration, yet both Foss and Mason ran pretty well up to him. But though Hopkins is a thorough "corporation senator," it would be a far greater victory for the people, in the estimation of Collier's Weekly, to defeat "Jo-Uncle" Cannon than to defeat Hopkins, for, it says: "The greatest force for Bourbonism, the bulwark of private snobs, the strongest obstacle to needed reform in all this broad land, is not Senator Aldrich; it is not E. H. Harriman or John D. Rockefeller; it is Joseph G. Cannon of Illinois. Weilding a power second only to the president's, he uses that power always to defend whatever is entrenched. He hates all that is progressive, from purer food to safer forests, from railway regulation to improvement of the tariff. He is the kind of force which, by opposing change when change is right, encourages socialism and revolution."

HUGHES AND TAFT.

NEW YORK politics interests the Oregon voter. It sheds light on the presidential situation. The machine men there have won in the up-state primaries. They are the men who believe in a government "by the machine and for the machine." They are for Taft, and against Hughes. Hughes is the personification of reform. He is the idol of the Republican masses. He led the insurance investigation and laid bare the crimes of cunning among the companies. With the people back of him, he compelled the legislature to enact reform legislation that has shorn the interests of many of their agencies for public plunder. He has plans for further and more drastic reforms, and that is why he is bitterly opposed for renomination by the machine bosses. They went home from the Chicago convention singing, "Hang Charley Hughes on a sour apple tree."

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Small Change

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