

but it does seem strange that when one is so busy cutting down estimates everywhere else, that one should find time to separate one's own interests from the interests of the University.

AMONG the improvements contemplated for the next two years, as specified in the appropriation bill, are a boiler house, and a steam-heating plant for the new buildings. The authorities feel somewhat hurt that the amount asked for the steam-heating plant and fuel was cut down by the committee. No more was asked than was considered necessary, and if the next two seasons should be unusually cold the "economy" of the committee will be severely felt. As we reflect upon this and various other afflictions of the present session the thought comes to us that it must be pleasant to be connected with a school of which crank legislators have not the making or breaking every two years.

Two Nebraska men are candidates for foreign appointments. This fact, in itself, might not be especially interesting to the University, were it not for the relation, or perhaps *ex*-relation, of one of the candidates to the U. of N. Ex-Chancellor Manatt is a candidate for the position of minister to Greece. Patrick Egan is a candidate for the position of minister to Chili. It is highly improbable from a political point of view that both will receive appointments. If, then, there is a likelihood that one of the two will receive a commission, we sincerely hope that it may be Patrick Egan. Among the qualifications for a ministerial appointment, party work must take a prominent place. Mr. Egan's qualifications in this line are abundant, while Mr. Manatt's, so far as we know, are *nil*. So far as appears, Mr. Manatt's sole qualification is the fact of his being a Greek scholar. THE HESPERIAN endorses "Egan for Chili."

AT the present time probably nothing is more interesting to the average student than the progress of the appropriation bills in the legislature. It is too soon to state definitely the fate of the University appropriation. This much can be said, however. Considering the unfavorable stand taken by the house committee, we may consider ourselves fortunate in getting through that body in as good shape as we have. Still we are not out of danger. The senate is more fanatical upon the subject of economy than the house, if possible. The senate has adopted the plan of cutting off every appropriation which it is possible to cut off, no matter how great may be its desirability. No doubt former legislatures have been rash in the matter of appropriations, but it occurs to us that the present legislature is rushing just as rashly

to the other extreme. Again, we do not believe the motives to be wholly honest. It is virtually acknowledged that at the present time in this state the best thing out of which to make political capital is economy. We do not think it would be too much to say that this is the motive that actuates not a few legislators in their attack upon appropriation bills. To be sure there are some who are honestly endeavoring to reduce taxation. But they cannot accomplish this by reducing the University appropriation. The University fund is separate from the general fund. It accumulates just the same whether the taxes are high or low. If the entire income is not used part remains idle in the treasury. It cannot be used for any thing else, and taxes are not reduced a cent. At the present time the state of the bill is as follows: the regents asked for all that will accumulate in the University fund in the next two years, or \$223,599. The house committee recommended \$140,303. The amount passed is \$194,749.

#### LITERARY.

It is rather dry work getting our reading at second hand but sometimes one runs across a review of some book that reads delightfully. Such a one is the notice of a book called, "Young Sir Harry Vane." The book is no doubt a very enjoyable one.

\*\*\*

I wonder how many have read the article in the March *Harper's* called "Poe's Mary." Those who have not should do so as quickly as possible. One thinks of Poe, and of the "Raven"; they are inseparable. Therefore it is profitable to read anything that may throw light on the author of that wonderful poem. Without presuming to judge whether Poe's "Mary" had anything to do with the "Lenore" of the poem, yet one may say that the Poe described by the author of the above might well have written the "Raven."

\*\*\*

The *Literary World* for March 15, contains a notice of a new book that will interest all students engaged in the study of ancient history. Two well known scholars have taken Theodore Mommsen's great "History of Rome" and condensed it into a single volume of five hundred pages. Of course some parts have been omitted, principally the chapters on art, literature and religion, but the condensed work is said to give the main facts as contained in Mommsen. Those who have read at all in the larger edition of Mommsen will be glad to get a book that will give them Mommsen's thought in less time than is required to read the four volume edition.

\*\*\*

Last month we had space for only the briefest notice of the book: "The American Commonwealth," that is attracting so much attention. At the time of this issue THE HESPERIAN has been unable to get hold of the book as it is not yet to be found so far west. So we must be content to read what reviewers and paragraphers say about it, and take sides with those who say it is a very good book, or those who say it is a very bad one. For all are not agreed upon the subject. One eminent writer for a well known magazine calls it "Professor Bryce's grand book." Another writer,