

is already virtually settled that there shall be no diminution of the rate on sugar, as it is the best revenue producer the government has. A renewal of the war revenue act would almost exactly offset the deficit. It brought into the treasury a trifle more than \$100,000,000 a year. In four years \$46,000,000 were collected on legacies, or an average of \$11,000,000 per annum. Beer was the big money-bringer of the war revenue law. The added dollar a barrel realized \$30,000,000 a year. The tax of ten cents a pound on tea was the next item in importance, bringing in \$10,000,000 a year. It is desired to avoid, if possible, all the numerous stamp taxes, not because of their expensiveness, but because of their inconvenience. A two-cent stamp was required on all bank checks and one cent on telegrams and telephone messages. Life insurance policies were taxed six cents for every \$100 of value. Chewing gum was assessed four cents for every dollar's worth. One cent was collected for each palace or parlor car seat sold or berth occupied. Railroad and steamship tickets were taxed from \$1 to \$3. Bonds, certificates of stocks, proprietary medicines, notes, bills of exchange, bucketshop and brokers' transactions, bills of sale, agreements, drafts, express receipts, bills of lading, leases, protests, almost every form of legal document were compelled to bear a tax stamp. National banks with a capital stock of \$25,000 paid \$50, and \$2 for each additional thousand dollars of capital. Brokers and pawnbrokers were taxed \$50 and \$20 respectively. Theatres, concert halls and museums paid \$100. A circus paid \$100. All other shows contributed \$10 each. Each billiard table or bowling alley was taxed \$5. The tax on tobacco and snuff was doubled, being raised from six cents to twelve cents a pound. The tobacco dealers were taxed from \$6 to \$24, according to volume of business. The tax on cigars and cigarettes was proportionately increased."

AN IMPORTANT concession to the railroads is described by a Washington dispatch carried by the Associated Press under date of November 29, as follows: "A ruling of vast importance to the railroads carrying United States mails has been made by the second assistant postmaster general. Heretofore it has been the practice of the postoffice department to make quarterly payments for such service, but the railroads contended that as a matter of right and justice settlements should be made monthly. For some time past the Rock Island system has negotiated with the department to this end with the result that notification was received yesterday that, beginning January 1, next, monthly payments would be made. The aggregate amount involved each year is over \$48,000,000 and the new ruling will have the effect of putting in circulation a considerable sum each month."

AT THE UNVEILING of a tablet at Bath, England, to Edwin Burke, Whitelaw Reid, referred to Burke as "the greatest orator of his country." Commenting on Mr. Reid's estimate of Burke, the New York Evening Post says: "Mr. Reid must have had in mind an unusual test of great oratory. Burke's speeches are undoubtedly among the most wonderful productions of the human intellect. They can still be read with delight and profit; while no man willingly disturbs the dust under which the orations of his most famous contemporaries lie buried. Yet the evidence is conclusive that Burke's oratory did not find immediate favor. Fox and Sheridan far outshone him. He was called 'the dinner bell of the house of commons'—to so beggarly an array of empty benches was he accustomed to speak. Goldsmith's well known lines describe the way in which Burke went on 'refining' while his hearers thought only of 'dining.' Now, a speech which falls flat with its audience can be said to be great oratory only by straining the ordinary definitions."

THE MACON (Ga.) Telegraph takes issue with the Evening Post in this way: "This issue made by the brilliant if sometimes bilious Post with the able editor of its contemporary, the Tribune, at present representing this country at the court of St. James, raises the question as to what are the true tests of great oratory. It may be said, in passing, that notwithstanding Burke's delivery may have been tiresome to the average hearer, that on occasions which demanded it he could exert himself to a pitch

and exercise an immediate spell over his auditors equal to the best declaimers, whether Sheridan, Fox or Chatham. Either this is true or Macaulay drew on his imagination for his famous description of the scene at the impeachment of Warren Hastings during Burke's peroration when the ladies fainted and the distinguished defendant himself said he sat under a spell and for the time regarded himself as the most guilty soul alive. But to reduce the test of oratory to a mere question of entertainment is to our mind a fallacy on its face. This is on a par with the judgment that would pronounce the 'Merry Widow' a more entertaining production to moderns than the 'Merry Wives of Windsor' and therefore a superior work. It is on a par with the judgment that would question Shakespeare's greatness as a poet and playwright because the modern audience finds more entertainment and pleasure in comic opera or vaudeville. But Burke will be studied and read as Shakespeare will be read and played when their ephemeral contemporaries, predecessors and successors are forgotten. For, as Greenville said, 'Burke is to politics what Shakespeare is to the moral world.' As well might one measure the character of such oratory by its immediate results. The policy of the English government at the time sustained Hastings, and Burke, Sheridan, Fox and their comanagers of the impeachment failed to obtain a verdict against him, but their respective exhortations of Hastings' administration in India will remain monuments of eloquence and grandeur to be read and pondered for all time, while the speeches in opposition have been forgotten."

MAYOR BUSSE, of Chicago, recently ordered the chief of police to make a raid upon a poker game played at an Illinois club house. The police officers were met at the door by officers of the club who volunteered to show them through. They escorted the police to a room where a number of Mayor Busse's personal and political friends were engaged in a game of poker. It is said that two of the men engaged in the game were city officials, holding high authority over the police force itself. All of them were escorted to the police station where they gave bonds for their appearance. Mayor Busse was in a rage when he heard of the arrest of his friends. He declared that he had ordered the chief to raid a card game on the ninth floor of the club house because he understood that that was an open and dishonest game. One of the men arrested said: "The raid on our game was because of spite against Mayor Busse. When the detectives entered the place and asked regarding the game on the ninth floor they were directed by two officials of the club to the room where the friends of the mayor were in the habit of spending the evening. Every other game in the house had been shut down when the club officials were warned of the contemplated raid." The raid has brought about a new war within the club. Members who did not dream that gambling was permitted are up in arms. They promise that the officials who are said to have sold out gambling privileges will be ousted. It is declared also that charges are to be filed against Manager Green and Charles Zeller, the athletic director, who are said to be the two officials who "steered" the detectives against the "game."

IT HAS DEVELOPED that James Stillman, who is more or less deeply interested in the Standard Oil trust, is one of the owners of the Outlook Magazine. The Outlook is edited by Rev. Lyman Abott and recently it has been announced under a great flourish of trumpets that Mr. Roosevelt is to become associate editor of that publication. In an editorial the Outlook says: "Whether James Stillman is connected with the Standard Oil company we do not know. The facts concerning his connection with the Outlook are as follows: About forty years ago Lyman Abott became associated with Henry Ward Beecher in the editorship of the Christian Union. When, some eight or ten years later, Mr. Beecher's inclinations led him to retire, an endeavor was made by Mr. Abott to purchase the paper. Among those who aided him financially in this effort were Lawson Valentine and James Stillman, both of whom were neighbors and warm personal friends. They believed in him and in his plan of making a journal of national influence. They not only aided him in buying the paper, which is now the Outlook, but also in the struggles that were necessary to put the paper on its feet. Mr. Valentine, who

has since died, was much more interested than Mr. Stillman, but neither of them ever sought to exercise the slightest control over the editorial policy, which for thirty years has been and still is absolutely determined and controlled by Dr. Abbott. Mr. Stillman never, it so happened, attended a stockholders' meeting, either in person or by proxy. He owns less than ten per cent of the stock of the Outlook, the other ninety per cent being owned by those who are actively engaged in editing and publishing the paper. If the act of unprincipled rumor-venders has given either Mr. Stillman or the president any annoyance the Outlook sincerely regrets the fact."

MR. DOOLEY, writing in the American Magazine, described John D. Rockefeller as a "new literary light" in these words: "Well, Hinnessy, th' impresson I got fr'm the little heart-to-heart talk by the Iditor was that me frind Jawn D. was quite a jolly, rollickin' old soul. I plunged fr'm thence into his autybiography an' immedejedly plunged out again. I can not tell ye all iv this dashin' story iv adventure. I class it among th' gr-reat fightin' romances in Ithraehoor. How he was beset by rivals—how he pierced wan with a rebate, how he broke th' law over another's head, how he leaped through a loophole in a supreme court decision an' was safe fr' a time; th' great perill he was in fr'm fr'gettin' th' combination to his safe; how he was threacherously struck down by Kenesaw M. Landis; how honest Peter Grosscup come along an' lifted th' fine an' carried him home an' nursed him back to life. I'll not tell ye about it. Ye must read it fr' ye'er-sillf. An' if it's not too much to ask, read it fr' me, too. There's wan thing sure fr'm what I see an' that is that Jawn D. hasn't anny idee that he iver done wrong to annywan. I like that about him. It shows he's a human being."

REPRESENTATIVE Burton, of Ohio, recently gave out a statement—after a visit to Mr. Taft—which gave some people the impression that the new president intended to engage in a pitched battle with Joseph G. Cannon to the end that Mr. Cannon either promise to be good or be defeated for speaker. Later Mr. Cannon has given out several interviews which would indicate that he is just as strongly in favor of tariff revision as Mr. Taft is. The impression seems to be that Mr. Cannon will be re-elected speaker. In an interview given out at Chicago Mr. Cannon said: "Any change in the revenue laws of the country of necessity is followed by a depression of business. Three years ago I followed the lead of Theodore Roosevelt, who declared that there should be no revision of the revenue laws, which means the tariff, until after the next general election. His policy was not to change existing conditions. The republican platform, on which the national contest has been won, says revise the revenue laws. That revision should be with due regard to protection and to penalty against discriminatory nations. As a member of the next house of representatives, a co-ordinate branch of the government equal to the executive and the judiciary—and I will be there if I live—I am going, so far as my vote is concerned, to see to it that the policy of the republican party on this question is written in the national laws as promptly as possible. The laws should be written promptly, so that business can adjust itself to changed conditions for the change will of necessity bring disturbance."

THIS STORY from Sellingsgrove, Pa., is told by the Philadelphia Public Ledger. "To be saved by a pet cat from being ground under the wheels of a locomotive was the thrilling and unique experience of Mrs. Mary Longenderfer of Sunbury. At a crossing of the Reading railway her walk was interrupted by a freight train on the nearer of the double tracks, and when the string of cars had passed the woman stepped forward, and halted as she noticed a frantic pulling at the hem of her skirt. At that instant a "light" locomotive dashed past on the next track so close to the unmindful woman that the momentum felled her to the pavement. Then she looked back and saw her pet cat, with its teeth securely fastened in her skirt."

"Ice King" Morse was convicted at the beginning of winter, which will give other "ice kings" plenty of time to frame up some better and safer scheme for robbing the people next summer.