

MILITARISM

Americans have long been accustomed to commiserate the nations of Europe which are groaning under heavy armaments; yet there is no nation in Europe which pays so heavily for war as we do. For the current year our appropriations for militarism are as follows:

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|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Support of the army..... | \$101,000,000 |
| Naval service | 137,000,000 |
| Forts and fortifications... | 8,000,000 |
| Military Academy | 2,500,000 |
| Pensions | 161,000,000 |
| Interest on public debt.... | 21,000,000 |
| Total | \$430,500,000 |

A close analysis of expenditures under other headings, and taking due account of deficiencies that are sure to appear, would probably show enough more money going for purposes connected with war-making to increase the above total to \$500,000,000.—New York World.

Isthmus, in fact, than at any other point.

The canal brings the entire west coast of South America into close commercial intercourse with the United States, and gives us a considerable trade advantage over any other country. While the Andes rise so abruptly from the Pacific as to leave but a narrow strip along the coast, there are large areas of table lands east of the mountains that are much nearer to the Pacific than to the Atlantic, and these are being reached by railroads from Ecuador, Peru and Chili. Every mile of new road built in these sections will add to American commerce and the canal will, in turn, greatly stimulate railroad building.

It has always been urged in behalf of a canal that it would increase the efficiency of our navy; if that be true we can afford to appropriate less for the building of battleships and more for the construction of transports. These can be used as merchant vessels in time of peace. If we had a fleet of transports, we could use them to establish trade routes, leasing them on conditions which would ensure the training of American seamen while advancing the commercial interests of our country.

The canal should be open to the commerce of the world, without other charge than that necessary for expense of operation and maintenance. This policy is demanded in the interest of our own people. Every dollar collected in tolls will increase the rates charged by transcontinental lines; and as railroad traffic between the oceans increases, this charge will aggregate more and more. The cheaper we can make the water rate, the cheaper will be the railroad rate. The general public would lose money, therefore, if they attempted to collect toll. A tonnage charge for passing through the canal would also burden the trade which we hope to develop with South and Central America, and this factor will grow in importance as commerce grows.

Then, too, a free canal can be justified on the ground that, as our country objects to other nations gaining a foothold on this hemisphere, it owes it to the world to do the work itself at the least possible expense to other countries. Some have amplified this argument by suggesting that to the extent that the canal is a military advantage the expense ought to be borne by our government and not collected from international commerce.

An additional argument is found in the fact that a free canal would set at rest all discussion of other canal routes and effectually prevent the building of another canal by any other country, while a toll would lead to a perpetual dispute as to the fairness of the interest rate as well as to the reasonableness of the construction cost taken as the basis.

I can not conclude this article without suggesting another use which can and should be made of the canal.

It is likely to become a connecting link between our country and the republics of Central and South America. A free canal would be regarded as a generous contribution and would be appreciated in proportion, but even a toll canal would make our relations with these countries more intimate than they are now. This opportunity should be improved to the uttermost; and the young men are the most important element to reach.

A government college on the zone would

without doubt draw largely from the countries near.

Mr. F. A. Pezet, the Peruvian minister at Panama, who has a son at an American college, estimates the Peruvians attending college in the United States at three hundred. As colleges draw mainly from the communities around them, there is every reason to believe that a college on the Isthmus would be sufficiently attended to justify its establishment. Here American history and constitutional government could be taught and the students could be made acquainted with the institutions of our country and with the influences which have contributed to the development of our civilization.

When the canal is completed the employes numbering now some thirty thousand will return to their homes and of the forty-three hundred Americans, probably not one thousand will be needed and the present town sites, such as Ancon, Culebra, Empire, Gatun and Cristobal, with their graded and paved streets, water mains and sewers, will be available for college grounds and private institutions may share with the government the honor of making this narrow strip a modern Athens.

While no one can speak with any certainty as to the future, I am persuaded that the opening of the Panama canal to the traffic of the world will be an epoch-making event, and that it will greatly increase our nation's prestige and commerce and vastly extend its influence.

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REPUBLICAN PROMISES

Republicans in 1896 promised bimetalism through international agreement then when they won they interpreted their victory as a victory for the single gold standard.

In 1908 they promised tariff revision and then they insisted they had not promised to revise it downward.

Cannon Will Be a Candidate and Mr. Taft Will Help Him

Washington, D. C., March 4.—"Uncle Joe" Cannon will be a candidate for speaker of the Sixty-second congress, notwithstanding his recently reported statement to Representative McKinley, chairman of the republican congressional committee, that he would withdraw from the race to insure republican control of the next house.

The above information was received by the United Press today from sources which leave no room for doubt. It is also reported that President Taft and Postmaster General Hitchcock have agreed that the weight of the administration will be thrown behind the Cannon forces in the coming congressional elections and a plea made to the country to elect a "regular house of representatives that will work with President Taft during the remaining two years of his tenure of office."

Last night at the White House President Taft gave a dinner at which Speaker Cannon was the guest of honor and which was attended by a number of the speaker's lieutenants. Over the coffee and cigars there was considerable talk about legislation and politics.

One of the guests said today that the president feels the country will have experienced a re-action by next fall and will be ready to repudiate the insurgents and vote a "straight administration" ticket.

The decision to support the Cannon organization was not reached by the president, say his friends, without mature consideration. Speaker Cannon, on his part, has announced that if he goes down it will be with flying colors. At a meeting of the republican congressional committee last week, several of the "near insurgents" jumped on Speaker Cannon and declared he must be eliminated before the campaign for the good of the party. Cannon, who was present, replied in a bitter voice that he might have considered such a proposition at the beginning of the session of congress, but things had so turned that he could not take such a course now without being considered a coward.

The guest list at last night's function is regarded with some significance, in view of the information that Taft has decided to throw his influence in favor of the regulars in the congressional campaign. Of the republican members of the house present, there was only one

ILLINOIS IN LINE

The Illinois legislature has adopted a resolution ratifying the proposed income tax amendment. The vote in the house which took place March 1 stood 80 yeas to 8 nays. Of the 80 yeas, 44 were republicans while 36 were democrats. Of the eight nays, six were republicans while two were democrats. Thus Illinois is the first northern state to endorse the proposed amendment. Men of all parties ought to read carefully Senator Root's reply to Governor Hughes' attack upon the income tax. Plainly, Governor Hughes engaged in special pleading but the distinguished position he occupies in politics and as a lawyer commanded attention for his criticism. Senator Root leaves nothing to be said by way of answer to the New York governor, and the action of the Illinois legislature ought to serve as a hint to other states whose legislatures are now in session or will soon meet. Men of all parties, who are in favor of this most equitable plan of taxation, should habituate themselves to the public discussion of the income tax amendment. Thoughtless citizens everywhere should be reminded of the importance of adopting this amendment. Members of legislatures should be made to know the strong popular sentiment that must be behind the income tax.

By becoming the first northern state to ratify the proposed amendment, Illinois has but added to its large list of laurels.

NO INSURGENTS THERE

When President Taft and Uncle Joe Cannon executed the Taft-Cannon hoe-down there were no insurgents to mar the regularity of that dinner party. The republican congressman who took it upon himself to say that Mr. Taft was preparing to throw Speaker Cannon overboard was not a guest at this dinner, otherwise he would have learned that Mr. Taft is as closely allied with Joseph G. Cannon as with Nelson W. Aldrich.

NOW THEY ARE DANCING TOGETHER

Washington, D. C., March 3.—While more than fifty guests looked on laughingly and applauded, Speaker Cannon tempted President Taft tonight into a test of terpsichorean agility in the east room of the White House. Both stopped, panting, when the trial was ended, but the opinion was unanimous that the honors on fancy steps were even. The dancing followed a dinner given by the president to "Uncle Joe," said to be the first formal affair ever accorded a speaker of the house of representatives by a president. The dinner ended, the company went to the east room, which boasts an ample and smooth dancing floor.

An orchestra played a gentle waltz and the president led off with Mrs. Joseph H. Gaines, wife of the representative from West Virginia. The speaker, with Mrs. Laughlin, a sister of Mrs. Taft, glided out on the polished floor in the wake of his chief. Then the dance was on.

In the intermission, however, when the orchestra struck up a lively tune, "Uncle Joe" stepped briskly into the middle of the room and brought his heels together sharply. There was a patting of gloved hands and voices called encouragingly to the guest of honor. In a moment the speaker's heels were tinkling in a brilliant highland fling.

"Excellent, eh!" he called, exultingly, to Mr. Taft. "I was something of a dancer when I was a youngster."

For answer the president stepped smilingly forward and those who were present say the two executed several steps of an old-fashioned "hoe-down" that delighted every one. Both were puffing when they finished.

Following the dancing the president led his men guests to the smoking room on an upper floor of the White House, where an intimate talk was had in which partisan politics is said to have had no place. The women remained in the east room.—Associated Press report.