

visions and employ additional experts. These appropriations have steadily increased and the facilities for assisting the growth of American commerce abroad have increased accordingly. The last republican appropriation (1913) for the bureau was \$176,242. The democratic appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1917, is \$505,640.

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The department of labor, which came into existence on March 4, 1913, and has been organized under the present administration, has been endeavoring, in a systematic and sympathetic way, to assist in the solution of the problems confronting the wage-workers of the United States.

The children's bureau has been dealing with problems of child life. It began with a study of pre-natal care of mothers and its bulletin on that subject, written in plain, homely language, has been invaluable in tens of thousands of homes. Its practical demonstrations of the proper method of caring for babies which resulted in setting aside the week beginning March 6, 1916, as Baby Week for practical instruction of mothers in the proper care of infants, has awakened a universal interest in the conservation of child life. Its investigations of sanitation, safety, hygiene and allied subjects has made available for the legislative bodies of the various states and municipalities the very best practical thought upon the subject.

The bureau of labor statistics, in addition to keeping the people of our country advised upon the fluctuations in wholesale and retail prices, has made a number of investigations covering almost the entire field of industry and sympathetically administered the federal compensation law, and has for the first time in the history of the government been called upon by other departments to investigate the prevailing rate of wages in the vicinity of government plants in order to determine accurately the rate of wages which should be paid to various classes of mechanics and laborers employed in government works.

BUREAU OF NATURALIZATION

The bureau of naturalization has very materially broadened the scope of its activities. It is not believed to be good policy for any governmental agency to attempt to induce any alien resident in the United States to renounce his allegiance to the country from which he comes. Such action might lead to international complications which would be serious in their consequences, but when an alien has signified his desire to become a citizen of this country by formally declaring his intention to do so, not only the welfare of the alien himself, but the welfare of all of our citizens, native and naturalized, requires that in the interim between his declaration of intention and his naturalization he should be given an opportunity to become as thoroughly familiar as possible with our language, our customs, our form of government and the fundamental principles underlying it. The bureau of naturalization has consequently interested school authorities all over the United States to provide school facilities in English and civics at night for those who work in the daytime and similar facilities in the day-time for those who work at night. To accomplish that end it arranged a series of mass-meetings from the Pacific to the Atlantic coast, one of which was addressed by the President of the United States which resulted in the Americanization movement being inaugurated by a number of public-spirited citizens to promote the education in civics of aliens seeking citizenship in the United States.

The bureau of immigration has administered the immigration and Chinese exclusion laws with tact and discretion and has utilized its division of information to organize a nation-wide system of labor exchanges and labor distribution with the purpose in view of reducing unemployment to a minimum. The co-operation of the post-office, interior, agriculture and commerce departments has been obtained with a view to making the system as effective as possible and contact is rapidly being made with municipal and state labor exchanges, thereby broadening the scope of their activities and adding to the effectiveness of the federal system. Realizing that there may still be unemployed workmen under certain industrial conditions even after every available job has been filled by competent

workmen, plans are being effected for a real back-to-the-land movement on a basis which will utilize personal character plus community character as a basis for credits to those who otherwise would be unable to go upon the land: First, because they have not the means to acquire it, second, because they have not the means to equip it, and, third, because they have not the means to live until they get returns from it.

In the consideration of the plan, it is proposed that the department of agriculture will play an important part in providing soil surveys to determine the class of crops which can be most profitably raised, the kinds of fertilizers which can be most effectively used and the best methods of tilling the soil and marketing the crops.

MEDIATION IN TRADE DISPUTES

While the general purpose of the department of labor is to promote the welfare of wage-workers, and to increase their opportunities for profitable employment, the one great specific duty devolving upon the secretary is to act as a mediator in trade disputes, or to appoint conciliators when, in his judgment, it is wise to do so. During the brief time the new department has been in existence, it has been called upon to intervene and use its good offices in adjusting scores of trade disputes, involving many thousands of workmen, and very extensive property rights. In handling these cases, it has been the policy of the department not to undertake to impress its viewpoint, or the viewpoint of its officers upon either of the contending parties, but rather to seek some common ground upon which both can stand, and which they, in the heat of the controversy, may have overlooked. In over ninety per cent of the cases we have been successful in bringing about a mutual understanding between employer and employee, thereby promoting their welfare and the welfare of the people at large.

In handling trade disputes, our efforts have been centered in endeavoring to bring employers and employees together in order that they might mutually work out their own difficulties to a successful conclusion. That is by far the best method, if it can be accomplished. Employers and employees have a mutual interest, not an identical interest—mark the distinction—in securing the largest possible production with a given amount of labor. The more there is jointly produced, the more there is to divide between them. Their interests only diverge when it comes to a division of their joint production. When that state is reached, how much better it would be for both sides and for all parties concerned, if instead of strikes and lockouts, thereby cutting off all production and leaving nothing to divide, they would, like sensible businessmen, sit down around the council table together and work out on as nearly correct a mathematical basis as possible the share that each is entitled to. If we fail to get them to undertake to adjust their own difficulties themselves, our next step is to appoint a mediator to pass between the different parties, getting their various propositions and making such suggestions as may occur to us in an effort to find a basis of settlement. Feeling in that, our next step is to propose arbitration, mutually entered into, with a basis of arbitration laid down in advance. Either of these methods is preferable to strikes. Our industrial and commercial supremacy is not so much dependent upon the cheapness of our labor as it is dependent upon its efficiency. If cheap labor was responsible for commercial supremacy then China and India would be the commercial masters of the world. The most efficient labor existing anywhere is in the mind and muscle of the American workingman. Yet you can not reach the highest standards of efficiency unless you have a spirit of co-operation existing between employer and employee. And you can not have a real spirit of co-operation when one side endeavors to impose its will upon the other without the other's consent and particularly when it carries with it the imposition of injustice.

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT

The United States treasury has been freed of Wall street control under President Wilson and Secretary McAdoo. Its powers and its labors have been devoted wholly and solely to the public interest. Here follows a brief survey of the results:

The deposit of funds with national banks in

the agricultural states for the purpose of assisting in the movement of crops instead of in New York banks.

The enactment of a law authorizing the President to call a Pan-American Financial conference, and the holding of such conference on May 24, 1915, under the direction of Secretary of the Treasury W. G. McAdoo.

The adoption of a consistent and economical system in regard to the acquisition of sites for public buildings and the construction of such buildings which will lead to increased economy and better service.

The enforcement of the oleomargarine law whereby the receipts from taxes of oleomargarine have been increased many fold.

Advantages of new financial system increased by the crusade of the comptroller of the currency against banks which have been charging usurious interest rates.

Sales of opium, cocaine and kindred habit-forming drugs reduced 75 per cent under the Harrison Anti-Narcotics law.

New war risk insurance bureau operated at a profit to the government and to the great assistance of American shipping.

The consolidation of the revenue cutter and life saving services, with an increase in economy and efficiency in operation.

The amendment of the so-called Aldrich-Vreeland act which converted a dead letter into a practical instrument of relief to the banks and the public generally during troublous days that followed the outbreak of the European war.

The direct assistance rendered by the secretary of the treasury to the banks and business interests of the United States in the crisis following the outbreak of the European war.

The relief of thousands of Americans who otherwise would have been stranded in the countries at war.

Charging interest on United States deposits with national banks at the rate of two per cent per annum, thereby making the national banks, for the first time, pay for the use of Uncle Sam's money.

The expansion of the public health service into a public welfare enterprise of the highest value. This service has been made not only the instrument of effective protection against the entry of contagious diseases into the country but a valuable practical means of combating rural, industrial and vocational diseases throughout the country.

The establishment of a system of shipping government moneys and securities by mail, insured, instead of by express as heretofore, resulting in large savings to the government as well as to the banks of the country.

The reduction of the charges for assaying ores at the Philadelphia mint and the minor assay offices, thereby making the mint service a real help to the man who mines for precious metals.

The purchase of 4,375,000 ounces of silver between August 3 and September 17, 1915—the largest in a similar period since the repeal of the purchase clause of the Sherman act, approved July 1, 1890, at the average price of \$0.487 per ounce. This transaction resulted in a marked advance in the price of silver and so stimulated the market that the production of this metal has continued without abatement, whereas operations in a number of mines were about to cease.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT

The story of postal administration under the Wilson administration is a story of the administration for the first time of the largest governmental business enterprise in the world on a strictly business basis.

A total surplus of \$12,500,000 has been paid into the treasury during the present postal administration up to June 30, 1916. This has been accomplished through a more efficient management of the service, and at the same time the postal service has been greatly extended and improved.

The net surplus of postal receipts and expenditures for the four fiscal years 1913-16 under President Wilson is more than \$1,800,000.

During the four fiscal years 1905-8, during Roosevelt's second term and under Postmasters General Cortelyou and Meyer, the postal deficit amounted to \$48,739,639.34.

During 1909-12, during Taft's administration and under Postmaster General Hitchcock, this postal deficit aggregated \$24,937,657.40.

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