

THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMY RECORD

Taft Insists That Government Be Run on Sound Business Basis.

HIS PROGRESSIVE POLICY.

His Personal Efforts to Reduce Cost of Efficient Service Bring Results—Business Methods Applied—Economy and Efficiency Commission Fought by Democrats.

President Taft more than any of his predecessors in the White House has given strict attention to placing the government upon a business basis as regards its receipts and expenditures. Economy and efficiency became one of the cardinal policies of his administration as soon as he entered upon the presidency, and it was well for the country that this was so, for his administration inherited a deficit in the treasury of \$58,000,000, which has now been transformed into a surplus of \$30,000,000. The average citizen and taxpayer will be interested in this fact, because the problem which confronted the president at the outset, although upon a gigantic scale, was similar to that of the ordinary shopkeeper or business man, farmer or wage earner or even housewife who is called upon to make "both ends meet" either in business or in the home.

By law the secretary of the treasury is called upon every year to submit to congress in December the "estimates" of governmental expenditures for the next fiscal year, beginning the following July 1. As congress has to provide the money to run the government

ment began work at once to investigate its own expenditures and to devise ways and means of curtailing extravagance. The result was that congress received the lowest estimates it had seen in years. This was followed by a reduction in appropriations to correspond, always allowing for the natural growth of the government's activities, which represented a net saving to the taxpayers of the country.

President Taft was not, however, satisfied that all had been done that could be done. He realized that the departments of the government, like individuals, are naturally prone to be proud of their own achievements and by reason of their familiarity with their own endeavors often insisted that their work was more important than the work of the other departments, relatively speaking. In order to correct that evil he asked congress to give him \$100,000 for a commission of disinterested experts to investigate and report on the business of the government, with a view to further economy and efficiency. Thus came into official being the commission of that name.

This commission, among other duties, was directed to prepare the receipts and expenditures of the government on a "budget" basis, which is the system followed by practically all the leading nations of the world except the United States. Under this system it is possible for the humblest citizen to analyze the finances of the government at any time and to lay his finger upon the responsible political party in the event of extravagance or of stinginess. The system under which appropriations for the government of the United States have been made has even defied the experts in their endeavors to unravel the tangled skeins of expenditures, so that it is a fair statement to say that no citizen of this country up to the present time has ever thoroughly understood where his taxes were expended.

The President's Position.
At the present time the Democratic house of representatives is endeavoring to end the usefulness of the econ-

For Violent Transit.
A book by Edwin J. Dingle, entitled "Across China on Foot," contains a bit of practical advice about the manner in which American goods should be packed for transportation in the interior of China. Conditions are such that the packing should be thoroughly done. The Germans and the Japanese understand this; British and American manufacturers are either careless in this respect or ignorant of what is demanded by the conditions of transportation over roads that are mainly eight inch tracks along the face of precipices.

One of Mr. Dingle's friends, needing a typewriter and knowing the country, wrote home explicit directions as to the packing. "Pack it ready to ship," he wrote. "Then take it to the top of your office stairs, throw it downstairs, take the machine out and inspect, and if it is undamaged send it to me. If damaged, pack another machine and subject it to the same treatment until you are convinced that you have one that can stand being thus handled and escape injury."

Didn't Convert Franklin.
Whitefield, the great preacher, who toward the middle of the eighteenth century started such a revival of religion in all the colonies, was, of course, a man of too much ability to escape the serious regard of Franklin, who relates that he attended one of his sermons, fully resolved not to contribute to the collection at the close of it.

"I had in my pocket," he says, "a handful of copper money, three or four silver dollars and 5 pistoles in gold. As he proceeded I began to soften and concluded to give him a copper. Another stroke of his oratory determined me to give him the silver, and he finished so admirably that I emptied my pocket wholly into the collector's dish, gold and all."

Franklin and Whitefield became fast friends, and Whitefield often prayed for his friend's conversion, but "never," says Franklin, "had the satisfaction of believing that his prayers were heard."—The Real Benjamin Franklin.

Woman the Exception.
"As I understand it," said the young man thoughtfully, "two negatives make an affirmative."

"Quite right," replied the distinguished grammarian.

"And yet," persisted the young man, "it doesn't seem to work out just exactly right."

"What's the trouble?" asked the distinguished authority. "Perhaps I can straighten the matter out for you."

"I will be deeply indebted to you if you can," said the young man earnestly. "In the last two months I have received two decided negatives—one each from two girls—and for the life of me I can't see where the affirmative comes in."

"My dear sir," explained the distinguished authority, "as you grow older you will learn how utterly impossible it is to apply any rules to womankind!"

What Wealth Brings.
The late Colonel Ingersoll was talking one day with a group of friends when the subject of wealth and the desire of most men to accumulate money was discussed.

"I never could understand it," said the colonel. "Just imagine a man with 800,000 hats, 400,000 pairs of shoes, 1,000,000 pairs of gloves, 6,000,000 handkerchiefs, 200,000 pairs of suspenders and a train load of neckties getting up before daylight and exerting every energy until late at night in order that he may make enough money to buy himself another necktie!"

Artistic.
"I will give you your dinner if you will beat those rugs," said the woman with the gingham apron at the back door.

"Ah, madam," replied the wanderer, his hat in his hand, "those rugs are really and truly beautiful—exquisite. I don't think they possibly could be beat!"—Yonkers Statesman.

A Boomerang Rebuke.
A certain high school professor, who at times is rather blunt in speech, remarked to his class of boys at the beginning of a lesson, "I don't know why it is—every time I get up to speak some fool talks." Then he wondered why the boys burst out into a roar of laughter.—Lippincott's.

The Grand Old Name.
All Englishmen disagree as to which of them are "gentlemen." The problem divides the whole nation into embittered units. It is, however, generally conceded that no man is a "gentleman" who has not had a remote ancestor who robbed the country.—London Truth.

A Thorough Test.
"Inspector, that woman I said was always listening on my party line must have quit."

"What makes you think so?"

"Why, my wife has been listening for three weeks and hasn't caught her yet."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Laziness Won.
The teacher had offered a prize for the best essay, the subject to be "The Reward of Laziness." When the compositions were handed in it was found that one boy had submitted a sheet of blank paper. He won the prize.—Chicago News.

Didn't Have It With Him.
Teacher (disgustedly)—My boy, my boy! Where is your intuition? Boy—I ain't got any. I'm only here a few days, and I didn't know what I had to gift.—Louisville Times.

The Teazel.
Those who have never seen a teazel can imagine a fir cone or "swamp cat-tail" set all over with little stiff hooks. It is the bur (or tassel or flower head or thistle top) of the plant dipscus. However familiar to people who live in lands where the teazel is extensively grown, the fact may be that the prickly heads of that plant are universally used to raise the nap on cloth. A multitude of persons in this country probably never heard of it and would be astonished to learn in what enormous quantities the plant is cultivated. In France alone many thousands of acres of land are exclusively devoted to the cultivation of the teazel. French manufacturers use enormous numbers of the prickly heads, and from France there are exported many millions of them. They are also raised in Austria, England, Belgium, Poland and the Crimea. The prickles of the teazel have a small knob at the end, and this, mounted on an elastic stem and set with great precision on the central spindle, affords a little brush such as the utmost mechanical skill has never been able to rival, at all events at the same price.—Harper's Weekly.

Tea Testers in Formosa.
In the Formosan tea trade the most important man is the cha si, or taster. He inspects and tests samples of all teas offered to his firm, and his judgment determines the price to be paid. In a room admitting light only from the north the cha si does his work. He first examines the leaf, then its fusion in hot water and lastly its odor and taste. Practically all the faculties are exercised in making this test. It requires the services of an expert, and the tea tester receives a good salary, though relatively not so large as obtaining twenty years ago. A tea tester never uses any perfume which would destroy the tea odor. He must not allow the acuteness of his taste to become dull. He never drinks domestic tea. Constant tea testing, it is said, will injure the health. In Formosa the tea testers are Americans or Englishmen.

Political Announcements.

STATE SENATOR.
SENATOR W. V. HOAGLAND, is a candidate for re-nomination for state senator in this district, on his record in the last legislature. He is a progressive republican. He voted for the Initiative and Referendum, Recall, the Non-Partisan Board of Control, and the Re-apportionment bill that gives western Nebraska 8 more representatives and 2 more senators than it has had for twenty years. He passed 15 irrigation bills for the benefit of the Platte valley. He was one of the leaders in the fight for the Ollis stock yards bill. He has signed statement No. 1 and will vote for the people's choice for U. S. senator. If his record meets your approval vote for him for re-nomination.

CHARLES A. SIBLEY
Farmer and Stock Grower
STATE SENATOR 1907-8
Is a Candidate This Year. Your Support Will Be Appreciated.

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE.
At the solicitation of friends I hereby announce myself a candidate for the republican nomination for representative from Lincoln county, subject to the approval of the voters at the primary election to be held April 19th, 1912.

HARRY P. STEVENS,
Maxwell, Neb.

COUNTY ATTORNEY.
I hereby announce my candidacy for the republican nomination for County Attorney.

WM. E. SHUMAN.

COUNTY ASSESSOR.
I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the democratic nomination for county assessor, subject to the action of the democratic voters at the primary election April 19th. My home is in Fox Creek precinct, where I have resided for the past 23 years. I will appreciate any support given me.

PETER JEPSON.
I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the republican nomination for county assessor, subject to the decision of the voters at the primary election April 19th, 1912. I have lived in Lincoln county 28 years, 24 of which were spent on a farm in Plant precinct.

F. J. DIENER.
I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the republican nomination for county assessor, subject to the decision of the voters at the primary election April 19th, 1912. I have lived in western Nebraska for twenty-one years, fourteen of which have been spent in Hinman precinct. For the last four years I have been precinct assessor. Any support given me will be fully appreciated.

A. W. ARNETT.
I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the republican nomination for county assessor, subject to the decision of the voters at the primary election April 19th. I have lived in Lincoln county since 1889, and my home is in Hooker precinct. I have served four years as precinct assessor. Your support will be appreciated.

GEO. E. GARMAN.
COUNTY COMMISSIONER.
I hereby announce myself as a democratic candidate for county commissioner from District No. 1, subject to decision of the voters at the primary election on April 19, 1912. I will appreciate any support given me.

F. W. HERMINGHAUSEN.



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Just forget that "roof expense" item. Put the "repair money" back in your pocket. You're not going to need it. This time, before you cover your buildings, you're going to investigate prepared roofings and as sure as you do, you'll use Peerless.

Your money does more than its share when it brings Peerless Prepared Roofing. The moment your building is covered with Peerless, all expense ceases. This roofing is on for good. You can forget your "roof troubles" for

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Remember that there's a twenty-year old reputation behind every roll of roofing that bears the Peerless mark. The makers have to make Peerless so it makes good, because they can't afford to sacrifice the prestige they've spent twenty years a'building.

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THE RECALL OF A DECISION.

the money has to be appropriated for specific purposes before it can be expended, and if this were not done before the beginning of the fiscal year the machinery of government would stop unless emergency provision could be made.

How Estimates Are Made.
The "estimates" are prepared by the executive departments of which each member of the cabinet is a head. The cabinet officers get the "estimates" in their respective departments from their chiefs of bureaus and then combine them as the "estimates" for the department. The "estimates" from all departments are then sent to the secretary of the treasury to be submitted to congress, and they then become the "estimates" for the cost of running the entire government during the next fiscal year. Upon these figures congress makes the greater part of its appropriations, amounting to more than \$1,000,000,000 annually.

Until 1908 a more or less lax method of making estimates for the annual appropriations obtained throughout the government. The figures sent to congress each year, instead of showing indications of a careful "pruning" all along the line, showed there was a disposition among the departments to vie with each other in getting as large appropriations as possible without considering whether or not the money demanded could be advantageously expended during the coming year. There was no standardization of supplies, and the various departments were paying varying prices for the same article.

What President Taft Did.
As soon as President Taft took office this system ceased. At the outset President Taft impressed upon his cabinet officials the absolute necessity of economy and efficiency in their departments. He admonished them that not a dollar beyond what was necessary to run the government efficiently in their departments, including a fair margin for progress, which is a part of efficiency in the program of President Taft, should be asked of congress. The effect was immediate. Every depart-

ment and efficiency commission by cutting off its appropriations. In a recent appeal to congress for funds to continue the great work it has begun, which all thinking men and women will approve, President Taft pointed out that the people of the country as a whole are interested chiefly in the following governmental objects: The national defense, the protection of persons and property, the promotion of friendly relations and the protection of American interests abroad, the regulation of commerce and industry, the promotion of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and mining, the promotion of manufacturing, commerce and banking, the promotion of transportation and communication, the postal service, including postal savings banks and parcels post; the care and utilization of the public domain, the promotion of education, art and science and recreation; the promotion of public health and the care and education of the Indians and other wards of the nation. There are many other public questions, of course, but these are the vital and comprehensive ones, and the "budget" is proposed for the purpose of giving information as to the needs of these matters. The president, in order that his policy of economy and efficiency may be concluded and become one of the greatest achievements of his administration—that of placing the government on a business basis—wants congress to appropriate \$250,000 more for the support of the commission now doing that work.

The economy and efficiency commission has already saved to the taxpayers of the country more than \$3,000,000 annually by its suggestions and by the time it has completed its work it is believed ten times this sum can be saved annually to the taxpayers. In the matter of railroad fare for government officials alone it has found that \$12,000,000 was expended in a single year at the highest prevailing railroad rates. At least a fourth of this can be saved by the application of business methods such as President Taft has applied and has insisted shall be applied to all the departments of the government.