

So far this year customs receipts have fallen off \$8,000,000. Expenditures as compared with last year have increased more than \$11,000,000. The treasury surplus of \$13,000,000 on November 1, 1902, is represented by about half a million on November 1, 1903. Who will doubt that this is a business administration?

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A North Missouri editor asked: "Who is the happier, the man who possesses \$100,000 or the man who has seven daughters?" Another Missouri editor promptly solved the problem in this way: "The man with the surplus girls, of course. The man with the money is not satisfied and wants more, the man with the seven daughters is satisfied—he has enough."

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Referring to the proposition that the differential on refined sugar be removed, the New York Commercial says: "To cheapen refined sugar for American consumers was no part or purpose of this reciprocity proposition." The Commercial might have added that to lighten the burdens of the consumers in any respect is no part or purpose of any of the present-day republican propositions.

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Angered because of the revelations in the shipbuilding trust case, J. Pierpont Morgan is reported to have said: "From now on it must be the survival of the fittest. I will do nothing more to protect anybody in connection with this matter." It is to be hoped that Mr. Morgan will carry out his purpose as announced. He might begin by making a confession of his own part in the disgraceful transactions.

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In the November Review of Reviews, the editor of that publication suggested that the United States encourage the secession of Panama from Colombia. The Philadelphia Public Ledger, a republican paper, commenting upon the suggestion, said: "It would be hard to find in our history a more perfidious proposition made from a reputable source." The Ledger is bound to admit, however, that the republican administration seems to have acted upon the "perfidious proposition."

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It is reported that the only penalty that will be required of Perry S. Heath for his part in the postoffice scandals will be his resignation as secretary of the republican national committee. Mr. Heath will be permitted to retire, not however necessarily as a punishment, but because it is thought to be bad politics to permit him to remain. It would seem, however, that inasmuch as Mr. Roosevelt has had so much to say about honesty and fidelity to duty, he would be able to devise some plan whereby Mr. Heath could be called to account for his official misconduct.

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The Washington correspondent for the Chicago Tribune says that "it is admitted by every one now that the canal situation, instead of being cleared by the revolution in the isthmus, has been greatly complicated thereby, and some party leaders are afraid of the political effect of the delay in view of the approaching next national election." Perhaps this explains Mr. Hanna's prompt and cordial endorsement of Mr. Roosevelt's Panama policy. Perhaps it also explains why other gen-

The Commoner.

tlemen who have never been known to do anything distasteful to the trans-continental railway influences are lined up in support of Mr. Roosevelt's Panama scheme. It was at first believed by many that whatever might be said with respect to the morality of our part in the Panama revolution, that that revolution meant speedy construction of the canal, but it is not difficult to believe that those under the control of the trans-continental railway influences do not think that canal construction will be expedited by the Roosevelt policy.

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The Washington correspondent for the Chicago Chronicle reports this interesting incident:

"Garfield was for Sherman." A group of congressmen were talking presidential politics in a committee room when one of the members said: "Here is

Hanna ready to enter upon a new six-year term March 4, 1905, but he will never begin that term. You remember Garfield, another Ohio man, had been elected to a similar term, but instead of being sworn in as senator he took the oath as president. Mark me, history will repeat itself. 'But Hanna is for Roosevelt,' was suggested. 'Yes, and Garfield was for Sherman,' said the first speaker significantly."

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The New York Commercial is very much opposed to congressional inquiry into the postoffice scandal. The Commercial says:

"Payne Called it 'Hot Air.'" Let the department itself run to cover the rascals who have been mismanaging the country's postal business. It will be time

enough for congress to take a hand when it has been disclosed that the postmaster general is not doing his full duty in the most effective way possible." Will the Commercial undertake seriously to say that the postmaster general's attitude from the beginning of these scandals was such as to justify the impression that he is willing to do his full duty in the most effective way possible?

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The Philadelphia Record has concluded: "The full effect of the trust system on the welfare of the workingmen cannot be

The Laborer's Condition. learned from a comparison of the cost of certain food articles in different years. The number of men employed, the regularity

of their employment, the amount paid in wages, the relative cost of the higher quality of food used formerly, and of the inferior articles to which circumstances reduced them, must all be considered. It is beyond all doubt, however, that in spite of the increase of wages in certain industries here and there the condition of the workingman is not as comfortable now as it was formerly."

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The national bureau of labor has prepared statistics showing that the percentage of increase in the cost of living in 1902 as compared with 1896 was not more than 16.1 per cent. The Sioux City (Ia.) Journal, a republican paper, says that "while

They Know by Costly Experience. living expenses have increased, the earning power of workingmen also has been augmented. Probably statistics on this point would show that the two movements have nearly if not quite balanced each other." The Journal will have difficulty in convincing the average man that the "two movements" have anywhere near balanced each other. The cost of living has materially increased while the income of the people has not increased. Men who feel their grocery and meat bills bearing heavily upon them, do not need statistics to convince them that our present-day boasted prosperity is by no means general. They do not need

statistics to prove to them what they have already learned by actual and costly experience.

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Cablegrams to the New York World announce that the Pennsylvania Steel company has contracted to deliver 20,000 tons of steel rails in Beirut for the Mecca railroad at \$22.88 per ton.

The World reminds its readers that the steel rail pool that met in this country recently, refused to lower the list price of \$28 per ton to home consumers, and explains: "In effect the Pennsylvania Steel company delivers some 6,000 miles from New York six big shiploads of steel, pays the heavy freight charges, and accepts for them \$100,000 less than American railroads would have to pay for the same goods. And in the end the people pay the difference."

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The Louisville Courier-Journal provides some food for thought when it asks: "In view of the actual fact—since the administration made short shift of Colombia, which to say truth deserved little consideration on its own account—why was it so

liberal with the French company?" The Courier-Journal adds: "It could have wiped out the French company in Panama as easily as it has wiped out Colombia and got its much-vaunted franchises for nothing. Was it afraid of France? Or were its relations with Bunau-Varilla, and the stock gamblers who financed the revolution, too close to make it safe to play the double-cross on the French company?"

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Writing in the Independent on the law's delay, Justice David J. Brewer says: "I was assured by one in a position to

The Law's Delays. know that in a single state one of the great railroad corporations by appealing every judgment against it to the supreme court of the state—that court having a crowded docket—made enough in compromising the judgments against it in the trial courts to pay the entire cost of its legal department." Justice Brewer has devoted considerable thought to this subject, and while few will, we think, be inclined to agree with him concerning the denial of the right of appeal in criminal cases, it cannot be doubted that marked improvement must be made with respect to the delays in all cases.

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Walter Wellman, the Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald, referring to Colombia's mistake in filing its protest with the president of

But was it an Insult? the senate instead of with the state department, says: "These blunders of etiquette are insignificant compared with the crowning piece of folly committed by the distraught Colombians in offering an insult to the United States government in the charge that the United States had fomented the separatist movement on the isthmus. The Marroquin document was informally discussed at the cabinet meeting today and the conclusion was that the best thing the United States could do would be to ignore it as a piece of unwarrantable impertinence. Besides, it makes little difference what Colombia may say or do. Manifest destiny has worked itself out and there is no way of turning back the wheels of progress." It is difficult to understand why Mr. Wellman refers to this as an insult to the United States. We had it or the authority of Mr. Wellman himself during the early days of August last, that the United States would take a hand in the separatist movement on the isthmus and Mr. Wellman then told us, long before the revolution was brought about, that it was manifest destiny and could not be averted.