

their incomes excited their resentment. Several of the senate leaders express the hope that Mr. Burton will have the good judgment to relieve the senate of any necessity of taking notice of his conviction. The statute under which he was convicted debar him from holding any place under the government and, unless he is successful on appeal to have the verdict reversed or set aside, will operate to make vacant his seat in the senate. Nevertheless, these leaders will welcome Mr. Burton's resignation, and say they do not expect him to return to the senate."

IOWA'S municipal elections took place Monday, March 28. In Des Moines, George W. Mattern, republican, was elected by 2,500 majority. The balance of the republican ticket was victorious with the exception of the candidate for police judge, W. A. Tris, the democratic candidate, being chosen for that place. In the town of Adel, George Messenger was elected mayor on the citizens' ticket. The republican council was also chosen. The town of Boone elected a council composed of two socialists, two republicans and one democrat. Three republicans and one democrat were elected in Iowa City. Four republicans and one democrat were elected to the Oskaloosa council. Three democrats and two republicans were elected to the council in Creston. A tie in the council, with a republican mayor, results. Newton elected two democrats and two republicans, the mayor being a republican. Independence elected four republicans and one democrat in the council. In Cedar Falls three republicans and two democrats were chosen to the council. Clinton elected James Patterson, republican, mayor, by 1,500 majority. Burlington elected J. S. Caster, republican, by 700 majority. Nora Springs elected H. F. Schnedler, democrat, mayor, by a majority of 40. At Dennison, Secretary Shaw's home town, J. L. Carey, democrat, was chosen mayor. Sioux City, heretofore a republican stronghold, elected W. G. Sears mayor by 1,000 plurality. The majority of the democratic city ticket was successful. Council Bluffs, another republican stronghold, elected Donald McCrae mayor and also elected seven democrats out of the nine councilmen.

REPUBLICAN leaders are having considerable difficulty in filling the campaign manager's shoes worn by the late M. A. Hanna. One republican newspaper says that the work assigned to Mr. Hanna may be found too large for any single individual and that it is probable that a division of Mr. Hanna's labors will be made. Among the plans that have been submitted to Mr. Roosevelt are these: "A chairman of the national committee who shall have general supervision over both headquarters, dividing his time between the two, as Chairman Hanna did in the last campaign, and two vice chairmen in direct charge at Chicago and New York, respectively. An eastern chairman and a western chairman, each of whom shall have supreme power in his respective territory, the national chairman himself to have only nominal power in connection with the finances. A western man for national chairman, with headquarters in Chicago; a vice chairman in charge of the New York headquarters, and a chairman of the general committee on finance, who would be Cornelius N. Bliss, with headquarters in New York." For temporary chairman of the republican convention, Senator Beveridge of Indiana and Congressman Cousins of Iowa have been mentioned. For chairman of the republican national committee, these names are mentioned: J. W. Blythe of Iowa, former Governor Franklin Murphy of New Jersey and Governor Odell of New York.

A BILL in equity has been filed in the supreme court of the Dist. of Columbia, praying for an injunction to restrain the secretary of the treasury from paying the republic of Panama and prohibiting the Panama Canal company from receiving any money, under the canal act. Warren B. Wilson, a Chicago lawyer, has made this petition. He claims that the canal law is void and that no appropriation has been made for acquiring title to the canal or for paying for work upon it. He also claims that the treaty with the republic of Panama is unconstitutional and invalid. Mr. Wilson says he represents no one but himself and that he proposes to fight the case up to the United States supreme court. Washington dispatches say that Attorney General Knox and the senators do not regard Mr. Wilson's petition seriously.

IT WILL be remembered that when the report showing the influence exerted by members of congress on the postoffice department was made

public, Mr. Bristow was bitterly denounced, congressmen being under the impression that he was the author of the report. In his testimony before the committee, Mr. Bristow said that he was not responsible for the report and it now develops that this report came from Postmaster General Payne. Congressman Overstreet testified before the house committee that it was made public after it had been submitted to several members and hints of its existence had been made in newspapers. Mr. Overstreet said that the members with whom he consulted feared that if it was not published, congressmen would be suspected of a desire to conceal the facts.

IN HIS message, Mr. Roosevelt emphasized the necessity for economy in public appropriations and yet in the appropriations for White house expenses, the president did not show a disposition to follow the rule he laid down. The house committee on appropriations, however, acted on Mr. Roosevelt's economy suggestions to the extent that the appropriation of \$60,000 asked for the care, maintenance and refurbishing of the White house, was reduced to \$35,000. It is charged that the expenses of the White house have steadily increased during the last three years. The Washington correspondent for the New York Herald says that from 1892 to 1896 the White house expenses amounted to \$139,000, that from 1896 to 1900 the expenses were \$144,000. During Mr. Cleveland's first term, in no single year did the amount appropriated exceed \$40,000, while during Mr. McKinley's administration, the highest annual appropriation was \$46,000. Although Mr. Roosevelt has been in office less than three years, the White house appropriations, so far, exceed \$784,000.

THE service pension order recently issued by the administration has attracted widespread attention. A Washington dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald says: "Pension officials stand aghast at the number of inquiries flooding the bureau from veterans who intend to make application for service pensions under the recent order. Inquiries and applications are received at the rate of 1,000 a day and are coming from every section of the country. On the subject of the probable cost of the order there is the following: It was stated today by an official that the estimate of Representative Miers that the order would increase pension payments \$14,000,000 probably would be far below the mark. He said it appeared as if every old soldier and every old soldier's widow had become suddenly active."

THIS pension order was issued by Commissioner Ware, March 16, under the authority of Secretary Hitchcock. It provides that claimants for pensions who are more than 62 years of age shall be considered as disabled one-half in power to perform manual labor and fixes the rates as follows: On reaching the age of 62, \$6 per month; 65 years, \$8 per month; 68 years, \$10 per month; 70 years, \$12 per month. The theory of the order is that "old age is an infirmity, the average nature and extent of age the experience of the pension bureau has established with reasonable certainty."

THE minimum of 62 years is justified by the administration by referring to the Mexican pension act of 1887. That act authorized the payment of pensions to soldiers of the Mexican war, who had reached the age of 62 years. Commissioner Ware said: "It would seem that if thirty-three years after the expiration of service a Mexican war soldier was entitled to a pension at 62 years, and no other requisite for drawing a pension should exist except age, to soldiers of the civil war, who fought vastly more and longer, at least as good a rule ought to apply. The order could not have been issued earlier, because it is only now that the thirty-nine years fixed by the congressional limit has been reached."

PERHAPS the opinion of a republican newspaper on this pension order will be interesting. The Chicago Record-Herald refers to Commissioner Ware's statement as "a simple explanation in appearance." The Record-Herald reminds its readers, however, that that order deals with a complicated subject. This republican paper says that congress acted specifically in the case of the Mexican soldiers and fixed no general limit. Furthermore, congress had before it at the time the order was issued certain civil war service pension

bills, one of which provided rates slightly different from those of the order, though they began at 62 years. The interesting point in this connection is that the secretary of the interior should have undertaken to proceed without congressional authority. He appeals to a congressional precedent while congress itself is considering the new proposition, then relieves that body of the burden of legislation.

THAT this was certainly a bold method for getting rid of a difficult question is admitted by the Record-Herald, and that paper adds: "But even if the legislators should experience a feeling of temporary relief it is evident that they cannot escape the financial consequences of the order. Neither the commissioner nor the secretary can find the \$14,000,000 or the larger sum that is demanded. It will have to be secured through an appropriation, and the case as it now stands is hardly creditable either to the congress or the administration. It looks like an attempt to please a certain class by a trick which will prevent an embarrassing debate. With the project thus launched and hopes soaring high, the natural development of gifts, pledges and engagements may be pleaded later as a necessity for making good."

THE results of municipal ownership in British cities are attracting considerable attention in the United States. A writer in the New York American has pointed out that Glasgow, Liverpool and Manchester have made remarkable achievements on municipal ownership lines and that London, the metropolis of Great Britain, has been the slowest of all large cities to municipalize its traction lines. London has, however, adopted the plan and the American writer says that it bids fair to eclipse the most progressive of its sister cities in the scope and beneficence of its public undertakings.

RECENTLY municipal power has been centralized in the London county council and to this change is attributed the adoption of municipal ownership. The American writer says that in London there are only 115 miles of street railways, but that the county council has plans for 130 miles of new track. Many people will be surprised to learn that electric cars have been operated in London less than a year, but London's county council has adopted public ownership as a settled policy and the advantages to the public since the termination of private ownership are stated as follows: 1. A general reduction in fares and the running of workmen's cars at a rate not exceeding two pennies for a round trip, or, four cents a day. Single fares at all hours average two cents. 2. The institution of an all-night car service. 3. Reduction of the hours of employes from twelve and fourteen a day to ten, one day's rest in seven and a material increase in wages. 4. Free uniforms for drivers and conductors. 5. Removal of all advertisements from the cars, better accommodations and a faster schedule. 6. Installation of electricity, including two large power stations at Greenwich and Pimlico. 7. After paying all expenses and allowing for sinking fund there was a profit last year of about \$150,000, of which \$100,000 was applied to the reduction of "rates," or taxes.

AN AGED WOMAN CLERK in the pension office resigned recently, and the New York World says that she wrote a remarkable letter to Commissioner Ware, of which letter the following extract is about one-fourth: "It is with peculiar sadness that I place my hand in the horny old palm which has so long extended bread and shelter to me and mine, saying 'Good-bye, Uncle Sam.' As one who sails from a port where years of deepest meaning and solemn earnestness have been spent—where the surges call with voices of friends and comrades whose tender sympathy and helpful hands have sweetened with hydromel the cup of rue God's children all must drink—so turn I from the old building where some of my tenderest memories are garnered, and where I and my two helpless children were shepherd out of the storm into the fold of a great and good government. In looking backward upon a long experience it seems to me that only 'the true, the beautiful and the good' arise to greet us, for they are the real things—the immortal part of our life on earth. The rest has dropped from us as the worn garments of our upward struggle: often tear-stained, perhaps blood-dyed in some dark Gethsemane known only to God and the soul." "Gee!" said Ware. "You could set that to music and sing it."