

## The President's Real Salary

In the appropriation for the fiscal year, \$25,000 appears for the president's traveling expenses, an item unimportant in itself, except as constituting the fifth regular appropriation which affects the life of the occupant of the White House. While the school-book information that the president receives a salary of \$50,000 a year is sufficiently accurate, it is not strictly so, as ordinary people measure incomes. Sixty thousand dollars is appropriated for the care of the White House, including refurnishing as well as repainting. The fuel for the White House and its conservatories is also supplied by Uncle Sam. Formerly the greenhouses were directly connected with the mansion itself, covering what is now the west terrace, but in the McKim restoration these were removed to the monument grounds; they are still carried on the appropriation bills, however, as a White House affair.

The president is thus relieved of the cost of furnishing and caring for the White House, heating it, or supplying it with flowers. A second appropriation bill carries \$20,000 for lighting, and this includes everything from his lamp on his study table to the arc lights outside, which are a part of the illumination in Pennsylvania avenue. It is even specified in the statute that this grant shall pay for the White House matches, as well as stoves and fuel for the watchman's lodge. Another item carries \$20,000 for the contingent expenses of the White House. This covers the telephone and telegraph service and stationery, and provides for "the official stable," which is a different thing from the president's stable, although the two may occupy the same build-

ing. A fourth item of \$60,000 pays for the White House employes, most of whom are on official duty, although a few, like the steward and four of the upstairs maids, may be regarded as personal in their obligations. It is very hard to separate a president's personal relations from his official, and the appropriation bills wisely make no serious attempt to do so.

This roundabout system of compensating a president doubtless accords with the American conservatism much better than would one direct payment covering the whole sum. But the present arrangement gives rise to many anomalies. For example, the government provides four horses for Mr. Loeb, the president's secretary, and pays the wages of the driver and the groom. But the president himself must buy his own horses and carriages, pay for the grain which they eat and compensate the men who take care of them. The government does furnish, however, the "president's driver," one of the offices most coveted by the colored population of Washington. It also furnishes the stable lighted and supplied with water and feed. The chief cost of being president comes in the entertaining, for which the government furnishes only the fuel and flowers, and the services of a few helpers.

This traveling expense appropriation settles one of the most difficult questions with which the occupants of the White House have had to deal. They ought not to go as "dead-heads," accepting favors from the great transportation companies, and they can not afford to make such trips in the manner that custom prescribes, at their own expense. Unlike minor officers of various grades, they can not discover official business calling them to places that they want to go at various times. They must go across the continent as "on trips," and congress has done well to pay for these. The new union station in Washington has been built with a special entrance for the president of the United States, to save him the risk and trouble of going through the public waiting rooms with their attendant crowds. This means that the people intend keeping him traveling.

Few men save anything in the presidential office, and this latest addition to the president's income will make little difference in this respect. The standards of entertaining are constantly rising, and this is what entails the largest expense. Most of the presidents have died poor, if indeed they were not made so by occupying that office. It is not unlikely, in spite of the extraordinary changes of a century in the standards by which wealth is measured, that George Washington was our richest president.—Boston Transcript.

### SHAMEFUL EXTRAVAGANCE

The Wall Street Journal recently printed the following interesting editorial:

In one of the Sunday papers, it does not matter which and it might have appeared in any, appears a two-column article on the folly of saving pennies. The following conclusive instances of spending them freely with good results are given. One man buys an automobile which he admits he cannot afford, and makes \$200,000 out of a casual guest. Another spends 75 cents for extra Pullman accommodation and secures an interview accidentally for which he receives \$75. A young man in Kansas City indulges himself in a needlessly expensive restaurant and is launched on a land speculation out of which he makes \$600 a month. The son of a New York lawyer becomes so worthless that his father sends him away west with \$5,000 and he makes \$7,000 more in a gamble in sheep. There is more of the same kind, but the instances are typical of our new Sunday literature.

What pernicious rubbish is this? In no one of the cases specified did the extravagance justify itself. There is a complete confusion between an expenditure justified by well calculated results and money needed for legitimate uses wasted upon self indulgence. If any of the young men named had taken a corresponding amount of money to the nearest pool room or gambling house he would have had a better chance for his money at the mathematical odds.

A business man pointed out the other day that when he was having his hair cut two of his employes, earning respectively \$12 and \$15 a week, came in. They each had a 15-cent shave, a 10-cent shine for their shoes, a 10-cent cigar and gave 10 cents to the barber's assistant. Here were 45 cents wasted on what their employer was accustomed to do for himself. They should have been able to shave themselves and they were surely not too important to polish their own shoes, while their taste in tobacco was far too expensive for their income.

Is there one of these young men who could not rely with absolute certainty on thrift and industry bringing him an ultimate competence? Is there one of these free spenders who does not become a burden upon his friends at the first accidental illness or when the first lull in business throws him out of his employment? Do they not represent the meanest weed that a false system of education has produced? Could there be a more detestable compound of the spendthrift and the snob?

Our waste is bad enough without teaching it as a business principle. Our servants believe there is something to be ashamed of in ordinary carefulness. Our cooks waste enough in the garbage pail to feed a family of better people than themselves. The incompetent who maltreats our furnaces in the winter and lives from hand to mouth in the summer wastes 60 per cent of our fuel because he thinks it would be despicable to screen the ashes. Can we wonder at graft and extravagance and folly in the administration of our public departments and the government of our municipalities when we are teaching such lessons as these to our youth?

The two thoughts which any careful foreign observer would carry away from a tour of the United States would be:

What splendid resources!  
What shameful extravagance!

### GRANT'S CARRIAGE "MOVED ON"

The recent episode of the Belasco theater here when the president's coachman had a difficulty with the manager because he would not move his carriage, although nobody was in the carriage and it was waiting for some White House guests, reminded an old police sergeant of a time when

he was stationed at the Baltimore & Ohio station here.

Among his other duties he had to keep carriages from standing at the curb directly in front of the station entrance, it being necessary to keep that place clear for carriages that were coming and going at that point. President Grant drove to the station to meet one of the incoming trains. While the officer was in another place the carriage stopped in front of the station. When the officer turned he noticed the president's rig standing there and waited for it to move along. When it did not move and no one alighted the officer supposed that the president had gone into the station.

"You know as well as I do that you can not stand there," said the officer to the president's coachman.

"Do you know whose carriage this is?" was the only answer of the man on the box.

"That makes no difference. You must move." But there was no move on the part of the coachman to stir from the place.

"Hawkins," came a voice from inside, "did you hear what that officer said?" And the head of the president of the United States was poked out of the carriage window. The carriage moved.—New York World.

### SHE GOT A JOB

There is a true story of one young woman who had devoted almost a year to pulling wires and using all possible influence to gain an interview with a certain theatrical manager. At last her hopes were realized; she got her appointment and she was finally ushered into the manager's private office. He received her most cordially and offered her a chair. "Thank you," she said, gratefully, "I think I will sit down. I've been just ten months getting here and I'm a little tired." And the manager, who is really a great man and hence has a sense of humor, promptly engaged her.—Outing Magazine.

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