

WASHINGTON NEWS

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Officials of the postoffice department are reticent about discussing the opinion given August 31 by Attorney General Carmody of New York to the effect that postal savings bank deposits are subject to taxation. This is the first time that the question has been brought to the attention of the department and it is felt that Mr. Carmody has raised an important issue. No one was found willing to dispute his contention. The act establishing postal savings depositories is silent on the question of taxation of moneys so deposited, but provides that the bonds issued in lieu of surrendered deposits "shall be exempt from all taxes or duties of the United States as well as from taxation in any form by or under state, municipal or local authority."

Postmaster General Hitchcock has designated Washington as a postal savings bank. An effort will be made to have the bank here at the capital regarded as a model for others throughout the United States.

A total production of 12,918,200 bales of cotton as the final yield this year is indicated by the department of agriculture officials on condition of growing crop on August 25, which the crop reporting board from reports from its correspondents and agents throughout the cotton belt estimated that 73.2 per cent ought to be normal.

An Associated Press dispatch from Washington says: Primary election expense statements for Senators Martin and Swanson of Virginia, the first to be filed under the new publicity law that went into effect August 19, reached the office of Secretary Bennett Aug. 30. In the absence of Secretary Bennett, officials of his office declined to make them public. Following this declination, examination of the new publicity law resulted in the startling disclosure that in the account presumed to be most drastic there is no requirement for publicity of the individual statements filed by candidates for the senate or the house of representatives. The law requires the filing of individual expense statements and has apparently left to the discretion of the senate secretary or the clerk of the house, as the case may be, to decide whether these statements shall be given to the public. The publicity law of 1910 required that the expenses of campaign committees "shall be a part of a public record" in the office of the clerk of the house and "shall be open to public inspection." The statements received from Senators Martin and Swanson will be forwarded to Secretary Bennett in New York. What construction he will place upon the new law is not known. It was generally understood here during the preparation of the new law, amending the act of 1910, that the amendments were designed to give actual publicity to the individual expenses of candidates for the senate or the house of representatives. Much surprise was expressed when it was realized that the law was entirely silent on making these private expense statements public. The law requires that expenditures by committees in the election of representatives shall be a part of the public record of the house. South Trimble, clerk of the house of representatives, said he would construe the law as permitting publicity of individual expense accounts if the case should come before him. No expense statements in contests for the house of

representatives have been filed as yet under the new law. With many suggestions coming forth as to what the intent of congress was in passing the law, it is reported that the secretary of the senate will refer the law to the attorney general for an opinion as to the secretary's duty under the enactment.

A new six pound gun, equipped with especially adapted explosive projectiles and schrapnel shells to demolish aeroplanes and balloons in battles has been perfected by the United States army. It can be elevated at any angle and possesses a maximum effective range of 7 miles.

The two battleships authorized by the last naval act probably will be 28,500 tons displacement, or the biggest war vessels in the world. The largest ships so far designed are the New York and Texas, with a displacement of 27,000 tons each, and it became known only recently that the navy department contemplates exceeding their size. The new ships will have heavier armor than ever before put on a battleship, which accounts for their increased displacement. The armament of the new vessels will be the same as the New York and Texas with a main battery of ten fourteen-inch guns. With this approach to a 30,000 ton battleship the naval ordnance experts are considering the question of a sixteen-inch gun. It will require a 35,000 ton battleship to withstand the terrific recoil from a main battery of ten sixteen-inch guns.

A Washington dispatch says that ambassadors and ministers of the American foreign service have been instructed by the state department to submit estimates for construction or purchase by the United States of homes for them in every foreign capital of the world. This is in accordance with recent authority granted by congress providing for embassies and legations in order to relieve the diplomats of the enormous expense of rent, which in some cases exceeds their salaries. Congress limited the cost of any embassy or legation to \$150,000. State department officials believe that this will be inadequate to afford abodes in keeping with the dignity of the nation, especially in the large capitals, where it is believed an appropriation of \$150,000 or \$300,000 will be needed. With the \$150,000 limitation it is thought the policy of erection or purchasing American legations can be inaugurated in some of the small Central or South American countries.

The center of population of the United States was announced by the director of the census bureau to be in the western part of the city of Bloomington, Monroe county, Indiana. This is eight miles farther west than the location announced July 17, when Director Durand placed it at 5 1/4 miles south of Unionville, in the same county. Ten years ago the center of population was six miles southeast of Columbus, Ind., thirty-nine miles east of its new location.

Following is an Associated Press dispatch: An outline of the program of legislation for the postal service which Postmaster General Hitchcock will ask the congress to follow during the regular session to begin in December was indicated by Mr. Hitchcock recently. In his an-