

teresting as those that show that republican administration has increased the total tax burden from \$2,335,843 for 1897 and 1898 to almost \$4,000,000 for 1905 and 1906. These are some figures that taxpayers will find it hard to forget while studying the figures that do not explain furnished by the republican state committee.

By the way, have the members of the Nebraska legislature who insisted on a specific declaration from Mr. Burkett as to his position on the president's plan of railroad regulation before they would elect him senator, turned in their annuals in response to the declared sentiment of the party in state convention? It is a poor rule that will not work both ways.—Fremont Tribune.

G. W. Berge, who spoke at the populist rally in this city last Saturday, is one of the few public speakers who are able to discuss burning public questions from the standpoint of the citizen rather than the partisan. He recognizes the fact that industrial and economic evils affect the members of all parties alike, hence he appeals to men's reason instead of endeavoring to arouse their prejudices. He commends La Follette, the republican, with as much heartiness as he does Folk, the democrat. Too many spell-binders of all political faiths, offend by indulging in coarse abuse of their political opponents. The calm and candid discussion of public questions is what the people need and what they appreciate. And as the News has repeatedly insisted, citizenship is above partisanship and the fair minded man will welcome the truth when presented in a candid way, no difference who delivers the message.—Stromsburg Weekly News.

LIFE INSURANCE REVELATIONS

From day to day new revelations of life insurance dishonesty are made public and afford interesting glimpses of modern methods of business management in great enterprises. A former general agent of the Mutual Life, is out with a statement that the Mutual Life maintained a wine cellar at Albany for the entertainment of legislators. Another method employed to gain the good will of the legislators was an arrangement with a firm of New York tailors, by which any legislator in need of a suit of clothes or an overcoat could go to the tailors, pick out the cloth he fancied, be measured and have the bill charged to the account of the Mutual Life. The New York World states that taking only the testimony of insurance officials the following facts have been proved:

1. That the three great life insurance companies, the New York Life, the Mutual and the Equitable, jointly maintained a lobby fund for the corrupt influencing of legislation and the insurance departments of the various states; that John A. McCall supervised the expenditure of this fund through his man Andrew Hamilton; that the policy-holders' money was used to pay lobbyists without legal warrant and in violation of the penal code.
2. That the money of the policy-holders was given to political committees, which, as Governor Folk says, is embezzlement.
3. That false books of account were kept in which these illegal payments did not appear. The falsifying of books of account is forgery.
4. That officers of the companies, Mr. Perkins in particular, acted as trustees in dealing with themselves as individuals to their personal profit at the expense of the trust funds in their keeping. This is a flagrant violation of law.
5. That subsidiary corporations were formed at the expense of the policy-holders, and that the trustees as stockholders in the parasite corporations used trust funds for their own benefit.
6. That the McCurdys, the McCalls, the Hydes and the Alexanders paid themselves vast sums of the policy-holders' money and paid over other vast sums to their relatives. That even the bare forms of voting this money to themselves were not always complied with.
7. That annual statements were made to the insurance superintendent which were not true, the making of which is a crime and the certification of which by the superintendent was official misconduct.
8. That money due the old policy-holders as dividends earned was taken to make up deficiencies on the new business caused by extravagant expenditure.
9. That officials, John A. McCall among others, borrowed money from life insurance

companies of which they were officers, in violation of the insurance law. 10. That leading officials were guilty of forgery, of obtaining money under false pretenses, of embezzlement, of perjury, of issuing false statements and of official corporate misconduct.

It is discovered by an arithmetical computation that Mr. Richard McCurdy's salary is equal to the combined wages of the president of the United States, the vice president, seven cabinet officers, the chief justice of the supreme court, Admiral Dewey and the lieutenant-general of the army. Mr. McCurdy is a valuable man. The incident is not without a practical bearing. Worth being merely economic and measurable only in dollars, it should be easy to find the best man for public office. Mr. McCurdy is worth three of Theodore Roosevelt, about ten chief justices and at least twenty secretaries of state. Why not get rid of the entire list and create a poobahship for Richard McCurdy? It would be simpler, more economical and safer. Mr. McCurdy being three times more capable, for instance, than Mr. Roosevelt, the chance of the country suffering from political mistakes would be only one-third, and if at the same time he should act as Admiral the navy would be, say, eight times more certain of victory. The science of politics is largely a study of human capacity, and nobody will deny Mr. McCurdy's capacity. He is most capacious. It is so much greater than that of any officer of government that there can be no question of the policy of making his Poobah.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The mad race for business engaged in by the three New York life insurance companies had its logical and natural sequence in enormous salaries to the men who could get the business, and in the fall of these men who succumbed to the tremendous temptations incident to the handling of immense sums of money. And yet, notwithstanding their almost incredible extravagance and errors, the fact is conceded by everyone that these three life insurance companies are solvent and abundantly able to fulfill all their contracts. The loss to the policy-holders is simply in the diminution of their dividends. On the other hand, there are dozens of life insurance companies which have been governed, some of them for half a century or more, by honest and conservative methods, paying moderate salaries, making sound investments and accepting only high class risks in writing their insurance policies. These companies rank among the safest and best financial institutions in the world. They are in no wise concerned in, or affected by, the methods employed by the New York companies, and their business should not suffer, nor should prudent and conscientious men fail to take advantage of the opportunities they offer for the comfort and support of themselves and their families, because of the crimes of a few frenzied financiers in New York.—Kansas City Star.

CAMPAIGN IN OHIO

The exciting campaign in Ohio, which threatens a shifting of political power, is described impartially by the Kansas City Star:

Outside of New York city the most interesting political canvass of the year is the fight of Governor Herrick of Ohio for re-election. Two years ago Mr. Herrick beat Tom Johnson by more than 100,000 votes, while last year the state went for Roosevelt by one-fourth million plurality. It might be supposed from these figures that the governor would be insured another easy and overwhelming victory. But the democrats, if they do not really anticipate the election of their candidate, Mr. J. M. Pattison, at least believe that he has a fighting chance. And there is no doubt that Herrick has made many enemies in the last two years by his attitude toward corporations seeking special privileges, by his action on a popular local option measure and by his relations with Boss Cox of Cincinnati. While all these indictments are likely to count more or less, the fight on the governor by the Anti-Saloon league, which is powerful in Ohio, is giving the republican organization its greatest anxiety. Last year a bill was passed by the Ohio legislature authorizing voters up to the number of 5,000 to form a district about their homes and to exclude saloons from it by a majority vote. Herrick insisted on cutting down the maximum number of voters in a district to 2,000. This action exasperated

the church element and the governor has been denounced by numerous religious bodies. It is on this disaffection that the democrats are chiefly relying. The feeling is strong enough to cause uneasiness among the republicans. For instance, a recent canvass of the faculty of a large Ohio college, showed that only two of the fifty-four voting members intended to vote for Herrick, though probably every one voted for Roosevelt. How far this disaffection affects the rank and file of the party it is, of course, impossible to say. But the walkaway of 1903 will hardly be repeated.

DISTRACTED STATE OF CUBA

The troubles which have arisen in Cuba between the moderates and liberals suggests a state of affairs which is not reassuring. The editor of Public Opinion says:

The present state of affairs in Cuba is not reassuring. The moderate party with which President Palma last winter affiliated, holds absolute control of the machinery of government. It has strengthened itself by means which are certainly unfair. Office-holders belonging to the liberal, or opposition, party have been turned out of their places wholesale; even local officials, as in the case of liberal mayors, have been summarily removed by the central government, and their places have been filled by moderates, appointed by the Palma machine. On the least suspicion of "dangerous" hostility to the government liberal leaders in all parts of the country have been imprisoned. General Jose Miguel Gomez has resigned the liberal candidacy for the presidency on the ground that a fall election is impossible. A prominent liberal member of congress, who was shot by the police at Cienfuegos, is variously asserted to have been murdered in cold blood and to have been killed only after he had killed one of the policemen who were trying to arrest him. The only full reports of this and other disorderly conditions come from moderate sources, and are obviously one-sided. But even under white-wash affairs look bad—very bad.

WASTE IN GOVERNMENT PRINTING

The waste of money consequent upon the liberal policy of public printing which has been in vogue for several decades has attracted much attention and has given rise to suggestions for reform. On this point the Outlook says:

A certain number of government reports and other public documents, congressional departmental, and scientific, ought to be issued and read by the taxpaying citizens of the country. But the inevitable tendency on the part of both the recipient and the distributor of free books and documents is to be wasteful. In addition to a very large number of volumes and pamphlets on all sorts of subjects, the United States published in 1904 fourteen periodicals, of which three were dailies, three weeklies, one bi-monthly, and seven monthlies. The problem is, how to distribute all this printed matter to those readers who ought to have the material, and how to keep it from being given extravagantly and uselessly to those who neither need it nor desire it. Mr. Rossiter suggests that "the object of most federal publications could be attained at a very small part of the present cost if they were sent only to libraries and public institutions and certain important newspapers which agree to review them, and sold at a nominal sum to following plan: Let a list of all publications all others." We add to his suggestions the issued by the United States, whether periodicals, books, or pamphlets, with a very brief mention of their contents, be posted once a week in every postoffice in the country. Let a small price be fixed for each publication. A price which is sufficient to pay only a fractional part of the cost of manufacture will be also sufficient to deter the aimless and indifferent reader from asking for the publication. This purchase at the postoffice may be made by affixing stamps to the order, which may then be mailed to the government printing office, the desired book or pamphlet coming back to the purchaser by mail. Whatever plan of economy and retrenchment is adopted, it is, at any rate, clear that congress must take up the question in a serious fashion at an early day. If congress does not grapple with the problem we hope the taxpayers of the country will.