

THE appropriations made by the late Congress seem almost incredible, as indeed do the expenditures of the past four years.

During the four years of Republican-Roosevelt rule, ending with the next fiscal year, the appropriations by Congress are the immense sum of \$3,153,334,292.56.

These are so many figures that they may puzzle some of our readers, and therefore we will write them in words, and they are three billion, one hundred and fifty-three million, three hundred and thirty-four thousand, two hundred and ninety-two dollars and fifty-six cents.

This is so large a sum that few persons can realize what it is. If divided among the people of this State it would give nearly \$600 to every man, woman and child, black and white!

When we consider these immense appropriations by a Republican Congress it seems decidedly cheeky for any Republican to criticize the comparatively insignificant appropriations made by our State Legislature.

ONE of the important acts enacted at the recent session of the Legislature is the one relating to landlords and tenants. It is especially important that this new law should be understood at once by the farmers and those who rent land from them, so that they may know exactly what are its terms in making contracts for renting or working lands this year.

This act makes it a misdemeanor for any tenant or cropper, who procures advances from his landlord, to abandon the land rented by him without good cause and before paying for such advances, and for any landlord who may contract with a tenant to furnish advances so he can make a crop to refuse to furnish the advances. And any person who employs a tenant, who to his knowledge has violated this act, shall be liable to the landlord for the amount of the advances made and also be guilty of a misdemeanor.

This act applies to only thirty-nine counties, chiefly in the eastern part of the State, and Chatham is one of them. While this new law may be a good one in some respects, yet we fear it is one that may sometimes be abused in oppressing a poor or unfortunate tenant or cropper.

THE Japanese have proved themselves to be a most marvellous people, and their wonderful progress and achievements seem almost incredible and read like a romance. Only fifty years ago (and that is a very short period in the life of a nation) they were an insignificant heathen people unknown to the civilized world, and now they have disastrously defeated, both by sea and on land, the most powerful of all the great European countries!

The almost unparalleled bravery and fighting qualities of Japan's soldiers is only equalled by the brilliant strategy of her high officers and the thorough equipment of every department of her army. In all the annals of history, modern or ancient, no army has ever been so thoroughly equipped for war and has suffered so little from disease and the privations which science and fore-

thought could provide against. So wonderful has been their success that nothing now seems impossible for those little brown men to accomplish. After so disastrously defeating so powerful a nation as Russia, what may we not expect to see the Japanese do next?

The Japanese-Russian War.

From The Charlotte Observer, 15th.

As the result of a battle, or rather a series of battles, which has continued for nearly two weeks, the Russians have met the worst defeat experienced since the war with Japan began. What remains of the once magnificent army of General Kuropatkin is hurrying northward in an effort to save itself from annihilation or capture, and apparently everything else is lost.

General Kuropatkin's ability to extricate his army from a difficult situation alone has saved him from annihilation or capture at the hands of the Japanese, but it seems now that at best he can only save a mere remnant of his forces. Already over 150,000 of his men have been killed, wounded or captured and his only chance is in flight.

When it became known that the Russians had lost Mukden and were in an exceedingly dangerous position in their fight, rumors of peace moves on the part of Russia very naturally began to circulate, and it seemed to be regarded as a foregone conclusion that efforts would be made to bring about a cessation of hostilities.

Bomb Tragedy in Russia.

St. Petersburg, March 11.—The explosion of a bomb at the Hotel Bristol, adjoining the Hotel D'Angleterre, here just before daylight this morning blew to atoms the owner of the bomb, a man with an English passport and giving the name of Alfred Henry McCullough, and wrecked the adjoining rooms, killing the wife of an officer and injuring other lodgers. The explosion was heard blocks away and created a tremendous sensation.

An independent investigation made by the Associated Press seems to establish beyond question that the man killed was a terrorist leader. His passport of course was fictitious but the man was a foreigner, not a Russian.

Just before Grand Duke Sergius was assassinated the man was absent for two days, which might connect him directly with the grand duke's murder.

Russia's Heavy Losses.

Tokio, March 12, 7 p. m.—Field Marshal Oyama, reporting today, says: "Prisoners, spoils and the enemy's estimated casualties against all our forces in the Shakhe direction follow, but the prisoners, guns and spoils are increasing momentarily. The prisoners number over 40,000, including Gen. Nachmoss. The killed and wounded are estimated at 90,000. The enemy's dead left on the field number 26,500. The spoils include two flags, about 60 guns, 60,000 rifles, 150 ammunition wagons, 1,000 carts, 200,000 shells, 25,000,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition; 75,000 bushels of cereals, 275,000 bushels of fodder, 45 miles of light railway outfit, 2,000 horses, 23 cart-loads of maps, 1,000 cart-loads of clothing and accoutrements, 1,000,000 rations of bread, 75,000 tons of fuel, and 60 tons of hay; besides tools, tents, bullocks, telegraph wire and poles, timber, beds, stoves and numerous other property."

"No report from the Singking direction has been received." The battle has been officially named "The Battle of Mukden."

During the recent session of Congress President Roosevelt signed 1,842 measures, of which 238 were public bills, including 14 appropriation bills, 1,569 were private bills, 34 were public resolutions and one was a private resolution.

Mrs. Chadwick Convicted.

Cleveland, O., March 11.—Mrs. Cassie L. Chadwick was tonight found guilty of conspiring to defraud the United States by conspiring to procure the certification of checks on a national bank, when there were no funds in the bank to her credit. She was found guilty on every count of the indictment upon which the jury was to judge her—seven in all.

The original indictment contained sixteen counts. Two of these were ruled out during the trial by Judge Taylor, and of the remaining fourteen one-half charged her with securing the certification of checks without having the proper entries made upon the books of the bank. Judge Taylor in his charge directed the jury to disregard these counts and consider only the remaining seven, which related to the certification with no funds on deposit. On all of these the jury found against her.

The jury found she can be fined on each count not more than \$10,000, or imprisoned more than two years on each count, or she may be fined a maximum of \$10,000 and also imprisoned for two years on each count. The jury reached a verdict in two hours.

General Kuropatkin Resigns.

St. Petersburg, March 13, 2:15 a. m.—General Kuropatkin has sent in his resignation to the Emperor.

General Kuropatkin has telegraphed to Emperor Nicholas, assuming himself all the responsibility for his defeat, making no excuses except that the strength of the Japanese was miscalculated, and refusing to place any of the blame upon the council of generals upon whose advice he determined to give battle. His reputation as an offensive strategist is gone, and, though the Emperor's military advisors know not where to look for a better general, his resignation will be accepted.

In losing General Kuropatkin, the army will lose the idol of the private soldiers, an officer who, in spite of the intrigues of his generals and his failure to win a battle, has won their confidence and affection.

No Trace of Missing Boy.

Elizabeth City, N. C., March 11.—No trace of Senator Benseley's son has yet been found and no clue as to his whereabouts has developed. The belief in Knutrick is that he was really kidnapped and carried to some distant place, although no tangible evidence has been produced to verify it. With his disappearance is connected the stranger who drove through that place the same day the boy was missed, but the connection is extremely vague and there is practically nothing to work on in the efforts to find him.

Explosion at Vesuvius.

London, March 10.—A news agency dispatch from Rome says that 120 American tourists narrowly escaped death through a sudden violent eruption of Mount Vesuvius, which has hitherto been quiescent enough to enable anyone to approach the crater. There was a tremendous explosion accompanied by a shower of lava and cinders. The people rushed madly for safety, and fortunately all escaped. A guide, however, was killed and another injured.

Killed by a Steer.

Buffalo Creek, W. Va., March 11.—John McIntyre, the sixteen-year-old son of a prominent farmer living near here, was instantly killed Friday afternoon in an encounter with a steer.

He was driving a herd of cattle to Wayne, when a steer became enraged, killing two of the cattle and scattering the rest. The steer then charged the horse with such force that the horse was knocked from his feet and the boy thrown high in the air, landing on his head, breaking his neck, and killing him instantly.

A Peculiar Appetite.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., March 11.—A novel variety of articles has been removed from the stomach of an insane patient who died at the Danubius Asylum a couple of days ago of general debility. In his stomach were found the skeleton of a mouse; an old-fashioned four-in-hand tie; a piece of suspender; two pieces of rubber tubing, nine and twelve inches long; a silver spoon; the frame of an old-fashioned pair of spectacles; five handkerchiefs and some smaller articles, and bits of cloth and string. The man was named Alexander. He had been in the asylum for some time.

Thanks For Flags.

Chicago, March 13.—A dispatch to the Tribune from New Orleans says: An official proclamation has been issued by Gen. Stephen D. Lee, commander in chief of the United Confederate veterans, paying unstinted praise and tribute to Congress for passing the battle flag return measure and to President Roosevelt for his prompt signature. Gen. Lee urges upon all parties North or South, who have colors in their possession to return them at once to the State capitols.

Death in Alaskan Avalanche.

Colusa Cor. Sacramento Box. News of a tragedy of the Far North has just reached here after many years. The lives of twenty-seven human beings were snuffed out in a twinkling by an avalanche of ice and snow, and their frozen bodies found months afterward, were all that remained to tell the awful story of the grim disaster. In the spring of 1898 a party of Colusans, among whom was Leonard Gaillard, left here for Alaska in search of gold. Months went by without a word from any member of the party, and then friends and relatives began to feel uneasiness. Letters and messages of all sorts were sent to the far away country in the hope of hearing of or from the party. In the end nearly all were accounted for in some way or another except Gaillard.

It was generally believed by Gaillard's friends that he had perished, but it was only a few days ago that the true story of his death was made known by Richard Williams, formerly of this place, but now of Chico.

In the spring of 1899 Williams met Gaillard in Dawson. The latter was one of the party of twenty-seven who had come into the town with their dog sleds to get their supplies for the winter. He told Williams where he was mining and how to reach the place. He said the journey would require ten or twelve days time and that he would start on the return trip in a day or two. He did so. But he never reached the diggings and it was the last seen alive of either him or his party of twenty-six men.

On the long way home an avalanche of ice and snow swooped down on them, burying them from sight until summer came, bringing with it weather warm enough to melt their cold covering and expose their bodies to view. They were all there—the entire twenty-seven. Their bodies were in a good state of preservation when found. There was no evidence of a struggle to retain life. The avalanche had done its cruel work swiftly and well. Death had claimed them for its own on the instant.

Immense Loss of Russians.

As to the losses, General Kuropatkin now admits that 50,000 wounded were carried off the field. This, with the 26,500 dead left on the field, the 40,000 prisoners and the wounded left in the hospitals comes somewhat nearer the latest Japanese estimate that the total Russian losses were 155,000. At this rate, Kuropatkin cannot have more than 100,000 effective fighting men with him. The army of General Linévitch seems to have made the best retreat. This, no doubt, was due to the stubborn fight made by General Rennenkampf on his extreme left and the equally fierce resistance of General Kaulbars on the right, the latter general losing 28,000 men. Neither the army of Kaulbars nor of Rennenkampf has been accounted for by the dispatches. After his defeat around the western toms, Kaulbars, finding his retreat directly northward cut off, made a detour to the eastward, where he was still fighting at last accounts. Rennenkampf must also still be in the hills to the eastward, as it took the courier three days to reach Tie Pass. The Japanese report the capture of 24 more guns, 66 in all, a rather small number considering the decisive defeat and the number of men captured. The Japanese losses have been remarkably light in view of the length and severity of the fighting. A correspondent with General Kur-ki's army tells how the battle of Mukden was won. The Russian general was deceived as to where the blow was to be struck, and after massing his forces on the Japanese left, found, when too late, that his left was the objective of the Japanese.

A movement is on foot among the congregation of Hay Street Methodist church at Fayetteville to replace the present church structure with a handsome brick or stone edifice.

The Source of Japan's Strength.

When all just praise has been lavished upon the Japanese for their mastery strategy, for their unflinching generalship, for their dash of spirit of their rank and file, it is primarily to the perfect organization of their military establishment that they owe the unbroken series of successes. They were thoroughly prepared for the war when it began; they have proved themselves prepared for every emergency as it arose. At every point the bureaus at Tokio have kept step with the armies in Manchuria. They have shown themselves the Prussians of the East.

It is a damning commentary upon Russia's system that, with the military traditions of a century, her army and navy should have utterly collapsed under the attacks of an enemy that had never fought a single great campaign. Russia's financial credit and numerical strength were vastly superior to Japan's. Her generals had been bred and drilled in the practical European school of war. By necessity she had taken on all the forms and appearances of one of the world's first military powers. Her policy was one of steady expansion, and her neighbors were afraid and jealous of her.

By contrast Japan was a small island power. Her population was barely one-third of Russia's. Both in men and money she was the weaker. While her soldiers were imbued with the fighting spirit, her army had no military traditions worth speaking of. The war with China was a mere triumphal progress through foreign territory and the expedition to the relief of the Peking legations a practice march.

But from the day Russia, in collusion with Germany and France, tore up the treaty of Shimoseki, despoiled Japan of the fruits of victory and then quietly appropriated them to her own use, Japan has bent all her energies and talents to creating a military system and force that in point of science and efficiency should equal any in the world. She sent her cadets to the naval schools of the United States and Great Britain. Her lieutenants were instructed by the best German tacticians and engineers. She has taken what suited her purposes where she found it, and adapted and perfected it to her own needs. Her field-hospital service and her sanitary provisions are admitted to be far ahead of those of Europe and this country. In such details as the use of the telephone on the battlefield she has developed a new art. What she has done, in fact, is to construct a complicated military machine that works with the accuracy of a pocket timepiece wound up and set by unseen hands in Tokio. Above all she has managed to accomplish these wonders in barely ten years, after huge expenditures of money and brains, with economy and without corruption.

Russia's fatal weakness has been her over-weening pride of military power, which betrayed her into unpreparedness, and her political corruption, which amounted to official treachery. Europe might do well now to go to school to her pupil.

Caldwell County Church Burned.

Lenoir, N. C., March 11.—Cedar Valley church caught fire from a defective fire and was burned except the efforts of the congregation to save it. This was a Methodist church in the Caldwell circuit and the largest wooden church in the county. Loss \$1,200. The organ and Sunday school library were saved. It will be replaced with a brick structure.

Reports received in the Department of Agriculture at Raleigh indicate that there will be a falling off of fifty per cent. or more in the sale of fertilizers for cotton in this State.

A Madman's Murderous Work.

Denver, Col., March 12.—Mad with rage because of his defeat in a law suit in which K. Fill, the man whom he pronounced his bitterest enemy, had been victorious, and swearing vengeance against him and his family, George Schistler, a teamster, armed himself with a rifle today and started out to do murder. As a result of the affray, three persons are dead, one is missing and three others are wounded, two at least, dangerously.

Schistler had brooded over his troubles with the Fill family, who were immediate neighbors, and announced today that he would even up matters. Taking a rifle of improved pattern, and buckling on a belt of smokeless cartridges, he started for the Fill home. Fill saw Schistler approaching, and heard his threats. He tried to avoid him by entering the house, but Schistler sent a bullet into his brain and Fill fell dead.

Mrs. Fill rushed to her husband's side, and received a bullet from Schistler's rifle, she fell dead beside the lifeless body of her husband. Schistler then set fire to the Fill home, which was destroyed.

Satisfying himself that the flames would perform their mission Schistler returned to his home and barricaded himself. In the meantime neighbors appeared on the scene, but quickly retreated when bullets from Schistler's rifle began falling near them. A telephone message was sent to police headquarters and an ambulance with Police Surgeon Dulin, Captain Bohanna and three officers hurried to the scene.

Upon the arrival of the officers, and before they could leave the ambulance, a rain of bullets fell about them. Dulin and Bohanna fell to the floor of the ambulance wounded. The condition of the former is critical. The driver reined his horses, when another shot from Schistler dropped one of the animals to the ground. With the assistance of spectators the wounded men were removed from the scene. A strong array of police officers was then sent to the house, and after a furious exchange of shots the place was entered and Schistler was found in a dying condition. He died soon after.

At the last term of Pender county Superior court there was not a criminal case on the docket.

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