

**MR. WATTS SEES  
VICTORYAHEADFOR  
WILSON IN 1916**

Collector Gets Line on Political Situation from Friends in Washington

**TELLS DEMOCRATS TO BE OF GOOD CHEER**

AFTER CONVERSING WITH THOSE WHO KNOW FROM ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY MR. WATTS GIVES IT AS HIS OPINION THAT WILSON WILL HAVE 500 OUT OF 531 VOTES

(By Geo. H. Manning)

Washington, Dec. 11.—Mr. A. D. Watts, Collector of Internal Revenue for the Fifth District, who has been here for a week, left for Statesville tonight. Before leaving he said:

"I had some little matters which I wished to talk over with Colonel Ostendorf, the Supervising Architect of the Treasury, but the principal reason for my visit to the Capital City was to learn as much of the political situation in the country as I could. During my thirteen years in Washington our Senator Simons I came to know every man in the Union of both parties. Senators and Representatives, their clerks, members of the general staffs in the House and Senate, in the Executive Departments, and most of the correspondents of the daily papers of the country. I always took great interest in politics and sectional campaigns in the country, and the various States, and came to have a fairly accurate source of information from almost every State—sometimes Senators, often a member of the House, frequently a newspaper man, but most frequently some bright boy brought by a Senator or Representative, usually because of his knowledge of the politics of his State. Experience has taught me that not always is the man with the biggest office the best political or sectional candidate in his State.

During my present visit I have talked with men from almost every State—the most Democrats and Republicans, from Senators and Representatives to messengers, and from all the information I have been able to get I believe President Wilson will be unanimously re-nominated and triumphantly re-elected. In my judgment he will have at least 500 of the 531 electoral votes. Of course we will not have the electoral majority, he need not, but no one believes the Progressives will pull anything like the votes they did before, although the opinion is general that that party will do well.

In talks with all sorts and conditions of men here I get the impression that no man has ever so great a grip upon the country as has the President. All Progressives have been good men. All have been patriotic. Not all of them have been wise. Some who I hear the country almost say are of the party have come to believe implicitly in President Wilson and only a few less and reluctantly, but in his judgment and policies are with him.

With Congress about to adjourn its program into law, American progressivism is taking on a new life. What is more, it will put into the state houses almost every progressive member of the House and Senate, and the United States will be represented in the Senate by a number of men who are likely to prove

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**WAR COST POSTAL SERVICE HEAVILY**

Burleson's Report Says War Has Cost the Service \$21,000,000

Washington, Dec. 11.—Postmaster General Burleson's annual report made public tonight says the European war has cost the American postal service \$21,000,000, but that economies of administration have reduced the unadjusted deficit a little more than \$1,000,000 for the fiscal year ended last June. Conditions of service, the report says, are placed above all others and notwithstanding adverse revenue conditions, expansion and improvement of postal facilities continued. Had it not been for economical reorganization begun before the war started and continued since, the Postmaster General says the unadjusted deficit would have been at least \$22,000,000. Of the total deficit, however, his analysis of the department's financials declares that all but a little more than \$8,000,000 was the result of increases of postal salaries and additional railway mail pay required by law.

Cited among recommendations to Congress are a refusal of previous proposals for a change from the weight to the space basis of fixing pay to the railroads for carrying mails; a renewal of recommendations for general ownership of telegraphs and telephone; removal of the four-cent limit on first-class mails; and the adoption of more liberal limitations on the weight and insurance of parcel post packages.

The greatest expansion in the past year, the report shows, was in the parcel post. Statistics gathered from city

Allies Must Originate  
Peace Negotiations

TO MAKE PROTEST  
AGAINST ACTION  
OFFRENCHCRUISER

TO