

FEDERAL EXTRAVAGANOE.

The Department of Commerce and Labor has recently published statistics of the cost of government in this and other countries from which the statistician of that department has drawn the unwarranted conclusion that the government of the United States is more economically administered than any other government in the world.

We certainly have a right to expect that the cost of government in this country should be less than in most, if not all, other countries, but the figures presented come far from showing this to be the case. They only demonstrate the lack of intelligence or lack of honesty of the official statistician who seeks to establish his assertion of the comparatively low cost of government in the United States by a comparison of incomparable data.

Unlike other countries with which comparison is made as to the cost of government, the United States are a federation of States, in which the national government bears but a part of all the expenses of government for which our people have to pay.

Whether or not our national government is run extravagantly at the present time can be best determined by a comparison of its present cost with that of former periods.

According to the figures of the Department of Commerce and Labor the present annual cost of the national government amounts to \$604,323,000, the per capita cost being \$7.97. These figures, it should be understood, do not include the amount paid for the Panama canal.

Referring now to the official figures as given in the United States statistical abstract, we find the total expenditures of the United States government in 1890 to

have been \$358,618,514. This shows that in these few years there has been an increase in expenditure of almost 80 per cent., with an increase in population of less than 28 per cent.

Further reference to official figures shows that the per capita cost of the national government 20 years ago was but \$4.44.

Thus, since 1884, there appears to have been an increase in the per capita cost of government of 79.5 per cent. Within the last three years, that is, since 1901, the increase amounts to 30 per cent.

This showing is precisely the opposite of what it should be; for it is a well-known fact that large concerns can be conducted with relatively less cost than small ones. It might be borne cheerfully could it be shown that the affairs of government are better conducted than formerly. But who dares venture the assertion that the administration of Roosevelt is an improvement on that of Benjamin Harrison to the extent of nearly 80 per cent.?

HENRY L. BLISS.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

AUSTRALIA. (See p. 213).

Corowa, N. S. W., Aug. 26. — The principal amendment to the arbitration bill, carried against the ministry, provided that preference should not be given by the court to trade unionists without the approval of a majority of those affected by the award. The ministry, were not satisfied with this, and, after a long delay, brought up the clause again, and asked the House to go once more into committee to discuss the amendment in order that it might be altered. This the House declined to do, the ministry being defeated by two votes on August 11.

Mr. Watson, the prime minister, then asked the governor-general to dissolve the House. As this was refused, the ministry resigned. Mr. G. H. Reid, the leader of the Free Trade party, being sent for, he has formed a ministry—by a coalition of the Free Traders with most of the Protectionists. In accordance with the agreement made with Deakin some months ago, Reid has composed his ministry of Free Traders and Protectionists in equal numbers. Mr. Deakin would not take office, but Sir George Turner, who was treasurer in the Barton and Deakin ministries, has taken the same post under Reid.

For the first time, there are only two parties in the Federal House, the Labor party, joined by the extreme Protectionist wing, being in opposition. Reid's ministry is the first to command an ab-

solute majority of the House; but with parties so nearly equal, it seems probable that there will be a dissolution before long.

The New South Wales state elections were held on the 6th inst. with the following result:

Table with 2 columns: Party and Votes. Opposition (reform party) 46, Labor 25, Ministerial 15, Independents 4.

This will mean the return to office of the old Free Trade Democratic party which was led by Mr. Reid before federation, and will practically reduce the number of parties to two, as in Victoria.

Within the last nine months elections have been held for the Commonwealth and for all the States. The following list shows the growth of the Labor parties:

Table with 3 columns: Party, Previous, Present. Federal House 17 to 23, Federal Senate 11 to 15, West Australia 7 to 22, Tasmania 0 to 5, Victoria 12 to 19, South Australia 7 to 6, Queensland 22 to 24, N. S. Wales 25 to 25.

In New South Wales the previous House consisted of 125 members; the present has only 90.

In West Australia a Labor party is in office. Probably because mining is the chief industry in West Australia, and there is little agriculture, the Labor party is very strong there. Eight out of its eleven seats in the two Federal houses are held by Labor members. All the labor parties now aim at state socialism, and West Australia will probably lead the way in that direction.

Dalgety, in the southeast corner of New South Wales, was selected on the 9th inst. as the site for the Federal capital, by the Commonwealth parliament. It also recommended that the area should be not less than 900 square miles, but the New South Wales government may not agree to part with so much land. It is very probable that no land will be sold in the Federal area, but that it will be let on lease subject to periodical reappraisements, so that the Commonwealth will gain any increase in value.

ERNEST BRAY.

NEW YORK.

New York, Sept. 26.—The world-famous Broadway "bread line" is receiving more than ordinary notice just now because the founder of it, Louis Fleischmann, is so seriously ill that he is not expected to recover.

One night more than ten years ago Mr. Fleischmann noticed a crowd of men with craving looks, drinking in the odor from the fresh baked bread in his basement. He proffered some bread to the nearest man, who received it so appreciatively and thankfully that he continued to hand it out; and so a line was formed. Every night between 11 and

12 o'clock, summer and winter, raining or snowing, through all this last seven years of "prosperity," a line has been formed, some of the men standing in it for several hours, to receive a piece of bread.

At the beginning, Mr. Fleischmann was on hand every night, giving personal supervision to the work. When organized charity dispensers have protested to him for encouraging unworthy men: he would reply, "A man that will stand in that line gives evidence that he is hungry. I care not what his pedigree may be. He is a brother man."

An instructive story is told of the impressions this "bread line" recently made upon an intelligent and educated young Chinese lady. Miss Ah Mae Wong is a medical student about entering her third year in the Toronto Medical college. She has been visiting New York for the past ten days. Coming down Broadway one night last week her attention was directed at the corner of Tenth street to the "bread line." When told that such a line of men was there regularly every night the year around to receive a dole of dry bread she innocently inquired: "Why don't these men work and earn their bread?" But her friends were unable to make her understand why it was possible for able-bodied men to be out of remunerative employment in a country so full of natural resources as this. Even in China, she told the party, it is possible for the poorest to have plenty of rice, and why men can't find employment remunerative enough to keep them comfortable puzzled her immensely. She confessed that she was too stupid to grasp the explanation.

While a native of China, having been born and reared in Shanghai, Miss Wong has been brought up in the Christian faith. Her father was converted to Christianity when a young man, and for years before his death had charge of an Episcopalian mission in Shanghai. A classmate of Dr. Florence Leigh Jones, now of Brooklyn, went from medical college to this mission in China and Miss Wong became her assistant in the hospital. Having a predilection for medicine, Miss Wong subsequently came to Toronto to attend the medical school there. Dr. Jones, whose guest Miss Wong has been during her stay here, has practiced medicine for more than ten years in Brooklyn and New York city. In the practice of her profession she became aware of social conditions that mystified and appalled her, and being a woman of wide sympathy she was much perplexed and worried over daily experiences. About two years ago a chance circumstance brought "Progress and Poverty" into her hands, and before she had finished the book the mystery had been revealed, the perplexity had passed away. She had no need any longer to ask, "What would'st thou

have me to do?" To her the line of duty was clearly marked out.

Reared in Dixie land, in the Palmetto State, she now saw clearly the solution of the race question as well as the social and labor questions. When she learned that Miss Wong contemplated visiting New York she pressingly invited her to her home as her guest, notwithstanding this Oriental girl belongs to a race so despised by our Christian nation that even she, an intelligent, refined and cultured young woman, embracing the Christian faith, speaking the English language fluently and more grammatically than a majority of our own native born men and women, is prohibited from making her home within the confines of this "land of the free" and "home of the oppressed of all nations."

Not that Miss Wong has a desire to remain here. As soon as she graduates from the medical college she intends to return to Shanghai to work among the people of her own race.

Had Miss Wong and party transferred from Broadway to the eastbound car on Twenty-third street the same night she witnessed the "bread line," she could have beheld another sight that would have puzzled her even more. One of the finest office buildings in the world covers three-fourths of the block bounded by Madison square and Fourth avenue, and Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth streets. Ultimately the building will occupy the entire block, as Dr. Parkhurst's church property, which embraces the other quarter, has been sold to the company. The exterior of the building is of granite, so white as to have the appearance of Italian marble. It is massive in structure and ornamental in design. As has become the custom in all great cities where land values are high, the space underneath the sidewalk is utilized. The ground floor of the west half of the building facing on Twenty-third street is occupied by the Madison Square station of the New York postoffice. On the third and fourth floors of this building are the offices of the Republican national committee. Between 12 and 1 o'clock on the night the "bread line" was observed by Miss Wong and party, the writer mailed a letter at Madison Square station. Before he could enter, human beings sleeping on the sidewalk, blocking the entrance, had to get up to make way for him, so closely were they huddled together. Along the entire western half of the building, wherever the sidewalk was heated from the steam in the basement below, men were packed as tightly as sardines, with no shelter but the clouded canopy of heaven, and above them the sign, "Republican National Committee."

Here, at the base of one of the most magnificent structures in the world, representing luxuriant wealth, underneath the headquarters of the political party that is proclaiming from the ros-

trum, the pulpit and the press that we are enjoying transcendent prosperity, is the most remarkable juxtaposition of wealth and poverty possible to behold. A picture of it, could it be so portrayed as to be brought to the view of all the voters of the land, would forever relegate from power a party so brazenly audacious as to shout "prosperity" when such conditions are so apparent in all great centers of population.

D. S. LUTHER.

NEWS

Week ending Thursday, Sept. 29.

Judge Parker's letter of acceptance as the Democratic candidate for the Presidency appeared just two weeks after Mr. Roosevelt's (p. 376), having been released for publication on the 26th. It contains about 7,000 words and is in substance as follows:

Beginning with the statement of a desire that so much of his notification speech (p. 295) as refers to matters not mentioned in his letter shall be regarded as part of it, he again declares his "unqualified belief" in the gold standard, and proceeds to a specific discussion of "tariff reform, imperialism, economical administration and honesty in the public service," issues which "stand forth preeminent in the public mind." He describes tariff reform as "one of the cardinal principles of the Democratic faith," insisting that "the necessity for it was never greater than at the present time," and that "it should be undertaken at once in the interest of all our people." Proceeding then to a discussion of the Dingley tariff and its operation he concludes: "The two leading parties have always differed as to the principle of customs taxation. Our party has always advanced the theory that the object is the raising of revenue for support of the government whatever other results may incidentally flow therefrom. The Republican party, on the other hand, contends that customs duties should be levied primarily for protection, so called, with revenue as the subordinate purpose, thus using the power of taxation to build up the business and property of the few at the expense of the many. The difference of principle still obtains, but our party appreciates that the long continued policy of the country, as manifested in its statutes, makes it necessary that tariff reform should be prudently and sagaciously undertaken on scientific principles, to the end that there should not be an immediate revolution in existing conditions. In the words of our platform we demand 'a revision and a gradual reduction of the tariff by the friends of the masses, and for the common weal,