

receive annually no less than \$158,332,-391.82—a sum exceeded but three times in our pension history, and but four millions less than last year's expenditures.

Although there was a decrease of 25,111 in the number of pensioners the slight net reduction in the expenditures is plainly disappointing, from the taxpayer's point of view. The average annual pension is now \$171.90, against \$138.18 in 1906; it increased only \$2.08 above that of 1908-1909, but that increase added \$1,915,852.64 to the total expenditure. These larger outlays were due to increased rates authorized by Congress, applications for larger pensions, and 3,015 special pensions granted by separate acts of Congress—the worst abuse of all. How the cost would jump if the 483,000 pensioners of the civil war were to receive a dollar a day, in place of \$171.90 a year, any one can figure out for himself. But consideration for the Treasury never prevents the average Congressman from passing bill after bill to "correct the record" of deserters, bounty-jumpers, and cowards. It is the easiest way for a Representative to make friends in his district. What cares he as to the character of the men he places on the roll, so long as he may tell his constituents that he got Congress to agree to 250 or 300 or 600 private pension bills? Mr. Hale has printed some splendid samples of these, among them a bill of Congressman Brownlow of Tennessee, enrolling Bradford Whaley as a private in the Eleventh Tennessee Cavalry, in which he never served, and then giving him a pension. As Mr. Hale says, Congress might as well have made Whaley a veteran of the Revolution. Yet 3,015 bills of this kind, though few so flagrant, were passed last year and approved by President Taft—resulting in an increased drain upon the taxpayers of no less than \$894,495 and benefiting 6,063 persons.

It is not, however, merely the growing size of the pension which is ominous. The number of widows of soldiers of the civil war increased by 9,045, despite the ravages of death among the 211,781 who drew pay last year for their husbands' services forty-five years ago. It will amaze most people to hear that there are already no less than 27,889 pensioners of our brief war with Spain and the Philippine insurrection. There were not 27,000 soldiers in the regular

army early in 1908, and, if we remember correctly, Gen. Shafter's force at Santiago was not above 18,000 men. Yet within twelve years of that brief struggle there are on the rolls 22,783 invalid soldiers, 1,183 widows, and 330 minor children, 3,072 mothers of soldiers and 512 fathers, 7 brothers and sisters, and 2 helpless children. In such measure is the government paying for the fever camps and that one conflict which most civil war veterans would have regarded as but little more than a skirmish. Every war the country has been in is now represented on the pension roll, for there are still one "daughter of the Revolution" and 338 widows of the war of 1812 obtaining government aid; while 2,042 survivors and 6,359 widows are accredited to the war with Mexico, which ended sixty-two years ago. If the same longevity prevails as in the case of the last survivor of the second war with England, we shall be paying Mexican war veterans up to 1941 and Spanish war veterans up to 1991. Already the Spanish war veterans and dependents have received \$80,191,725.72, or within fourteen millions of the Mexican war pensions and sixteen millions of the total amount paid out for the war of 1812; and there were 47,295 claims for pensions pending in June, 9,135 for service against Spain or the Filipinos.

Now, if the money side of all this were the only question, it would be bad enough, particularly if we take into account the pensioning of fully 100,000 Confederate veterans by the Southern States at a cost of probably \$4,500,000 to \$5,000,000. They have been well inoculated, too, with the pension virus, for Georgia in 1909 pensioned 3,492 veterans at a cost of \$561,077. But worse than the pecuniary aspect is the demoralizing effect of the system, which in the North, at least, discriminates not at all between good and bad, worthy and unworthy applicants, but gives above 900,000 people the idea that patriotism on the battlefield is cashable, and that it is the duty of the Treasury to hand out money, precisely as protectionists think the government owes it to them to guarantee the profits of their business. In the South the pension system menaces, as a writer in the *South Atlantic Quarterly* points out, the proper educational and social progress of that section. In the North it is honeycombed with fraud, and offers such an

inviting opportunity for a President who desires to make a name for himself as a brilliant administrator and an enemy of corruption, that it is hard to see how Mr. Taft can resist the temptation to overhaul the whole business. And what we miss in the Pension Commissioner's report is an indication of a vigorous cleaning up of the pension-rolls. Only fifty-five frauds were punished last year; but the country, as Mr. Hale shows, is full of them.

#### NON-MANIFEST DESTINY.

In the current number of the *Popular Science Monthly* there occurs the following quotation from the introductory statement preceding the list of courses in physics offered at one of our great universities in 1894:

While it is never safe to affirm that the future of physical science has no marvels in store . . . it seems probable that most of the grand underlying principles have been firmly established, and that further advances are to be sought chiefly in the rigorous application of these principles to all the phenomena which come under our notice: . . . An eminent scientist has remarked that the future truths of physical science are to be looked for in the sixth place of decimals.

"Then came," says the writer, "the discovery of Röntgen rays, 1895; Becquerel rays, 1896; Zeeman effect, 1896; radium, 1898; atomic disintegration, the transformation of matter, the thermal effect of radio-activity, and intra-atomic energy, 1903. I am unable to locate the sixth decimal idea in recent catalogues."

The suddenness of the change in the aspect of physical research which has taken place within the past two decades is a phenomenon of extraordinary interest; but the reflections suggested by the contrast above referred to are quite as pertinent in the domain of human affairs as in that of scientific investigation. We are all ready enough to admit in the abstract that it is the unexpected that happens, and that most long-range prophecies are vain; but, strange to say, the specific application of this maxim to the questions that constitute at once the most difficult and the most vital problems of humanity is almost universally neglected. When it comes to the great currents of human history and opinion, the doctrine of "manifest destiny" is accepted with hardly a protest by the minority, the people who try more or less vigorously to work against the current or who at

least wish that it were other than it is. Up to a certain time a movement may seem to be utopian or academic or eccentric; but let it grow steadily for some years and attain a position of real power, and the time soon comes when the word is passed all along the line that its ultimate and complete triumph is a certainty. Opposition may continue, and perhaps the very people who admit the coming event may go on acting according to their principles; nevertheless, the fact remains that the acceptance of the manifest destiny idea, in each such case, is a factor of great potency in sapping the vitality of the opposition.

Take such a matter as Socialism. There are to-day millions of people whose attitude toward Socialism is profoundly influenced by the feeling that, however little they may like it, however undesirable in itself or ultimately impracticable in its working they may be convinced it is, yet it is sure to come. The day of individualism, they feel, is rapidly passing; in a hundred ways they see the handwriting on the wall. "It is only lack of imagination, they say to themselves, that prevents anybody from seeing what is so clearly patent; a few more years and everybody will see it. But in reality it takes more imagination to realize the possibility of a change in existing tendencies than to realize what results those tendencies, if unchecked by new developments, will bring about. It was easy, for example, for anybody to see, only a few years ago, that China was on the eve of dissolution and partition among the European nations; it was not easy to see that this destiny, so manifest in everything that had happened for half a century, was suddenly to be abrogated by the marvellous assertion of the potentialities of the Orient made by Japan in her war with Russia. And if it be said that this event was related merely to the special characteristics of particular nations or races, while the question of Socialism is one that turns on forces imbedded in universal human nature, the answer is simple enough. In the sea of forces involved in the socialistic recasting of human life there are unsounded depths quite as far removed from our ken as were the factors which played a decisive part in the Russo-Japanese drama.

What is true of these largest ques-

tions is equally true in regard to political issues of lesser sweep. In our own country we have seen a great growth of the importance and the power of the Federal government. That this growth has been made necessary by modern economic developments—the new relations among all parts of the country created by modern methods of transportation and communication and the new problems arising out of the modern organization of industry and business—is very true. That the process will be and should be carried still farther in certain directions few reasonable persons will deny. But to drift from this conclusion, resting on reason and judgment, into an easy-going acceptance of State impotence and central omnipotence as the verdict of manifest destiny, is a very different matter. When Mr. Chamberlain started his protection agitation in England, manifest destiny, as shown in the spread of protection on the Continent and in the alleged decay of England's industrial power, was his strongest ally. Our own imperialist venture in the Philippines would never have been made were it not for the debilitating effect of the manifest destiny idea at a time of sudden excitement and military vainglory. But the truth is we know but one thing about destiny—that it is not manifest; and we have but one duty concerning it—each in his degree to do what in him lies to shape destiny according to his conviction, not of what it will be, but of what it ought to be.

#### INTELLECT AND SERVICE.

In his remarkable "Statistical Study of American Men of Science," Professor Cattell arrives at the conclusion that the number of our scientific men of importance has in recent years been increasing at only about half the rate of increase of the whole population, and that the production of scientific men of the highest order has been faring far worse. This latter conclusion he bases largely on the fact that in the complete list of men who, by the judgment of their peers, deserve to rank among the thousand leading men of science there are only six under thirty years of age, and none of these in conspicuously high rank. "This," he says, "is significant and disquieting. A man of genius is likely to do his work at an early age and to receive prompt recognition. Kelvin was appointed full professor at Glas-

gow at twenty-two, Thomson at Cambridge at twenty-six, Rutherford at McGill at twenty-seven. Men of science of this age and rank simply do not exist in America at the present time; nor is it likely that we are faring better in scholarship, in literature, and in art."

In the earlier days of the Republic, we used to explain any deficiency of our country in great intellectual fruits by pointing to the fact that we were engaged in "subduing a continent," and that partly the material rewards and partly the inherent attraction of this labor took the flower of our youth away from intellectual pursuits. Later on, a factor different from this, though not unrelated to it, came into the forefront—the enormous and dazzling prizes offered to successful endeavor in the fields of business enterprise, the overwhelming prominence given to the pursuit of wealth at a time when fortunes unheard of in former days gave a position of power and of popular eminence such as no other form of success seemed to offer. Add to this the rapid growth of luxury and the rise in the material standards of living, and you have a situation in which a life devoted to intellectual effort, with small material reward and with little stimulus from the interest and respect of the community at large, would not often present itself to a young man of talent, energy, and high spirit as the natural goal of his ambition. Indeed, it might be said that the social atmosphere of America has constituted, in the case of our young men, an environment comparable—though, of course, with an enormous difference of degree—to that which has in all ages surrounded young women as regards their intellectual ambitions. It is not nearly so much the presence of absolute hindrances as it is the absence of encouragement and incentive, that accounts for that lack of intellectual achievement on the part of women which, until our own time, was ascribed almost universally to inherent incapacity.

To this potent cause of deflection of young men of high intellectual endowment from fields of intellectual endeavor for which they are by nature and temperament peculiarly fitted, there must, in our judgment, be added another which seems destined to play a greater and greater part in producing this effect. We refer to that exaltation of