

at their disposal. It is hardly necessary to state that the Commission joins the President in these recommendations. The most important actual change during the year was the classification by Executive order of assistant postmasters and of clerks in first and second class post-offices. The excellent results already shown by this reform will doubtless lend much strength to the recommendations above mentioned of the President and the Commission. Certainly the merit system is indispensable both to economy and to efficiency. These examinations require greater efficiency, and consequently a few efficient men can do the work formerly done by a larger number of comparatively inefficient men. Thus the examination system has promoted both economy and efficiency. At the same time it facilitates the extension of governmental activities to new fields because it furnishes the best practicable means of testing qualifications for scientific, technical, and professional work. A final result of the quarter of a century history is seen in the better spirit of co-operation on the part of administration officers and the public.

**ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY:
APPROPRIATIONS**

Despite the above facts the power of certain Representatives and Senators at Washington during the past quarter-century has in another direction continued to be greater than it should be. We refer to the control of money bills. During the session of the Congress just closed a billion and twenty-five million dollars were appropriated. Since this is within a million dollars of the estimate submitted by the Executive to Congress, it testifies to the success of the President's effort in requiring closer scrutiny of the estimates by his Cabinet officers and thus reducing those estimates by millions of dollars. When the estimates are laid before Congress, they are considered in the House of Representatives by no less than eight committees. This plan of divided responsibility was adopted in 1885 by a Democratic House. But we note that ever since that date there has been an abnormal growth of public expenditures. In no inconsiderable degree this is due, we believe, to this very plan of divided responsibility.

In order to have proper economy and efficiency, the present plan should be reversed. The eight appropriating jurisdictions ought to be consolidated into a single committee, to be of sufficient size to be representative of all sections of the country and of every branch of the public service. Now that the Democrats are again in control of the House of Representatives, will they have the courage to undo the wrong done by them in 1885?



**THE CRAWFORD NOTCH
IN DANGER**

The news from New Hampshire is disquieting. It was supposed that when the Weeks Bill passed Congress, providing for the acquirement of forested watersheds, the White Mountains would thenceforth be saved from any unnecessary ax. But such is not the case. The ax is already at work, and it is at work in perhaps the most exquisite spot in the mountains, namely, the Crawford Notch. Many a lover of that place will read with indignation that lumbermen have already begun cutting down the forests which clothe its slopes. Although the State of New Hampshire has been singularly slothful in proper attention to its own forest interests, it is agreeable to know that a bill is now before the Legislature authorizing the Governor and Council to take possession of the Notch under the right of eminent domain and appropriating the sum of \$100,000. Opposition to the measure comes largely from those who do not realize that the Crawford Notch forests are a State asset, that in time they will pay not only all interest charges but also the principal. This statement, however, is not accepted by many New Hampshire folk. Some of them may be surprised to know that the people of their State receive no less than \$16,000,000 annually from their forests. But the chances for the passage of a Crawford Notch bill are much brighter now that New Hampshire has in its Governor a man who has shown great energy and far-sightedness in forestry work. Certainly, if the State will do its duty in saving the Crawford Notch, the Federal Government will be more apt to do its share in saving the whole White Mountain region.

MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES

Last week brought out little of a sensational nature as regards the concentrating of United States troops in Texas. The different bodies of the army set in motion by the order of the preceding week were rapidly brought into the camps at San Antonio and put into an effective condition for maneuvering on a large scale by brigades and divisions, while evident preparations also were made for guarding our southern border and thus to prevent any improper use of our territory by the insurgents in Mexico, or any illegal assistance to them from the American side of the line. A rather delicate question has arisen over the arrest of two young Americans who undoubtedly served in the army of insurrection. These young men are now imprisoned at Juarez; it is asserted by their friends that they were captured on American soil and practically kidnapped over the border; the Mexican authorities deny this, and claim that the young men were captured in Mexican territory. This raises an issue of fact and evidence, but there is little likelihood of strained relations between the two Governments, because both are anxious to deal with such subjects in a temperate and reasonable spirit. An indication of the increasing seriousness of the insurrection in Mexico has been the adoption by a permanent commission of the Mexican Congress of President Diaz's recommendation to suspend certain constitutional guarantees, and thus to make possible the immediate trial of men charged with the destruction of railway and telegraph lines, and those who burn or destroy property. The punishment of death may be applied after such an immediate trial. On their side, the *insurrectos* have issued a statement declaring that they are in arms for "a free Mexico and a fair election;" that President Diaz is not the real choice of the people; that the State of Chihuahua is practically in the hands of revolutionists, and that they expect to put ten thousand men in the field within a short time. *Per contra*, the Mexican Ambassador to Washington, Mr. de la Barra, thus describes the insurrection: "In the north, in a portion of the State of Chihuahua, some forces made up of malcontents who are against the local administration, without any military

organization, properly speaking, keep up a guerrilla warfare in which they will soon be subdued by force of arms, notwithstanding the advantages that kind of warfare gives them in a mountainous country." The reports as to actual operations are contradictory, but apparently the *insurrectos* are very active in cutting railway communications, while there have been no engagements of any consequence since that at Casas Grandes referred to last week. Reports that further orders for the concentration of United States troops in Texas were about to be issued have been contradicted, and, apparently at the request of the Mexican Government, our Navy Department has withdrawn from Mexican waters the war-ships which had been directed to cruise along the Mexican coast and enter Mexican ports. Mr. Roosevelt's comment before the Toltec Club in El Paso last week expresses American sentiment exactly: "All the United States wishes to see in Mexico is prosperity; we wish to see it have the prosperity that means material well-being, industrial success, coupled with order, justice, and independence."



A PROPHECIC SPEECH

Sir Edward Grey, in the absence of the Premier acting as the leader of the English Government, recently made a speech in the House of Commons which has attracted very wide attention, and which may ten years hence take its place as an event of the first importance. In a debate on the British naval programme he called attention to the remarkable progress toward arbitration, but declared that a long step must still be taken before arbitration will reduce the expenditures for armaments. He declared that he should perhaps have thought it unprofitable to mention arbitration had it not been for the fact that "twice within the last twelve months the President of the United States has sketched out a step in advance more momentous than any one thing that any statesman in his position has ventured to say before. His words are pregnant with very far-reaching consequences. He recently made the statement that he does not see personally any reason why matters of national honor