

family, subfamily, tribal and divisional names which Mr. Baker's novel idea implies.

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THE BEGINNINGS OF AMERICAN GEOLOGY

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Referring to Dr. T. C. Mendenhall's article on page 661 of the current volume of SCIENCE, I desire to say that I have no wish to enter into any controversy in regard to the facts of Newberry's connection with the Geological Survey of Ohio and I sincerely hope for the benefit of the history of American geology that Dr. Mendenhall is correct. Moreover, I yield to none in my high regard for both Newberry and Orton. My reference was entirely to a period prior to Orton's accession to the directorship of the survey and to the feelings which Newberry publicly expressed at the time I was a student under him at the Columbia School of Mines.

In confirmation of which I can only add that Charles A. White, than whom none knew Newberry better, writes in his memoir that was published by the National Academy of Sciences as follows: 'In 1874 the work of the survey was suspended by failure of the legislature to provide the necessary funds and much dissatisfaction and even bitterness of feeling was engendered among those who had taken part or had been interested in it. Dr. Newberry thought and with apparently good reason that injustice had been done him in his relation to the survey.'

MARCUS BENJAMIN

QUOTATIONS

THE FEDERAL BUDGET

THE estimates of the money needed by the federal government for 1924 are about \$3,000,000,000, excluding the Post Office, which it is hoped will be self-supporting. At a very moderate estimate, over two thirds of this will be spent on wars past, present or future. Nearly half a billion goes to the veterans, about a billion goes into the service of the debt accumulated in the last war, well over half a billion to maintaining the army and navy.

Half of the total expenditure is a debt to veterans and to bondholders. It is fixed. The other half of the expenditure is for the army,

the navy and the civil government. Here alone retrenchment is possible. Assuming that the administration sees no way to reduce the cost of the army and navy, but on the contrary, according to Secretaries Denby and Weeks, would like to increase these costs if possible, the taxpayer's position comes to this: If the whole civil government were dismantled or run free of charge the tax-saving would be less than 30 cents on a dollar.

Some part of this 30 cents is all that Mr. Harding has any hope of saving. The part which he is now thinking about is the part which goes into "research, improvement and development." Less than \$11,000,000 goes to research. If it were all abolished it would save just a trifle over one third of a cent on each dollar. Ten millions goes to education. Abolish this item and you have cut your budget .003 per cent. Sixteen millions goes for public health. Cease this activity and you save half a cent on a dollar. Abolish all public works, river and harbor improvements, road construction, the Reclamation Service, Alaskan railroad expenditures, hospital construction and other public improvements and the total saving would be less than 5 cents on a dollar. Abolish everything in the way of "research, improvement and development" and the taxpayer would not save 7 cents on a dollar.

The budget figures are the greatest indictment of modern civilization. They show that two thirds of the energy of government goes to the business of fighting, and that less than a third of the remaining third goes to the civilized business of research, improvement and development.—*The New York World*.

THE APPRECIATION OF SCIENCE

AT the anniversary dinner of the Royal Society it is customary to include among the guests some public men of distinction in other fields than those with which scientific men are concerned. Among such guests this year, at the dinner held on November 30, were Mr. Justice Darling, who proposed the toast of "The Royal Society," and Mr. L. S. Amery, first lord of the Admiralty, who responded to the toast of "The guests." If the assembly had consisted of leading representatives of literature or