

IX

CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

This mission, so far as can be seen at present, can be run efficiently on its present contingent allotment provided (1) that the monetary exchange remains at its present comparatively high rate and (2) that no urgent matter arises demanding telegraphic correspondence of any great volume. It is fully equipped with furniture and has two safes for the storing of valuable papers and money.

It must be stated, however, that a small change in conditions would make it absolutely impossible to run efficiently on the present allowance. For example, it has been impossible to set aside more than an extremely small sum this year for repairs to fixtures and buildings, and it is hoped that no considerable amount will be needed for this item. Likewise a return to the high coal prices of last year, combined with a decline in the exchange value of the dollar, would be extremely embarrassing, making it impossible to stay within the amounts estimated for heat and light for the present fiscal year.

Under instructions from the Department to use the telegraph only in the most urgent and necessary cases, the estimate for this item has been set at an extremely low figure. It is quite conceivable, however, that a case might arise making necessary the transmission of diplomatic notes between the Danish Government and the Department of State by telegraph through this mission; the transmission of three or four such telegrams would entirely exhaust the amount estimated under this head. When exhausted, it would

become

become impossible to telegraph further, no matter how urgent the case, since Congress has made it illegal to incur a deficit.