

# KEMMLER IS DEAD.

### The Electroconvulsion Was Not as Clean a Success as Hoped For.

#### Owing to the Shutting Off of the Deadly Current Too Quickly—A Second Application Made Death an Assured Fact.

ALBANY, N. Y., Aug. 6.—Kemmler is dead. At six o'clock this morning Warden Durston called the twenty-three witnesses which the law provided for, all of whom were to assist in the execution in some official capacity. All were prompt in responding to the summons.

At 6:38 a. m. the door at the right of the execution room opened and Warden Durston's figure appeared in the doorway. Behind him walked a spruce-looking, broad-shouldered little man, full bearded, with carefully-arranged hair clustering around his forehead. He was dressed in a suit of new clothing, a sack coat and a vest of dark gray material, trousers of a mixed yellow pattern, a white shirt whose polished front was exposed directly below a little bow of lawn of a black and white check pattern. This was William Kemmler, the man who was about to undergo the sentence of death. Behind him walked Dr. W. E. Houghton, and Chaplain Yates. Kemmler was by far the coolest man in the party. He did not look about the room with any special degree of interest. He hesitated, as the door was closed behind him and carefully looked by an attendant on the other side, as though he did not know exactly what to do.

"Give me a chair, will you?" said the warden. Some one quickly handed him a wooden chair which he placed in front and a little to the right of the execution chair facing the little circle of men. Kemmler sat down, complacently, and looked at him, and then up and down, without any evidence of fear or of special interest in the event. His face was not stolid—it was not indifferent. He looked if anything as though he was rather pleased at being the center of attention. Dr. Houghton stood at the left of the chair with his hand resting on the back of it, and almost at the moment that Kemmler



The Chair of Electroconvulsion.

took his seat he began to speak in short, quick periods. "Now, gentlemen," he said, "this is William Kemmler. I have warned him that he has got to die, and if he has any thing to say he will say it."

As the warden finished, Kemmler looked up and said, in a high-keyed voice, without any hesitation, and as though he had prepared himself with the speech: "Well, I wish every one good luck in this world, and I wish you an going to a good place, and the papers has been saying a lot of stuff that isn't so. That's all I have to say." With the conclusion of the speech he turned his back on the jury, took off his coat and handed it to the warden. This disclosed the chest and waist, and the cut from the hand of the trousers down, so as to expose the base of the spine. When his coat was off, Kemmler turned in the direction of the door through which he had come into the room and began to unbuckle his vest. At the same time he was looking at the warden and his assistants. When the straps had been adjusted about the body, the arms were fastened down, and then the warden leaned over and parted Kemmler's feet, so as to bring his legs near the legs of the chair. While the straps were being arranged Kemmler said to the warden and his assistants: "When your time. Don't be in a hurry. Be sure that every thing is all right."

Two or three times he repeated these words. Warden Durston reassured him with the remark that it would not hurt him, and that he (Durston) would be with him all through. But it was not fear that Kemmler felt. It was rather a certain pride in the exactness of the experiment. He seemed to have a greater interest in its success than those who had made the preparations for it and who were watching its progress to its final, fatal conclusion. When the straps had been adjusted to the body and limbs the warden placed his hand on Kemmler's head and held it against the rubber cushion which ran down the back of the chair. Kemmler's eyes were turned toward the operator's side of the room, before he had followed the warden in his movements. Then the condemned man made one or two remarks in a perfectly clear, composed tone of voice. "Well, I wish every body good luck, was one of them, and "Durston, see if these things are all right," was another. Deputy Vieling fastened the thumb-screw which held the rubber cup which held the saturated sponge pressed against Kemmler's head. The warden assisted in the preparation by holding Kemmler's head.

When the cup had been adjusted and clamped in place, Kemmler said: "Oh!

you'd better press that down further, I guess. Press that down."

So the head-piece was unclamped and pressed further down. While it was being done Kemmler said: "Well, I want to do the best I can. I can't do any better than that."

Warden Durston took in his hand the leather harness which was to be adjusted to Kemmler's head. It was a muzzle of broad leather straps which went across the forehead and the chin of the man in the chair. The top strap pressed down against the nose of Kemmler until it flattened it down slightly over his face.

As the harness was put in place, Dr. Spiza, who was standing near the chair, said, softly: "God bless you, Kemmler, and the condemned man answered: "Thank you," softly.

The door leading into the room where the switches were arranged was partly open. A man stood in the doorway. Beyond him there were two other men. Which of them was to touch the lever and make the connection with the chair was not known. Warden Durston says it will never be known. The dynamo in the room was running at good speed, and the volt meter on the wall registered a little more than 1,000 volts.

Warden Durston turned to the assembled doctors—those immediately around the execution chair—and said: "Do the doctors say it is all right?" "It is all right," said Dr. Houghton, since the adjustment of the straps. There was no time for Kemmler to have weak-ness, even if his marvelous courage had not been equal to the test of further delay. But there is no fear that he would have lost courage. He was excitedly, and who thought he had an approximate idea of the time, at least, said that it was four and a half minutes in all. The warden's assistant, who stood by the dynamo said that on the second signal, the machinery was run only a few minutes altogether. It will never be known with any degree of accuracy what the space of time was. No one was anxious to give the signal to stop. All dreaded the responsibility of offering the man a chance to revive or to give again at the moment when the current was running. It will never be known with any degree of accuracy what the space of time was. No one was anxious to give the signal to stop. All dreaded the responsibility of offering the man a chance to revive or to give again at the moment when the current was running.

Dr. Spiza answered the warden's question with a sharp "All right," which was echoed by the others about him. "It is all right," said Dr. Houghton, and then "Good-bye." He stepped to the door and through the opening said to some one in the next room—but to whom will probably never be known with certainty—"Every thing is ready."

In almost immediate response, and as the warden was standing in the center of the witnesses registered 6,437, the electric current was turned on. There was a sudden convulsion of the frame in the chair—a spasm went over it from head to foot—confined by the straps and springs that held it firmly so that no line of motion of the body stirred more than a small fraction of an inch from its resting place. The twitching that the muscles of the face underwent gave it for a moment an expression of pain. But no cry escaped from the lips which were free to move at will. The warden's assistants suggest that consciousness lasted more than an infinitesimal fraction of a second beyond the calculation of the human mind. The body remained in this rigid position for seventeen seconds.

The jury and the witnesses who had gathered in the room remained silent, and came hurriedly forward and surrounded the chair. There was no movement of the body from the first convulsion. It was not a pretty sight—this man in his shirt-sleeves, bound hand, foot, body and even head with a heavy frame-work of steel and brass, and with his skull still with the stiffness of death, the expression of the face (but for the discolorations of the skin) unchanged. The rigor of the body was a matter for comment and surprise among the physicians. The jaw had not fallen, and the pleasant expression with which Kemmler had greeted the witnesses as he entered the execution room, still lingered about the features.

It was determined that Dr. Jenkins of New York, instead of Dr. Daniel should do the work with the surgeons' knife, because of his long experience in performing autopsies on persons killed by electricity. Both Dr. Daniel and Dr. Jenkins stripped off their coats and vests and the surgeons' knives were opened and the glittering array of knives and saws brought out. The body was lifted from the chair and placed on the table in the center of the room. It still preserved its rigidity. A small wooden box was placed under the head to support it, and the limbs were straightened out as far as possible. Then a convict was summoned from the prison to take off the clothing. The removal revealed a scar nearly five inches in diameter where the second electrode had pressed against the base of the spine, slightly to the right of the first shock, and that it ran up to two thousand on the second.

The Autopsy. ALBANY, N. Y., Aug. 7.—Before 8:30 a. m. most of the doctors had returned to the prison to prepare for the autopsy. The body of the dead man still sat in the electric chair, the limbs rigid, the expression of the face (but for the discolorations of the skin) unchanged. The rigor of the body was a matter for comment and surprise among the physicians. The jaw had not fallen, and the pleasant expression with which Kemmler had greeted the witnesses as he entered the execution room, still lingered about the features.

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When the organs of the trunk of the body had been examined carefully, the top of the skull was removed and the brains. This was the most interesting feature of the examination, as the theory on which the electric chair is based is the theory that the electric current paralyzes the brain instantly and thus dulls all sensation. The physicians found evidence of the effect of the current on the formation of the skull, in the blood and on the brain tissue itself. The current was almost at a standstill and the volt-meter registered an almost imperceptible current. The operator sprang to the button and gave a sharp, quick signal. There was a rapid response, but quick as it was, it was not quick enough to anticipate the signs of what may or may not have been reviving consciousness. As the group of horror-stricken witnesses stood helplessly by, all eyes fixed on the chair, Kemmler's lips began to drip spittle, and in a moment more his mouth moved, and from his mouth came a heavy stertorous sound, quickening and increasing with every respiration—if

# STATE DEBTS.

### Some Interesting Figures Gathered from Census Reports—A Comparison with the Report of 1880 Shows Some Surprisingly Big Transfers to the Credit Side of the Ledger.

A census bulletin, issued by Superintendent Porter, contains a preliminary report relating to State debts and presents a summary of the outstanding debt of the several States June 1, 1880, and June 1, 1900. The superintendent says, in regard to these statistics, that "it is impossible in dealing with State and local finance to give all the returns as of June 1, 1880, and the act for taking the eleventh and subsequent censuses. The report, March 1, 1880, provides that returns shall be made of and for the fiscal year having its termination nearest to the 1st of June, 1880. As this plan was substantially adopted ten years ago, the comparison of the total debt in 1880 with the total debt of the present time is both fair and accurate. From these returns it will be seen that in the decade ending 1890 State indebtedness has decreased, in round numbers, about \$88,000,000."

Mr. J. K. Upton, the special agent on State debts, who has been in charge of the work, says that the reported bonded debt represents in each case the amount of negotiable securities outstanding at the time mentioned, and the floating debt, that of all other obligations of the State, including those assumed or incurred for the purpose of carrying out though no actual bonds or certificates have been issued, therefore the assets embrace the cash and all productive securities on hand of which a valuation is reported, whether they belong to the State or any of its funds, although in some cases the purpose of the debt is for the payment of debt, but are pledged for the use of schools or charities. It is shown by the statistics that the bonded debt of the States has decreased a little more than \$90,000,000 in the ten years, the present bonded indebtedness being \$194,800,000. The floating indebtedness of the States has increased in the same time by more than \$2,000,000, being now \$43,506,218.43. The exact total decrease is \$88,020,301.44, the total indebtedness of all the States being now \$238,306,218.43. There is more cash and funds on hand, however, this year than there was in 1880, the amount now being a little more than \$900,000,000. In 1880 it was only \$200,000,000. The net debt of the United States has decreased in ten years \$99,141,305.15. In most of the States the rate of discount has fallen during the decade, the report says, the reduction has been accomplished by applying to the extinguishment of their obligations the revenues not needed for current expenses. In a few States, however, the apparent decrease of the rate of discount is due to the refunding of the old debt with a new one at a discount varying from 25 to 85 per cent. In Virginia the rate of discount has been from 20 to 50 per cent, and the amount of discount \$3,334,300. In North Carolina the rate varied from 60 to 85 per cent, and the amount of discount \$7,678,278. In South Carolina 50 per cent has been the rate of discount, and the amount is only \$491,461. Louisiana's rate of discount has been 60 per cent, and the amount is \$9,375,057. The rate of discount in Tennessee has been about 45 per cent, and the amount of discount \$7,425. Taking from the amount of decrease in all the States the amount thus arising from the discount in refunding and there is left as paid in cash \$29,497,766.19, and the geographical section which includes these States, instead of having a decrease of about \$27,590,000, as shown by the statistics, has an increase of \$929,577.80.

Illinois shows the smallest bonded indebtedness, only \$23,100. This is a decrease of about \$250,000 since 1880. The largest bonded indebtedness is shown by Virginia—\$38,687,003.73, an increase of \$1,200,000, with only a couple of hundred thousand dollars less, and the third highest State is Pennsylvania—nearly \$14,000,000. Missouri shows a bonded indebtedness of \$8,788,000, a decrease of about one-half in ten years. Kansas has a bonded indebtedness of only \$8,783,703.98, bonded indebtedness in 1880 was \$1,181,975. Arkansas has a bonded indebtedness of \$1,963,100, a reduction of about \$1,000,000 since 1880. Texas shows a bonded indebtedness of \$4,337,730, a decrease of a little more than \$1,000,000 in ten years. Virginia has the largest floating indebtedness, nearly \$8,000,000, and Michigan is second, with \$5,000,000; Ohio is third, with \$4,000,000; Missouri is fourth, having a floating debt of \$3,674,000. This is an increase of more than \$600,000 in ten years. Illinois' floating debt is \$2,800,000, an increase since 1880, and is \$1,165,407.32. Kansas has no floating debt, and in this respect it is like Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas and West Virginia. Arkansas has a floating debt of \$2,332,000.

The richest treasury appears to be in Massachusetts, the State having cash and funds on hand to the amount of more than \$30,000,000. New York has over \$17,000,000 cash and funds on hand, and Minnesota is third with a surplus of nearly \$13,000,000. Pennsylvania has a little more than \$12,000,000. The smallest amount of cash and funds on hand is held by Maine, only \$62,000. Missouri has \$4,012,500 cash and funds on hand, an increase of about \$1,000,000 as compared with 1880. New Jersey has an increase of about \$1,000,000. Kansas is much better fixed than some of her neighbors, having cash and funds on hand to the amount of \$5,722,572.12, more than twice as much as she had ten years ago. The Arkansas treasury statement shows a surplus of \$4,783,703.98, an increase of nearly \$3,000,000 in ten years. Texas has a surplus of \$3,437,311.17, also an increase of about \$3,000,000 since 1880.

New York shows the highest total excess of assets over debt—about \$11,000,000—and Minnesota ranks next with \$8,000,000. Kansas shows an excess of nearly \$5,000,000, and Texas a little more than \$4,000,000.

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# REVOLT OF CONVICTS.

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# IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

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# TRADE AND COMMERCE.

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Illinois shows the smallest bonded indebtedness, only \$23,100. This is a decrease of about \$250,000 since 1880. The largest bonded indebtedness is shown by Virginia—\$38,687,003.73, an increase of \$1,200,000, with only a couple of hundred thousand dollars less, and the third highest State is Pennsylvania—nearly \$14,000,000. Missouri shows a bonded indebtedness of \$8,788,000, a decrease of about one-half in ten years. Kansas has a bonded indebtedness of only \$8,783,703.98, bonded indebtedness in 1880 was \$1,181,975. Arkansas has a bonded indebtedness of \$1,963,100, a reduction of about \$1,000,000 since 1880. Texas shows a bonded indebtedness of \$4,337,730, a decrease of a little more than \$1,000,000 in ten years. Virginia has the largest floating indebtedness, nearly \$8,000,000, and Michigan is second, with \$5,000,000; Ohio is third, with \$4,000,000; Missouri is fourth, having a floating debt of \$3,674,000. This is an increase of more than \$600,000 in ten years. Illinois' floating debt is \$2,800,000, an increase since 1880, and is \$1,165,407.32. Kansas has no floating debt, and in this respect it is like Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas and West Virginia. Arkansas has a floating debt of \$2,332,000.

The richest treasury appears to be in Massachusetts, the State having cash and funds on hand to the amount of more than \$30,000,000. New York has over \$17,000,000 cash and funds on hand, and Minnesota is third with a surplus of nearly \$13,000,000. Pennsylvania has a little more than \$12,000,000. The smallest amount of cash and funds on hand is held by Maine, only \$62,000. Missouri has \$4,012,500 cash and funds on hand, an increase of about \$1,000,000 as compared with 1880. New Jersey has an increase of about \$1,000,000. Kansas is much better fixed than some of her neighbors, having cash and funds on hand to the amount of \$5,722,572.12, more than twice as much as she had ten years ago. The Arkansas treasury statement shows a surplus of \$4,783,703.98, an increase of nearly \$3,000,000 in ten years. Texas has a surplus of \$3,437,311.17, also an increase of about \$3,000,000 since 1880.

New York shows the highest total excess of assets over debt—about \$11,000,000—and Minnesota ranks next with \$8,000,000. Kansas shows an excess of nearly \$5,000,000, and Texas a little more than \$4,000,000.

"Hans, put down that cake at once; have you no manners?" "Don't speak so loud, papa. You ought to be glad to have taken place the same night, but particulars can not be learned."

# REVOLT OF CONVICTS.

### Some Interesting Figures Gathered from Census Reports—A Comparison with the Report of 1880 Shows Some Surprisingly Big Transfers to the Credit Side of the Ledger.

Some interesting figures gathered from the report of the census of 1880, and the report of the census of 1900, show that the total indebtedness of the States has decreased in the decade ending 1890. The report, March 1, 1880, provides that returns shall be made of and for the fiscal year having its termination nearest to the 1st of June, 1880. As this plan was substantially adopted ten years ago, the comparison of the total debt in 1880 with the total debt of the present time is both fair and accurate. From these returns it will be seen that in the decade ending 1890 State indebtedness has decreased, in round numbers, about \$88,000,000.

Mr. J. K. Upton, the special agent on State debts, who has been in charge of the work, says that the reported bonded debt represents in each case the amount of negotiable securities outstanding at the time mentioned, and the floating debt, that of all other obligations of the State, including those assumed or incurred for the purpose of carrying out though no actual bonds or certificates have been issued, therefore the assets embrace the cash and all productive securities on hand of which a valuation is reported, whether they belong to the State or any of its funds, although in some cases the purpose of the debt is for the payment of debt, but are pledged for the use of schools or charities. It is shown by the statistics that the bonded debt of the States has decreased a little more than \$90,000,000 in the ten years, the present bonded indebtedness being \$194,800,000. The floating indebtedness of the States has increased in the same time by more than \$2,000,000, being now \$43,506,218.43. The exact total decrease is \$88,020,301.44, the total indebtedness of all the States being now \$238,306,218.43. There is more cash and funds on hand, however, this year than there was in 1880, the amount now being a little more than \$900,000,0