

# THE MADISON JOURNAL.

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## WHOLESALE PARDONING OF CONVICTS

NO GIVEN LIBERTY AT ONE TIME WHEN CHIEF EXECUTIVE DECIDES TO ABOLISH LEASE SYSTEM.

## ACTION FULFILLS THREAT

Gov. Donaghey Says He Had Made Repeated Efforts to Obtain Better Conditions in Camps but Had Failed.

## STATEMENT TO LEGISLATURE

Document Explains Attitude and Recommendations for Changes—Cites Instances of Cruelty.

Western Newspaper Union News Service. Little Rock, Ark.—Governor Donaghey has pardoned 360 convicts in Arkansas. He gave as his reason that conditions were inhuman and unbearable and that repeated efforts to obtain relief by other methods had failed. Three convict camps in Arkansas will be wiped out by the wholesale granting of pardons. These camps are the ones where convicts are leased to contractors and do not include the camps where convicts are employed in building state roads.

The wholesale pardon of 360 convicts is a direct practical assault upon the convict lease system in Arkansas. It will mean that when the lease of the present contractors is asked to be renewed on January 1, the Penitentiary Board either will have to abandon a large part of the work on the state farm, or refuse to renew the lease. The reduction is such that it will leave just enough convicts to work the state farm, and it will be several years before the number of men will be increased to such an extent that they can be leased to contractors. Meanwhile, the governor will recommend that the legislature amend the present laws so as to do away with the convict lease system.

The three convict farms effected are in Desha, Mississippi and Jefferson counties.

Governor Donaghey has prepared a long statement to the legislature in which he gives all his reasons for the wholesale issuance of pardons.

He begins his message as follows: "To the Thirty-ninth General Assembly:

"I have consistently fought the convict lease system ever since I have been in public office. In every public speech I have denounced it. As a member of the Penitentiary Board, I have opposed it in every instance where it was at issue. Time after time I have pleaded with the legislature to abolish it. But in spite of my appeals for relief and the repeated protests of the people of this state and the reports of the Board of Penitentiary Management by its chairman to the governor, and the messages transmitted by the governor to the past two General Assemblies, all in condemnation of this cruel penitentiary and county farm lease system, no adequate relief has yet been given. The subject has been grossly neglected by the General Assembly, partly due to a confusion of ideas as to what plan best to adopt, and partly due to a disposition by some to let the matter remain as it is, with the statement that the penitentiary was not designed for a Sunday school."

Governor Donaghey goes on to say that the convict system of Arkansas was not designed for a "revengeful hell." He says he has repeatedly tried to get action in the matter from the legislature. The governor tells how he obtained information regarding these camps and says one could hardly believe the

standards that President-elect Wilson already is considering a man for the London post and he does not wish to appoint some one who can serve only a few months.

**Woodrow Wilson Returns.** Princeton, N. J.—After a month's leisure and recreation in the Bermuda Islands, Woodrow Wilson returned home and took up in earnest the many tasks that confront him as governor of New Jersey and president-elect of the United States.

**Officers and Desperado Killed.** Santa Ana, Cal.—In a fight in the hills at Tamala Springs between a young desperado, name unknown, and about 30 years old and more than 100 county officers, guardsmen and citizens the outlaw, who had attacked a young girl recently was killed; Under Sheriff Robert Squires also was killed and three of his deputies were seriously wounded.

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stories told of it were not for papers to back up the truth. Following are a few examples given by the governor's statement:

"Instance No. 1: In Phillips county, according to the court records, two negroes jointly forced nine orders for one quart of whiskey each. For this offense, one of them was convicted and sent to the penitentiary for 24 years, and the other for 18 years. When the record of the circuit court convicting them was obtained by me, I at once issued pardons for both of them. They had no one to appear in their behalf, and at the time I issued the pardons I was notified by the penitentiary officials that after serving nearly two years of the time, the negro convicted for 36 years had died.

"Instance No. 2: During the year 1912 it was reported by the citizens of Malvern that while working near that town for a contractor on the railroad, a young white boy convict was compelled to work in the hot sun while he had a burning fever on him, that he was refused the necessary attention, and that the next day he died. Concerning this matter, it was published in the Times-Journal, a paper at Malvern, that information had been obtained from the convicts that they were fed mostly on sour pork and beans and were herded in cars at night, 24 or 25 men to the car, where they slept amid filth and vermin, and that the slightest complaint upon the part of any convict brought him a lashing on his back with a leather strap six feet long and four inches wide, and that men sent out from the walls, unaccustomed to labor, or to work on railroads were made to do the hardest work in the hot sun from the start; and that if they lagged or showed inability to do the work, they were thrown to the ground and lashed with a strap to the extent of ten licks and sometimes as many as 15, according to the humor of the warden.

"Instance No. 3: It was reported from Ward Station that, while working on the railroad for a contractor, a white boy convict, convicted of a minor offense, was shot down and after being delivered to the station to be transported to the hospital, while lying on the platform of the depot in the burning hot sun, his blood trickling down the planks of the platform, that many people passed by and offered to give him relief, the warden refused to permit any one to go near him. He was transported to the hospital, and next day died.

The present penitentiary system of the state is attacked and recommendation made for a change in management. In concluding a long statement Mr. Donaghey says in part: "In concluding what I have to say upon this subject, permit me to say: That I favor law enforcement. That I have been conservative in granting pardons. That I have not been unduly exercised from sentimental causes. That I have not issued pardons for political favors. That much of the opposition I have had has been from parties disappointed in gaining pardons. That I believe it is right and just to legally punish criminals in severity and terms of confinement according to their crimes. But enforcing law by putting criminals in the penitentiary, and then selling their flesh and blood to contractors after they have been bound and manacled in chains and driven and lacerated with shackles and lashed under such conditions that the contractors are enabled to make fortunes, while from cruelty the lives of the convicts are snuffed out, is a different matter altogether.

"Such abuse of power is a reflection on our intelligence, a repudiation of the principles of civilization, a crime against humanity, and, if continued, will cause a forfeit of that respect which a state should maintain among the sisterhood of states of this nation. In a commitment which accompanies a convict to the penitentiary that, though he is deprived of his liberty as a citizen, he still is granted the right to live and to be cared for in a manner commensurate with sound reason, good judgment and human mercy.

"The state does not intend, nor should it longer permit, conditions to arise by which convicts may be subjected to such treatment that their imprisonment carries the combined penalties of loss of liberty, hard labor and severity of punishment until death itself may end their lives. If for the protection of the state and the preservation of society the death penalty must be given, the courts and the juries are the proper forum from which it must be pronounced.

**Yaft Will Not Choose Successor.** Washington.—President Taft announced through Secretary Hills that the post of ambassador to Great Britain made vacant by the death of Whiteley Reid will not be filled by him. This announcement followed a conference between the president and Secretary Knox. The president believes that important diplomatic questions involving Great Britain and the United States can be handled successfully in Washington by Mr. Knox and the British ambassador. He under-

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## MISCARRIED CHRISTMAS MAIL



## 1912 COTTON CROP 13,820,000 BALES

Arkansas Raised 854,000 Bales, Louisiana 435,000, Oklahoma 1,039,000.

Washington.—The American cotton crop for the season of 1912-13 will amount to 13,820,000 bales of 500 pounds, (not including linters) according to the first estimate made by the government this year through the crop reporting board, bureau of statistics, Department of Agriculture.

This compares with 15,692,701 bales of 500 pounds, exclusive of linters, produced in the record crop of last year, when the total crop inclusive of linters was 16,250,000 bales of 500 pounds; 11,608,616 bales in 1910, which, including linters, amounted to 12,005,688 bales; 10,004,949 bales in 1910, which, including linters, amounted to 10,815,382 bales; 13,241,709 bales in 1908, which, including linters, amounted to 13,887,306 bales, and 11,107,179 bales in 1907, which, including linters, amounted to 11,375,461 bales. The average total production, exclusive of linters, for the five years from 1906 to 1910 was 11,847,270.

The value of the crop, including seed, for the same period, averaged \$775,822,000, while last year's record crop is estimated to have been worth \$858,840,000 and the 1910 crop \$963,180,000, the most valuable ever produced.

The country's cotton crop this year will amount to 6,612,336,000 pounds of lint, exclusive of linters, the Department of Agriculture estimated in its annual report. This is equivalent to 13,820,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight and makes the crop this year, in point of quality second only to the great record crop of 15,692,701 bales, exclusive of linters grown last year.

The estimated production, exclusive of linters and stated in 500-pound bales, by states, with comparisons, follows:

Arkansas—Total production 854,000 bales, compared with 939,302 bales last year, and 856,703 bales, the average 1906-10. The value of the crop last year was \$51,060,000.

Oklahoma—Total production 1,039,000 bales, compared with 1,022,092 bales last year, and 783,796 bales, the average 1906-10. The value of the crop last year was \$55,070,000.

Louisiana—Total production 435,000 bales, compared with 384,597 last year, and 526,481 bales, the average 1906-10. The value of the crop last year was \$21,010,000.

North Carolina—Total production 878,000 bales, compared with 1,075,825 bales last year, and 627,668 bales, the average 1906-10. The value of the crop last year was \$58,810,000.

California—Total production 9,000 bales, compared with 9,790 bales last year.

Mississippi—Total production 1,109,000 bales, compared with 1,203,545 bales, the average 1906-10. The value of the crop last year was \$66,530,000.

South Carolina—Total production 1,184,000 bales, compared with 1,648,712 bales last year, and 1,085,893 bales, the average 1906-10. The value of the crop last year was \$21,010,000.

Virginia—Total production 24,000 bales, compared with 29,891 bales last year, and 12,064 bales, the average 1906-10. The value of the crop last year was \$1,380,000.

Tennessee—Total production 280,000 bales, compared with 449,737 bales last year, and 200,867 bales, the average 1906-10. The value of the crop last year was \$24,680,000.

Missouri—Total production 59,000 bales, compared with 96,808 bales last year, and 51,456 bales, the average 1906-10. The value of the crop last year was \$5,390,000.

## ALLENS ARE SENTENCED

Men Who Started Trouble in Court-house Accept Compromise Terms.

Western Newspaper Union News Service. Wytheville.—Final settlement of all the cases resulting from the killing of five persons in the Hillsville courthouse by the Allen clan on March 14 last, was reached when Sidna Allen pleaded guilty to second degree murder for killing Sheriff Webb and Wesley Edwards pleaded guilty to three charges pending against him.

Thirty-five years in the penitentiary is the penalty Sidna Allen will pay for the part he played in the shooting. Allen's nephew, Edwards, will spend 27 years in the penitentiary. Allen already had been found guilty of second degree murder at a former trial for the killing of Judge Thornton M. Massie, for which he had been sentenced to 15 years in the penitentiary. The other indictment pending against him for the murder of Sheriff Webb was compromised by letting him plead guilty to second degree murder and take a 15-year sentence, the combined sentences making 35 years.

Three indictments against Wesley Edwards also were compromised, he taking a sentence of nine years' imprisonment on each. The second trial of Sidna Allen when he fled closed so far as the courts are concerned the courthouse tragedy. On the 14th of last March, following the conviction of Floyd Allen of an offense which would have sent him to the penitentiary for one year, members of the Allen family, clannish mountaineers, opened fire on the court officials. At the first volley Judge Thornton Massie fell mortally wounded and when the death toll was completed, Sheriff Webb and Commonwealth's Attorney Foster were found dead. On the following day one of the three jurors who were shot, died of his wounds, as did Miss Betty Ayers, who had been a witness against Floyd Allen.

**Ku Klux in Action.** Dalton, Ga.—A revival of the days of the Ku Klux Klan occurred here, when a band of masked men wearing robes took John Watkins from his home to the center of the town, where he was given a severe whipping. Watkins was then given three days' leave of town. The action is said to have followed Watkins' refusal, after being named, to get rid of several alleged disorderly white women living in one of his houses.

**Mexico City.**—Sixty rebels of the Cheche Campos command were killed in an engagement near Sombrerete, state of Zacatecas, according to official telegrams received here. Colonel Guagardo, commanding the rurals, makes no reference to the death of Campos which was officially reported.

**Disease is Spreading.** Washington.—Pellagra is spreading in the United States and in six years it has been known to medical authorities has claimed not less than 30,000 victims with a fatality rate in excess of 40 per cent, according to a report of the Public Health Service. It has reached, the report contends, "the dignity of a public health question of national importance." The report gives these figures by states for the period of 1907-11.

**Hyde Sentenced, Freed on Bond.** New York.—Chas. H. Hyde, former city chamberlain, convicted of bribery in connection with the manipulation of city funds, was sentenced by Justice Goff to serve not more than three years and six months and not less than two years in state's prison. The justice, however, granted a certificate of reasonable doubt and issued a stay of execution, agreeing to admit the prisoner to \$25,000 bail, pending argument of his appeal.

**French Ship Pays Visit.** New Orleans.—The French warship Descartes arrived in the port last week for a short visit. While here the officers and men of the battleship were entertained by the citizens of this city. The French captain of the ship expressed himself pleased with the hospitality shown by the people of Louisiana. The people of French descent made the occasion a gala one. They entertaining the officers and men with banquets and sight-seeing

## NEWS OF LOUISIANA

**Pardon Board Acts Favorably in Canton Case—Several Get Reductions.**

## DOWLING CONDEMNNS JAIL

Visits Monroe and Finds Conditions to Be Bad—Prisoners Are Removed Immediately.

Western Newspaper Union News Service. New Orleans.—No, Rene Canton will live.

Such was the determination of the board of pardons, Attorney General Pleasant dissenting. "The pardon was voted for by Lieutenant Governor Barret and Presiding Judge Chretien, incidentally contradicting the opinion of the twelve freeholders who condemned the murderer to die while sitting as a jury. The following were shown clemency by the board:

Emile Dalon, convicted of arson in the parish of Orleans in 1883, and sentenced to a term of 15 years.

R. H. Gregory, convicted in parish of Calcasieu of selling liquor without a license.

Joe White, convicted of forgery, parish of Vernon, sentenced to 10 years hard labor, commuted to five years.

Adolus Lajeune, convicted of murder in the parish of St. Landry, sentenced to penitentiary for life.

John Pilkington, convicted in parish of Rapides and sentenced to 14 years in the penitentiary, commuted sentence to six years.

Lee Bryce, convicted of larceny in parish of Bienville and sentenced to nine months in the state penitentiary, restoration of citizenship.

John Pryor, convicted of robbery in Bossier parish, sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

Grant Wilson, convicted of manslaughter in West Feliciana parish, five years in the penitentiary.

C. A. Downs, convicted of liberating a prisoner and sentenced to one year from the parish of Webster.

Rex Ramsey, convicted of breaking and entering in the night time and larceny and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment.

Adam Gath, convicted of manslaughter in Iberville parish and sentenced to nine months' hard labor, restoration of citizenship.

James Meehan, convicted in parish of Orleans for petty larceny and sent to penitentiary for one year, restoration of citizenship.

James Robinson, convicted of manslaughter in parish of Orleans and sentenced to 20 years' hard labor in penitentiary, commuted sentence February 7, 1913.

## JAIL IS CONDEMNED

Dr. Dowling Visits Monroe and Causes Removal of Prisoners.

Western Newspaper Union News Service. Monroe.—Dr. Oscar Dowling, president of the state board of health, spent four hours here last week during which time he wrought havoc with things. He came in response from local physicians to look over the situation relative to meningitis. Dr. Dowling also noted the filth that has accumulated since his last visit, also to more unmolessted places. Upon invitation from C. P. Gray, parish coroner, Dr. Dowling, in company with Drs. Wright and Gladden, visited the parish jail and found conditions there so deplorable, owing to the crowded condition of the jail, that the jail was condemned and steps taken to remove the prisoners.

## New Instructor Arrives.

Baton Rouge.—First Lieutenant Manfred Lanza, of the United States army, has arrived here and assumed his duties as inspector general and instructor for the Louisiana National Guard, provision for which is made under the terms of the Dick bill. He succeeds Captain Danforth, who has been assigned to his regiment.

**Exhibit Attracts Attention.** Baton Rouge.—E. O. Bruner, commissioner of agriculture and immigration, returned from Chicago, where he had been with Justin Denechaud, Secretary of Trade, and others attending the Chicago Land Show, handling the Louisiana exhibit. Mr. Bruner confirms reports from Chicago that the Louisiana exhibit this year was a great success and attracted unusual attention.

**Rice Bringing Good Prices.** Crowley.—Although the supply has been greatly decreased by an active market, many buyers are offering larger prices than the association's to obtain rough rice. Most of the crop was disposed of at growers' price.

**City Budget Jumps \$38,000.** Shreveport.—The 1913 city budget, passed by the council estimates expenditures at \$241,582, against \$213,643 last year. A total increase of nearly \$6,000 is shown in the fire and police departments. Improvement get an increase exceeding \$5,000. Charities get \$6,000 increase.

**Kills Self in Jail.** Doyle.—Allen C. Jones, who was confined in the parish jail at Springville on the charge of murdering P. W. Sullivan during the latter part of November, committed suicide by cutting his throat with a pocket knife. The grand jury had just acted in his case, but the result was not known, as the verdict was sealed, and sent to the judge, who lives at Amite.

**Secretary Hebert Returns.** Baton Rouge.—Alvin Hebert, secretary of state, returned from New York, where he attended the meeting of the state insurance commissioners.

**Delegates Are Appointed.** Alexandria.—The president of the Progressive League has appointed I. W. Sylvester and J. A. Bentley as delegates to the National River Regulation and Flood Prevention Conference, to be held in New Orleans, January 6 and 7.

## NEW ELECTION TANGLE

Negligence in Reporting Returns Complicates Matters.

Western Newspaper Union News Service. Shreveport.—One man receiving the highest number of votes, but his opponent getting the commission because one of the boxes was not officially returned, is the puzzling situation growing out of the contest in the Eighth Ward of Caddo parish for the office of justice of the peace, in which Walter Jacobs and H. M. Sutton were candidates. Jacobs received the highest number of ballots polled in the two precincts, Forbing and Caspians, but Sutton got the commission, due to the failure of the election commissioners to present the returns to Chairman W. H. Scheen, of the board of supervisors. It was a race for successor to the late Judge B. R. Jacobs, father of Walter Jacobs, who resigned as constable to make the race at the last election. The vote stood: Forbing, Jacobs 7, Sutton 8; Caspians, Jacobs 16, Sutton 6. Jacobs had nine majority, but the lack of returns from Caspians caused Sutton to be declared elected. A court battle is expected.

## DR. DOWLING ACTIVE

Inspects Shreveport Department Stores—Finds Law Violations.

Western Newspaper Union News Service. Shreveport.—Continuing his crusade against violations of the health laws in Shreveport, State Health Officer Dowling has been inspecting department stores and ordering improvements, especially as to toilet rooms and lavatories, which he found in bad condition. "I found the law against the individual drinking out and roller-towel being violated indiscriminately," said Dr. Dowling, who exhibited a package in which he said were a number of "contraband" bottles purchased from department stores in Shreveport—drugs that are permitted to be sold only in drug stores by a registered pharmacist.

## Prisoners Saved From Fire.

New Iberia.—Fire broke out in the parish prison, where 17 prisoners were confined. Their cries for help gave the alarm, and soon all were transferred to the city jail. The parish prison is a modern brick and steel building, with concrete floors, and fire-proof throughout, fire having originated in the wood rafters in the attic. The damage, covered by insurance, will probably reach \$3,000.

## Franchise is Granted.

Shreveport.—The city council passed an ordinance formally granting to the Louisiana-Texas Traction Company a franchise to build terminal properties and use streets here in connection with an interurban electric line the company proposed to build between Shreveport and east Texas points. The franchise was granted without requiring bond, due to the people at referendum authorizing it.

## Another Train Mix-Up.

Laplace.—Freight train No. 58 going north ran into mixed log and cane train extra No. 92, also going north. No. 93 was endeavoring to switch in the spur at Laplace to allow No. 58 to go by. It seems that failure to use the stop signal by No. 93 caused the wreck. Four box cars were wrecked on the main line, while two cane cars were overturned on the spur.

## Negro Desperado Captured.

Shreveport.—Gus Kinley, alias Will Taylor, a negro farmer, who on November 26 killed Constable G. W. Tucker, of Omaha, Morris county, Tex., while the officer was making a seizure, and for whose arrest rewards aggregating \$650 were offered at Daingerfield, Texas, was captured in a turpentine swamp near Fields, La., in Calcasieu parish.

## To Vote on Drainage.

Alexandria.—The property taxpayers of Horseshoe District No. 1, near this city, will vote on January 15 on the proposition to authorize the incurring of a debt and issuing of \$12,500 of bonds for the purpose of providing drainage system in the district. The bonds are to run for 15 years and bear interest at a rate not exceeding 5 per cent.

## PENSION BOARD MEETS

New Tax Not Yet Effective—No Change Made in Old Roll.

Western Newspaper Union News Service. Baton Rouge.—The State Board of Pension Commissioners met their last week. State Auditor Capdeville, ex-officio member of the board, called attention to the fact that the special one-mill Confederate tax amendment ratified by the people November 5 is not effective until 1913, and is not collectable until after the filing of the tax rolls of 1913. Many had been under the impression that the tax was collectable now and available for use by the pension board at the quarter. Until this one-mill tax is available the board will depend upon the present appropriation and the revenue from the one-fifth of a mill. The amount for the pensions will not be changed at this meeting and no additional names will be added.

## Falls From Trestle.

Shreveport.—While walking on a railroad trestle at Mooringsport Ed Murphy, oil field worker of Oil City, became dizzy and fell, landing on the ground forty feet below, sustaining a broken back and other injuries that are expected to cause death.

## Assistant Attorney Named.

Baton Rouge.—C. E. Hardin, of Leesville has been named by Governor Hall as attorney to assist the tax collector for the parish of Vernon.

## State News

Crowley.—Wilma Robinson, daughter of Mack Robinson, aged 5 years, is in a serious condition with lockjaw, the result of a small splinter stuck in her foot four weeks ago. The splinter was removed at the time and the wound apparently healed, but inflammation set in.

## Georgia Secretary Summoned.

Atlanta.—Secretary of State Phil Cook has been summoned by the district attorney to Lake Charles, La., to be present at a trial in the United States District Court December 16 to testify to certain articles in the statutes covering alleged Georgia land grants in a case where a Louisiana man is charged with fraudulent use of the mails in attempting to dispose of a fraudulent land grant in Georgia to an innocent prospective buyer.

## TO STOP WASTE OF GAS

Co-Operation Between Conservation Commission and Owners.

Western Newspaper Union News Service. Shreveport.—At a conference among whom were President M. L. Alexander, of the State Conservation Commission; representatives of various oil and gas interests, including former Governor Blanchard, it was decided that President W. E. Glassell, of the Chamber of Commerce, who presided, appoint a committee of nine oil and gas men to prepare rules and regulations for checking the enormous and indifferent waste of gas in the Caddo oil field. The committee will report January 15, and then the Conservation Commission will appoint an expert inspector to spend all his time in the field to see that the law is obeyed.

Mr. Alexander appealed for the co-operation of the oil and gas operators, so as to have as little friction as possible. If this co-operation is not granted, however, the commission will act independently, for it has determined, with the law behind it, to stop this waste of one of Louisiana's biggest assets.

Governor Blanchard and others thanked the commission for its spirit of fairness and predicted that the necessary co-operation would be furnished, as all the operators realized the danger of the wastefulness. It developed that the principal waste is not from the use of gas in bringing in oil wells, but wild and burning wells, unnecessary opening of wells and other reckless practices also cause big drains on the supply.

## RICE FARM REPORT

Increase and Other Figures Given by U. S. Census Department.

Washington.—Statistics of irrigation for rice for Louisiana are soon to be issued by the Bureau of the Census.

The acreage, production and value of rough rice grown in the United States, and in Louisiana in 1900, are given in the following table in the report: Acreage harvested, United States 610,175, Louisiana 317,517; yield (bushels), United States, 21,838,580, Louisiana 10,839,973; value, United States \$16,019,607, Louisiana \$8,053,522.

The number of farms reporting irrigation for rice in Louisiana was 2,690 in 1909 and 4,531 in 1900, a decrease of 40.6 per cent.

Acreage irrigated for rice-growing in Louisiana was 380,200 in 1909 and 201,685 in 1900, a gain of 88.5 per cent.

The average yield of irrigated rice in Louisiana for the acreage for which yields were reported was 34.6 bushels per acre, and the average value was \$25.70 per acre.

Cost of irrigation enterprises in Louisiana up to July 1, 1910, was \$6,859,166, as against \$2,529,319 in 1900, a gain of 171.2 per cent.

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