

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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Table with 2 columns: Date and Circulation figures. Includes weekly and monthly averages, net sales, and less unsold and returned copies.

GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK, Subscribed and sworn before me this 2nd day of October, A. D. 1899. M. B. HUNGATE, Notary Public.

Newspaper readers will notice that The Bee is the only paper in Omaha that has the enterprise to collect and present the registration figures complete for their benefit.

What has happened to the great Arkansas statesman, Chairman Jones of the democratic national committee? A few proclamations over his name are several weeks overdue.

The fusionists find almost as little consolation in the figures of the second day's registration as they found in those of the first day. Two to one for the republicans shows which way the wind blows.

All Iowa is waiting for the returning volunteers to take up their railroad journey from San Francisco eastward. The mustering officers cannot complete their work too soon or the trains carry the regiments too rapidly.

If the exposition of 1898 had been favored by the weather clerk the closing month was the exposition this year the stockholders would have received 100 cents on the dollar instead of 90 cents and a handsome dividend to boot.

South Omaha was a fusion stronghold in years of business depression and idle workmen. Now, however, that is one of the busiest and most prosperous cities of the state and the republican party should carry it by a good safe majority.

If the railroad companies of Nebraska want to sow the wind by an arbitrary blanket advance in freight rates in the natural products of this state they may expect as an inevitable result to reap the whirlwind in the shape of restrictive laws.

It is safe and reasonable to predict that hundreds of voters in this city who in recent years supported the fusion tickets will this year vote with the republicans, but for good and sufficient reasons will not declare their intention so to do.

The Bryan press agent with his automatic magnifying optics is again abraded in Nebraska. If he is not engaged at once to take the next census the state will lose the opportunity of showing up in the population scale with at least 5,000,000 people.

It is as impossible for the Omaha Bakery to go through a political campaign without nud-slinging as it is for a horse to fly. But after the fusion organ has provoked republicans to retaliation it will raise its usual cry about unfair methods in political warfare.

One of the populist papers is quoting what Bryan said about David B. Hill in 1893, but they are not quoting what Bryan said about the party of silver and wheat in 1896. The irrefutable logic of events makes Bryan's assertions of 1896 bad campaign material for the populists in 1899.

Emperor William wants to increase his navy by the addition of enough battleships and cruisers to make a respectable navy all by itself. The German kaiser knows that the war of the future must be fought on sea as well as on land and he does not propose to be caught unprepared.

The principal reply to the publication of the Bryan letter to J. Sterling Morton, in which the silver colonel asserts that he is after office for the money rather than the honor in it, is to call Mr. Morton all sorts of names. This may be hard on Morton, but it is difficult to see how it helps Bryan.

Registration returns of the city of Omaha show to what depths the populist organization in this community has been brought by the policy of the state house machine. Two days of registration discloses only 285 voters who still wish to profess the populist name, when five years ago nearly 2,000 populists were registering their votes for populist candidates. The swallowing process seems to have been pretty effective in Douglas county.

AUDACIOUS THIMBLE RIGGING.

The brazen attempt of the popocratic machine to override the law directing the placing of party nominations on the official ballot is a piece of political thimble rigging as audacious as any ever attempted by the most unscrupulous partisan manipulators. Although the law expressly states that the first position on the ticket belongs to the candidate of the political party polling the highest number of votes and it is conceded that the republican party has regularly polled more votes in Nebraska than any other party, yet the populist secretary of state defiantly reverses the legal order and the popocratic managers are asking for a mandamus in this county to compel the clerk to ignore the plain letter of the law, alleging that for this purpose the fusion candidates are entitled to count as their own the votes cast by all parties in opposition to the republicans.

In a word, according to this contention there are three separate political parties in the fusion fold so far as holding state conventions is concerned and labeling nominees with three distinct party names, but only one political party when it comes to add up the votes. The party for which the claim is set up that it polled the highest number of votes is the "fusion" party, but no "fusion" state convention has ever been held, no "fusion" certificate of nomination ever filed, no "fusion" state committee ever appointed.

The only case on record that compares at all with this for monumental jugglery is that in which the local popocratic organ sought to secure legal advertising on a claim of largest circulation for a paper it called the Daily World-Herald, which had no existence in fact and of which not a copy could be produced, but for which a perjured circulation was sworn to by adding together the circulations of two separate papers, one morning and one evening, and setting it up against the circulation of the Omaha Evening Bee.

The republican party stands everywhere for a free ballot and an honest count, while the popocratic combination represents the suppression of the negro vote by force, the perpetration of the recent frauds, the manipulation of the official ballot and every species of election trickery and fraud. In this county the populists have appealed to one court to compel the acceptance of a fraudulent certificate of nomination for one candidate who wants to use the populist name as that of a distinct political party and to another court to declare that no such party exists, but that it is only a part of the "fusion" party so that their candidates may demand the place on the official ballot that belongs to their opponents. To what greater depths could the self-styled forces of reform have fallen in their repudiation of all political principle and decency to promote the mad quest for patronage and plunder?

ASSERTION VERSUS FACT.

Colonel Bryan said in his talk at Oxford on Saturday that "the republican party in its present position on almost every issue of the day is antagonizing the interests of the farmer, the laborer and the business man." This is a characteristic assertion of the popocratic leader and as usual he offered nothing in support of it. As is well known, however, Colonel Bryan has little regard for facts and he has never shown less than in the present campaign. He does not argue; he simply dogmatizes. There are people who unquestionably accept as truth everything that Colonel Bryan says, but there are many others who will not be satisfied with mere assertion and demand evidence.

If Colonel Bryan were required to show in what respect the republican party antagonizes the interests of the farmer, the laborer and the business man he would find the task very difficult. The whole record of republican policy since the organization of the party confutes the assertion. That policy has built up the greatest market in the world—a market which last year consumed agricultural products to the value of \$3,683,000,000. It has developed the industries of the United States so that this is now the leading manufacturing nation of the world, exporting annually to foreign markets hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of the products of our mills and factories. Under the operation of that policy American labor has been raised to a higher plane than that of any other country, so that the state of the American workman is envied throughout the civilized world.

It would require columns to show all that republican policy has accomplished in developing the resources of the country, increasing facilities of transportation, stimulating the enterprise of the people and augmenting the national wealth, all of which has contributed and is still contributing to the interests and welfare of the farmer, the laborer and the business man.

It is unnecessary, however, to review the entire record. That of the last few years is sufficient to show the utter falsity of Colonel Bryan's assertion. It is familiar to everybody. Three years ago there was a democratic tariff in operation and the farmer, the laborer and the business man were suffering. A large part of the industries of the country were idle, labor vainly sought employment, the farmer was not repaid for his toil, business was unprofitable. It was a period of calamity and distress. Due to the tariff policy which Colonel Bryan helped to establish and to the cheap money craze of which he became and is yet the chief exponent, it made him a presidential candidate and he went up and down the country telling the farmer, the laborer and the business man that their only hope of saving themselves from more dire distress than they were suffering was in adding to an industry-depressing tariff a debased currency. A majority of the people rejected his advice and declared their faith in the republican policies of protection to American industries and sound money. This faith has been splendidly vindicated. The return to power of the republican party brought a change that has ripened into a measure of prosperity unparalleled in our history. No other three years witnessed such material progress and such ad-

dition to the national wealth as have been during the last three years and in this all classes of the people have shared.

Will any fair-minded man deny that this is largely due to republican policy? And the republican party has the same policy today that it had three years ago, when Colonel Bryan was telling the people that ruin and disaster awaited them if they restored the republican party to power. It is still the party of protection and a sound currency, of public and private honesty; the party that believes in maintaining the national credit, in building up the home market for American producers and in developing industries for the benefit of American labor. There is not an issue before the country as to which the position of the republican party is not entirely defensible. Colonel Bryan underestimates the popular intelligence when he tells the prosperous farmer, the workman who has full employment at good wages and the business man whose trade is active that their interests are antagonized by the position of the republican party.

REGISTRATION OF WOMEN.

The contention over the question as to whether women desiring to vote at the coming school election must register their names the same as male voters has brought out a diversity of opinion. The state superintendent of public instruction contends that women must register hereafter before they can be allowed to vote at school elections in towns where registration of voters is required. The city attorney of Omaha gives it as his opinion that women have a right to vote for members of the school board without registration. This opinion seems to us to be sound. While it is true that the amended school law contemplates the registration of women, the law prescribing the mode of registration, questions to be asked each voter and the recording of the answers makes no reference to the qualifications of women, nor do the blanks furnished each registrar include columns where the qualifications of women voters are to be recorded. Registrars may ask the questions whether the woman applying for registration is of lawful age, whether she is the mother of children of school age, or whether she pays taxes on realty in her own name, which, by the way, is a question at variance with our system of suffrage and in conflict with the spirit if not the letter of the constitution.

But there is no place provided on the registration books where these responses are to be recorded. All the registrars could do is to ask the questions, register the names of those who are electors and their places of residence for convenience. Such registration would of course prevent repeating and would relieve the judges of election from asking the questions on election day. But that kind of registration would leave no record of the legal qualification of women voters, which is one of the principal objects of registration. Another point against the theory of the state superintendent is that the registrars have no right to subject women to a cross-examination as regards their nativity, race, age and naturalization, which must be asked of every male voter. Foreign-born men are required to exhibit their naturalization papers, while foreign-born women are not required to establish citizenship providing they are the mothers of children of school age or owners of real estate within the school district. It stands to reason, therefore, that before women shall be compelled to register the registration laws must be amended so that books and blanks expressly designed to cover the qualifications of women voters are provided. In the meantime women who present themselves at the booths prepared to establish their right to vote at school elections under oath before the election board will be permitted to exercise that right without previous registration.

When the returns of the first day's registration in Omaha were made public showing an overwhelming majority of republicans among those who stated their party affiliations the fusion managers answered that all the republicans had been registered on the first day and that no more would be forthcoming on the succeeding registration days. The second day, however, brought out nearly 2,500 more republicans as against less than 1,500 more fusionists, while the increase of the no-answer column may be taken to measure the number of voters still in process of conversion to the republican party.

No matter what Colonel Bryan says about the drawbacks of imperialism he cannot evade the responsibility arising out of his active support of the annexation treaty at the time it was pending in the United States senate. The treaty would not have been ratified except for the influence of Bryan or his populist friends. The truth is Colonel Bryan wanted it ratified in order to make a political issue without regard to the threatened cost of subjugating the islands to complete recognition of American authority.

If the fusionists ever had any doubt that the republicans intended to make the present campaign a war on one that doubt has been dispelled within the last week. At present the opposition forces are down in so many directions that the great Bryan has been sent over the state on a special train to fix up some of the gaps. Like the great industries the fusionist machine is short of help and is willing to pay almost any price to secure workers that will make the wheels go round.

Every fusion officer in the state house has had his salary warrants registered for interest at various times when there has been no money in the funds to pay them on presentation. If Judge Reese had his warrants registered to bear interest while they were unpaid it was because the law entitled him to do so.

Several of the labor organizations in Omaha have secured increases of wage scales during the last year ranging from 5 to 10 cents an hour and others have shortened their workday without decrease of pay. Labor organizations were never in better condition, as members

are paying their dues promptly because they are earning good wages paid in 100-cent dollars on every pay day. The workman who does not want to retain the present rate of prosperity is not to be found in the labor ranks.

The war in South Africa has brought out anew the same difficulty about securing news from far-off countries that was experienced during our war with Spain. The first reports of skirmishes and battles are necessarily meagre and repetitions with more amplified details keep coming in by cable three and four days afterward. It will be weeks before the mail stories arrive, when a full and accurate idea of the exact situation may be secured.

The new registration law possesses one great advantage, at least. In this community the result of the publication of the party preference of a majority of voters makes certain a sweeping republican victory and precludes fusion clamors from claiming everything upon the eve of every local election. They must know by this time that they are badly beaten and ought to have sense enough to keep still.

While the World-Herald is in the fac-simile business will not print a fac-simile of the memorandum slip that was found in the cash drawer of Henry Bolin at the time of his defalcation representing stolen city money borrowed by the chief proprietor of the fusion fakery?

A Trust to Foster.

The Mothers' assembly has been incorporated in the state of New York. It is a pleasure to announce that an unselfish trust has been discovered at last.

A Tune That Thrills.

War songs, drum beats and trumpet blasts may inspire soldiers in battle, but the serious part of the business starts when the bullets begin singing.

Surprise Parties in Prospect.

If it is true that the Boers have nearly 100,000 men in the field it is unnecessary to explain that the extensive British preparations are designed chiefly to impress Europe. They are needed for South Africa.

True Barometer of Business.

The great increase in the United States postal receipts this year is simply another proof of the increase in the prosperity and business of the country. If this increase continues, and there is every reason to believe that it will, it will not be long before the service will pay for itself, and no longer be a constant drain on the United States treasury.

Tid for Insurance Men.

The courts continue to decide against life insurance companies, which contend policies in cases of suicide, until it would seem that the principle is well enough established to be accepted as a finality. The family of a man driven to suicide by illness, business reverses or life's misdeeds ought not to be deprived of the provision made for them when prosperous and in good health.

Too Many Cooks.

Triplicate government in Samoa must always prove a failure. The proposition to divide the islands between England, Germany and the United States is a wise one and should have an easy solution of the continuing troubles in that quarter. The disposition of the natives to mix things up by keeping an oversupply of kings has not been more unwise or impractical than the three-headed protectorate established by three of the greatest among civilized powers.

Tax on Vanderbilt's Millions.

The Vanderbilt estate promises to pay about \$15,000,000 to the national treasury as an inheritance tax. The sum looks large, but it is perhaps half of a single year's income from the estate and it is equal to about one day's receipts of the national government. The justice of the inheritance tax has been well established, and it is destined to become an important source of revenue, both to the national government and to the states, many of which have adopted this form of taxation in recent years.

The World's Wheat Crop.

Broomhall's estimate of the world's wheat crop is 2,496,600,000 bushels, a decline of 390,000,000 bushels as compared with the yield of last year. Other European experts made the decrease as against last year's crop from 281,000,000 bushels to 277,000,000. It may be taken for granted that the yield this year will be below 2,600,000,000 bushels, or, say, 350,000,000 bushels below 1898 and 225,000,000 bushels below 1897. The falling off in the Americas is about 170,000,000 bushels as compared with 1898, and the crop this year is about equivalent to that of 1897.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

Fred J. Mauren, who looks after Uncle Sam's mails at Portland, Mich., is the youngest postmaster of the presidential class in the United States, being only 30 years old.

The anonymous donor of the \$9,000 library to Sunderland, Mass., whose name is not to be made public, has been identified as the building next spring, is said to be Senator Hoar, who has always been deeply interested in Sunderland affairs.

J. L. Kelly, a city councilman of Cleveland, O., who stopped a runaway team in San Francisco, Ind. five years ago, the life of John Wallace, wealthy farmer, has received notice that Mr. Wallace is dead and has left him a legacy of \$80,000.

Herr Hopff, a millionaire of Germany, has been sentenced to four years and nine months imprisonment for misappropriating \$50,000 marks of the funds of a charitable organization of which he was the treasurer. Herr Hopff has held high official position.

William Haggard, a son of Sir Francis Haggard, a brother of the present peer of that name and related to half the nobility of England, is living the life of a recluse near Salem, Ind. In his love with his mother's maid, insisted upon marrying her, eloped to this country and was cut off by his father and family.

Someone asked a friend of Alfred Beit how much the South African millionaire was worth. "He probably could not get out more than a thousand million now," was the response, "but if he would let the price of rough diamonds go below from 28 to 32 shillings per karat no one knows how much he would realize." For no one else except Rhodes knows how many carats of diamonds they have salted away down there to keep the market steady."

The city council of Atlanta, Ga., passed an ordinance making it unlawful to bet on horse races in that city, and Mayor Woodward vetoed it. He said that the ordinance as constructed was liable to be used maliciously, and incidentally he referred to the evils of bucket shops and said that the injury accomplished by the betting on horse racing amounts to practically nothing when compared to legalized and respectable gambling known as futures.

PROGRESS OF STATE CAMPAIGN.

Superior Journal: The weakest point in Si Holcomb's record is that he is and always has been a perpetual office-seeker. He has never waited for a nomination to be given to him—he has always been on hand to secure it by trickery or a fight in the convention.

Centre City Nonpartisan: Fusionists all over the state are turning state's evidence and arraigning the sham reformers and their methods in the most pitiless manner. The most severe charges made against Candidate Holcomb and his associates came from members of their own party.

Hastings Tribune: M. B. Reese while sitting on the supreme bench, proved himself to be a man of his own mind who always looked upon doing what was right regardless of anything else, and it is this that has won for him the true friendship and high esteem of the people of Nebraska.

Dakota City Eagle: No time in the history of the republican party in the state could a republican feel as proud of his party and standard bearers as he can this fall. He can take especial pride in pointing to the record of every republican made three years ago, and the arrival of prosperity as promised on schedule time, as well as the high standard of our candidates.

Blair Pilot: Lieutenant Governor Gilbert, one day last week said Judge Reese: "No man can utter a truthful word against the character of Judge Reese and all recognize the eminent fitness of the man for the position to which he aspires." What more can any man wish any man is there who can say so much for Holcomb, especially so far as concerns his fitness for the office of supreme judge?

Grand Island Republican: Should Holcomb be elected supreme judge would the great number of passes and other "court-side" he has received have any influence with the president which the railroad companies were interested? It may be possible that these things would have no improper influence, but the chances are ten to one that they would. The people can not afford to take such chances.

Wahoo Vesp: Since M. B. Reese was nominated for supreme judge at Omaha his name has been spoken often in Saunders county. We have yet to hear the first word from the lips of his political enemies against him as a man, as a lawyer or judge. The indisputable facts are, he is, irrespective of political, religious or social opinions, universally esteemed and respected. The republican party is not on the defensive with Manohab B. Reese's name at the head of the ticket.

Leigh World: Judge Reese is going ahead with his work as dean of the law school at the university, which the state pays him. How different it is with the rest of the officials that are on the state payroll. Every one of them has devoted most of his time during the last month to political matters, leaving the important business of the state in the hands of a few bookkeepers or clerks, while matters of minor importance are pigeon-holed until the winter. Which way do you like?

Arapahoe Mirror: Holcomb is out raking the state from one end to the other for votes to give him a six years' job on the supreme bench. Why he has no anxiety to be elected. His opponent is at home attending to his business because he says he does not think a man who is a candidate for supreme judge can afford to take part in partisan politics. Reese was nominated against his own wish. Holcomb has been working two years for the nomination and many of the delegates were forced to vote for him against their better judgment. Which man do you want on the supreme bench?

Fremont Tribune: Silas A. Holcomb as governor repudiated Mr. Burgess, recommended by organ and law for appointment on the state commission for the Omaha exposition. United labor now has its opportunity to repudiate Mr. Holcomb and the prospects are very good that it will do so. The truth is, there is positively no warrant for labor of any kind supporting Mr. Holcomb and his ticket on general principles. All kinds of labor is in great demand all over the state, at enhanced wages, and this in no wise because there is a populist state administration, but because the good Lord has sent his crops and the republican party has maintained the money and kept the promise to reopen the mills and restore prosperity.

York Times: In sending out his certificate of nominations for state offices Secretary of State Porter has given the names of the populist and democratic nominees (though of course there is no instruction as to the arrangement of the names on the ticket. Even if it were county clerks would not follow it as the law is plainly the other way and no state officer can set aside the law nor compel others to disobey it. The law passed last winter is so plain that no one can misconstrue or misunderstand it, and if they could the form of ballot given in "Schedule A" of the law must set all doubts at rest. There is nothing for any honest county clerk to do but adhere to the law and let the Secretary of State Porter work out his own scheme. The law does not require him to be careful to avoid instructing or even advising them to do so.

Papillon Herald: Did Silas Holcomb, as a lawyer, have any practice to speak of before the supreme court? No. Did Silas Holcomb achieve any success as a district judge? No. Did Silas Holcomb as a perpetual office-seeker? Yes. Was Silas Holcomb elected governor on an anti-party platform? Yes. Did he keep his pledge with the people? No. How many passes did he have? About thirty-two, including those for his wife. Did Silas Holcomb make a proper settlement with Barley? No. Would that act hold him responsible, in a great measure, for the tremendous loss to the state? Yes. Did Silas Holcomb veto a mutual insurance bill in 1895 at the behest of a wealthy lobby and sign a similar one in 1897 in return for a salary of \$50 per month? Yes. Did Silas Holcomb draw a month from the state on sworn vouchers to pay rent on a house that was costing him \$30 per month? Yes. Was Silas Holcomb a party to, and one of the scheme movers in, the infamous recent bribe? Yes. Did Silas Holcomb use trickery in his dealings with the Nebraska ex-governor? Yes. Under existing circumstances is Silas Holcomb a proper man for supreme judge? Let the voters answer that question one week from next Tuesday.

North Platte Tribune: For seven long years this district has been represented in congress by populist statesmen of mediocre ability and reputation; men who were utterly incapable of commanding the respect and confidence of their colleagues. The result has been that the district has become a by-word in the halls of congress. Citizens of the district, regardless of party, in 1898, in Washington, were ashamed to admit that they belonged to the big Sixth. So far as anything that has been accomplished and the good name of the district is concerned, it would have been better that the district had no representation during these years. Badly as the reputation of the district had suffered by such a representation in the past, the election of William Neville would be a step backward. What a contrast there is between the character and reputation of the two candidates for congress. Kindred, loved and respected wherever he is known for his upright character and integrity; held up by the parents of young men in the community where he is known as a model from which to pattern their lives. Is there any parent in this community that would say to his boy: "I want you to pattern your life after the life of William Neville? Not one would do it intentionally. But, my Christian brother, if you cast your vote for Neville you in effect do hold him up as a pattern, and if your boy follows in his footsteps you can only blame yourself.

ECHOES OF THE WAR.

Several pleasing fictions weaved around the achievements of the American fleet in Manila bay are being ruthlessly shattered by the iconoclasts of history. That early breakfast story was torn from the affections of the nation after it had been accepted as a happy event. No adequate substitute to take an inventory of ammunition—had neither romance or sentiment about it. So the patriotic multitude turned to Dewey's order, "You may fire when ready, Gridley," as a sentiment against which historical sharps would battle in vain. It has been embalmed in the nation's heart, immortalized in sympathy, and inscribed in letters of bronze on Olympia's forward turret. Yet the man supposed to have uttered the now famous order denies having said it. In a late interview, Admiral Dewey is quoted as saying: "I am sorry to spoil a good story, but I never said anything of the kind. The truth is that Gridley was in another part of the ship and I did not have the chance to say it to him. There was no particular command given. The signal was set that we were going into action and no other words were given than would ordinarily occur at such a time."

Major William H. Johnson, U. S. A., stationed at San Fernando, in the latter of the Lone Star Democrat, gives his impressions of events in the Philippines in which he was a participant. He says: "We had an election in Cavite and I confirmed the selection (by viva voce vote) of twelve headmen from as many barrios. It then became a matter to select one of their own number as president or alcalde. Being natural politicians they inaugurated bribery and one candidate raised the limit to \$5 for each vote cast for him. I postponed the choice, telling them I should later select the best behaved; meanwhile the provost marshal presided. In Cavite the president has been arrested for selling contributions for Aguinaldo's army. In another place the man chosen proved to be a prisoner of war in Manila, but he was released and permitted to hold office. But the people are all right. With a little money to help the poor and authority to inaugurate public works, build roads, open schools, restore churches, etc., a military governor in each province could soon establish prosperity and convince the people that our ultimate designs are not evil, irrespective of the fact that their minds have avowed somewhat of Yankee rudeness.

"Our army officers have no desire to prolong this war. Our pay is no more than it would be at home, while our expenses are heavier, perhaps doubled. One hears nothing of the kind among the men who suffer and men for the people who live here. To me the brightest career for an army man is offered by assignment to a populous island or district where he can construct again a contented and happy community out of the ruins that now exist outside Manila and its immediate suburbs."

The sword presented to Rear Admiral Sampson by the state of New Jersey last week is a beautiful specimen of metalwork art. It was designed strictly under the regulations prescribed by the United States navy, and made entirely of 18-karat gold and silver and nickel-steel. The design represents on the head of the hilt the coat of arms of the state of New Jersey. On the collar of the pommel are raised enameled flags crossed, the emblems of the rank of captain and the advanced rank of rear admiral, as held by Sampson at the beginning of the close of the war. The grip is made of shark's skin, wrapped in a perfect gold wire, with forty-five stars at equal spaces, each star set with a diamond, representing the states of the union. The guard, top and bottom, terminates with dolphin heads, with ruby eyes, which is the natal stone of the admiral.

The sleeves of the scabbard are of 18-karat gold and silver and nickel-steel. The scabbard and its hilt are made of the finest fasses, held to the scabbard by ship's cables. The monogram is made of diamonds and the lower sleeve has the eagle in medallion. The top piece represents the dolphin and the scabbards with the eyes of rubies. The blade is etched, showing the exact position held by the admiral in front of Santiago, showing the New York in prominence. The hilt is the regulation naval belt, heavily embroidered in gold bullion in rope effects with all the mounts in 18-karat gold. The sword is enclosed in a handsome case, beautifully inscribed.

ANNOYING WAR TAXES. Correction of the Law Needed to Equalize the Burden. Boston Transcript.

It is time for the business world to take some action looking toward the correction of certain peculiarly vexatious features of the war revenue act. There is so much uncertainty at present as to the future revenue needs of the government that unless the business interests of the country make themselves distinctly heard congress will be inclined to leave the whole internal revenue system just as it is. This is to be regretted. Certain of these stamp taxes are annoying far out of proportion to their revenue-yielding qualities. While all taxes are unpleasant some forms of taxation are so petty and profitless as to be less excusable than others. The maximum of revenue is what should be aimed at.

While the new law as a whole is giving general satisfaction, certain of its features ought to be promptly corrected. What these are will occur to every man of affairs. The requirement that express and railroad companies shall give a receipt on every little package occasions vexatious delay and much inconvenience in many lines of business. The tax itself is not so objectionable as the method of its collection. If the express companies were put upon the same basis as the telegraph companies, and this latter experts believe to be perfectly feasible, there would be less objection. The telephone companies, it will be recalled, are required each month to make a sworn statement to the collector of internal revenue as to the number of messages or conversations transmitted on their respective lines, and on each message for which they charge fifteen cents they are taxed one cent. The telegraph companies might also pay their taxes in the same way. This would be a great convenience to the public even if the amount of the stamp tax were directly added to the rates and other companies to their regular charges.

Some such changes in the method of collecting various war revenue taxes are about all that can now be expected and desired. In that event the business world might to advantage focus its attention on the war in the Philippines. It seems clearly to be ending—and congress is not likely to take the prediction of Adjutant General Corbin as absolutely conclusive on this point—there is no hope of any immediate cutting down in the stamp taxes. So long as the war lasts the government will have need of its present resources and there is a theory always prevalent in Washington that the lid cannot be lifted from a revenue law without taking out its entire contents. Congressional leaders, as soon as they meet in December, will avow their unwillingness to make detailed changes affecting the revenue until the whole of the new law can be carefully pruned. But it would seem entirely feasible to change the methods of administering the law from vexatious ones to those which were not provided the volume of receipts was not disturbed. This is a direction in which representatives of business constituencies can well bend their energies.

WONDERFUL RAILROAD BUILDING.

Sample Instance of Activity in Transportation. New York World. Orders were given last week for no less than 200,000 tons of steel rails, one railroad company alone calling for 100,000 tons. This happens at a time when the price of rails, already much higher than for years past, has just been advanced by another \$2 a ton. It means a still further extension of our railroad system, though that system already covers more than 157,000 miles, against all Europe's 150,000 miles. We built 2,218 miles of railway during 1898 and are building more during the present year, with a prospect of still further extension. The mileage of extensions for a year to come, in spite of the really excessive price of rails and other materials.

Yet this is not "boom" extension. It is no wild reversion to the wildcat railroad expansion that has so often brought disaster to the country and bankruptcy to the roads built before they were needed. For the returns show that our railroads were never before so prosperous and the extensions now in contemplation have been conservatively planned to handle traffic that actually awaits them.

There is here another and a most gratifying proof of the country's extraordinary prosperity.

POINTED REMARKS.

Detroit Journal: We do not believe a young man and a young woman should not marry until she knows how to trim her own hat and he is prepared to admit that his wife is its snub nose from its father's folks.

Chicago Record: "Prosperity brings peace." "That's so; the man next door is so busy now that he cannot have a night too tired to practice on his cornet."

Indianapolis Journal: "Never waste time in denying slanders," said the Cornet Philosopher. "Start a new slander about some one else and you will forget your own."

Chicago Tribune: "Come on," said Noah, looking at his watch. "It's time we were getting into the ark." "You'll have to wait a minute," replied Mrs. Noah from the top of the stairway. "I'm not going out without my rainy day skirt on."

Washington Star: "Are you generals working in harmony as an agitator?" "To a remarkable degree," answered the Filipino commander. "We haven't tried to assassinate each other in more than three weeks."

Chicago Post: "How sad October seems," said the poetic young woman. "Yes," answered the young man with a vest pocketful of love poems sharpened at both ends. "It's kind of slow, you see. It's little love letters and a little too early for election majorities."

Detroit Journal: When this peasant discovered that his goose was laying golden eggs he was much troubled. He saw no way out of it except to kill the goose. "For," he argues, "if the British were to find out about having such a goose they would at once insist upon coming over here and bestowing the blessings of liberty upon us." "The fable teaches—but possibly that is none of our business, after all."

A Church Episode.

Chicago Record. The preacher was an ugly man. Who wobbled in his gait, and so his parish made a plan to let him abdicate. He left, but fate was fair at last, and he died of a heart ailment. On them she dumped a pretty priest some one else will forget.

SONG OF THE CAMP.

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