A. O. U. W. OFFICERS

Webb McNall, Kansas, Chosen to Lead the Order.

RACE FOR SUPREME OVERSEER

W. H. Miller, of Missouri, Defeats Charles G. Hinds, of Minnesota, in a Spirited Contest—Per Capita Tax Is Reduced.

Supreme Master—Webb McNall, Kansas.
Supreme Foreman—C. R. Matson, Illinois.
Supreme Overseer—W. H. Miller, Missouri.
Supreme Recorder—M. W. Sackett, Pennsylvania.
Supreme Receiver—J. J. Acker, New York.
Supreme Guard—L. C. Merrill, New Hampshire.
Supreme Watchman—S. B. Ritchie, Manitoba.
Supreme Medical Examiner—D. H. Shields, Missouri.
Supreme Trustees—S. L. Johnson, Indian Territory; Andrew Blewett, North Dakota; J. H. Erford, Nebraska.

Election of supreme officers was the special order of business in the Supreme Lodge, A. O. U. W., yesterday, and the election took place with but a single contest. Supreme Foreman Webb McNall was advanced to supreme master workman; Supreme Overseer C. R. Watson was advanced to supreme foreman, and, these being the only officers considered in line of promotion, a vacancy existed in the office of supreme overseer, to be filled from the floor of the lodge. It is one of the unwritten laws of the supreme body that the man selected for supreme overseer shall be advanced until he has become a past supreme master, unless there should be some good reason for refusing him a promotion. An election to the office of supreme overseer is, therefore, almost equal to an election in future to the supreme mastership. For that reason there was a spirited contest over the office at the bottom of the line of promotion. W. H. Miller, of Missouri, and Charles G. Hinds, of Minnesota, were each zealously pushed forward by their friends. The former was elected. Mr. Miller has served 12 years as grand master of the lodge in Missouri and is now entering upon another two-year term.

The other officers elected are as follows:

Supreme recorder, M. W. Sackett; supreme receiver, J. J. Acker; supreme guide, L. C. Merrill; supreme watchman, S. B. Ritchie; supreme medical examiner, D. H. Shields; supreme trustees, S. L. Johnson, Andrew Blewett, J. H. Erford.

The officers will be installed Friday, and it is expected adjournment will take place Friday evening.

Per Capita Tax Reduced.

One of the principal matters of legislation yesterday was the reduction of the per capita tax for supreme lodge purposes from 20 cents to 16 cents. The income from this tax has been $90,000 per year. This session of the supreme lodge will cost $46,600, while a session in the East would cost less on account of the saving in mileage. The reduction was made because the income is larger than is necessary.

It has been proposed that the supreme lodge hold its sessions biennially, instead of annually, so as to reduce expenses, and this question is under consideration.

A proposal to permit members over 60 years of age to make their beneficiary certificates payable to their local lodges, was voted down.

Nation Is in a State of War.

One of the by-laws of the A. O. U. W. provides that no soldier can join the order while the Nation is at war. They can be admitted in time of peace, and retain membership during a war, but cannot gain membership in time of war. The question arose in Kansas whether this is a time of war. The grand master of that state ruled that this is not a time of war, and admitted several soldiers to membership. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Lodge, and yesterday that body reversed the Kansas lodge, holding that, in the language of the Secretary of War, the United States is in a condition of war, and that United States soldiers cannot now be admitted to membership. It was stated in the argument that some soldiers had joined the order and soon thereafter started for the Philippines.

Lions Extend Greetings.

J. M. Long and A. McPherson, of the Supreme Lodge, Independent Order of Lions, visited both the A. O. U. W. and D. of H. Supreme Lodges yesterday to extend greetings on behalf of their order. To each representative of the A. O. U. W. they presented a souvenir button, and to each representative of the D. of H. they gave a beautiful pamphlet containing splendid halftone views of Portland and other places of interest in Oregon. The collection of views is one of the best that has ever been made, and the ladies will take great pleasure in showing their friends in the East pictures of places they saw on their trip to Oregon.

Held "Smoke Talk."

Fidelity Lodge, No. 4, A. O. U. W., held a well-attended "smoke talk" last night in the Burkhard Hall. Rousing addresses were delivered by Past Supreme Master Workman J. Edward Burtt, and Grand Master Workman O. A. Ward, of Massachusetts jurisdiction. Clarence Wheeler, recorder of Fidelity Lodge, presided, and introduced the speakers. Mr. Burtt was first introduced, and he made a plain and well illustrated talk on what the order had accomplished. He undertook to show that every young man should be a member of this or some other fraternal order. At the conclusion of his talk Mr. Ward was introduced, and he spoke along the same line for half an hour. In the course of his address, in which he dwelt mainly on the benefits of fraternal insurance, he took occasion to speak of the hospitality of the people of Portland, and the fine scenery and climate of the state. He said the state was not exceeded along these lines by any other in the Union. Mr. Ward made an earnest and most effective appeal to all in the hall who were not members of any fraternal order to make the start at once. He held that it was the duty of every honest man to provide for his family, and see that they were not thrust out on the cold charity of the community when he should have been taken from them. Mr. Ward is a very effective talker, and was frequently applauded.

Cigars were passed around during the evening, and a social time was enjoyed. A large number of applications of young men were received for Fidelity Lodge.

D. OF H. FINISHES WORK.

Committee Reports Adopted and Officers Installed.

The Supreme Lodge, Degree of Honor, completed the business of its session for 1902 and adjourned yesterday afternoon. Aside from the adoption of several committee reports, the principal business was the formal installation of officers, the ceremony being conducted by Past Superior Chief of Honor Mrs. Kate Blewitt, assisted by Miss Adelle Harding.

On behalf of the Degree of Honor, of Oregon, Mrs. Mamie Briggs presented to Superior Chief of Honor Mrs. Louise Bush a large framed picture of Mount Hood. On behalf of the Grand Lodge of Oregon Degree of Honor Mrs. Ollie Stephens presented to Miss Minnie Briggs a similar picture of Mount Hood. A representative of the Grand Lodge of Washington gave expression to the high regard in which Mrs. Bush is held, bestowing upon her a large bouquet of carnations.

A delegation from the Grand Cabin of Native Daughters of Oregon visited the Superior Lodge, Degree of Honor, to extend fraternal greetings, to which a response was made by the superior chief of honor.

The following standing committees were appointed:

Committee on laws—Mrs. Genevra L. Miller, Missouri; Mrs. Mary Forde, Kansas; Mrs. Emma F. Comparet, Indiana.

Arbitration and appeals—Mrs. Adelia Harding, Nebraska; Mrs. Mary Tinker, Michigan; Mrs. Pauline Ennis, Kansas.

Burial service—Mrs. Kate Blewett, North Dakota; Mrs. Mary Stewart, California; Mrs. Mamie Briggs, Oregon.

Finance committee—Mrs. Lena E. Allen, Washington; Mrs. Mary Phelps, South Dakota; Mrs. Francis Buell Olson, Minnesota.

Superior medical examiner—Dr. E. D. Perkins, Chicago.

BISHOP FARLEY'S PROSPECT

Particulars of the Vote in New York Just Given Out.

NEW YORK, June 17.—(Special dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.)—Bishop John M. Farley, the present administrator of the archdiocese of New York, has been named dignissimus—most worthy—by the bishops of the province, who have expressed their choice for a successor to the late Archbishop Corrigan. The vote was taken at Albany, June 3, but not announced until today, when most of the bishops were present at the requiem mass for Archbishop Corrigan, known as the "month's mind," celebrated at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The dignior—most worthy—is Mgr. Joseph F. Mooney, the vicar-general, and it is said that the choice of the bishops for dignus—worthy—has fallen upon Bishop James E. Quigley, of Buffalo. The lists prepared by the clergy and the bishops differ only with regard to the third choice. The clergy had named Rev. Patrick F. McSweeney, rector of St. Bridget's Church, for dignus.

From a source of high authority it is learned that the bishops thoroughly approve of the choice of the clergy, who are almost unanimously in favor of Bishop Farley. Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid, in a sermon at the requiem mass, spoke of the needs of the archdiocese in the way which, it was said, clearly indicated that he had such a man as Fishop Farley in mind for the next archbishopric.

It is confidently predicted here that Bishop Farley will be the choice of Rome. If he is selected, it is believed that he will soon be made a cardinal, because the growing importance of New York as a stronghold of Catholicism, as well as the services of the bishop to the church, indicate that such a step will be taken.

Those who met in Albany June 3 to make the selections were: Bishops Bernard J. McQuaid, of Rochester; Thomas M. A. Burke, of Albany; Henry Gabriels, of Ogdensburg; James E. Quigley, of Buffalo; Denis O'Connor, of Newark, and James A. McFaul, of Trenton. It had been intended to hold the month's mind one month after the death of the archbishop, which occurred May 3, and to hold the meeting of bishops the same day. June 3 fell on a day on which it would not be appropriate to celebrate mass, and it was therefore postponed.

There are many in the archdiocese who believe that choice will be made early in August, and that the consecration of the archbishop will take place St. Bartholomew's day, August 24, or not later than September 8.

NO ENTANGLING ALLIANCES

Old World Nations Should be Treated With Perfect Impartiality.

PORTLAND, June 17.—(To the Editor.)—In the item I sent you yesterday I had no thought of raising or discussing the question of the retention of the Philippine Islands. That is a question that can afford to stand on its own merits. I did intend to call attention to the un-American element in this country, which fails to appreciate our relative standing and importance in the affairs of the world, but your misleading heading has sidetracked me. We have people here in this country who seem to think we lack something that can be found abroad, and that we ought to dance attendance to the older governments of the world and follow them. I do not think so. If we can learn anything from them that will be of advantage to us, well and good. We ought to do it. And we ought to establish friendly relations with all the peoples of the earth, but the best way to do that, in my judgment, is to treat them all justly and fairly. If we single out any one nation for our courtesies and favors we thereby, to an extent at least, alienate all others, and breed trouble for ourselves. We are not so dependent and helpless that we need to "run after" anybody. We are too large in every way to do that, and it is un-American to do it. Justice, friendliness, civility to all, fawning for favors on none. That was the thought I wanted to emphasize, and I repeat it today with all the earnestness I can command. LEVI W. MYERS.

REDUCED RATES TOST. PAUL AND CHICAGO.

On June 28, July 1 and 4, the Canadian Pacific will sell round-trip tickets to St. Paul for $52, Chicago $72, good for stopovers. Call at 142 Third street for full information.

Neglect of the hair brings baldness. Use Parker's Hair Balsam and save your hair.

Hindercorns, the best cure for corns. 15cts.

AT WORK FOR FAIR SITE

HAWTHORNE PARK IS FAVORED BY EAST SIDE CITIZENS.

Improvement Association Committee Is Raising $10,000 Fund to Buy Block for Permanent Building.

Members of the committee of the East Side Improvement Association reported yesterday that they were receiving much encouragement in their efforts to raise $10,000 to purchase a block of ground in Hawthorne Park for a permanent building, provided the park is selected as the site for the 1905 Fair. H. H. Newhall says he has little doubt but that the entire sum will be secured this week.

This movement is in line with the address of W. D. Fenton, who said at the meeting of the association that he wanted to see a permanent building erected on the fair ground for the home of the Historical Society and for art purposes. The block it is proposed to purchase is valued at $11,000, but the owners have agreed to let it go for the purpose for $10,000. It is on the northwest corner of Hawthorne avenue and East Twelfth street.

All the subscriptions to the fund are wholly contingent on the selection of Hawthorne Park as the site of the 1905 Fair. If another location should be selected no one will be called on to pay the amount subscribed. This is expressly stated in the subscription paper.

The offer of the Hawthorne Park tract is on condition that the taxes be paid while it is in use by the Fair Commissioners, and without any rental. It includes 22 acres. Yesterday assurances were given that if more ground was needed for a stock display it could be had for that purpose. The committee expects to be able to put the offer of the East Side Improvement Association in a definite form very soon.

WORK LIGHT IN SHIPYARDS.

Contract for Building Government Boat Soon to Be Relet.

Work is a little slack in the East Side boatyards at present. In the Johnston yard, on East Water street and Hawthorne avenue, the light-draft steamer for the Oregon City Transportation Company is rapidly nearing completion. Work is progressing on the upper cabin, and the steamer will be launched about the last of the month. The big lumber schooner for the Wheeler Lumber Company, of Tillamook, recently launched, is being finished. Masts are being put in.

New bids have been submitted for the building of the proposed Government boat, to run to Fort Stevens. Bids were called for this craft some time ago, and Joseph Supple submitted the lowest. It was decided after the bids had been received that a larger craft was necessary, and other and enlarged plans were prepared. Mr. Supple's first bid was $17,590. The new bids will be opened shortly and the contract will be let.

Mr. Supple says that according to the new plans the Government boat will be a large craft. It will be first-class in every respect.

ANNUAL G. A. R. ENCAMPMENT.

Will Be Held at Pleasant Home, Commencing August 11.

At the meetings of the M. A. Ross Post and Woman's Relief Corps, G. A. R., of Pleasant Home, held Saturday, it was decided to hold the 16th annual encampment and reunion on the old campground on the Leslie tract, commencing August 11 and ending Saturday evening, August 16. The following committees were appointed: Speakers, J. G. Stephens and R. W. Pool; arrangements, A. Shetterly and J. Bruns; reception, M. Ball and John Copper; privileges, J. Bruns, A. Shetterly and J. G. Stephens.

The attendance at the last encampment was not large, but conditions are more favorable this year. Robert Pool, who attended the meeting of the post, says that the old veterans are determined to make this reunion one of the best ever held on the grounds. He says that the people of the neighborhood have given the post assurances of all the assistance possible to make it a success. It is the intention of the committee on arrangements to improve the road to the grounds and provide in every way for the comfort of campers.

SUPERINTENDENT FERGUSON SICK.

Attending Physician Forbids Him to See Any One for the Present.

Eugene Ferguson, Superintendent of the Street Cleaning Department, is seriously ill at his home at 454 East Davis street. Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson went to St. Martin's Springs, at Wind River, 10 days ago, in the hope that the former might be benefited, but Mr. Ferguson did not improve. Since his return he has been kept quietly at his home, and even his most intimate friends cannot see him.

Dr. E. H. Parker is in charge of the case, and he gave orders that Mr. Ferguson was not to be disturbed under any circumstances, as his condition is regarded as serious. His physician has not ascertained exactly the nature of Mr. Ferguson's illness, and the symptoms are somewhat baffling. He is very weak. He has taken no vacation for a number of years, and there seems a general giving-way. His friends are anxious, but hopeful for his recovery.

Child's Narrow Escape.

A girl about 3 years old while attempting to cross the street-car track at Sunnyside last evening was knocked down by the steps of an approaching street-car, thereby preventing it from stepping directly in front. Had the child started three seconds sooner it would have been crushed under the car wheels. The father and little girl were standing on one side of Belmont street, when he walked across the track, thoughtlessly leaving the child. She undertook to follow after him, but fortunately was struck by the steps and thrown out of the way. The incident was seen by several who were sure that she would be run over by the car and were greatly relieved that this did not happen. There was much comment on the carelessness of the father.

South Mount Tabor District.

A slimly attended meeting of the citizens of South Mount Tabor district was held in the schoolhouse Monday evening. G. A. Brodie was re-elected director for three years and B. F. Peterson re-elected clerk. Both have served the district for a number of years. There was no other business. The finances of the district are in excellent condition. There is no debt, and the district paid off its bonded indebtedness last year.

East Side Notes.

Professor T. E. Lattimer, of the University of Washington, will lecture tomorrow evening in Woodlawn Hall on "The Evolution of Industry, Government and Its Effects on Our Political Institutions."

The sawmill of Groves & Yokers, near Cottrell, which was burned Sunday morning, was a complete loss. They lost everything, including the machinery, buggies and about 900 ties. The mill was situated on Paul Dunne's place, about four miles east of Pleasant Home.

THANKS BY T. P. A.

Grateful to All Who Aided in Entertaining the Convention.

PORTLAND, June 17.—At the regular meeting of the executive committee of the Travelers' Protective Association it was resolved that the thanks of the Oregon and Washington division be extended to those who assisted in the entertainment of our guests during the National convention of the T. P. A., held in our city, beginning June 3, 1902.

To the citizens who subscribed to the entertainment fund; the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company for the courtesies extended to the delegates and their friends on their arrival at Huntington, and trip to Cascade Locks on the Harvest Queen; to the Southern Pacific Company, the Astoria & Columbia River Railway Company for the excursion to Seaside and the satisfactory manner in which it was conducted, departing and arriving on time, to the great convenience of the delegates; to the committee and citizens of Astoria for the delightful reception and fish dinner, a grand ending to a most pleasant week for our guests; to the Western Union and Pacific Postal Telegraph Companies; to the Portland City & Oregon Railway Company, Portland Railway Company, and City & Suburban Railway Company; to the Portland Baseball Club; to The Oregonian, the Telegram and the Journal; to Mr. F. V. Holman, and the Chapman, Harrison, Couch and Brooklyn Schools, and others, who supplied us so profusely with roses and flowers; to the Park Commission for the floral emblem in the plaza; to Manager Bowers, of the Hotel Portland, for the magnificent decorations and luncheon served to the ladies, and his successful efforts on behalf of the pleasure of our guests; to the ladies' committee; to the North Pacific Lumber Company, and to the George I. Davis Company, of New York.

To all these, and others, the Oregon and Washington division wish to express their sincere appreciation for assisting the committee and contributing to the entertainment of the delegates to the most successful convention in the history of the T. P. A., which will be of great benefit to the city and the state at large, and a pleasant remembrance to those who attended it.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, T. P. A.

WEEKLY CROP BULLETIN.

Wheat Is in Good Condition—Bad for Gardens.

PORTLAND, June 17.—The weather during the past week was dry and very favorable for the growing crops. The maximum or day temperatures in Western Oregon ranged between 68 and 76 degrees, and the minimum or night temperatures between 42 and 52 degrees. In Eastern Oregon the maximum temperatures ranged between 60 and 82 degrees, and the minimum temperatures between 28 and 52 degrees. The days were moderately mild, but the nights were rather too cool for the rapid advancement of corn and gardens.

Wheat, oats and barley are heading under very favorable weather conditions and there is hardly any doubt but the wheat crop this year will be as good as last year's crop, notwithstanding the damaging freeze in January.

Haying is now well started in the western portion of the state, and a good first cutting of alfalfa is being housed in excellent condition. For some unexplained reason, the crop of timothy is not as heavy as usual, but clover hay will amount to more than an average crop. Range grass continues good and stock is generally fat. Sheep-shearing is practically done and the late reports indicate that the clip will be above the average in quantity and about the average in quality.

Hops are doing splendidly and no complaints are made of lice. It has been too cool for corn, but the plant is thrifty and its cultivation is general. Potatoes and gardens are backward, but otherwise promising. Fruit continues dropping in many sections, and cherries will probably not amount to more than half a crop. Strawberries are plentiful and the indications point to good crops of blackberries and raspberries.

SMITH'S DANDRUFF CURE

Positively cures dandruff, itching scalp, eczema, and stops falling hair. Price, 50c, at all druggists. Sample free. Address Smith Bros., Fresno, Cal.

RECREATION.

If you wish to enjoy a day of rest and pleasure, take the O. R. & N. train from Union depot at 9 A. M. for a short trip up the Columbia, returning, if desired, by boat from Cascade Locks. Tickets and particulars at O. R. & N. ticket office, Third and Washington.

BUSINESS ITEMS.

If Baby Is Cutting Teeth.

Be sure and use that old and well-tried remedy, Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup, for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic and diarrhoea.

FORESTRY EXPERT BACK

A. J. JOHNSON TELLS OF LIFE IN CHARLESTON.

Country Is Poor and Yields Little for the Market That Is of Good Quality.

A. J. Johnson, who was one of the Oregon commissioners to the expositions at Buffalo and Charleston, has returned from the South and will spend a few weeks at his home in Astoria to regain the flesh he lost while in Charleston. He was in Portland yesterday. "I never was so thin in my life," said he. "As I was when I left Charleston last week. We Northerners cannot stand their ways of living down there. Judged by our standards, they have very little to eat, and that little is far from being of the best quality. The country is too poor to yield much for the market. The meat we had was brought in from afar and had been frozen and thawed until its flavor was gone. Such a beefsteak as I can get here for four bits would cost about $4 down there, if it could be had at all. The land there is so old and lean that commercial fertilizers have to be used in large quantities, and strawberries and vegetables are so strongly impregnated with potash from the fertilizers that I couldn't eat them. There is no grass for cattle, only weeds growing wild, and the cows are wretchedly poor—in fact in keeping with the whole country. Winds blow there worse than in San Francisco and keep the light soil parched and the air full of dust much of the time. The white people down there would better abandon the country to the negroes.

"From my experience with both races I think the Chinese are away ahead of the negroes. They are better to get along with and better for the state."

After Mr. Johnson shall have recovered his normal weight, he will resume his business of collecting forest seeds for the United States and foreign governments. He has a considerable order to fill for the Chilean Government, seeds of lumber trees, and will go to Southern Oregon to begin the harvest. He gathers the cones in large quantities and either dries and shells the seeds on the ground or sends them to Astoria and there gets the seed from the cones. He packs the seed carefully and labels the packages with the true name and sends them to the governments that order them. Nearly every European government is a patron of Mr. Johnson, as well as all the large botanical gardens. The foreigners have been so frequently imposed upon by getting stale seed and seed not true to name, that they are very cautious and demand the most indubitable assurance that what they buy is what they ordered. Mr. Johnson has been in this business so long, however, that his customers have learned to trust him. The first orders came through the Department of State at Washington, and our Government became, in a manner, pledged to see that the foreigner did not get swindled.

Mr. Johnson gathers not only the seeds of lumber trees, but also of all other trees and plants desired, that are native to this country, his field being California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. He says he has handled 3000 varieties of seeds and plants. The lily-bulb industry alone is quite important, as many as 100,000 having been shipped by him in a single season to his foreign patrons. He finds this field very rich in bulbous plants, and there is an active demand for them abroad.

All this time Mr. Johnson is engaged in special work for the Department of the Interior, in examining and reporting upon forest reserves and other forest lands and trees under various conditions of growth. His main work of description has been completed and his reports are now appearing in publications of the United States Geological Survey.

"I like this work," said Mr. Johnson, "because there is no competition and no incentive to cheapen the character of the service. I can always be sure that my representations are correct. And then there is so much that is interesting and always fresh and new in it."

COST OF THE BOER WAR.

Totals Are Somewhere Between $800,000,000 and $1,200,000,000.

New York Commercial Advertiser.

The cost of the Boer War from a financial point of view is generally estimated in the journals of this city and even by those more or less in touch with business affairs, at $1,250,000,000, though why these figures were adopted intelligent investigation fails to reveal. Of course the actual cost of the war to Great Britain will be nothing like the amount figured, and it is even doubtful if it will reach the more conservative total of $850,000,000 recently given by a writer in these columns. The probabilities are that the cost to Great Britain will not exceed $800,000,000, and may even be less than that.

When the war began in 1899 the British Government was paying something like $100,000,000 for its army—the expenditure in 1899, in fact, was exactly that figure, or $11,797,995 less than the gross estimates for the year. The expenditures in 1900 leaped up to $218,000,000, which were almost doubled in 1901, the figures being $458,550,000, while the estimates voted for 1901-1902 were $458,508,695. The actual expenditures have not yet been reported. But as Lord Kitchener has reduced the expenses about $5,000,000 a month by his admirable system, they will be, in all probability, not more than $350,000,000. But this is the expenditure for the whole army engaged in South Africa or elsewhere at home or abroad. Obviously a good round sum must be deducted in order to give the actual expenditures upon the forces engaged in subduing the Boers. The total expenditures for the army in the three years, 1900, 1901, 1902 would be $1,075,550,000, which in themselves are $250,000,000 less than "the cost of the war," as usually given by the newspapers. Deduct from this amount the usual army expenditures for three years, taking as a basis the figures for 1899 and amounting to $300,000,000 in round numbers, and the result is $775,550,000, from which again must be deducted the cost of the China troubles, upon which $28,300,000 was expended. This brings the actual cost of the war to $687,250,000 up to July 1, 1902.

There remains yet to be taken into consideration the cost of maintaining the forces in South Africa until civil rule is permanently established. Judging from the spirit displayed by the Boers, this will not be more than one year, if that; at any rate, the number of troops will be rapidly diminished with the disarming of the colonial population and the enormous cost of transport service will be materially lessened. Accepting Secretary Brodrick's statement of the economical genius of Lord Kitchener as a basis the cost of the forces in South Africa for 1902-1903 ought not to exceed $160,000,000; but granting that, adding in the $15,000,000 for restocking Boer farms and the cost of retransportation of Boer prisoners, it will reach $200,000,000, the grand cost of the war up to July 1, 1903, will have been only $887,250,000.

It is interesting to note the direction in which these moneys have been expended. The greatest item outside of the actual pay of the soldiery has been, as will probably be conjectured, that of provisioning the troops. In 1901 this cost $48,000,000, which, with the addition of the cost of feeding the Boer prisoners in the reconcentration camps, increased in 1902 to $76,410,000. The next big item is the cost of transport service, which in 1900-1901 was $46,000,000, and in the following year something more than $76,000,000. For warlike stores the cost in 1901 was $27,500,000, and in 1902 was $34,750,000. The pay of the men reached $43,500,000 in 1900, and increased to $75,787,500 in 1902. The clothing of the men cost something like $30,000,000. It may be stated here that these figures have been reached in each instance by deducting the mean cost of Great Britain's standing army for several years before the war from the estimates for the army for the years during the war. The failure to do this in all computations of the cost of the war seems to be one of the chief factors in reaching the figures of $1,250,000,000. Manifestly it is unjust to add to the cost of the forces in South Africa the cost of the regular standing army of Great Britain, which must be maintained whether the country be at peace or war.

THE FOWLER BILL.

Aid and Comfort to Business Carried by Scientific Currency.

San Francisco Call.

The Bankers' Association of California seems not to be alone in opposing the Fowler bill for branch banking and currency issue on assets other than National bonds.

The theory of the bill is that such a system of branch banks and currency will equalize the rate of discount or interest by preventing currency congestion in the money centers.

The Bankers' Magazine for January, 1899, published a statement of the reasons which are believed to support Mr. Fowler's bill. Bradstreet reports the average rate of discounts from 1893 to 1897 in different parts of the country, showing the increase in rate with the increase in distance from New York, as follows, the average of the lower and the higher rates being given:

	Lower.	Higher.
New York	4.41	5.39
Cincinnati	5.01	5.87
Chicago	5.74	6.53
St. Louis	5.90	7.23
Milwaukee	6.27	7.92
St. Paul	6.90	7.41
Omaha	7.98	9.69
Denver	10.00	11.87
Richmond	6.00	6.40
Charleston	7.02	7.98
Savannah	7.29	9.75
Galveston	7.31	8.00
New Orleans	5.83	7.05

In these rates may be found one cause, and a great cause, of the intense Southern and Western agitation of the money question. With money at 4.41 in New York and from 5.50 to 10 in the South and West, is it any wonder that the people were willing listeners to charges against Wall street and plans for making money plentiful?

Where branch banking prevails and a flexible currency is permitted no such difference is found. The Reichsbank of Germany has branches in 316 cities, and the rate in them is identical. The Bank of France through its branches has an identical rate for the same class of loans and securities in every department. The Bankers' Magazine says that the same conditions exist, due to the same cause, in Italy, Belgium and Holland. In England the country bank rate is always the same and in Scotland 1000 banks have an identical rate.

In the Dominion of Canada the branches of the 37 chartered banks everywhere make the same rate, whether in the lumber towns of Ontario, the wheat district of Manitoba or mining camps of the Rocky Mountains, and it never exceeds an advance of 2 per cent upon Toronto, Quebec or Montreal.

The New York Journal of Commerce approves of these statements of the Bankers' Magazine, and adds that in this country alone is the principle of branch banking disregarded. In the days of State banks, however, branch banking was recognized, with the result that rates for money were equal everywhere in the state. Hugh McCulloch, who ranks among the great Secretaries of the Treasury, organized the State Bank of Indiana, with branches all over the state, and as president of the mother bank at Fort Wayne, put an end to the Indiana "red dog" currency and redeemed the financial reputation of that state. Surely a system that has worked well in other countries, and that was in successful operation here until state banks were obsoleted by our National system, is deserving of close examination, as a means for equal distribution of the loan fund of the country, in order to equalize the rate of discount.

All bankers believe that the public and private credit were put in great peril by the agitation of false financial theories in 1896. If they believe, also, that one great cause of this peril was the inequality in the rate of discount which made the use of credit costly at points remote from money centers they should accompany their opposition to the Fowler bill with suggestion of some other means to get the result expected of that measure. The borrowers are a more numerous class than the lenders and their interests must not be forgotten, for as a rule they represent the commercial and industrial enterprise of the country.

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About our pianos and organs, themselves? Well, we carry the three greatest and best pianos manufactured in the world, according to the verdict of the competent critics and the profession everywhere. They are the celebrated Chickering, of Boston, the beautiful Weber, of New York, and the now famous Kimball, of Chicago. Besides these we sell the product of over 25 other manufacturers.

Now we will stake our reputation on the fact (it is a fact) that we can sell you a fine piano for less money than you will have to pay for an inferior instrument elsewhere, East or West. We can prove this to your entire satisfaction. We proved it to over twelve hundred people so far this year, and they acknowledged the proof by purchasing of our large, fine and varied stock. You can't afford to disregard what the majority of people admit to be true. This is that the Eilers Piano House gives the most value for money invested in a piano or an organ, and it gives the most liberal terms. And therefore you can afford to purchase without seeing.

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