GENERAL NEWS.

Prairie fires are doing great damage in Rock county, Nebraska.

The Twenty-first infantry has sailed from San Francisco for Manila.

Missouri river lowlands in Nebraska are flooded, for the first time since 1881.

Representative Baird, of Louisiana, is very low at Washington, and the end is not far off.

General Guy V. Henry has resigned his position as governor of Porto Rico, on account of ill health.

It is reported at Paris that the court of cassation has decided to reject revision of the Dreyfus case.

The available cash balance in the United States treasury is $280,510,100 and the gold reserve is $241,712,740.

A party of six United States senators, led by Gray of Delaware, will leave for an extended tour of Alaska about June 1.

According to statistics gathered regarding the bubonic plague there have been 250,000 deaths recorded in India since its beginning.

Locomotive builders in Philadelphia have just received an order from the Indian government for 45 locomotives for railroads in the empire.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles S Ellsley, formerly in command of the Ninth cavalry at Fort Duchesne, Utah, died in Salt Lake City, Monday.

Experiments at Washington Tuesday with the sine wave system of telegraphy showed that 120,000 words an hour can be sent by this method.

Penniless, behind on her rent and hopeless, Georgina D. Worschak, a Duluth widow, aged 26, shot herself and two children, aged 4 and 6, Tuesday night.

Vice-President Hobart, who is sick at Washington, is holding the gain shown last week. He is able to partake of more hearty food, and sits up about half an hour daily.

Herr Polack, a well known engineer and electrician, has discovered, says the Vienna correspondent of the London Chronicle, a means of telegraphing 60,000 words per hour over a single wire.

Reports to the Bee from over Nebraska indicate that the damage to the winter wheat and rye has been greatly exaggerated. With a favorable season from now on, there will be a fair crop.

At Moontown, Mo., Frank Yeager killed with an ax a man named Powell, shot Mrs. Yeager three times and then cut his own throat. Yeager and his wife will probably die. Yeager was jealous.

The payment of the 20 per cent extra pay to the soldiers in the Philippines has been extended to include all our soldiers now in service, and will continue until hostilities in the Philippines cease.

Marconi's wireless telegraphy is to be installed on some of the big ocean lines. Ships can use the system very well 80 miles apart. Marconi is now planning to send messages from moving railway trains.

Walter Gray, aged 60, assistant bookkeeper in the subtreasury at St. Louis, was arrested for embezzling $700. He admitted having taken the money, to get medical attention for his crippled child, and intended later to repay it.

German cable advices from Apia via Auckland are that the ambuscade where Lansdale and others were killed is not on a German plantation, but near the spot where Robert Louis Stevenson is buried, and near the old crater of Apia hill.

Over 4000 American volunteers at Manila have petitioned the government to allow them to be mustered out on the island of Luzon, with travel pay to their homes, in return for which they promise to form local militia organizations.

Philip Walker, a young married man, was cowardly shot and killed at Kamloops, near Vancouver, B. C., by an Indian named Casimir. Walker was splitting firewood and Casimir shot him from behind. A posse is in pursuit of Casimir.

At Falmouth, Kentucky, in a disorderly house George R. Green, of Warsaw, Ky., shot George R. Kells, of Williamstown, Ky., four times. Kells is dying. The two were old friends, but a convivial quarrel is responsible for the tragedy.

The cruiser Chicago, which has been undergoing repairs at the Brooklyn navy-yard for months, has sailed on her first important voyage in nearly four years. A cruise of 22,000 miles is to be made, under command of Rear-Admiral Howison.

Will Tutt, colored, was hanged at Mayfield, Ky., Friday. Tutt murdered his wife because she went to a baseball game with another man. Hiram Hill, who murdered his young wife by pushing her into a well, was hanged at Crossville, Tenn.

The plague still prevails in Formosa, and is causing the death of hundreds of persons. The Singapore authorities have declared Hong Kong to be infected with the disease, and have established a quarantine on vesels from that port.

Judge Pardon B. Williams, of New York, dismissed the indictment against Roland B. Molineux, charged with the murder of Mrs. Kate J. Adams, on the ground that the document was improperly drawn, and a new indictment will be drawn up against him.

M. C. Wetmore, of St. Louis, who was forced to sell his shares in the Liggett-Myers Tobacco Company by the trust, Tuesday called together 3000 employes of the company and made a farewell address, in which he said he dedicated his fortune and life to fight trusts.

Reese Hutchinson, a young electrician graduate of Auburn college, Alabama, is exhibiting at Mobile, Alabama, his apparatus for making the deaf hear. He augments vibration and enables deaf mutes to hear words spoken in ordinary tones. The apparatus is the size of a pocket-book, and is connected by wires with an audiphone, which is held at the ear.

Lieutenant James H. Hetherton, of Mare Island, and Ensign Schulze, of the Iowa, have been ordered detached from their present duties and ordered to take the steamer for Samoa on April 19, to report to Admiral Kautz for duty on the Philadelphia. They fill vacancies caused by the death of Lieutenant Philip Landsdale and Ensign John R. Monaghan, who were killed at Samoa.

Attorney-General Monett of Ohio has filed with the supreme court information regarding the attempt said to have been made to bribe him, by the Standard Oil Co., and asks an order from the court for an investigation of the entire matter. In his information six attempts are said to have been made to bribe ex-Attorney-General D. K. Watson to drop the same cases which were pending.

Alger's emphatic denial that he intends to resign has caused little surprise in Washington. It was known before he went to Cuba that he had no intention of resigning, unless forced out by the president. He will not go until after the report of the beef inquiry board is made, and if it shall quiet the criticisms of the country, Alger will probably remain somewhat longer.

General Otis declares he has crushed the rebel army and Aguinaldo's so-called government. He adds that the Americans are not going to stop on account of rainy weather, but will make an active campaign, cutting the rebel forces in two at Manila and trapping Aguinaldo to the north. He thinks the chief problem is now to exterminate the brigands and bandits who infest the island in immense bands of great strength and daring.

A Presbyterian Sunday school has been established in Havana.

Kong Yu Wei, the Chinese fugitive statesman, has arrived at Victoria, B. C.

Official Washington generally is of the opinion that the Samoan crisis does not mean war.

The hospital ship Missouri has arrived at Fortress Monroe from Havana, with 212 sick soldiers.

The British cruiser Wallaroo and the gunboat Goldfish have been ordered to Samoa from Sydney, N. S. W.

One thousand United States militiamen will take part in the queen's birthday celebration in Kingston, Ont.

The Samoan commission will sail for Apia on the United States naval transport Badger, leaving San Francisco on the 25th inst.

Captain Dillon, of the United States transport Scandia, was arrested in San Francisco, on complaint of Sailor Mihon, charged with brutality.

Mrs. Ida Ewing, charged with having murdered her sister-in-law, Mrs. Lizzie Ewing, was acquitted Saturday by a Maryville, Mo., jury.

General Joseph Wheeler will be sent to Manila as military governor of that city, in order to relieve Otis of details and allow him to take the field.

The government brought suit in the federal court in Los Angeles to recover the purchase price of 30,000 acres of land sold by the Southern Pacific to settlers.

As a result of the request of the United States not to press Colombia for the payment of the Cerruti claim, Italy will not send a fleet to seize the custom house.

The executive committee of the national G. A. R. failed to elect a successor to the late Colonel Sexton as commander-in-chief at its meeting in Philadelphia Thursday.

At Tammany's ten-dollar dinner at New York Thursday evening Judge VanWyck was the principal speaker. He denounced trusts and the proposed Anglo-American alliance.

The greater Chicago project, having in view the consolidation of the municipal and county governments in that district, was defeated in the house of the Illinois legislature Wednesday.

On account of the increased demands on the treasury reserve, Secretary Gage will withdraw $10,000,000 government deposits from New York banks within the next three months, about $1,000,000 a week.

Miss Katherine Williams and her niece, Miss Clara Woods, were drowned in a reservoir near San Francisco Thursday. The child fell in first and the woman lost her life trying to save the little one.

A Southern senator at Washington and provisional army officers declare that President McKinley assured them he would call for 35,000 volunteers within a few weeks. The present volunteers will be mustered out first.

Senator Morgan, of Alabama, a member of the senate committee on foreign affairs, says that the one final solution of the Samoan question is partition by the great powers which now control the island jointly. He believes immediate division will settle the difficulty at once.

The report that Thomas B. Reed will resign the speakership and will not be a candidate for re-election gains credence in Washington. It is said he will practice law in New York, and be succeeded by Congressman Sherman, of that state, who is McKinley's candidate for that place.

The thanksgiving mass at St. Peter's cathedral, in Rome, which was postponed on account of the illness of his holiness, the pope, from the anniversary of the coronation, was celebrated Sunday in the Basilicia, which was thronged with diplomats, representatives of the Eastern patriarchates and foreign notables.

Dreyfus' family fears the noted prisoner is dead. The fear is due to the publication in Eclaire of a telegram from the governor of Devil's island that the prisoner contemplated suicide. It is felt this may be the way of breaking the news of his death. Mme. Dreyfus has almost given up hope that her husband is alive.

Emperor William has presented a gold chain and a set of jewels worth 18,000 marks as a prize to be contested for at the Casset singing tournament at the end of May, not only to the leading German singing societies, but by a number of similar societies in the United States and elsewhere, who have decided to take part in the contest.

Adjutant General Corbin is probably the man most responsible for the failure to organize the 35,000 troops authorized by the last congress. McKinley is no doubt glad to put it off, but Corbin has been rampant against the increase, and denounces those who want the force called out as men who want to get places for themselves or their friends in the army.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NEWS.

The work of compiling statistics of the schools of Oregon will soon be begun by Superintendent Ackerman.

Clatsop county's subscription to state expenses for 1898 is $13,785 89 and Lane county has contributed $35,963.81

Roseburg lodge, No. 326, B. P. O. E., has offered a reward of $100 for the recovery of the body of the late A. W. Reed.

California newspapers have decided unanimously to ignore the newspaper signature law, which went into effect Wednesday.

Clatsop is the sixth county to pay its state taxes in full, having remitted $13,785.89 to State Treasurer Moore, the total amount due from it.

Now that the blooming season is here, fruit men in the Willamette valley are getting over the scare occasioned by the cold weather in January and find that there is going to be quite a crop of fruit. There will be a fair crop of Italian prunes.

Reports from orchards along Snake river are that all the peaches are killed. Orchardmen report that but few of the trees have bloomed, and even in such cases the blossom does not indicate a peach. Many of the trees have been killed entirely to the ground, ruining many of the best orchards.

THE ROAD TO DEFEAT.

The road to defeat is a curious road,
Nobody thinks he walks there—
Yet all day long a motley throng
Fusses and crowds and stalks there.
Some are people of brain and worth,
Who have wearied of truth's long highway;
In the breathless race after riches and place
They sought for a short cut byway.

And others have stumbled and missed the road
And wandered off into Sinning—
When they counted the cost the way seemed lost,
Back into the right beginning.
Some loiter through meadows of "Time-enough,"
Some rush through the gates of Hurry—
Some seek the defile of "Wait-a-while"
And others the field of Flurry.

There are many old women and many old men
Who think they are as wise as sages—
And in paths of Defeat tread, too, the feet
Of children of tender ages.
They follow the motto of "Do as you please,"
They scorn to be led or guided;
And all kinds of work they hate and shirk,
And they cannot endure to be chided.

Out from the valley "Pretty-soon"
They straggle along at leisure;
They tumble and drop from the mountain top
Of selfish and idle pleasure
Oh, a very queer road is the road to Defeat.
Where the people are all so knowing—
Yet never a soul knows the name of his goal—
Now, is this the way YOU are going?

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

Emperor William's Idea.

The entire German press is greatly alarmed by the news, first published through the instrumentality of the Associated Press, that Emperor William intends to introduce in the Prussian diet a government measure creating the city of Berlin and its suburbs into a separate province and largely destroying the present self-government of the municipality.

ROOSEVELT IN CHICAGO.

Theodore Roosevelt, governor of New York, spoke before the Hamilton Club in Chicago Monday night, his subject being "The Strenuous Life," as follows:

"In speaking to you, men of the greatest city of the west, men of the state which gave to the country Lincoln and Grant, men who pre-eminently and distinctly embody all that is most American in the American character, I wish to preach, not the doctrine of ignoble ease, but the doctrine of the strenuous life; the life of toil and effort; of labor and strife; to preach that highest form of success which comes, not to the man who desires more easy peace, but to the man who does not shrink from danger, from hardships or from bitter toil, and who out of these wins the splendid ultimate triumph.

"We of this generation do not have to face a task such as that our fathers faced, but we have our tasks, and woe to us if we fail to perform them! We cannot, if we would, play the part of China, and be content to rot by inches in ignoble ease within our borders, taking no interest in what goes on beyond them: sunk in a scrambling commercialism heedless of the higher life, the life of aspiration, of toil and risk; busying ourselves only with the wants of our bodies for the day; until, suddenly, what China has already found, that in this world the nation that has trained itself to a career of unwarlike and isolated ease, is bound in the end to go down before other nations which have not lost the manly and adventurous qualities. If we are to be a really great people, we must strive in good faith to play a great part in the world. From the standpoint of international honor, the argument is even stronger. The guns that thundered off Manila and Santiago left us echoes of glory, but they also left us a legacy of duty. If we drove out a mediaeval tyranny only to make room for savage anarchy, we had better not have begun the task at all. It is worse than idle to say that we have no duty to perform and can leave to their fates the islands we have conquered. Such a course would be the course of infamy. It would be followed at once by utter chaos in the wretched islands themselves. Some stronger, manlier power would have to step in and do the work; and we would have shown ourselves weaklings, unable to carry to successful completion the labors that great and high spirited nations are eager to undertake.

"The work must be done, we cannot escape our responsibility, and if we are worth our salt we shall be glad of the chance to do the work—glad of the chance to show ourselves equal to one of the great tasks set modern civilization.

* * *

"Our army has never been built up as it should be built up. I shall not discuss with an audience like this the puerile suggestion that a nation of 70,000,000 of freemen is in danger of losing its liberties from the existence of an army of 100,000 men, three-fourths of whom will be employed in certain foreign islands, in certain coast fortresses, and on Indian reservations. No man of good sense and stout heart can take such a proposition seriously. If we are such weaklings as the proposition implies, then we are unworthy of freedom in any event. To no body of men in the United States is the country so much indebted as to the splendid officers and enlisted men of the regular army and navy; there is no body from which the country has less to fear and none of which it should be prouder, none which it should be more anxious to upbuild.

"At the present hour no small share of the responsibility for the bloodshed in the Philippines, the blood of our brothers and the blood of their wild and ignorant foes, lies at the thresholds of those who so long delayed the adoption of the treaty of peace and of those who by their worse than foolish words deliberately invited a savage people to plunge into a war fraught with sure disaster for them; a war, too, in which our own brave men who follow the flag must pay with their blood for the silly, mock-humanitarianism of the prattlers who sit at home in peace.

"The army and the navy are the sword and the shield which this nation must carry, if she is to do her duty among the nations of the earth—if she is not to stand merely as the China of the western hemisphere. Our proper conduct toward the tropic islands we have wrested from Spain is merely the form which our duty has taken at the moment. Of course, we are bound to handle the affairs of our own household well. We must see that there is civic honesty, civic cleanliness, civic good sense in our home administration of city, state and nation. We must strive for honesty in office, for honesty towards the creditors of the nation and of the individual; for the widest freedom of individual initiative where it is hostile to the welfare of the many.

* * *

"The problems are different for the different islands. Puerto Rico is not large enough to stand alone. We must govern it wisely and well, primarily in the interest of its own people.

"Cuba is, in my judgment, entitled ultimately to settle for itself whether it shall be an independent state or an integral portion of the mightiest of republics. But until order and stable liberty are secured, we must remain in the island to insure them; and infinite tact, judgment, moderation and courage must be shown by our military and civil representatives in keeping the island pacified, in relentlessly stamping out brigandage, in protecting all alike, and yet in showing proper recognition to the men who fought for Cuban liberty.

"The Philippines offer a yet graver problem. Their population includes half caste and native Christians, warlike Moslems, and wild pagans. Many of their people are utterly unfit for self-government and show no signs of becoming fit. Others may in time become fit, but at present can only take part in self-government under a wise supervision at once firm and beneficent. We have driven Spanish tyranny from the islands. If we now let it be replaced by a savage anarchy, our work has been for harm and not for good. I have scant patience with those who fear to undertake the task of governing the Philippines, and who openly avow that they do fear to undertake it, or that they shrink from it because of the expense and trouble; but I have even scanter patience with those who make a pretense of humanitarianism to hide and cover their timidity, and who cant about 'liberty' and the 'consent of the governed' in order to excuse themselves for their unwillingness to play the part of men. Their doctrines if carried out would make it incumbent upon us to leave the Apaches of Arizona to work out their own salvation and to decline to interfere in a single Indian reservation. Their doctrines condemn your forefathers and mine for ever having settled in these United States.

* * *

"I preach to you, then, my countrymen, that our country calls not for the life of ease, but for the life of strenuous endeavor. The twentieth century looms before us big with the fate of many nations. If we stand idly by, if we seek merely swollen, slothful ease, and ignoble peace, if we shrink from the hard contests where men must win at hazard of their lives, and at the risk of all they hold dear, then the bolder and stronger peoples will pass us by and will win for themselves the domination of the world. Let us therefore boldly face the life of strife, resolute to do our duty well and manfully; resolute to uphold righteousness by deed and by word, resolute to be both honest and brave, to serve high ideals, yet to use practical methods. Above all, let us shrink from no strife, moral or physical, within or without the nation, provided we are certain that the strife is justified; for it is only through strife, through hard and dangerous endeavor, that we shall ultimately win the goal of true national greatness."

TESTING SEED WHEAT.

The seeds of field crops may be tested with comparatively little labor and practically no expense, writes Prof. W. M. Hays agriculturist of the Minnesota Experiment station. Since the entire crop depends upon the seed, it is always wise to plant seed of good vitality. If the seed is injured in some way it is often wise to add a little to the quantity that there may be a full stand of the crop. In some sections of the Northwest the seed wheat and other grains were seriously injured the past season by heavy fall rains, necessitating the grain standing in the shock until more or less of it was injured. These fall rains also made it difficult to cure seed grain.

* * *

The ordinary kitchen test is a practical way of testing seeds. Much depends upon the method of doing this testing as to the accuracy and value of the information thus secured. By testing seeds at a rather high temperature, such as is found near the kitchen stove, a great many seeds would germinate which would fail if the temperature were too low, as is sometimes the case in the field. For instance, seed corn often shows a higher percentage of germination in the kitchen than in the field. If the temperature is kept up to 60 degrees in the house and then the corn is subjected to a wet soil with a temperature of 40 or 45 degrees, there will be much more rotting and a far less percentage of strong corn plants than was indicated by the test in the house. On the other hand, the test in the house may show entirely too small a percentage of germination, as in a case where it is kept very cool or where the seeds are allowed to freeze during cold nights after germination has been well started.

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Where the conditions are kept uniform, as they may be in greenhouse, the person testing seeds soon learns to tell not only the percentage that will germinate at a given temperature, but something also as to the relative strength of the resulting plants. Mr. Jerry Sexton, foreman at the Iowa Agricultural College, annually tested many seeds on the benches in the station greenhouse. He could place an estimate on not only the percentage that would germinate in the field, but also on the vitality of the resulting plants. Seed corn might germinate and yet be very poorly adapted to making a good growth during its early life.

* * *

In testing seed wheat and other field crops something like the following method may be pursued: Take ordinary soil from the field or garden and place it in a large pan or other vessel; plant the seeds at nearly the ordinary depth, and in rows, carefully marked. A good way is to plant 100 seeds of each kind and then in another vessel in another part of the room, or where it will be kept either cooler or warmer, plant another 100, so as to duplicate results under different conditions. These seeds may be laid rather thickly in the row, but should all be in contact with the natural soil. This soil should be very carefully managed as to the amount of water it contains. It should not be saturated with all of the capillary moisture it can hold, and no water should be allowed at any time to stand in the soil as ground water or standing water. As soon as the plants begin to come through the ground, they may be counted daily to see what percentage is coming early and what seeds are tardy in germinating. When the test is well through, the seeds may be dug up and the percentage of seeds that actually germinated determined. Some may have germinated, but owing to the unfavorable condition in the house, may have died before reaching the surface, or some may have been weak and on that account may not have come out of the ground.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

There is no man in our public life who so finely illustrates in his character and career the temper of the American people and the mood of the time as Theodore Roosevelt. It was this consciousness that made the ovation at Chicago on Monday night; and it is the same consciousness that makes audiences of vital men everywhere throw up their hats and hurrah when Theodore Roosevelt rises to speak. The American world—and particularly the West—loves a man who speaks as he thinks and who practices as he preaches. The West loves Roosevelt because, though a child of fortune, appealed to by all the invitations of ease, he chooses the manlier part of a strenuous life, making nice of no toil or stress or hazard when there is patriotic work to be done. It loves him, too, for the sympathy which makes him comprehend, as no other man of Eastern breeding has ever done, the spirit of the Western folk and the depth and force of the Western life.

* * *

In the creed of this vital and spirited man, as we find it set forth in his Chicago address, Lincoln and Grant are names which "pre-eminently and distinctly embody all that is most American in American character;" the highest form of success is that which comes "not to the man who desires easy peace, but to the man who does not shrink from danger, from hardship or from bitter toil." "A mere life of ease is not in the end a very satisfactory life, and, above all, it is a life which ultimately unfits those who follow it for serious work in the world." "Thank God for the iron in the blood of our fathers, the men who upheld the wisdom of Lincoln, and bore sword or rifle in the armies of Grant!"

* * *

It is from such a creed that there springs the will to make for the United States "a great power in the world:" to meet in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippine islands the high responsibilities which confront us and the "labors that great and high-spirited nations are eager to undertake." From this creed, too, there springs a righteous contempt for "the timid man, the lazy man, the man who distrusts his country, the over civilized man, who has lost the great fighting, masterful virtues, the ignorant man and the man of dull mind, whose soul is incapable of feeling the mighty life that thrills 'stern men with empires in their brains.'"

* * *

In these few phrases there lie reflected and crystallized the sentiment and the temper of the whole West. The spirit in which they were heard at Chicago may well be heeded, for it presages a force bound to be manifest in the future politics of the country—a newer politics dealing with what is vital in national life rather than what is old and outworn. It is not possible that the differences which separate Roosevelt and those who stand with him from Senator Hoar and his partisans shall long be unreflected in our party life. We shall have on the one hand the vital, positive and hopeful spirit of the Roosevelt address and on the other the conservatism, pessimism and distrust of country which makes the platform of the obstructionists. As to which of these systems of opinion and action will prevail, it is hardly necessary to suggest, for while vital blood runs in American veins there can be but one answer. As a nation we shall accept the strenuous life. We shall go bravely forward in it, for it is the spirit and the impulse of our race.—Portland Oregonian.

Polk county has outstanding and unpaid county warrants with accrued interest thereon to the amount of $92,798.97, by the last report of County Clerk Hayter, which is up to March 31, 1899.

BRYAN'S JEFFERSON DINNER SPEECH.

William J. Bryan delivered the principal speech at the dollar Jefferson dinner given in New York city Saturday night. In introducing Colonel Bryan, chairman Brown said that Abraham Lincoln had come out of the west to save the nation, and that another man had come from the west to save the nation. A perfect tempest of applause from the men and women broke out. The applause subsided, but started afresh. The band struck up, but could scarcely be heard as it played "The Stars and Stripes Forever." Hats were thrown into the air, women waved their cloaks and handkerchiefs. There was a maelstrom of discord. Mr. Bryan raised his hand deprecatingly, but the more he did this the more the crowd cheered. It was a wild, frantic demonstration: it lasted for at least five minutes.

Mr. Bryan began in a calm, clear voice and was frequently interrupted by applause. He referred to the gathering as probably the largest banquet ever given in the United States and spoke of those present as "being true to the principles of democracy as written in democracy's latest creed"—a statement which provoked cries of "Bravo?"

Referring to the Croker banquet of two nights, ago Mr. Bryan said: "A democrat has a right to pay whatever he pleases for a dinner if he has the money. The character of the banquet is not determined by the cost, but by the sentiments which are woven into the post-prandial oratory."

* * *

Then taking up the convention of 1896, Mr. Bryan spoke of the secession from the two leading parties. Those who left the republican party after the St. Louis convention took a name so different from the republican name that no one would mistake the one for the other. They made a bold and earnest fight, and since that campaign, Mr. Bryan declared, "they have neither gone back, nor, standing outside, have they attempted to write the platform of the party which they left."

As compared with the action of the silver republicans, Mr. Bryan held up the course of the "national democrats," and said: "There can be no harmony between those whose opinions are as antagonistic as the opinions set forth in the Chicago platform and the Indianapolis platform. All that we ask is that those who come into the democratic party shall be a part of the democratic party. We simply insist that a man can not be a political bigamist. He can not be wedded to the name of our party and to the principles of some other party We simply ask that he shall get a formal divorce, either from our name or from their principles."

Continuing, Mr. Bryan declared that the Chicago platform was written by the representatives of the democratic party in the most democratic convention that has been held in a quarter of a century and "that every plank of it is stronger today than it was when the platform was writen."

He added: "Those who believe that we should invite into the democratic party all those who can not share in the purpose and the aspirations of that party—I can not speak for others; I speak for myself—are wrong, and I say that I would not abstract from it a single plank to get back every man who left it. Nor do I believe that we could draw people to us by cowardice. The day for ambiguity has passed. That platform means something; and if you ask me why it was that in the campaign of 1896 the hearts of people were stirred as they have not lately been stirred, I will tell you it was because the struggling masses found in that platform an inspiration, and aggregated wealth found in it a menace to every man who robs his neighbor for his own benefit. It was those who have intrenched themselves by abuses of government who objected to that platform, and well they might object, because that platform was aimed at every abuse of government, and I was glad that I was supported by those who would have only asked me for just laws. I am glad the 6,500,000 who voted for me simply wanted me to get other people's hands out of their pockets (applause), and not to get their hands into other people's pockets."

* * *

After reviewing the various planks of the democratic platform of 1896 Mr. Bryan spoke briefly of the republican legislation under the present administration, speaking especially of the war revenue legislation, the stamp tax and the failure to reach the income of the rich and the corporations. He said: "One of the things stamped is a telegram. Wherever you want to send a telegram, you go to the telegraph office and you find that the republican party has so made the law that the telegraph company can transfer the burden from its shoulders to yours.

"The republican party in all of its politics is putting the dollar above the man and in that is departing from the doctrine of Lincoln, its founder, for in 1859 he said the republican party believes in both the man and the dollar, but in cases of conflict the man before the dollar. The republican party is putting the dollar above the man in all its legislation and nowhere is it more apparent than in matters of taxation. The republican party is not trying to restore justice in taxation. The war has shown that when this government deals with an individual its power is unlimited, but when it deals with property its power is limited. It can draft the citizen, but it can not touch the dollar. In the hour of peril the nation can take the son from his mother and the husband from his wife and stand them up in front of an enemy's gun, but it dare not lay its finger on the wealth of the rich and make them contribute their share."

* * *

Mr. Bryan discussed the question of bimetallism at length, repeating well known arguments and said: "I have been asked why I am not willing to drop the money question. I reply: 'Because the money question won't drop us.'

"I know not what others may desire or what they may be willing to do, but I am not willing that our declarations against the gold standard shall be dropped as long as a handful of English financiers can determine the financial policy of 70,000,000 of American people. And some say that if we will not drop the money question, we ought to drop the ratio of 16 to 1. When you find a man opposed to 16 to 1, inquire and you will find that he was never in favor of it and then inquire again and you will find that there is no other ratio that he is in favor of. We denounced international bimetallism as a delusion and a snare in 1896. It has been proved to be so since 1836. We declared for the ratio of 16 to 1 in 1896 and no party has risen to advocate any other ratio but 16 to 1.

"Until some party proposes some other ratio and tries to secure bimetallism at some other ratio there is no reason why we should discuss ratio with them. The ratio of 16 to 1 was decided upon, not at the Chicago convention, but at the primaries which elected delegates to attend the Chicago convention. The ratio of 16 to 1 had been submitted to the people and those who wanted it in 1896 are in favor of it now and they know why they are in favor of it. The ratio of 16 to 1 is the ratio at which our gold and silver coins now circulate. We simply ask reinstatement of the law that was on the statute books—where it was before the act of demonetization was secretly passed.

* * *

"When people ask us to drop our fight on the money question and fight trusts I remember that the republican party is today preparing to originate a trust more potent for evil than all the industrial trusts combined. There is a bill now before congress reported by the republican committee that turns over to the national banks the absolute control of the paper money of this country. It provides for the retirement of the greenbacks by an issue of bonds drawing 2 per cent; it provides that banks shall be permitted to issue up to the par value of bonds and the 1 per cent tax on circulation of 1 per cent. Here is your evidence of good republican policy. They want to issue bonds in place of greenbacks and tax the people to pay the interest on the bonds and then they refuse the tax that banks now pay on the circulation that they have. Why pile up the taxes on the people and lower the taxes on the banks?"

* * *

In conclusion, Mr. Bryan declared against the increase of the standing army, denouncing it as an unnecessary burden upon the people. He urged that the Puerto Ricans should be given their choice between annexation and a republic of their own.

A reference to the United States as a bully for striking down the Filipino natives created the greatest enthusiasm of the night. There was a mighty demonstration when he said that it was this country that had inspired the Filipino with love of liberty. The American government of the Filipinos is a despotism, he declared, and this was loudly applauded.

It was not surprising, he said, that a country that should send to England for a financial policy, as it had two years ago, should now send there for a colonial policy. This was received with wild applause.

When he intimated that he wanted to stop, he was told to go on, and many requested him to talk more on imperialism.

When he said: "We may fail in 1900," there were tumultuous cries of "No, never."

When he concluded another hurricane of applause broke forth. Men and women acted wildly. Men again threw up their hats and women waved their cloaks and handkerchiefs and shouted and jumped up and down.

Mr. Bryan spoke one hour and nine minutes. He was in as good voice when he finished as when he began.

WHEAT REPORTS NOT RELIABLE.

It is disheartening to have to say to the farmer, when his wheat is ready for market: If you sell now you will get a fair price, but if you carry your crop for six months you may get less in the end, and be out the cost of the carriage into the bargain. Yet so often is this advice demonstrated wise by events that there is little else that can be said. The department of agriculture has tried to help the farmer out year by year by predicting a light wheat crop. When the grain was threshed the estimate was found to be too low, the crop was heavier than had been predicted and speculative support of the market slackened.

* * *

The New York Journal of Commerce has just made an interesting comparison in this matter. Last summer, in speaking of the government report on the condition of wheat on August 1, the Journal recalled the fact that the wheat crop of 1897 was about a third greater than the condition report August 1 promised; that the official figures were probably nearer the fact than they were the year before, but an addition of only 20 per cent to the estimate based upon condition. August 1 would give 725,000,000 bushels as the probable crop. The crop estimate based upon the condition report August 1 was 607,000,000 bushels, and the department of agriculture's final report of the crop was 675,000,000, so that the crop was only a little more than 11 per cent above the estimates based on condition figures. But for suggesting an addition for error to the estimates based upon official reports the Journal was taken to task very sharply by a correspondent who regarded anything over 700,000,000 bushels as very much too high.

* * *

It is interesting now to compare the figures of the Journal's fault-finding critic with the final figures of the department of agriculture, which for several years have been much too low, though the figures for last year appear so far to be high enough. The critic's figures for the entire crop, of which he was very confident, were 50,000,000 bushels less than the department's final report. Some few winter-wheat states, he admitted, had produced a few bushels more than the year before; but this was "off-set and more by the lesser crops in other states, such as Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Oklahoma and the Indian territory." The department's figures show, instead of losses, a light gain in New Jersey, a gain of more than 2,000,000 bushels in Virginia, and of nearly 4,000,000 in Oklahoma. Instead of the Michigan crop being "possibly 5,000,000 bushels more than last year," the official increase is over 10,000,000 bushels. Instead of Kansas having only 10,000,000 bushels more than the year before, the state is officially credited with a gain of close to 17,000,000. Instead of the loss in California being "for more than the increase in Kansas and Michigan," there was a net gain in the three states of over 7,000,000 bushels. Instead of the small gains in a few winter-wheat states being more than offset by the losses in others, the department of agriculture reports the winter wheat of the last crop at 57,000,000 bushels more than that of the year before.

* * *

This is a very fair illustration of the errors made by persons who are continually figuring out to the farmer that he should hold his wheat, because "strong statistical positions" will ultimately raise the price. They give data by states and countries for all their arguments. But time demonstrates their mistakes. The farmer has a perfect right to sell his wheat or to hold it. But censure is to be attached to irresponsible advisors of delay in marketing, which is always expensive, and frequently unwise. The wheatgrower ought to require an indemnifying bond of every man who wants to "guarantee" him that wheat will be high in the spring.—Portland Oregonian.

THE PROBLEM AT MANILA.

A Seductive Beverage Incapacitates the American Soldiers.

A serious problem is confronting General Otis at Manila. The alarming effects upon American soldiers of the seductive beverage procured from native shops produced such physical and mental demoralization as to give rise to a suspicion that the army of occupation was being systematically drugged to render them helpless to resist insurgent attack. This native drink is known as vino. It is exceedingly palatable and inexpensive, but a single drink unfits a soldier for active duty for 24 hours. Frequent potations sent a soldier to the hospital for a long period of illness. As long as Manila was crowded with troops the vino industry, being unrestricted, was exceedingly lucrative, but now that most of the Americans are in the field, practically all the vino shops are closed. Otis restricted the sale, anyway.

Expansion is Expensive.

Paul Courier's "History of Civilization" shows that Algeria cost France 1560 times the net profit of its annual revenues. Up to 1896 Madagascar cost France $85,000,000 and there is as yet nothing real to show in return. Tonquin has produced mainly disease and constant slaughter. San Domingo cost France more dearly than all her great revolutions. The Abyssinian enterprise, which proved abortive, cost Italy $115,000,000 and thousands of lives, more than enough money to drain the Pontine marshes and cover the dry hills with fruit trees and forest trees and make Italy far more prosperous and contented.

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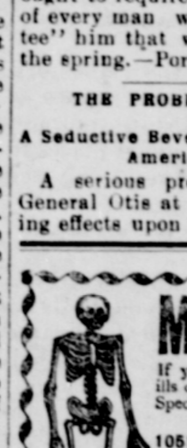

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