

## OUR CONDITION.

According to Mr. Walker, a Republican member of Congress from Massachusetts, the people of the United States owe debts, public and private, amounting to \$32,000,000,000. We take Mr. Walker as authority because, coming from New England, and being a Republican, he will not be accused of placing the figures too high.

It is claimed by some that the rate of interest on this indebtedness will average eight per cent. per annum. But to be entirely safe and conservative for the purpose of this article, we will place the rate at six per cent. which on \$32,000,000,000 amounts to \$1,920,000,000. Now what will it take to pay this interest? The corn crop of the country in 1892 was 1,628,464,000 bushels. If it brought an average of 40 cents per bushel, we have \$651,385,600, as its total value. Our wheat crop the same year was 519,490,000 bushels, which at an average price of 80 cents a bushel gives us \$415,592,000.

Our oat crop was 661,037,000 bushels, and at 25 cents a bushel we have \$165,259,250. Our gold mines produced \$33,000,000, and our silver mines \$75,000,000.

Now let us put the value of all these products together and see how we come out.

Value of corn crop.....	\$651,385,600
Value of wheat crop.....	415,592,000
Value of oat crop.....	165,259,250
Value of gold crop.....	33,000,000
Value of silver crop.....	75,000,000

Total.....\$1,340,236,850

But the interest bill is....\$1,920,000,000

So there is a balance of \$579,763,150 to make up after giving up our gross product, as above shown. To pay this balance it will take our entire cotton and hay crops. It is estimated that two-thirds of this interest is paid directly and indirectly to foreigners.

Now friends, Americans, freeman, how do you like it as far as we have gone?

We select these great staples for illustration, to aid the mind in grasping the vast proportions of the burden upon us.

If we reserve any of these products for

our own use we have made up therefore in something else of equal value. This debt is now equal to one-half the entire wealth of the nation. It draws 6 per cent. and will double in twelve years. The wealth of the nation increases at the rate of only 3 per cent., and hence will take twenty-four years to double. Therefore the debt will double twice while the wealth is doubling once, and at the end of twenty-four years it will equal the wealth of the nation.—[St. Louis Monitor.

—♦—

Filibustering seems to be the main order now in the United States Congress, especially in the House. If to delay action or to defeat a bill be the purpose in view, a lot of members go off on a tate; then no quorum, no business. It should be the law—but Congress makes the law and there's the rub—that every day a member absents himself from duty without reasonable excuse, he should be fined in a sum ten times the amount of his salary for the time absent. An entire day—March 27,—was wasted in just such foolery. Yet each member draws his salary with unvarying regularity and "we the people" continue to pay taxes.

—♦—

Only 17 Republicans in the House voted to have a lot of silver in the government vaults coined into money so as to increase to that extent the circulating medium of the country and relieve the present financial distress.

—♦—

Master Workman Sovereign, of the Knights of Labor, said in a speech recently:

"Labor is free," says a corporation newspaper. Yes, labor is free to fight the battles, pay the taxes and produce the wealth. Labor is free to pay trust prices for food, pay tribute to Shylock and beg for leave to toil. Labor is free to work for what it can get, live in overcrowded tenement-houses in back alleys, and vote the monopoly ticket or be discharged.

Labor is free to work out fines under vagrancy laws, sleep in jails and live on bread and water. Labor is born to starve, free to die, and free to fill a place in the potter's field. Shades of Patrick Henry, what a glorious freedom!"