

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROHEWATER, Editor.

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. Daily (without Sunday), One Year, \$6.00; Daily (with Sunday), One Year, \$7.00; Six Months, One Year, \$4.00; Sunday, One Year, \$2.50; Foreign, One Year, \$10.00; Single Copies, 10 Cents.

OFFICES. Omaha: The Bee Building, Twenty-fifth and M Streets. Chicago: 100 Unity Building. New York: Temple Court. Washington: 501 Fourteenth Street.

COMMUNICATIONS. Communications relating to news and editorial matter should be addressed to The Bee Publishing Company, Omaha.

BUSINESS LETTERS. Business letters and remittances should be addressed to The Bee Publishing Company, Omaha.

REMITTANCES. Remit by draft, express or postal order, payable to The Bee Publishing Company.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. For the week ending January 19, 1901, as follows: Total, 840,085; Less unsold and returned copies, 10,917; Net total, 829,168.

That anti-cigarette bill dies mightily hard. In appointing its sifting committee the senate gives signs of early closing.

March comes in with a most lamb-like aspect. Let us hope the lion does not develop later.

Now the state needs those 320 cells that Bill Dorgan did not install in the east cell house.

The flames wrote "fals" to one of the most remarkable chapters in the history of Nebraska when the penitentiary burned.

Abolishing the Missouri river commission doesn't cut off the appropriation for the work. The commission can be spared.

If it is really true that General Boha has surrendered and Dewet is cornered the British cannot complain that they have not had a run for their money.

Governor Savage's military staff may not be as ornamental as Governor Dietrich's, but it is just as numerous and will doubtless serve its purpose just as well.

The Cubans have informed the United States that while they can never become one of the family they are perfectly willing to be a sister to the great republic.

Count Castellane insists that he cannot live on the allowance of \$250,000 per year. If he was forced to earn his own living he would be compelled to exist on much less.

Local architects agree that the coming season is to witness much building in Nebraska. This evidence of growth is another answer to the people who have carpied at the state since the publication of the census figures.

If the English writers have any difficulty in remembering who the late William M. Everts was and what he did, they can refer to the Alabama award. It is a lasting monument to the ability of Everts and his associates.

Ordinarily people regret to see or hear of the burning of what has one time been their home, but in the case of the blaze at the penitentiary few former dwellers will have any signs on account of pleasant memories which cluster around its grim walls.

Right-of-way for the Omaha & Northern across the Omaha and Winnebago reservation seems to have encountered serious opposition in the national house of representatives. Just at present the Vanderbilts control the only line across the reservation.

One Nebraska boy has decided that he would rather be a business man than an officer in the navy. He may not have as brilliant a social career in a country bank as a naval commission would afford, but he will find other things to take its place.

The members of the cabinet have all tendered their resignations to take effect March 4, in accordance with custom. There are a few days left in which the correspondents can indulge in cabinet making and then the president will take a hand.

The governor of Illinois has shown the proper spirit in the matter of protecting a prisoner from a mob which threatened to lynch him. After the would-be lynchers have cooled off they will thank the governor for preventing them from indulging in such a lawless act.

As usual, the lawyers in the senate, who would never advise a litigant to seek a cheap counselor, are urging that the state hunt out the cheapest newspaper by which to do its advertising. They overlook the fact that the very object of advertising is to gain publicity and that a newspaper's advertising rates are based on its ability to reach the people.

REVENUE REDUCTION

The revenue reduction bill finally agreed upon is on the whole a satisfactory measure, though it is not to be expected that all interests will be pleased with it. The tobacco and beer interests, for example, do not get as much relief from taxation as was provided for in the senate bill, but they have no reasonable ground of complaint, since public opinion was largely against any reduction of the taxes on beer and tobacco.

The chief issue between the two houses was in regard to the treatment of these interests, resulting in a compromise. The provisions of the measure that will be most widely approved are those repealing the taxes on bank checks, certificates of deposit, money orders, express receipts, telegraph and telephone messages. These affect a great number of people and if not generally burdensome are more or less annoying.

The house conferees secured quite a triumph in having the tax repealed on all kinds of insurance, the senate conferees receding on all senate amendments. It was apprehended when the bill was sent to conference that an agreement could not be reached, such was the feeling of resentment on the part of the house at the radical action of the senate in entirely recasting the bill, but the republicans conferees—Messrs. Aldrich and Allison on the part of the senate and Messrs. Payne and Dabzell on the part of the house—evinced a proper appreciation of the demands of the public and of the interests of the party and the measure agreed upon encountered no opposition in either house.

The estimated reduction of revenue under the bill, which will go into effect at the beginning of the next fiscal year, July 1, is \$41,000,000. This is \$11,000,000 in excess of the amount recommended by the president and secretary of the treasury as a safe reduction, but it is not too large if the next congress does not very materially increase the expenditures of the government, which it is not likely to do unless conditions arise imperatively requiring it. There is now a large cash balance in the treasury and there will be a considerable surplus at the end of the current fiscal year. Assuming existing conditions of business to continue without important change and no new demands upon the government arise, it can be confidently expected that the surplus at the close of the next fiscal year, June 30, 1902, will be nearly as large as for the present year. At all events there is every reason to expect that the revenues of the government will be ample, if expenditures are kept within conservative bounds, after the reduction now provided for goes into effect.

The republican party has fulfilled its promise to reduce the war taxes as soon as it was found practicable to do so. The reduction is less than the opposition to that party profess to believe should have been made, but it is as much as prudence and safety dictate at present. It is possible that the next congress will find it expedient to make a still further reduction, but it would have been unwise at this time to cut off more than \$41,000,000 of revenue.

UBGING FORWARD NEGOTIATIONS.

It is stated that the American special commissioner at Peking has been instructed to inform the foreign ministers that President McKinley deprecates any action tending to delay or check negotiations with the Chinese government and that he is especially desirous that there shall be no further unnecessary bloodshed.

The attitude of a majority of the foreign ministers on the question of punishment of Chinese officials, as reported a few days ago, warrants the belief that the American representative will have their co-operation in his efforts to put a stop to executions, for the fact of this government expressing its opposition to the bloodthirsty policy of some of the powers cannot fail to have great influence. As we have heretofore said in referring to this matter, the course that has been pursued is anything but creditable to western civilization and it ought to go no further. The danger that if continued it might drive the Chinese to desperation and cause armed resistance on their part is one to be considered, but hardly less important is the question of the moral effect upon the civilized nations.

The position taken by President McKinley will be heartily approved by the American people and ought to have an improving effect on the Chinese situation.

PROVIDING FOR THE NAVY.

There is an issue between the two branches of congress over the naval bill and it is said the measure may fail. It is probable, however, that as usual in such cases a compromise will be effected.

There is a disposition to reduce the appropriations carried by the bill and the senate amended it to this end. This is opposed by members of the house who think that the work of building up the navy should be pushed with all possible vigor, but not all the republican leaders take this view.

Mr. Cannon, chairman of the house committee on appropriations, expressed the opinion a few days ago that no harm would be done if the number of ships provided for in the pending bill should be reduced and it be left for the next congress to determine whether they should be authorized. He said we have a navy of 254 vessels and we have 50 vessels in the auxiliary navy, making 310. There have just been placed under contract 5 battleships and 6 cruisers. Various other ships, amounting in round numbers to 50, are in course of construction. There are already in course of construction great naval ships that will cost \$65,000,000 to complete, this being wholly apart from the \$77,000,000 appropriated by the pending bill.

"Now," said Mr. Cannon, "I believe that with a naval bill carrying \$77,000,000 and \$65,000,000 to be provided in the future for vessels under construction—the naval bill merely authorizing four vessels to cost \$25,000,000 in the aggregate, without appro-

printing one dollar for them—I believe in the existing condition, we can with safety to the national defense wait until next winter before we authorize the construction of any other ships."

Undoubtedly there are many who will concur in this view, even among those who desire that the navy shall be increased. From the statement made by Mr. Cannon, on the authority of the naval committee, there certainly appears to be no urgent necessity for the present congress authorizing all the ships provided for in the naval bill. There is unquestionably a very general popular sentiment in favor of further strengthening the sea power of the United States, but this should be done without undue haste and it seems that we are making quite satisfactory progress.

FOR A NEW PRISON.

In one respect the burning of the state prison at Lincoln is not so deplorable a calamity as it might be. While the money loss is a serious one, the effect of the destructive fire will be to compel action along lines that will provide Nebraska with what has long been needed, a strictly modern building for use as a penitentiary. The penitentiary at Lincoln was an obsolete type of prison house. It was a continual source of expense to the state on account of repairs that had to be made, and even with this provision it was never in proper condition, either as to safety or sanitation.

Recently the senate's committee visited the prison unexpectedly and reported finding matters in wretched condition. In its report to the senate the committee set out in detail the defects of the building, showing how unfit it was for the uses of a penitentiary, and made recommendations for extensive repairs. These repairs will now necessarily take the form of a new building.

Out of the calamity Nebraska should derive a model state prison, one in which the physical and moral well-being of the prisoners can be given attention, as well as their detention and sequestration from society at large.

PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND.

One of the proposed amendments to the constitution of Nebraska has for its object the loaning of the permanent school funds on farm land and other real estate security. The provision of the constitution for the investment of the permanent school funds was drafted at a time when the rate of interest on United States, state and registered county bonds was high, and the certainty of the income made the investment a most attractive one. During the last few years the refunding of the government debt at a nominal rate of interest and the cheapening of the cost of money in other directions has reduced very materially the income or chance for income from the permanent school fund under the restrictions of the Nebraska constitution.

It is this condition that suggests the farm loan proposition. At the present time farm loans, made under proper conditions and with prudent safeguards, are undoubtedly profitable, but there opens up the wide vista of possible manipulation and collusion, to the extent that the careful citizen must hesitate before giving consent to the plan proposed.

No more sacred trust is imposed upon our administrative officers than the care of the educational funds. The framers of the constitution recognized the importance of this when they adopted the provision that the state should maintain forever inviolate the permanent school fund. With this view of the sanctity of the fund and the momentousness of its care, it will be well for the legislature to deliberate well on the proposed amendment to the constitution before submitting it.

Business judgment would rather suggest the investment of the permanent school fund in the lands on which it is to be loaned, to the end that the common schools of Nebraska will not only own the principal, but will enjoy the income that wise management of the property is certain to bring. At any rate, let us thoroughly consider the question in all its phases before we divert the permanent school fund from its constitutional channel.

A coastguardman at San Francisco, who was on watch when the Rio de Janeiro was wrecked, now admits that he heard the distress signals, but paid no attention to them, because he did not think they meant anything. The incident attracts attention no more from the fact that it indirectly cost many lives which could have been saved than from the fact that it is so rarely that these men are found derelict in their duty. No occupation is more dangerous than theirs and no class of men are more uniformly faithful in the performance of duty.

Now that the auditorium project has advanced far enough to permit the discussion of plans, it appears that the Bee's suggestion that it be confined to the uses of the public, and that only the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben be allowed lodgment therein, has ample support. It is not a departure from the original purpose to allow an essentially public enterprise such as Ak-Sar-Ben to come into the auditorium, but it would be a mistake to take in organizations more or less private and exclusive in their nature.

From the tenor of the debates in congress one might be led to think that democracy could furnish statesmen who would settle the Cuban, Philippine and Chinese questions, to say nothing of the perplexing home problems, without special effort. Those who remember democratic performance when that party had the opportunity to direct the affairs of government will be inclined to take democratic pretense at a large discount.

James Dahlman states that he will claim salary as secretary of the defunct State Board of Transportation until the time when his appointment would have expired if the court had not knocked

out the law creating the office. He reasons that the objection that he has done nothing to earn the salary since the law was declared invalid will not lie, as the secretaries never did anything to earn their pay and he has rendered the same service since as before the decision was rendered.

Uplift of Industry.

The "office boy" of 1886 is the president of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad today. Reason? He did not soldier.

Getting Lost to the Burden.

On the whole, the country takes the incorporation of a billion dollar trust rather calmly. It is not turned out in the street yet.

What Posses Young America.

It is a puzzle to the modern youth how so many old duffers managed to get along in the world without the knowledge of things in general possessed by the modern youth.

A Dovesnail's Shame.

Gunner Morgan discreetly refuses to be interviewed, but his wife, at home in Admiral Sampson's treatment of her husband is a shame. She has worked hard for this promotion and I believe that he will win," she said. Good for Mrs. Morgan!

Vast Military Expenditures.

Our statesmen and publicists have long boasted, and with truth, of the moderate numbers and the great efficiency of our regular army, and have triumphantly compared it with that of the enormous standing armies of the old world, which have laid upon the people such heavy, crushing loads of taxes. But now, says Senator Hale, who knows whereof he speaks, the military expenditures of the United States are nearly double that of any country on the face of the earth. As we extend our territorial boundaries by force of arms the expense must, necessarily, inevitably increase.

Vast Size of the Steel Combine.

Here is a brief summary of the properties constituting the recently organized United States Steel corporation: One hundred and forty-nine steel works, twenty blast furnaces and six finishing plants. Included in the list are bar mills, structural steel and plate mills, tinplate works, sheet mills and wire rod and wire mill mills.

Nine million tons is the annual capacity in finished material of the Superior Iron mines, owned by this gigantic combine, produced 11,000,000 tons of ore last year. It has 19,300 coke ovens, 70,830 acres of coal lands and about 20,000 acres of surface land in the hold of her mines and iron works. She will number sixty-four vessels. When the Rockefeller ore and vessel interests are absorbed it will have 125 ore carriers. This company will employ 125,000 men.

How Speculators Thrive on War.

The government wanted some vessels for transports and to be turned into cruisers at the beginning of the Spanish war. When the war was over these vessels, in a good or better condition than when they were purchased, were for sale. The following table shows the difference between the purchasing and selling prices:

Table with columns: Vessel, Purchase Price, Selling Price. Includes entries for Niagara, Bagdad, Albatross, Vesuvius, Scipio, Hector.

POLITICAL DRIFT.

Congressman Dougherty of the Third Missouri district is the champion newspaper reader of the house of representatives.

The supplies needed for the several municipal departments of Greater New York in the current year are estimated at \$5,600,000.

Pittsburg papers are kicking against a 17-mill city tax levy as though it was an extraordinary thing. Pittsburg does not know when it is well off.

Though 76 years of age, Senator Hoar of Massachusetts, recently journeyed from Washington to Worcester for the purpose of voting at the city election.

For the first time in a quarter of a century Worcester, Mass., has a democratic mayor. His name is Philip J. O'Connell, a descendant of the great Daniel.

Ex-Mayor Josiah Quincy of Boston is reported as saying that he is not seeking to become a candidate for the democratic nomination for president in 1904, and that, in his opinion, it is altogether too early to be bothering one's self or the party about that.

"Fifty years ago, come March 4," said Representative Grow of Pennsylvania, "I was sworn in as a member of the house of representatives. I served continuously for twelve years, then retired to private life for a third of a century and was re-elected to congress in 1894." Mr. Grow is now 76 years of age.

Senator Hanbrough of North Dakota has sent western contempt for farming down east. Some one was talking to him a few days ago about the success with which Maine farmers overcome the difficulties of poor soil. Mr. Hanbrough remarked: "Oh, they don't know anything about farming down there. Why, they tell me that Maine farmers have to shoot the seed into the rocks."

Among the early fruits of self-government harvested by the pioneer crop of territorial taxes. And the roar of the American settlers in the paradise of the Pacific is as loud and vigorous as the heard at tax-taking conventions on the mainland. It is true that the rate is \$1.80 and \$1.50 per capita, respectively, in New Mexico and Arizona, it is \$2.50 in Hawaii. Evidently the powers that be are not in Hawaii for their health alone.

Minors at the national capital are as thick as peas in a pod. "For instance," relates the Washington Post, "the clerk of one committee, who was called upon to read proof of the testimony taken before the committee, actually claimed and will receive \$1,000 for extra work. Pension office clerks, who happened to be detailed to help the congressional pension committees, are presented with \$500 apiece, in addition to the regular salaries which the government pays. The clerk who 'completes' a few pages out of the Congressional Record are given from \$300 to \$2,000 for 'extra work,' although they do the work in office hours. And all this, too, when they are not the capital never more than six months out of the year."

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

The census which has just been taken in Italy shows a growth entirely unexpected. No general enumeration had been made in Italy since 1881. In that year the total population was a little under 25,000,000. The gain from 1881 to 1901 had been only about 1,700,000, and in forty years the increase had been hardly 5,000,000. All of these figures refer to the territory now included in the kingdom of Italy. It was thought, therefore, that the population at the beginning of the present year would be about 32,000,000. The growth of the last twenty years was nowhere estimated at more than 4,000,000, for emigration from Italy has been very heavy in that period and the country has long been much crowded. It is a land mainly depending upon agriculture which has a smaller area than the British isles and not much more than half as much space as there is in France. But the census shows that the population is more than 25,000,000. Despite the large losses by emigration, estimated to have been 5,000,000 in the last twenty years, the growth of the population was the actual increase and the rate per cent of growth have exceeded the gains of the British isles in the same twenty years.

An ambitious dream is that cherished by the British colony of New Zealand. If the suspicions of the Australian press are to be credited, instead of being minded to join finally the Australian federation, as was supposed to be her inevitable destiny, and as she desires, it is now thought that the colony will withdraw from the British Empire, and form a separate nation, to be known as the New Zealand Commonwealth. The colony seeks rather to form a federation with the various groups of Melanesia—with the Samoan islands, Fiji, the New Hebrides, as it has already done with the Cook Islands. Such a project is not a new one. It has been mooted, upon one imperial system, is daring and chimerical and it is apocryphal in its origin, but it is no more than repeating, in the little, both what has been done and what has been dreamed of for the United Kingdom. And it is credited to a people having in New Zealand a base of operations nearly equal territorially to the British isles, a population half that of Wales, and an originality of initiative that in domestic matters has attracted the profitable study of the world.

Sir John Aird, M. P., and Sir Benjamin Baker, the well known British engineer, who last fall were sent to Egypt by the Foreign office to inspect the great engineering works on the Nile, which, when completed, will be the largest engineering scheme in the valley of the Nile, are now on their way from Cairo to London with their report. Before leaving Egypt they refused to talk for publication except inasmuch as to make a statement as to the present extent of the work accomplished. But this is given with so much detail that it is believed to preclude the possibility of an adverse report. The total extent of the Assuan dam, which will hold back the Nile, is one mile and a quarter of which one mile and a eighth of the foundation is finished. All the granite masonry required for the dam is cut and ready to be laid in its place, and when the commissioners left Assuan temporary dams had already been constructed throughout a project which it is intended to be placed at work. The dam is pierced with 150 openings, about twenty-three feet high and seven feet wide, which are controlled by steel sluices, their number and size being determined by exact mathematical calculations based on the records of floods extending back for more than twenty-five years. The discharge through these sluices at high Nile may reach 15,000 tons of water per second.

The telegraph line from Cape Town, South Africa, to Cairo, Egypt, is in operation to a point fifty miles north of Katanga and 100 miles north of the southern extremity of Lake Tanganyika. It has been constructed under the terms of an agreement which was entered into in 1899 between the German government and the African Transcontinental Telegraph company. As the crow flies the distance between Cape Town and Katanga is nearly 4,000 miles and an entire length of the line will be considerably more than 2,000 miles, the distance between Kharطوم and Cairo being roughly estimated at about 1,000 miles. The line, according to the agreement in the contract, must be completed by 1904 and the most difficult part of the construction work remains to be done. It was promised last June that the line to Katanga would be completed by the end of July and an idea of the difficulties of construction may be had from the fact that it took over four months to carry it fifty miles farther north. When the Uganda railway reaches a point near Lake Victoria Nyanza, close enough to make such a plan practicable, materials will be sent over from the coast by way of Mombasa and will thus greatly facilitate the work.

There is a little of a complimentary character to be found in the European comments upon the career of ex-King Milan of Serbia, but the wisest of them refer to Vienna to one of the London newspapers says that it is generally recognized in military circles in Vienna that Milan really did do a great deal toward the reorganization of the Serbian army during his occupancy of the post of commander-in-chief and that he left it in a condition of considerable efficiency. His efforts were secondarily very heartily by the superior officers, with whom he was exceedingly popular. It was the popular opinion, which seems to have excited the jealousy and apprehension of King Alexander and the civil authorities, the latter complaining that the army and the gendarmes were the only branches of the public service that ever got their pay regularly. There was, therefore, no hesitation over the acceptance of the ex-king's resignation, which seems to have been offered in a moment of pique upon the announcement of his son's marriage. This alliance, it is said, was peculiarly distasteful to him, because he had almost concluded negotiations with a German princess, with a large dowry, would have been secured as a bride for Alexander.

Agulnaldo's Smooth Bluff.

There are two phases of the struggle in the Philippines. About once a year we hear that our armies are having a clean sweep, but the Philippine forces are not standing up to be shot down; that they are scattering and hiding, the yeoman exchanging the rifle he had hid and taking up the hoe. In short, everything begins to look lively, and peace is to be near at hand. But more careful scrutiny of the situation discloses the fact that there is method in all this. Agulnaldo is playing bluff with MacArthur. It is the dry season and the Filipinos are not wasting their forces in an unequal contest. They wait till the wet season begins, when the roads become impassable and the climate sickly, and then they begin hostilities, with all the natural advantages, against the American. These who the Agulnaldo for a fool make a mistake. His apparent weakness is his strength. He plays peace when it is necessary and digs out his guns when they will prove most effective. At least, such appears to be the case to an observer of regular recurring Filipino tactics.

VICTORY FOR THE HOUSE.

Notable Triumph in the Stamp Tax Reduction Bill.

The revenue reduction bill has finally passed from a conference committee of the two branches of congress, substantially as it passed the house. The tax goes off bank checks, it stays on beer where the house fixed it, the slight difference on the tobacco tax is compromised and the tax on proprietary medicines, lifted by the house and put back by the senate, stays off. The conference has been going on for more than a month now, which is ample evidence that the fight was one of the most stubborn that has ever come up between the two branches.

From every point of view the country is to be congratulated on the victory of the house. It is an important success for popular government. The utterly unwaranted assault of the senate on the constitutional prerogative of the popular branch is repulsed and its effort to usurp the taxing power defeated. That branch of the congress elected directly by the people and directly responsible to them, retains the initiative in saying what the taxes of the people shall be. The result is scarcely less important as a victory for common sense and economic principles. The heaviest burdens of taxation will be borne by luxuries of very widely distributed use. "The poor man's doctor" is released from an onerous burden and the vicious tax on the payment of small debts by check is removed. We trust that this latter will never be revived in future taxation schemes. Its result has been a sharp check to currency expansion along perfectly correct lines. The bank check is one of the most valuable instruments of modern times in facilitating commerce and industry, and it is an absurd economic proposition to load it up with a tax.

INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS IN FIGURES.

Marvelous Story of the Nation's Irresistible Advance.

It is not in the nature of news that the United States has definitely assumed the leading place among the exporting nations. In these columns the fact has been sufficiently emphasized and explained. But figures are elusive, though impressive for the moment. It will not be superfluous to place among the exporting nations a temporary from official reports an showing where this country now stands and where it stood a decade ago, or even earlier. The figures tell the marvelous story of steady and irresistible industrial advancement during the past ten years.

First, take the calendar year 1900. Our exports of domestic products are greater than those of any of our leading rivals, and by no inconsiderable margin. Here is the showing actually made:

Table with columns: Country, Exports. Includes entries for United States, United Kingdom, Germany, France.

The other nations "do not count." They are not in the same class, and they will remain outside of the hard, strenuous fight for trade which this little, able portland cement, a quarter of a century ago France was second, Germany third and the United States fourth on the list. In 1875 the figures were respectively as follows: United Kingdom, \$1,987,497,000; France, \$1,747,449,000; Germany, \$927,068,000; the United States, \$497,283,737. Since then France has remained stationary, her increase being not more than 5 per cent. Germany has made splendid progress, in spite of her military, and thanks to her scientific methods and hard work. Her exports have increased her domestic exports 34 per cent, while the United States has gained not less than 192 per cent! During the period 1875-1896 there were fluctuations and setbacks and the really remarkable growth in foreign trade has taken place since the year last named. Leaving stationary France out, here is a table giving the figures for each of the years since the opening of the last decade:

Table with columns: Year, United States, United Kingdom, Germany. Shows data from 1897 to 1900.

Statistics sometimes lie, but there can be no misconception of these figures. They are well understood abroad, as we know from plentiful evidence. The United States as a world power is an export is irresistible, but it will have to practice reciprocity to a greater extent than now, for we cannot increase our sales continually without adding to our purchases.

LACK OF FINANCIAL CONTROL.

Spendshiff Congresses and Some of the Resultant Evils.

One reason why the party responsible for the government is less able, if not less willing, than it used to be to keep down appropriations has often been pointed out in these columns. Our system does not lend itself to rigid financial control. Unlike all other governments in the world, the American has no man, or committee of men, to make up a yearly budget, to determine income and fix outgoes. Our method is a happy-go-lucky plan of allowing one set of men to make laws for revenue, another to frame bills for expenditures, and a third to appropriate money under such chaotic management is due partly to our traditional good fortune, partly to our expanding wealth—which has operated in the same way that robust health enables a man to order his life recklessly, for a time—and partly to the fact that we have had a rough system of financial control. But this has been badly broken down.

One serious aspect of national extravagance is commonly overlooked. People do not see how one spendshiff congress makes the next one almost inevitably as prodigal. The reason is that the extravagant legislation fixes a permanent charge

on the treasury. No step backward is the rule. There was loud outcry against a "billion-dollar congress," but its successor was able to save little or nothing. Now we are rapidly approaching a billion-dollar session, and no gain for the treasury food be declared. Each succeeding congress inherits a legacy of extravagance from its predecessor. Its own hands are partly tied by anterior legislation committing the government to continuing appropriations for this and that, and the enlargement of the public service and creation of new offices. It is this which makes retrenchment so difficult, if not practically impossible. To cut down regular expenses—why, this is almost treason, from the party point of view. It is that villainy in the minds of men whose sinews are threatened. So that extravagance always tends to perpetuate itself. The lavish appropriations of one congress become a kind of annual interest charge which must be paid upon a capitalized extravagance.

The point is that flush times are setting a pace which will have to be kept up in the lean times, if economy is disregarded. It is easy enough to let the jiu of extravagance out of the bottle, but to get him back in again—that is the labor. Thus we see that the evil which an extravagant congress does lives after it; and the good that it does, is interred with its bones.

POLISHED TO A POINT.

Detroit Journal: "He is evidently a man with the bark on." "Well, for one thing, he goes about so much with his coat off."

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "I notice that Justice Brewer says our gravest doubts are often the result of a disordered stomach. Ah, I see. When in doubt take a liver pill."

Puck: Mrs. Lowerton—But the rich enjoy Lowerton—Some do; others merely have.

Chicago Record: "I suppose you sometimes find a trine lonely out in your suburb?" "Well, yes, we all run to the window when they log some high."

Detroit Free Press: Miss Swanwood has never listened to a sermon in her life. I thought she was a regular attendant at church, but she is a disordered soul. "She is. But she has always belonged to the choir."

Philadelphia Press: Boroughs—Hello, Markley—Well, I've given up all hope of ever getting the liver I lent you last year.

Pittsburg Chronicle: "Do you think that he perceives the danger of 'swatting him'?" "Yes, I think he must be able to read the typewriting on the wall by this time."

Chicago Tribune: First Theater Patron—What a luxurious and magnificent amon she makes!" Second Theater Patron (who knows her)—Yes, but she's blowing her heart because they won't let her play little boy parts."

Detroit Journal: "Here," sang out the Express Bulletin, as it entered the caribou's anatomy, "is where I get into the game!"

Philadelphia Bulletin: "What do you think, Charles, about that show at an entertainment in a private dining room?" "Did she say anything when they sang their insanity piece?" "Yes, she said, 'Why don't you 'WH. Yes; they encored her three times.'"

WRECK OF THE RIO DE JANEIRO.

Out to the deep with a graceful sweep the good ship sails away: But that fair shore is a welcome for the one who still awaits.

For home is there, sweet, blessed home, far, far away, where the little boy parts. On, on; how the vessel presses on, to the How the glad hearts beat as the days go by; in blind haste for the close of day; A prayer arises upon the deep to the keeper of their flight.

On, on; oh, Ruler of Seas be thanked; he'll have a knot away. The pilot is here, what gladness cheer he carries across the sea. In the damp fog's lap the steamer sleeps, but on, on, cries the captain, on—why manly men are here, why manly men wait for the morning's dawn?

On, on, she creeps, in the misty night, on, on, through the treacherous gloom, Oh, Ruler of Seas, remember these, they are pressing on to their doom. A crash, a jar, "quick, man the boats, save the lives in here, the little boy parts. But some are asleep in the briny deep and the night wind sadly sighs.