

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss. George B. Tschuck, secretary of the Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, deposes and says that the actual circulation of the Omaha Bee during the month of January, 1904, was as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Category, Circulation, Total. Includes categories like 'Copies sold', 'Copies not sold', 'Total', etc.

Net total sales, \$88,808. Net average sales, \$28,493. GEO. B. TSCHUCK, Notary Public.

No danger that the sinucers in the city hall and court house will go on a strike.

Ak-Sar-Ben's dates for 1904 are already fixed. Mark them down with red ink on your calendar.

The taxpayers want the mayor and council, the police commission and the school board to slow up a little.

Russia must prove that its fence of infantry is of more enduring stuff than Weyler's trenches of barbed wire.

Chalmers Huntington says provisions are higher and the pie-bits will not allow him to reduce their rations.

Japan seems to be as effective in destroying the power of Koreans who favor Russia as in demolishing battleships.

The present situation in Great Britain is one in which the Irish Parliamentary party can play the game of "heads I win, tails you lose."

It is always easier to expand public expenditures than to contract. It is always easier to increase public salaries than to reduce them.

Instead of traveling in "royal style" Emperor William is going in for comfort and will take his trip to the Mediterranean in a regular liner.

With Tom Hector as their candidate for mayor, the democrats of South Omaha are headed for Retrenchment and Reform, with two big Ra.

The Crawford county system, as manipulated by the democrats of South Omaha, works very much like the famous machine that turned in dogs and turned out sausages.

Omaha has just experienced the heaviest fog in its history. It is to be noted, however, that the city broke through to bright daylight on very short meter.

An Omaha man has set up a claim to have been the discoverer of radium. Omaha has never been short of self-confident claimants for all the high honors in sight or prospective.

Very few senators can stand up against a charge of favoring their own homes regardless of justice. It is probable that if they would attempt such a course there would be a change of senators.

Mr. Schwab's dislike for American reporters is as natural as it is sincere. Publicity has had much to do with squeezing the water from many stocks and Mr. Schwab was nearly drowned in the flood.

Perhaps Mr. Bryan may regret that his recent visit was not with Mr. Murphy, rather than Mr. McClellan. Had that presidential stock seems to be lower than before the Hoffman house conference.

If American traders who want the United States to settle the trouble in San Domingo would prepare to foot the bills resulting from such action the government might look upon their demands with greater favor.

The museum in the Omaha public library has acquired a case of stuffed birds through the generosity of one of our public-spirited citizens. Some of the rare old birds of which the city boasts may soon have a look and see what they are coming to.

It must not be forgotten that in addition to the tax levy imposed for the year the city is piling up a debt of nearly \$100,000 a year for hydrant rentals and water supply, which is being converted into judgments that bear big rates of interest and will have to be paid sooner or later. Had not the authority to impose a tax for this purpose been repealed, another mill would have had to be added to the levy.

NO AMERICAN INTERVENTION.

The suggestion that comes from the consul general of the United States at St. Petersburg, that this country may be long laid an opportunity to intervene in the far eastern war and thus do Russia a good turn and benefit itself and the world at large, is not likely to find much favorable response here. The nearly universal sentiment of the American people is that the United States should keep aloof from the war and strictly maintain the position of neutrality which it has taken. What has been done by our government with a view to localizing the conflict and protecting China is approved by the intelligent judgment of the country and received the sanction of the European powers and of the belligerents. That action was taken in the interests of commerce and the peace of the world. It was a work for humanity which our government happened to be better situated to perform than any other, and it implied no interference and involved no danger. Had the powers not accepted the suggestion that would simply have ended the matter and the United States would have assumed no responsibility.

Our government might be placed in a different position were it to undertake intervention. It is conceivable that that might draw it into complications. However, neither of the belligerent nations is looking forward to intervention and the war must become vastly more destructive before either of them would seriously consider a proposal of mediation or intervention. Each is at present in a very confident frame of mind regarding the result and they are likely to continue so for a long time. At all events the government of the United States will not look for any such opportunity as our consul general suggests. There has been shown no disposition at Washington to depart in the slightest degree from our traditional policy respecting the difficulties and differences of nations in the other hemisphere and it is entirely safe to say that President Roosevelt will take the utmost care to avoid any departure from the country's well-established policy.

TIME TO CALL A BALD.

The city of Omaha is a corporation owning more than \$100,000,000 of real and personal property. In this corporation every taxpayer is a stockholder and the mayor and council the board of directors. The charter under which the mayor and council are empowered to administer the affairs of the corporation known as the City of Omaha, expressly limits the amount to be expended by them for each of the various departments of municipal government and prohibits the transfer or diversion of moneys from one fund to another. The charter, moreover, prohibits the issue of warrants or orders in any one year exceeding 90 per cent of the amount of taxes for such year and the amount actually received from other sources, and specifically declares that the city authorities shall not contract or incur any debt in addition to the amount for which they are authorized to issue warrants or orders on bonds.

Suppose the charter of any corporation should limit the board of directors to an expenditure of \$1,000,000 a year and the directors in defiance of the charter and the express will of the stockholders should make appropriations and create debts for \$1,200,000 a year, or for \$1,500,000, what would the stockholders do? Would they allow the directors to bankrupt the corporation, or would they call a halt by invoking the power of the courts to stop their lawlessness or by summarily deposing the directors?

Yet this is precisely the position in which Omaha is now placed. The charter limits the aggregate levy for any one year to the following lines:

Table with 3 columns: Item, Amount, Total. Includes items like 'For general fund purposes', 'For repairing and maintaining curbs, gutters and sewers', etc.

These specific limitations have been recklessly ignored in the past years, so much so that a large part of the proceeds of the refunding bonds recently issued has been used for paying current expenses in palpable violation of the charter.

It is sought to justify this lawless financing on the plea that the necessities of the city demand greater expenditure than is authorized by the charter. That plea would not answer with the stockholders of any other corporation and should not answer with the taxpayers of Omaha. It is high time for the mayor and council to understand that they are not responsible for what may befall the city on account of charter limitations. Their duty is to expend the money legally at their disposal and to stop there.

A flagrant instance in point is shown in the attempt to saddle upon Omaha an additional tax of over \$200,000 a year for an increased force in the fire department under pretext that the new fire engine house and new apparatus will compel the employment of an additional fire company. There is absolutely no occasion or excuse for such an increase. Omaha wants the very best fire-fighting apparatus and the taxpayers will not grudge the expense, although it is a serious question whether we should buy all this apparatus in one year or distribute the expenditure over a number of years. But why should the new fire apparatus have to be manned by new men? Why not dispose of the old apparatus, close the Tenth street and the Harney street engine houses, locate the

men in the new Jackson street engine house and let them handle the new apparatus? The fire chief is quoted as saying that the Harney street engine house must be kept up because it is in the neighborhood of two of the largest hotels. Do they maintain engine houses next to every hotel in Chicago, New York and other large cities? Is not the engine house on Eighteenth and Harney within four blocks near enough? We are told the Tenth street engine house should be maintained for the protection of the jobbing district. Will not the new Jackson street engine house in the heart of the district offer ample protection?

Perhaps the mayor and council may not be aware of the fact that other cities cut their garments according to their cloth. The city of St. Joseph, for example, claims a census population several hundred greater than Omaha. Its jobbing houses are just as numerous as those of Omaha and do a much larger business, but the total cost of city government of St. Joseph is below half a million, while Omaha's municipal expenses exceed \$1,000,000. The payroll of the fire department of St. Joseph for 1903 was \$58,000 and the expenditures for fire apparatus for the year \$14,000, making in all \$72,000, while Omaha during the same year expended more than double that amount. Concede that St. Joseph was padded by 20,000 in the census, the divergence between the municipal expenses in St. Joseph and Omaha is still enormous. Grant that Omaha is a more progressive city and grant that its prospective growth is brighter than that of St. Joseph, there is still no valid reason why the municipal expenses should go beyond the charter limit, which was liberal and ample for all purposes by an exercise of reasonable economy.

THE PANAMA COMMISSION.

The names of the members of the new Panama commission will be sent to the senate today and undoubtedly they will be prompt confirmation. It is interesting to note that there is no politician on the commission, all the members being practical men and of the highest character and qualifications. It is a body in which the public can repose absolute confidence and which can safely be expected to perform its important duties intelligently and industriously. By the terms of the Spooner act the commissioners shall each receive such compensation as the president shall prescribe until the same shall have been otherwise fixed by congress. This question of compensation is said to have given President Roosevelt some concern. He desires that they shall be amply paid, but as congress is bound to place a limit on the pay of the board and this limit is not likely to be large, the president has naturally found the matter somewhat perplexing. It is thought probable that the remuneration, powers and management of the canal commission will follow closely the lines of the Philippine commission. The president of that commission receives an annual salary of \$20,000 and his four associates \$15,000 each. In view of the fact that the canal commissioners will be expected to visit and live for long periods in a most unhealthy zone, where they will virtually take their lives in their hands, this compensation could not be regarded as extravagant. Asked if the commissioners will go to the isthmus, the president is said to have replied: "Every one of them. I would not appoint a single man on that commission who would not go to the isthmus. I do not intend to have any long-distance guesswork done on that canal. Every one of the commissioners will be conversant with the actual conditions as they exist in that strip of land." The president has had less difficulty in securing proper men for the commission than had been anticipated and the country will heartily commend him for having ignored the politicians.

COLLECTING FOR EUROPE.

The action of The Hague tribunal in imposing upon the United States the duty of carrying out its decision in regard to the claims against Venezuela has been somewhat sharply criticized, and the question asked on what assurance ever given by our government did the court base that provision of its award. It is pointed out that there is no such stipulation in the protocols and that nowhere was there any expressed understanding that this country was to have anything to do with carrying out the award of The Hague court. It is alleged that some one, when the Venezuela matter was pending, made an oral pledge committing our government to the performance of the task now imposed on it by The Hague decision, but there appears to be no knowledge as to who gave the pledge and it is altogether improbable that it was ever given. It is certainly not a pleasing task for our government to act as a collector of European claims. In the opinion of the New York Times it is a business in which we cannot honestly or safely engage. Yet it is not probable that our government will encounter any serious difficulties in performing the task. It is reasonably to be expected that Venezuela, in view of the great obligation she is under to the United States, will be disposed to make the performance of the duty imposed on this country as simple and as little troublesome as possible. But at best, it must be admitted, the work of collecting claims for European governments from an American republic is anything but agreeable.

The big torpedo makers profess to be pleased with the demonstration given by the Russian-Japanese conflict that their weapons of destruction are proving effective. It is clear that we will have to have a war every little while to measure the progress made in the contrivance of death dealing devices even if we have to hunt far and wide for a pretext.

With the conviction in the courts of the Postoffice department bribe takers, the chances for making democratic can-

WHERE WAR RAGES.

Gossip About Places and People in Battle Array. Colonel Sir Howard Vincent, M. P., a writer on military subjects, discusses some phases of the organization of the Russian army in the United States Magazine of Great Britain. "In marching," he says, "the Russian infantry has absolutely no equal. Nothing is omitted to develop and improve it. The vast hedgeless country facilitates great extension in movement, and all that can be done to make the march cheerful and pleasant is done. The Russian does not yield to the Italian in his love for song, or to the Spaniard in his love for dancing and fun. They sing every inch of the way and often a dancer will step in front of his company and by every carved stick and the leader round. That is the way to get men aloof and to keep them good tempered under adverse conditions. The man who helps therein renders good service, and is let off some guard or fatigue, or gets an extra ration. How different to our comparatively dull, silent march of the infantry soldier who sings as he marches, marches to victory." So wrote Lord Wolsey for a book of marching songs. The Russian infantryman is also a "handy man." There are few things he cannot do, or will not try to do, if taken had right way. As for food, he never had much, even when grown, and as he rarely enters on a campaign under 20 or 24 years old he escapes many constitutional dangers of extreme youth.

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Harbin, the Chicago of Manchuria, 60 miles north of Port Arthur and 250 miles west of Vladivostok, is said to be the objective of the Japanese land force. Harbin is on the Sungari river, a tributary of the Amur; the Chinese Eastern railroad connects it with Port Arthur on the south and with the transiberian road on the north. When the ice breaks out of the Sungari steamboats run in five days to Harbin, and the Amur, where railroad connection is made, with Vladivostok. The Russians call Harbin the Moscow of Asia. It is in the midst of a country of wonderful resources. The soil produces wheat, corn, and the celebrated Colza Dragoon, and the redoubtable Major Blombergshsky are on their way to the front with blood in their eyes.

Wonderful Feats in Language. It is to be remembered that the distinguished novelist now at the seat of war have not yet described the first battle that was fought. When they do make connections with the events of the day there will be something fearful and wonderful in the way of language.

A Picturesque Relic. The question of whether the sword of officers of infantry shall be abandoned has been taken up by the general staff of the army. It is regarded by most officers as a useless ornament and an impediment on the march, in the field and in the ballroom. Still it is a picturesque relic, and many will regret to see it go. It will continue to be used by lodges when they parade, but in the army it will be beaten into plowshares.

Watterson Takes to the Woods. Louisville Courier-Journal. One of the Courier-Journal's esteemed country cousins suggests, apparently with not unkindly intention, that "if Mr. Watterson wants to be a delegate in the next national democratic convention he must get out among the boys and hustle for it." "Thanks; but why should he ask for that as a favor which he would not accept as a gift? He will not be in the state convention or in the national convention. He has already entered into profitable and agreeable obligations which during the whole period of the sitting of the latter will take him far away from St. Louis.

PERSONAL NOTES. The Russians predict that the war will end in August. The Civil war was going to end in thirty days, but it didn't. Those Japanese spies who tried to blow up the Manchurian railway bridge over the Sungari river are said to be still hanging around there. Photographic records of Emperor William's voice, on metal matrices, will be the first deposits made in the phonetic archives that are to be kept at Harvard university and in the Congressional library and the National museum at Washington. Charles W. Jenkins of Corpus Christi, Tex., a millionaire, has perhaps the oddest apartment of the Burlington (Iowa) "Hawkeyes," where twenty-five years ago or more his father made a name. Senator Morgan of Alabama, who has been fighting for a Nicaragua canal for fifteen years and who has seen his favorite project almost through congress several times, came out of the senate after the treaty providing for a Panama canal had been ratified. "Well, senator," said a friend, "it is all over." "Yes," replied the senator, "my canal troubles are all over and there has just begun."

DEBT-BURDENED EUROPE.

Clash of War Disturbs the Financial World. Philadelphia Press. Now, as during the corresponding crisis during the Spanish war, the danger before the financial world comes from the enormous increase in the past decade of public debts. The United States in the last ten years has added little to its total public debt, federal, state and local. The fall of interest has been so great that the interest charge on the treasury has been reduced instead of increased. Our increase in securities has been in the capitalization of "trusts" and railroads. If these collapse individuals suffer, but the foundations of public credit stand firm. European financial centers have made comparatively few additions to the capital stock of new enterprises. South African mines have been exploited and expanded in that period, but their total is not a third of our trusts alone. The railroad and industrial system of Europe years ago reached a solid basis of shares and bonds not much expanded even in booms under their stringent company acts.

Public debts, however, have gone on expanding at a reckless rate. France for two years has run behind nearly \$2,000,000,000 a year. Russia in recent years has been running behind \$100,000,000 a year and in the fourteen years, 1887 to 1901, Russia added \$200,000,000 to its debt, nearly all for enterprises still unproductive. Spain has added \$300,000,000 to its debt in the last ten years. These three countries in twenty years have added to their public debt nearly as much as our present federal, state and local debt combined.

This has gone on all over Europe. Even England has had to add heavily to its debt to pay for the war, and in five years has swollen its great debt by the addition of its local debt in the past twenty years is nearly as large as the entire local debt in the United States, and we kick about the size of that all the time. The interest charge on these debts has been practically paid by new issues. New public debt has been poured out in Europe for the past five years. The result is that English, French, Russian and other national bonds have fallen a round 15 to 25 per cent before war came at all.

The development of life insurance in the United States goes on apace among the companies devoted to this form of business, in spite of the competing efforts of benevolent organizations that make insurance a specialty. Four companies in this country now carry each upon a book of business of more than \$1,000,000 in policies. Of these one has established a record of \$1,745,215,890; another is a close second at \$1,445,225,681; the third has \$1,099,918,742, while the fourth passes the billion mark by \$423,381,467. A fifth company is a promising candidate for the top place, with a book of business of \$311,358,812. Below these five leaders there is a company which can show business amounting to \$662,811,156, and three which have, each, considerably more than \$200,000,000 to their credit. There are also twelve companies, each with more than \$100,000,000 in policies, and representing an aggregate investment by patrons of \$1,748,337,393. In 1896 two companies for the first time touched almost simultaneously the \$100,000,000 mark.

These figures will give some idea of the business of life insurance in recent years. No argument should be required to convince people of its value in every case where a man has dependent upon him a wife or family who would suffer deprivation of or material reduction in income by his death. But if the insurance company has no other custom than that derived from men who insured entirely for the protection of their families the business would show nothing like the tremendous development exhibited by it today. The endorsement or investment policies mainly account for the popularity of life insurance. A man at the age of 30 may take out an endorsement policy payable twenty years later at an annual premium representing, say, 4 1/2 per cent of the face value of his policy which, for the sake of convenience, may be put at \$10,000. If he lives to the age of 50 he will get the amount of his policy plus several hundred dollars representing the cash profits which all companies now apportion among their patrons. In making his annual payments for twenty years he is thereby putting just as much money away as an investment. What is true of the growth of fire insurance here is true in lesser degree of the business in other countries. The annual increase in policies keeps pace everywhere with the increase in population. The American companies have made significant strides in the last few years. That they will continue to enlarge their several spheres in the immediate future is beyond all question.

Denise Long Overdue.

Portland Oregonian. The report of the death of Tsai An, dowager empress of China, which was current a few days ago, has not been confirmed. If the pictures that were printed of her imperial majesty had any resemblance to her in the lane, she is certainly long overdue. Let us hope that the report is true, or that the picture is but a nightmare of the fevered brain of a starving artist who will not attempt another sketch until his vital forces are exhausted by a generous diet for some days and restful slumber for many nights.

No One Knows Hanna's Fortune.

New York Tribune. Various guesses are made at Senator Hanna's fortune. The most conservative is willing to name \$5,000,000. This is a small figure, however, that the senator himself was not at all willing to discuss. One day a Cleveland newspaper man, who was on very close terms with him, asked him point blank how much he was worth. "That, young man," he said, "is something that I would not even tell my wife."

Wija Believes It!

Chicago Record-Herald. Wija remained quiet to the commerce of the world about twenty minutes, which was just long enough for it to get on the map.

MIGHTY FINE STUFF.

Supremacy of Nebraska Butter Tested by Long Years. Chicago Inter Ocean. A jar of butter placed in the spring of a Nebraska farm fifty years ago slipped from a ledge, sank into the sandy bottom of the well and was lost. Recently a party of hunters resorted to the buried jar and found the butter to be as sweet as the day it was churned. A small quantity of the butter has been received by the widow of the man who owned the Nebraska farm half a century ago, Mrs. Decatur of San Diego, Cal., and some of the remainder, having been put into cold storage, will probably be exhibited at the St. Louis World's fair as the oldest butter known to be in existence. Of course, there will be numerous disputes as a result of this claim and particularly in the St. Louis boarding houses. The age of butter has always been, and probably always will be, a fruitful source of discussion and discord around boarding house tables, and these will not be lacking during the festive season about to be inaugurated down there.

In imagination, one can hear Miss Jones, the school teacher from Bloomington, asking Mr. Brown, the music professor from Kansas City, if he does not think that butter can be preserved longer than fifty years, followed by Prof. Brown's remark that he knows from personal experience that butter can be preserved more than 100 years. And thereupon follows a running conversation, the burden of which is that the butter on the table must have been churned long before Nebraska was organized as a territory.

And in imagination also one can hear the veteran boarder from Omaha offering odds of 10 to 1 with the star boarder from Memphis that he found the hairs of a man's long eyelash in the butter Mrs. Harris served yesterday. Just here the regular boarder, who gets a rebate for defending the house, declares in a feeble voice that people who are brought up on axle grease do not know how to appreciate the genuine fresh creamery article manufactured at the East St. Louis stock yards. And so forth.

It is unfortunate that the fifty-year-old jar of butter should be discovered on the heels of the announcement that we have been eating chickens and eggs of the first and Colombian exhibition period all winter. It will simply have the effect of making life harder for the St. Louis boarding house keepers, who must be outwardly calm while boarders recite in all the accents of a cosmopolitan population jokes concerning the quality of non-local house provender that have been current in the country since the earliest colonial days.

THIS COUNTRY'S COPPER BUSINESS.

Producer and Consumer of One-Half the World's Output. New York Sun. The world production of copper is now a little less than 600,000 tons a year, and the United States supplies about 55 per cent of it. Twenty-five years ago our annual output approximated 25,000 tons. The production for 1901 is estimated at nearly 350,000 tons, or about the same as the total of a quarter of a century ago. During that time the total output of all the other countries of the world has only a little more than doubled.

The United States is now the great copper center of the world in addition to our home product. Imports from Canada, Mexico, Tasmania and elsewhere, in various forms of ore, regulus, bars, ingots, etc., a quantity aggregating 45 per cent of the weight of our domestic copper. The major portion of this comes as ore and regulus for smelting and refining in American establishments. Out of the total thus produced and imported for treatment we export, taking the average for the last five years, about 125,000 tons a year, leaving the United States the actual consumer of nearly 90 per cent of the world's output.

MIRTHFUL REMARKS.

Weary Willie—What's your idea on pensions? Dusty Rhodes—Well, I think every man who hasn't worked for twenty years ought have one.—New York Sun. "Aren't you afraid that a great many people will criticize you for becoming rich?" "Yes," answered Senator Sorghum. "But the chances are that if I had stayed poor they would have noticed me even that much."—Washington Star.

Judge—The complaint against you is that you deserted your wife. Prisoner—I ain't a deserter, judge. I'm a runaway. I ain't no deserter. I mean and this black eye.—Chicago Tribune. Real Estate Agent—You really ought to buy the house. Now, if you and your wife will only discuss the matter thoroughly.—Foghorn—You ought to have noticed that we never discuss things; the most we can ever do is dispute about them.—Philadelphia Press.

Mr. Goodfellow—I'm surprised at you. Don't you believe that honesty pays, in the long run? Mr. Skinner—Oh, yes; but I'm short-winded.—Town Topics. The Japanese and Russian armies were facing each other for the first time. With a break in the line, the Russian battle. The stillness of the night was suddenly shattered by a most astounding series of crashes, and the Russian ranks were broken. The Mikado's field commander leaped from his quarters. "Colonel," he commanded his aide, "have a squad of the best scouts sent out at once to find out where comes this portentous noise." "Ha, ha," laughed a Russian prisoner, and they asked him why. "The Japanese are merely answering roll call."—New York Sun.

SPRING WILL COME AGIN.

New York Sun. I kind o' dread the winter's cold, the wind an' like to be bundled up like some of 'em. Don't like to see the cattle star an' silver in the lane. Nor see the roosters on one laig as tho' I like to see 'em. I like to see my sleeves rolled up, an' a wide-brimmed straw hat, an' summer-time. I like to see an' freedom an' all that. An' all the comfort I kin git when teasin' Is in the thought that by an' by the spring will come agin.

I ain't young like I used to be, my blood is an' I jes' dread the wintry gales, the slippery ice an' snow. Don't like to see the cold as ice, or frosty window lights. Or kitchen in the mornin' when the fire is out an' the cold is in the air. I like the "crick" all clear up ice, the boat an' the chance to try my han' at pick-creep once more. An' all the comfort I kin git when winter An' all the comfort I kin git when winter Is in the thought that after all the spring will come agin.

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It is in mounted infantry work that the world military is now hurriedly following the ancient lead of Russia. Wholly apart from the sixteen regiments, with ninety-six squadrons, of Cossacks, the finest mounted infantry in the world, equally good on horse or on foot, dare-devils to whom riding and horsemanship are as much second nature as the old Boers of the Transvaal, there are fifty-six regiments of dragoons. "The Russian cavalry is organized in nineteen divisions of two brigades each, or, in other words, in eighty-five regiments, with, in war, 503 squadrons, with seven squadrons of mounted police. There are two divisions of cavalry of the guard, with the 1st and 2nd regiments of the Transvaal, the 1st and 2nd regiments of the emperor and the emperor's; two of dragoons, two of hussars and two of lancers. The heavy regiments have four squadrons, the light regiments have six each.

The horse provision for such an enormous mounted force, each regiment of six squadrons requiring 1,000 horses, necessarily entails the most elaborate arrangements. Practically every cavalry division has a remount establishment in the great horse breeding provinces of the southeast. There are two remount commissions. Each buys from 80 to 1,000 horses. The system of selection and distribution is complicated and difficult of explanation. Every infantry division has a field artillery brigade of from six to nine batteries of eight guns each attached to it and every cavalry division has in like manner a horse artillery regiment, with its guns, the 1st and 2nd batteries. The field battery has about 250 men and 307 horses, and the horse battery 208 officers and men and 200 horses. The artillery is now in process of rearmament with a three-inch quick-firing gun of the most recent pattern."

Harbin, the Chicago of Manchuria, 60 miles north of Port Arthur and 250 miles west of Vladivostok, is said to be the objective of the Japanese land force. Harbin is on the Sungari river, a tributary of the Amur; the Chinese Eastern railroad connects it with Port Arthur on the south and with the transiberian road on the north. When the ice breaks out of the Sungari steamboats run in five days to Harbin, and the Amur, where railroad connection is made, with Vladivostok. The Russians call Harbin the Moscow of Asia. It is in the midst of a country of wonderful resources. The soil produces wheat, corn, and the celebrated Colza Dragoon, and the redoubtable Major Blombergshsky are on their way to the front with blood in their eyes.

Wonderful Feats in Language. It is to be remembered that the distinguished novelist now at the seat of war have not yet described the first battle that was fought. When they do make connections with the events of the day there will be something fearful and wonderful in the way of language.

A Picturesque Relic. The question of whether the sword of officers of infantry shall be abandoned has been taken up by the general staff of the army. It is regarded by most officers as a useless ornament and an impediment on the march, in the field and in the ballroom. Still it is a picturesque relic, and many will regret to see it go. It will continue to be used by lodges when they parade, but in the army it will be beaten into plowshares.

Watterson Takes to the Woods. Louisville Courier-Journal. One of the Courier-Journal's esteemed country cousins suggests, apparently with not unkindly intention, that "if Mr. Watterson wants to be a delegate in the next national democratic convention he must get out among the boys and hustle for it." "Thanks; but why should he ask for that as a favor which he would not accept as a gift? He will not be in the state convention or in the national convention. He has already entered into profitable and agreeable obligations which during the whole period of the sitting of the latter will take him far away from St. Louis.

PERSONAL NOTES.

The Russians predict that the war will end in August. The Civil war was going to end in thirty days, but it didn't. Those Japanese spies who tried to blow up the Manchurian railway bridge over the Sungari river are said to be still hanging around there. Photographic records of Emperor William's voice, on metal matrices, will be the first deposits made in the phonetic archives that are to be kept at Harvard university and in the Congressional library and the National museum at Washington. Charles W. Jenkins of Corpus Christi, Tex., a millionaire, has perhaps the oddest apartment of the Burlington (Iowa) "Hawkeyes," where twenty-five years ago or more his father made a name. Senator Morgan of Alabama, who has been fighting for a Nicaragua canal for fifteen years and who has seen his favorite project almost through congress several times, came out of the senate after the treaty providing for a Panama canal had been ratified. "Well, senator," said a friend, "it is all over." "Yes," replied the senator, "my canal troubles are all over and there has just begun."

Wija Believes It! Chicago Record-Herald. Wija remained quiet to the commerce of the world about twenty minutes, which was just long enough for it to get on the map.

DEBT-BURDENED EUROPE.

Clash of War Disturbs the Financial World. Philadelphia Press. Now, as during the corresponding crisis during the Spanish war, the danger before the financial world comes from the enormous increase in the past decade of public debts. The United States in the last ten years has added little to its total public debt, federal, state and local. The fall of interest has been so great that the interest charge on the treasury has been reduced instead of increased. Our increase in securities has been in the capitalization of "trusts" and railroads. If these collapse individuals suffer, but the foundations of public credit stand firm. European financial centers have made comparatively few additions to the capital stock of new enterprises. South African mines have been exploited and expanded in that period, but their total is not a third of our trusts alone. The railroad and industrial system of Europe years ago reached a solid basis of shares and bonds not much expanded even in booms under their stringent company acts.

Public debts, however, have gone on expanding at a reckless rate. France for two years has run behind nearly \$2,000,000,000 a year. Russia in recent years has been running behind \$100,000,000 a year and in the fourteen years, 18