

Current Topics

The World's National Debts.

A comparative study of the debts of all nations, contributed to the August North American Review by O. P. Austin, shows that the national debts of the world now aggregate \$31,800,000,000, or ten times the sum owed by the nations a century ago. The major part of this startling increase has been incurred in the last half century. Wars and the maintenance of great armies and navies have been chiefly responsible for this increase, but in some cases the debts represent investments in railways and other public utilities. Germany owns most of its railways. Two-thirds of the railways of Russia



O. P. AUSTIN.

are owned by the government. The debt of Australia represents only public utilities. Great Britain's debts which is \$5.06 per capita represents war and speculations in other countries. Our debt represents war alone.

France has the greatest national debt in the world, amounting to more than \$5,800,000,000. Every man, woman, and child in France pays \$5.28 every year for interest on this debt. Australasia, with its annual per capita interest payment of \$10.14, is the only country that surpasses France on this score. In the United States the per capita cost of the national debt is only 44 cents annually.

We could purchase all the railroads in the country and run them through the national government and still have less per capita debt than France or Great Britain.

Though the debts of the nations are ten times as great as they were a century ago, the increase rests on a fairly solid basis. The century has expanded the wealth of the nations fully tenfold, while the great increase in instruments of exchange probably has produced a corresponding expansion in the circulating medium. The lower interest rates of today also are an important element. Most of the national debts now draw only from 2 to 3 1/2 per cent, while a hundred years ago the rates were double those figures. In 1865 the United States was paying 7.3 per cent, where it now pays 2 per cent, the lowest rate on any national debt in the world. If all the nations showed as strong a determination to pay their obligations as does the United States there would be no need of the world's national indebtedness.

Mrs. Ruffin Uncertain.

Mrs. Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, the Boston colored woman who was re-



MRS. RUFFIN.

fused a seat at the biennial convention of the National Federation of Women's Clubs in Milwaukee last year, has not yet decided whether she will try again at California next year. The Northeastern Federation of Colored Women's Clubs at the closing session of its convention in Springfield last week, voted to send Mrs. Ruffin again. She herself, however, did not know of this action until yesterday.

"The matter will require a great deal of thought," said she when asked about it. "I have other organizations to consult before taking any action. The convention is a whole year off, and there is plenty of time in which to decide."

Anti-American Newspapers.

A bombshell will be thrown into the office of several metropolitan newspapers in December when a certain senator of the United States introduces a resolution asking for an inquiry into the ownership of certain newspapers that are advocating anti-American ideas in this country. It will be charged that fifteen of the leading papers are owned abroad and a remedy will be sought. It is quite likely that no further remedy than a thorough exposure of the black sheep will be necessary.—Journalist.

News and Views

A Wife's Privilege.

In New York city recently a husband had his wife arrested on the charge of going through his pockets while he slept and taking from them \$57 and a lot of valuable papers. The magistrate before whom the case was tried held that the wife was guilty of theft, and, although he dealt leniently with her, he permitted it to be understood that she could have been indicted, tried, and found guilty of larceny. For the defense, as was quite natural, it was held that a wife could not possibly pick her husband's pockets, because, man and wife being one, his pockets were to all intents and purposes her pockets, and their contents to all intents and purposes were as much her property as his. One cannot rob one's self, and how, therefore, could this woman be found guilty of theft for taking what belonged to her husband—that is to say, what belonged to herself? For the prosecution it was held that the husband and wife are one in theory only, not in fact. The law recognizes this, it was contended, when it deals with husbands and wives as individuals. The law treats the wife as a separate person, it was held, when it grants her certain distinctive rights and protects her in the enjoyment of them, when she is permitted to hold property in her own name, and when she is privileged to do many things which her husband cannot legally prevent her from doing. The magistrate was influenced by the arguments for the prosecution to hold that, whatever a wife's privileges may be, she has no business to ransack her husband's pockets or to take anything from them without his consent. There is little danger that the New York case will establish a precedent, or that husbands in general will have their wives arrested for going through their pockets. When the average man of good sense, good behavior, and small means considers how often and how painfully his wife is disappointed as she goes through his pockets he will not think of depriving her of the privilege.

Healed by a Pardon.

Some time ago Judson Arkell who had been convicted of embezzling



JUDSON ARKELL.

funds from a national bank in Rutland, Vt., was let out of the penitentiary by a pardon. It was granted because it was represented that the cashier was fatally ill and could not live but a few days. The petitioners for his release said it would be an act of mercy to let him out so that he might not die in a prison cell. Last week this moribund cashier set off, in perfect health, for a long hunting trip in the Adirondacks. It is admitted now that he never was sick at all and that he was "Shamming Abraham" all the time he was in the prison hospital. He got a pardon under false pretenses, but it is an irrevocable pardon. Deception pays sometimes, even when detected. This cashier is not the first man who has been let out of prison to die and has recovered his health at once, nor will he be the last, so long as prison doctors are gullible and presidents and governors are merciful. Therefore it may not be inexpedient to substitute for the unconditional pardons which it has been customary to give to those who are about to die a release from imprisonment for that purpose only, the convict to be taken back to prison the day that he shows any symptoms of recovery.

Goes to Education.

Mary Carroll of Boston, whose father, who when he died, left the income of the estate, valued at about \$100,000, to her for life and then to the Uni-



MARY CARROLL.

versity of Virginia, has arranged that the income of the entire estate, less \$5,000 reserved for herself, shall be transferred to the University of Virginia after April 1, 1902.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS

Was True to Lost Cause.

Judge William Cecil Price, United States treasurer under President Buchanan, died in Chicago last week at the age of 86 years. Judge Price had lived with his daughter for the last three years, going to Chicago from Springfield, Mo., where he had practiced law after the war. Before the war Judge Price was prominent in national affairs. He refused to continue in office when President Lincoln was



WILLIAM CECIL PRICE.

elected because of his sympathy with the southern cause. He was born in Russell county, Virginia, April 1, 1816, and was graduated from Knox college at Nashville in 1835. A year later he moved to Springfield, Mo., and practiced law. In 1845 he was appointed United States deputy surveyor of lands under General Conway. Two years later he was elected probate judge of Green county, Missouri. His election to the state senate followed in 1854 and three years later he resigned from the senate to accept the position of judge of the circuit court of Missouri. In 1859 he was made commissioner of western lands and a year later, when Judge Casey, United States treasurer, died he was appointed by President Buchanan to fill the unexpired term. When Buchanan was succeeded by Lincoln the latter proffered the same place to Judge Price. The judge went to Jefferson Davis and offered his services and the confederate president offered him a place in his cabinet. This Price refused, wishing a more active field. He was appointed major of cavalry and joined the army led by his cousin, General Sterling Price, and fought against the union troops. At the battle of Pea Ridge, Ark., he was captured. For eight months he was held prisoner at Alton, Ill. When his exchange occurred he rejoined the army and fought until the conclusion of the war. At the end of the war he went to St. Louis and thence to his old home at Springfield, Mo.

Constitution's Skipper.

Captain Urias Rhodes, who commands the yacht Constitution, the new cup defender, comes from a long line of sailing masters. He is a son of that famous south shore of Long Island which has been the cradle of most of the captains of the cup defenders. His father, a white old veteran of 73, was a famous sailor man in his day and he gave the present Captain his first lessons in sailing a racing boat. Since he was 12 years old 'Rias Rhodes has



CAPT. RHODES.

practically lived on the water. He first commanded an oyster schooner. That was when he was but 16 years old. Later he was the skipper of an excursion yacht, in which capacity his skill attracted the attention of a member of the New York Yacht club, who gave Captain Rhodes his first command of a racing boat. He piloted the famous Lasca to many victories and took it to Europe in 1894, making the trip across the Atlantic in fifteen and one-half days. Captain Rhodes is 49 years old, in the prime of his strength and skill.

Crowded with Work.

It is said by a good authority that the American shipyards, where steel vessels are built, have orders which will keep all of them busy for the next twelve months, and some of them for a longer time. This applies to the yards on the great lakes as well as to those on the seaboard. Some of the vessels under construction are battleships or cruisers for the American navy. Others are to be used in the coasting trade. A few are to be employed in overseas commerce under the American flag. Six large freight boats are being built for the Atlantic transport line. Two steamers of about the same dimensions as the immense Celtic of the White Star line are being built to ply on the Pacific in connection with the Great Northern railway. Two large vessels for the Pacific Mail Steamship company are nearly finished.

SHOUSE SUES BURLINGTON.

Man Charged with Ticket Stealing Asks for \$10,000 Damages.

ASTINGS, Neb., Aug. 12.—Oliver Shouse, who was arrested at Bladen, Neb., June 29 at the instance of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad for supposed complicity in the theft of about \$3,000 worth of tickets from the David City depot, but who soon afterward proved his innocence, now through his attorneys, Batty & Dungan, filed a suit against the railroad company for \$10,000 damages.

Superintendent Bignell with a detective and Sheriff Ren of Butler county went to Bladen on a special train to arrest Shouse. A Denver ticket broker was with them to identify Shouse. He claimed Shouse was the man who had disposed of one of the stolen tickets to him. Later developments proved to a certainty that he was sadly mistaken. Messrs. Batty & Dungan soon convinced Superintendent Bignell that they could prove their client had never been to Denver in his life. The railroad man was soon convinced of the serious mistake in the way of mistaken identity and hastened to release Shouse.

Mr. Shouse has sued for false imprisonment and for injury to his good name.

STUDYING TIMBER CULTURE.

United States Forestry Commission in Scotts Bluffs County.

BRIDGEPORT, Neb., Aug. 12.—The United States forestry party has been in camp here some time and is making good progress in its study of Nebraska tree growth. During the past week the old military timber reserve on Lawrence fork of Pumpkin Seed creek was visited and an examination made of the yellow pine which occurs abundantly in that region. Although the best and nearly all the large specimens have been cut, there yet remain thousands of trees that with proper treatment would produce much valuable timber in the future. Residents use it extensively for fence posts and say that if well seasoned it is very durable.

This week the territory between Snake and Pumpkin Seed creeks as far west as Scotts Bluffs will be covered. E. A. Boostrom, teacher of botany in the Lincoln high school, joined the party here and will collect for the State university until about September 15.

Small Grain Yield.

WAUSA, Neb., Aug. 12.—Threshing is in full force in this community and small grain falls considerably short of expectations. Wheat runs between ten and fifteen bushels; oats from twenty-five to forty; barley from twenty to thirty-five. The farmers now begin to realize that corn, especially the early planted, was damaged much more than was at first thought. Hay will be the best for years and pastures have been much benefited by recent rains.

Studying Half-Breed Cases.

PENDER, Neb., Aug. 12.—John L. Webster, special counsel for the United States on behalf of the Omaha Indians in what are known as the half-breed cases and of which there are twenty-three or twenty-four suits now pending in the United States court at Omaha, has been here for the purpose of getting facts necessary in the hearing of the cases, which will like occur in November.

Fatally Kicked by a Horse.

ATLANTIC, Ia., Aug. 12.—William H. Disbrow, a prominent citizen of the county, who lived four miles northeast of town, was kicked by a vicious horse and was so seriously injured that he died as a result of the injury in a short time.

Young Man Drowned in Blue.

BLUE SPRINGS, Neb., Aug. 12.—Ed Craig, 19 years old, was drowned in the Blue river while bathing with two companions. C. A. Lledy, one of his companions, nearly drowned while attempting his rescue.

Mormons Seeking Converts.

SUPERIOR, Neb., Aug. 12.—Two Mormon missionaries are making a house to house visit here in the interest of the Church of the Latter Day Saints. They canvass principally among the women.

Deputy Sheriff Robbed.

NIOBRARA, Neb., Aug. 12.—Deputy Sheriff John Conway lost by theft his watch, chain, and \$4 in cash. Retiring in the evening he left his room door open and awoke to find that he had been robbed.

Capt. Wiley Resigns.

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., Aug. 12.—Captain Wiley of company C, Second regiment, Nebraska National guard, has sent his resignation to the adjutant general, to take effect at once.

Nebraska City Man Disappears.

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., Aug. 12.—H. C. Sylvester, residing a mile and a half west of this city, has mysteriously disappeared and his family is at a loss to locate him.

DEMOCRATS AND POPULISTS.

They Will Hold Their State Conventions September 17.

LINCOLN, Aug. 10.—The democratic and populist state committees in session here both agreed to hold their state conventions in Lincoln September 17. The hour for assembling was left to the chairman.

The basis of representation in the democratic convention was fixed at one delegate for each 100 votes or major fraction thereof cast for Hon. W. D. Oldham for attorney general last fall. This will mean from 800 to 1,000 delegates in that convention.

There will be over 1,200 in the populist convention, representation being based on one delegate for each 100 votes or major fraction thereof cast for Hon. W. A. Poynter for governor last fall.

State Vegetation Improves.

LINCOLN, Aug. 10.—Secretary Adna Dodson of the state board of irrigation returned from a tour through the North Platte river valley. He says the recent rains have materially increased the flow of water in all streams in that section of the state.

"Vegetation in the North Platte valley is in excellent condition," said Mr. Dodson. "Corn is doing exceptionally well and alfalfa is now being cut for the second crop. In Cheyenne and Deuel counties hay is making a good crop. In those counties they grow what is called wheat grass. It is a superior grass and sells at \$8 a ton when alfalfa brings about \$3."

School Money Invested.

LINCOLN, Aug. 10.—Records of the state treasurer's office show that there is \$4,582,977.47 of permanent school money invested in interest-bearing bonds. The revenue on this investment averages 3 1/2 per cent, and all money so derived is credited to the temporary school fund, which is apportioned twice each year among the schools of the state. The amount of school money invested is \$108,476 greater than at any time prior to Mr. Stuefer's incumbency.

Want Single Women as Teachers.

GRAND ISLAND, Neb., Aug. 10.—At the meeting of the board of education a resolution was introduced by Member McAllister to the effect that hereafter should any woman teacher marry, her contract as teacher be terminated at once. The resolution was discussed and it was the general belief that married women should not be employed as teachers. On motion the resolution was laid on the table for one month.

Big Yield of Wheat at Genoa.

GENOA, Neb., Aug. 10.—The biggest yield of wheat reported in this section thus far is that of S. T. Battles, who lives one mile east of Genoa. Battles had 200 acres of winter wheat and fifty acres of spring wheat. He finished threshing his winter wheat Friday and found that he had 8,000 bushels. He has not threshed his spring wheat, but estimates that it will yield twenty-five bushels per acre.

Paul Hunger Passes Away.

LINCOLN, Aug. 10.—Paul Hunger, one of the youngest members of the bar of this county, died at St. Elizabeth's hospital from an operation for internal abscess. Mr. Hunger, who was but 23 years of age and had been ill about ten days, had a wide circle of friends in this city, belonging to many fraternal orders and was president of the Young Men's Republican club.

Burned to Death.

STELLA, Aug. 10.—Mrs. Ed Knapp of Nemaha was so terribly burned in a gasoline explosion that she died. She broke a jug of gasoline in a cave and the ground was soaked with oil. Later in the day she had occasion to go into the cave and, as it was dark, struck a match, which ignited the gas. She ran out in the air, but did not extinguish the flames until fatally burned.

Two Boys Sent to Penitentiary.

SIDNEY, Neb., Aug. 10.—Judge Grimes sentenced Harry Ickes, aged 19, and Fred Pierson, aged 20, to the penitentiary for one year each. Ickes and Pierson both pleaded guilty, the former to the charge of forgery and the latter to stealing a check and pocketing the proceeds.

Condition of the Treasury.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 10.—Today's statement of the treasury balance in the general fund, exclusive of \$150,000,000 gold, shows: Available cash balance, \$176,207,117; gold, \$102,436,748.

Townley Denies Wrong Intent.

LINCOLN, Aug. 10.—In his sworn testimony before the Manila court martial on May 29, Lieutenant Townley said he was led into the commissary scandal by an impulsive desire to be of assistance in what at that time he believed to be a worthy cause, but he denied any intention of wrongdoing. A copy of the Manila American, published the day following the trial, contains a detailed report of the proceedings in the court martial.

THE LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Latest Quotations From South Omaha and Kansas City.

SOUTH OMAHA.

Cattle—There was a fair run of cattle and a good proportion of the receipts was made up of western cattle. The demand for the better grades of beef was in good shape and just about steady prices were paid.

Packers started in in good season and bid just about yesterday's prices for the more desirable grades of corn fed cattle. The common and light weight stuff, particularly that which has been fed only a short time, was slow sale and in a good many cases sales were made that looked a little lower than the same kinds brought yesterday. The western range beef cattle that were offered were of pretty fair quality and as high as \$4.40 was paid. There was a good demand for the better grades of cows and heifers and just about steady prices were paid. The common stuff, such as canners, also sold for practically the same prices they did yesterday, but the medium grades were neglected and in a good many cases sold about a dime lower. Sellers found that class of stock hard to dispose of, as buyers did not seem particularly anxious for it. Bulls, calves and stags all sold in about the same notch as they did yesterday.

Hogs—There was not a heavy run of hogs, but still there were a good many carried over from yesterday, which made the supply on sale of quite liberal proportions. Packers started bidding just about steady to strong prices as compared with yesterday's general market. It was noticeable, however, that they were picking out the better grades and leaving the common and light weight stuff. For the general run of mixed hogs they paid right around \$5.55, while the heavier grades sold largely at \$5.75 and \$5.70, with some of the prime loads going as high as \$5.80.

Sheep—Following are quotations—Choice yearlings, \$3.25@3.50; fair to good yearlings, \$3.15@3.25; choice wethers, \$3.20@3.40; fair to good wethers, good ewes, \$2.00@2.60; choice spring lambs, \$4.50@5.00; fair to good spring lambs, \$4.25@4.55; feeder wethers, \$2.50@3.00; feeder lambs, \$3.00@3.50.

KANSAS CITY.

Cattle—Native and Texas beef steers, steady; cows and heifers, 100 lbs. lower; stockers and feeders, steady at Wednesday's decline; choice export and dressed beef steers, \$5.00@5.55; fair to good, \$4.65@5.35; stockers and feeders, \$2.60@4.00; western fed steers, \$4.00@5.50; western range steers, \$3.25@4.25; Texas grass steers, \$2.90@3.10; Texas cows, \$2.20@2.90; native cows, \$2.50@4.00; heifers, \$3.00@5.00; canners, \$1.90@2.40; bulls, \$2.50@4.50; calves, \$3.00@5.25.

Hogs—Market 5c higher; top, \$6.02 1/2; bulk of sales, \$5.65@5.90; heavy, \$5.95@6.02 1/2; mixed packers, \$5.60@5.80; light, \$5.25@5.75; pigs, \$3.50@5.50.

Sheep and Lambs—Lambs, 10c lower; steep steady; lambs, \$4.00@5.25; wethers, \$3.25@3.90; ewes, \$2.75@3.25; western range wethers, \$3.25@3.40; western range ewes, \$2.00@3.15; stock ewes, \$2.00@3.50.

COLOMBIANS AGAIN ACTIVE.

Reports Say Their Forces Have Crossed Borders of Venezuela Again.

WILLMSTAD, Island of Curacao, Aug. 10.—The Venezuelan government announces that a new Colombian invasion occurred yesterday morning near Colon.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10.—Neither the State or Navy departments were able to throw any light upon the press dispatch from Willemstad stating that the Venezuelan government announced that a new Colombia invasion occurred yesterday near Colon.

No further official reports have come regarding the situation on the isthmus and the officials appear content to rest with what has been done with preparing to protect American interests. They do not regard the situation as serious, but desire to be ready should it become serious. The battleship Wisconsin had not reported its departure to the Navy department during the early part of the day, but it is expected that it will be on its way south very soon.

As San Francisco is over 3,000 miles from Panama, the battleship probably will proceed further down the coast, probably to San Diego, Cal., and there await developments on the isthmus. The Navy department has not decided whether Commander Nathan Sargent will take the Machias all the way to the isthmus or be succeeded by some other officer.

CHIEF OF BOURBONS DEAD.

Prince Henry of Orleans Passes Away in Fregech Cochon China.

SAIGON, French Cochon China, Aug. 10.—Prince Henry of Orleans died at 6:30 p. m. today.

Prince Henry of Orleans is the oldest son of the duke of Chartreux and a cousin of the duke of Orleans. He was born in 1867 and was not married. The prince had been dangerously ill for some time past. He was on his way to the United States by way of San Francisco and was to have passed some time at Newport this fall. His name has been mentioned as a suitor for the hand of a well known American heiress and at one time he figured for the hand of the eldest sister of the young king of Spain, the Infanta De La Mercedes, who was married in February of the present year to Prince Charles of Bourbon.

Want a New Game Law.

YANKTON, S. D., Aug. 10.—Much dissatisfaction is felt among city sportsmen at the state game laws referring to prairie chickens. Under the present law the season opens September 1, and before that time city hunters claim farmers have shot or scattered them so there is no shooting left. The farmers take advantage of the law and while the city man is waiting for the expiration of it the chickens are cleaned out.