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PROFESSIONAL CARDS

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FACTS AND FIGURES

Why Has the State Debt Increased.

The secretary of the Republican state central committee gives us a few pertinent facts and figures for the benefit of voters and taxpayers apropos of the coming campaign. Cut it out and save for reference:

As a sort of forerunner of the kind of political thunder that will emanate from fusion sources during the coming state campaign our friends, the enemy, have already commenced their interesting juggling feats with the figures pertaining to the state debt. Of course debt is always a serious matter, either in public or private affairs. But it makes a vast difference as to the argument that can be predicated upon it, oftentimes, when the nature of the debt and the circumstances which occasioned it are taken into consideration.

As a starter it is here admitted that on Nov. 30, 1897, the year in which the fusionists were in complete control of all the departments of state government, the state debt was \$1,576,389.86. It is further admitted that on November 30, 1903, a year in which the republicans were in full power, the debt had increased to \$2,363,177.21, a net increase of \$686,787.35. It should be remembered, however, that the fusionists remained in power until January, 1901, and that the net increase above referred to the sum of \$151,057.86 was added during the time between Nov. 30, 1897, and Nov. 30, 1900, leaving the republicans chargeable with an increase of \$535,729.49 during the three years from Nov. 30, 1900, to Nov. 20, 1903.

Attention is called to the following comparative figures, showing why it has been necessary to increase legislative appropriations in order to keep pace with the natural growth of the state and also to make provision for the extraordinary demands of the period, the state's system of revenue, meanwhile, remaining unchanged and entirely inadequate to the growing necessities.

First, let us consider the extraordinary expenses; that is, the unusual, unforeseen and previously contracted expenses, which were paid during the republican period from the beginning of 1901 to November 30, 1903, and which thus became an addition to the state debt. The items run as follows:

For rebuilding and refurnishing the state penitentiary, burned Feb. 28, 1901.....	\$118,200.00
For wolf bounties, partly accumulated under fusion administration.....	40,000.00
Deficiency from fusion administration, which a republican legislature had to make good in order to preserve the state's credit.....	182,736.97
For return of First Nebr. from San Francisco....	47,370.75
For addition to Hastings asylum, the inmates having increased from 542 in 1897 to 1,013, Jan. 1, 1924.....	55,900.00
For nine supreme court commissioners and assistants.....	89,800.00
For Pan-American Exposition, Buffalo.....	10,000.00
For permanent location Nebraska state fair....	35,000.00
Total.....	\$578,107.72

It will be seen from the above figures, which are taken from the auditor's books, that the extraordinary and unusual expenses alone, over \$200,000 of which was for fusion deficiencies, more than accounts for the total increase of state debt during the republican administrations which are under consideration.

By way of more complete explanation of some of the items entering into the unusual expenses, it is proper to state that the wolf bounties had been accumulating for years, under a law which made their payment obligatory. A fusion legislature failed to make sufficient appropriation for the payment of these claims, in an effort to make a grandstand exhibition of economy. A republican legislature made provision for the payment of the accrued debt and then repealed law.

The item representing "deficiency from administration" is the accumulation of deficiencies from the several departments and state institutions during the fusion regime. It was a desperate effort to make a record for economy. Appropriations were made which were entirely inadequate for the maintenance of the institutions and hence indebtedness was incurred which later had to be made good. The fusionists "point with pride" to their small appropriations for maintenance but preserve a discrete silence in regard to the magnificent deficiencies which were required to supplement those appropriations.

In regard to the unusual item of expense for the supreme court commission it is proper to state that on April 15, 1901, there were 1600 cases awaiting adjudication in the supreme court. Between that date and January 1, 1903, 1078 new cases were filed, making a total of 2678 cases to be considered in less than two years. Three supreme judges could not possibly do the work. Relief was necessary and all political parties so agreed. This condition of affairs accounts for the existence of the commission and the expense incident thereto. The court is now well up with its work and six of the nine commissioners will soon be retired, in accordance with the restrictions enacted by the last legislature.

The foregoing is one of the explanations of the increase of the state debt and it certainly appeals to the reason of every fair-minded citizen. It must be borne in mind that the state's revenues during the entire period were raised under the provision of a revenue law which was universally conceded to be inadequate, which was inelastic and which could not be adapted to the state's growing needs. In other words the state and its necessities were growing all the time while the revenue law remained unchanged and could not be stretched to meet the increased demands.

But there is another rational explanation of the increase of the debt. In 1897 the appropriations made for the support of the State University for the biennium amounted to \$252,500. That was all that the university required at the time, according to the ideas of the fusionists who were in control of all the departments of state government. In 1903 there had been such a magnificent growth at the university in the number of students and in the expansion of the true university idea that for the bi-

ennium an appropriation of \$779,500 was necessary and was accordingly made. Who dares to say this money is not well expended and that the state does not reap a benefit far in excess of the price paid? This item again accounts for nearly the whole increase of state debt during the past three years, of which the fusionists complain.

The fact is that the financial administration of the state has been most creditable to the republican administration. In a business like way it has provided for the maintenance of the several institutions on an economical basis, has recognized the additional burdens imposed by the state's growth and has paid off the deficiencies created by the fusionists in their futile efforts to make a record for economy.

RAILROAD WRECK.

Four Lives go out by a Collision at Broken Bow.

Broken Bow (Custer County.) Republican.

One of the most shocking affairs that this vicinity has witnessed occurred just west of the city corporation this morning about 5:40 o'clock by the collision of freight trains No. 46 and 48. As a result of the collision four lives were hurled into eternity without a moments warning. It appears that the crew of 48, which was running as an extra, had pulled into the yards from the west but a short time before the scheduled time of 46, which was also coming from the west. The crew of 48 was compelled to bring its train in in two sections from Merna on account of its length and left, there being 47 cars. It was making the trip back to Merna to bring up the second section that brought the trains so close together. The conductor on 48, on reaching the depot received notice of the near approach of 46 and at once started to get his train on a side track by backing to the upperswitch. He had succeeded in getting back to the switch and had entered on the side track when 46, under full speed ran into the way car. The car was reduced to kindling, the locomotive completely demolished and landed on a bank to the north with the engineer under it. Twelve or fourteen cars loaded with lumber, coal and such merchandise were badly wrecked. The engineer was held in his position for five hours before death relieved him of his torture. His body had all been freed except one hand, when death came, which was afterward amputated in order to release his body which was found to be terribly mangled. Supt. Calvert, who was on 41, came up from Ravenna with the wrecking crew and gave his personal attention to caring for the dead and having the wreckage cleared. Supt. Phelan of Alliance arrived later from the west with a wrecking crew and lent assistance. No. 41 was detained at Ravenna until evening, when it received orders to move on to this city and transfer its passengers and baggage around the wreck to 42, which was held at Merna.

Dr. J. H. Morrow of Merna impanned a jury and took the bodies in charge to hold an inquest. As we go to press this Friday (29th) morning the work of investigation has not been completed. The personnel of the jury assures a thorough and impartial investigation. They are: L. H. Jewett, Jas. Whitehead, Jud Kay, J. J. Wilson, W. W. Cowles and Geo. Willing.
The dead are: Thos. Kelley, engineer; J. F. Eaton, fireman; John Akers, brakeman, and a passenger named Whittenberger of Lorwill, Ind.

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