

Custer Co. Republican

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 THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1901.

Governor Dietrich yesterday afternoon commuted the death sentence of Frank Dinsmore to imprisonment for life. Dinsmore is the man convicted on the charge of murdering Fred Lane at Odessa on December 6, 1899. Among the letters asking for commutation of the sentence was one from Judge Sullivan, the trial judge who, while he believed Dinsmore guilty, contended that the death penalty is a relic of barbarism.—Gandy Pioneer.

Amongst its numerous claims to distinction, Gandy, may now boast the exclusive honor of having amongst its residents a sister of Nebraska's new Chief Executive. Gandy being, we understand, the only town in the state thus favored. It is probably not generally known that Mrs. D. E. Kelly is a sister of Gov. Savage. As this is the date of our new Governor's entry upon his duties, we deem it appropriate to acquaint our readers with that fact in this issue.—Logan County Pioneer.

The last legislature of Minnesota passed a law making wife desertion a felony, punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary from one to three years, with a provision for a suspension providing the wayward husband shall give bond to the state to support his wife and family. This will doubtless incline the man to bear with some pretty severe tongue lashes if he lives in Minnesota, before he decides to support her, unless he intends to support her, as it will be a choice between desertion and the penitentiary. But as long as Minnesota is the only state that has such a law on the statute books, the long headed husband who contemplates taking the final leap will move to some other state before he puts his desires into force. But the poor fellows who have already committed the rash act will either have to go to the pen or put up the bond. The board of control at St. Paul have a list of thirty husbands who have deserted their wives that they have issued requisitions to have them returned to the state. If they are successful, doubtless county officials of other counties will do likewise.

J. C. L. Wisely, editor of the Sargent New-Era is getting to be quite a monopolist in the newspaper business. Two weeks ago he went down to Comstock and bought the Comstock Index, and last week he purchased the Sargent Leader, which give him control of the newspapers in the county east of the Middle Loup river. The two papers he has recently purchased are republican papers, while Mr. Wisely and the Sargent New-Era are strong social-populist. The Leader states that it will be continued on the same line as formerly, which means a radical republican paper. This will place Mr. Wisely in a dual position politically, but we understand that Rev. B. H. Jones, a pastor at Sargent, is to do the editorial work on the Leader. Having control and management of the three papers, Mr. Wisely will be in a most excellent position to supply any kind of politics his patrons may want. For his socialist friends one paper can be devoted, and to the populist readers another can accommodate them, while the other can be made and sent exclusively to republicans. We have heard of the two edged sword but this sword can be made to cut three ways and it ought to be a source of great revenue to Mr. Wisely. The Republican congratulates Mr. Wisely on his manifest prosperity and hope he may be able to reap the reward of his labors.

Prosperity on the Farms.
 When the farmer reads that the value of the capital of thirty-four leading American railway comp-

anies has increased over \$620,000,000 within the past six months, according to stock exchange quotations he may ask why farm property show no such enhancement. The same question is suggested when the aggregate exports from the United States for nine months of the present fiscal year are reported to be \$1,140,170,758, or \$85,000,000 increase over last year, with a favorable annual trade balance exceeding \$500,000,000. Farming is so vast an interest that its current condition cannot be expressed in figures. It is capitalized in stock and bonds, and its values are not quotable from day to day. But any intelligent farmer can make a comparison of the general state of his industry with what it was six or eight years ago, and will then realize the immense gain that has occurred. In fact the activity among the railways and the rapid growth of foreign exports largely rest on farm production.

It is stated by the chief statistician of the agricultural section of the twelfth census that the net additions to farm resources in the ten years between 1890 and 1900 exceeded the value of all farm investments in 1850. As the writer referred to puts the case: "The increased wealth of our farmers, as the result of their last ten years labor, equals the farm wealth of the nation reported as the outcome of their toil and economies from the settlement at Jamestown to the middle of the nineteenth century." Advances on the Stock Exchange fade into a small affair beside the colossal increment like that. In the United States to day there are at least 5,700,000 farms, or about one to every thirteen inhabitants. In 1885 the number was 1,129,073. In ten years the number has increased 1,150,000 and in the same time farm wealth has expanded by not less than \$6,500,000,000. In the twelve adjacent states of Missouri, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas the number of farms has increased since 1890 from 1,923,882 to 2,220,000. These states added \$2,500,000,000 to their farm wealth between 1890 and 1899, and a still larger sum in the last ten years.

The government is not unmindful of the vast import of agriculture. Congress has endowed agricultural colleges in every state and territory. These institutions represent a value of \$53,000,000, and their income is \$6,000,000. Their students last year numbered 31,648. The annual national appropriation for experiment stations is \$789,000. When American farmers note what is going on in intensive farming, irrigation, cattle raising, improvement and preservation of products, management of soils, betterment of facilities to reach markets and new uses for waste products they will see that their industry is truly the most expansive as well as the greatest. Though the population of the country should continue to double inside of forty years there can be no doubt that the farmers of this country, the most scientific and effective in the world, will meet all demands and be the main reliance for foreign nations when their own production runs short.—Globe Democrat.

LEADS ALL IN EXPORTS.

United States First in the Nations of the World.

Washington, May 7.—The picture of the world's commerce presented each month by the treasury bureau of statistics in its monthly publication, presents in the current number some interesting facts about the commerce of the principal nations of the world. Perhaps the most interesting fact which it shows is that the United States stands in the fiscal year 1901 clearly and unquestionably at the head of the world's list of exporting nations, her average monthly exportations for the nine months ending with March, 1901, being \$124,497,853, while those of the united kingdom, her closest competitor, were \$117,816,246 per

month during the same period; those of Germany, the next largest exporter, \$87,551,000 per month during the twelve months ending with December, 1901; France, \$56,467,000; Russia, \$29,550,000 per month; Austria-Hungary, \$25,753,255 per month; Belgium, \$53,568,000 per month, and Italy, \$20,518,000 per month.

BALANCE OF TRADE FOR FOURTEEN

Of the the twenty-four countries or political divisions named in table ten show an excess over imports, while the remaining fourteen show an excess of imports over exports. Argentina, Bulgaria, Canada, Egypt, British India, Mexico, the Philippine Islands, Russia, Uruguay, and the United States show an excess of exports over imports, while Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Cape of Good Hope, Cuba, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Porto Rico, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, and the united kingdom show an excess of imports over exports. Argentina shows in the twelve months ending with December last, \$39,000,000 more of exports than of imports. Canada in the eight months ending with February, 1901, shows twelve million dollars more of exports than of imports. British India during the nine months ending with December, shows sixty-four million dollars more of exports than of imports, and Russia during the twelve months ending with December, shows fifty-nine million dollars more of exports than of imports, while the United States in the nine months ending with March, 1901, shows five hundred and twenty-one million Dollars more of exports than of imports.

UNITED STATES ARE AHEAD.

A further comparison of the latest figures with those of the corresponding period for the preceding year also develops some interesting facts. Argentina in the twelve months ending with December, 1899, showed sixty-five million dollars excess of exports over imports and in the same months of 1900, an excess of only thirty-nine million dollars. Canada in the eight months ending with February, 1900, showed exports five million dollars below the imports, while the corresponding months ending with February, 1901, twelve million dollars excess of exports over imports. Russia in the twelve months ending with December, 1899, showed less than four million dollars excess of exports over imports, and in the twelve months ending with December, 1900, fifty-nine million dollars more of exports than of imports; while the United States, which in the nine months ending with March, 1900, showed three hundred and ninety-four million dollars excess of exports over imports, in the same months of the fiscal year, 1901, showed five hundred and twenty-one million dollars excess of exports over imports, a gain of \$127,000,000 in the "favorable balance of trade" for the nine months' period of 1901, as compared with a like period of 1900.

The total domestic exports of the United States in the nine months ending with March, are \$1,120,480,673, while the exportation of British and Irish produce in the same period \$1,060,346,214, showing the exports of the United States to be sixty million dollars greater than those of the united kingdom, her greatest rival, during the term under consideration.

Reviving Virginia Blue Laws.

The official public flogging of women in Virginia has aroused much unfavorable comment and many bitter remarks about "chivalry in the Old Dominion." As a matter of fact, the incident is nothing more than a mild revival of the "blue laws" of Colonial times—laws surpassing in severity any attributed to Connecticut or any other Puritan colony. It has long been a by-word that in Connecticut a man was forbidden to kiss his wife on Sunday. But in Virginia any young woman who was guilty of flirtation or who encouraged more than one man to pay her sentimental attentions was liable to be flogged! It was forbidden to speak

evil of dignitaries in New England; but in Virginia if one ventured to criticize the Governor he was put into the pillory. The straitlaced religiousness of the Puritans has been made sport of; but in Cavalier Virginia it was forbidden to "disparage a minister;" to take a voyage on Sunday, save to go to church, or to fire a gun on Sunday, excepting to shoot an Indian. That the shooting of Indians, of course in defence of the colonists, was considered a proper function on the Sabbath is shown by the fact that every lead of a family was required, under penalty, to bring with him to church every Sunday a gun and plenty of ammunition. It is interesting to recall, too, that speculating in the markets by "buying futures" was sternly prohibited, under penalty of fine, imprisonment and the pillory.

Since in old times in the "Kingdom of Virginia" maidens were flogged for flirting, there is no especial incongruity in applying the same punishment to women convicted of gross immoralities. Nevertheless, the best judgment of mankind must be that it was a performance which reflected no credit upon those responsible for it. There are those who approve the whipping post for the punishment of wife beaters and for certain other male offenders. But the official flogging of women, no matter how much they have forfeited their title to womanhood, is altogether revolting. It is painful to recall that it was sanctioned and ordered by the grim pioneers of Wyatt's and Yearday's time. That it should be done for any cause in the first year of the twentieth century is a shame for which Virginia may well blush.—New York Tribune.

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