

WILL BE NO DEFICIT.

DEMOCRATIC SCREAMS ABOUT THE FAILURE UNFOUNDED.

The Formal "Estimate" of the Secretary of War Shows an Apparent Deficit for 1898 of \$21,000,000, but the Facts Point to a Probable Surplus in That Year of \$30,000,000.

Washington, D. C., December, 1897. "And hereafter the secretary of war shall annually submit estimates in detail for river and harbor improvements required for the ensuing fiscal year, to the secretary of the treasury, to be included in and carried into the sum total of the book of estimates." From the sundry civil appropriation act for the fiscal year 1897.

The above quotation from the last sundry civil appropriation bill as it became a law and stands upon the statute books, explains the apparent prospect of a deficit in the fiscal year which is to begin July 1st of next year.

A good deal of professed distress has been manifested in certain quarters over the figures of the report of the secretary of the treasury which indicate a deficit in the next fiscal year. The people indulging in these evidences of distress will perhaps be gratified to know that the apparent deficit is only apparent, and that the figures when considered in light of the paragraph quoted above, warrant the assertion that the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 1898, will show a surplus of \$30,000,000, instead of a deficit of \$21,000,000.

The explanation of the apparent deficit is found in a single line on page 12 of the secretary's report. It is as follows:

"Public works, war department, \$63,400,409.81."

The above is the formal "estimate" for river and harbor improvements in the fiscal year in question now required by the paragraph quoted at the beginning of this dispatch, to be inserted in the annual estimates sent to Congress by the secretary of the treasury. Prior to the adoption of this new requirement the secretary of war made his estimates of the amount required for the river and harbor improvement upon the judgment of the chief of engineers. Now he is required to insert in the annual estimates every dollar that any and every subordinate officer in charge of the various improvements the country ever may choose to name as the amount that can be "profitably expended" during the coming fiscal year.

Everybody familiar with the reports of the officers in charge of river and harbor works knows that it is the habit to recommend the appropriation of large sums, usually two or three times as much as is expected to be obtained, for the works of which they are in charge. This custom magnifies to a certain degree the apparent importance of the work of which the officer in question is in charge, makes him extremely popular with the people of the city or locality in which the work is being carried on, and where he usually resides during the progress of the work itself, and is looked upon as a harmless way of pleasing the surrounding public and making the official in question both popular and his duties apparently important. The result is that it has been the habit of the war department for many years to reduce to about one-third of their dimensions the estimates made by these subordinate officers.

An example of this may be found in the total estimates for river and harbor works as sent to congress in December, 1891, to cover the expenditures of the fiscal year 1893, in which the secretary recommends an appropriation of \$13,208,393 for river and harbor works. On the very same page, however, began a lengthy table which gave the detailed estimates presented for the various rivers and harbors, the total of these figures being \$52,489,950. That table was preceded by the following note:

"River and harbor, showing the amount that can be profitably expended in the next fiscal year—The following statement is not furnished as a part of the annual estimates for the public service required by the act of March 3, 1875, to be presented by the secretary of war to the secretary of the treasury, but is inserted as a convenient and customary summary of items taken from the annual report of the chief of engineers for the fiscal year 1891, showing under the provision of the act of congress approved March 3, 1867, the amount that can be profitably expended in the next fiscal year on each of the works mentioned."

In the above case it will be seen that the figures covering the "amount that

can be profitably expended in the next fiscal year" were \$52,489,950, while the amount that was actually estimated was \$13,208,393. The result was that the total estimates in that year as they went to congress obtained for river and harbor improvement only the condensed item of \$13,208,393, instead of the elaborate estimate of "profitable expenditures" amounting to \$52,489,950. This has been the annual custom for many years to put into the estimates simply the amount which in the judgment of the war department should be expended. This year, however, the new law enacted by last congress compels the secretary to put into the annual estimates the entire sum named in these statements of the "amount that can be profitably expended in the next fiscal year." The result is that the sum "estimated" for the river and harbor works alone in the next fiscal year is \$65,400,409.81, while nobody expects that the appropriations will be more than one-third of this sum.

Since the figures of the secretary of the treasury, including the \$65,400,409.81 for river and harbor works, only estimate a deficit of \$21,000,000, and since it is absolutely certain that the actual expenditures for rivers and harbors will fall nearly or quite \$40,000,000 below the enforced estimate, it is quite apparent that the actual appropriations for the fiscal year will be \$20,000,000 less than the estimated receipts, instead of \$20,000,000 more, as would appear, in the absence of the explanation offered by this new requirement of the law.

GEORGE WILLIAMS.



Sewing.



Reaping.

Reciprocity Prospects. The Dingley law is only about four months old. It has not had time to justify itself as a revenue producer, owing to the heavy anticipatory imports during the time that congress was giving it final shape, but its provisions have been clear from the day it was signed by the president, and foreign countries are fully advised as to its bearing and significance. Is there a single sign of a tariff war against the United States on the horizon? Is there not, on the contrary, a sign of commercial good will in every direction? Foreign governments are putting the same high value on our markets that we ourselves in the Dingley law have put upon them. Instead of making war on us, they are making overtures to trade with us on terms of mutual benefit. The reciprocity clause of the new law promises to be one of the most useful features. Great Britain invokes it in the interests of her possessions in the West Indies. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is now in Washington willing to discuss terms for increased trade between Canada and the United States. France desires to negotiate a reciprocity treaty and Peru does also. It is not too much to say, indeed, that the United States has only to show a willingness on the subject to extend her trade by means of reciprocity on advantageous terms in nearly any direction.—Washington "Star."

REPUBLICAN OPINION.

A good deal of distress has been felt in the minds of democratic editors for the past few days over the fact that the estimates of the treasury department sent to congress at the opening of the session indicate an apparent deficit of \$21,647,885 during the fiscal year which ends June 30, 1898. It is proper to say, with reference to this estimate, that a recently enacted law requires the war department to put into its estimate for the expenditures of the coming year all estimates made by subordinate officers of needed expenditures upon the river and harbor works where they are employed. The result of this is that the estimates for river and harbor improvements alone amounted to \$65,400,409.81, which, of course, is from forty to fifty million dollars more than will be appropriated for that purpose. Notwithstanding the fact that these figures were excessive, the treasury department was compelled under the law to include them in its so-called estimates, knowing full well they were absolutely excessive, and that the appropriation for this work would fall probably \$50,000,000 below the figures named. These circumstances account for the fact that the official figures estimate an apparent deficit of \$21,000,000, when, in fact, it is expected that there will be a surplus of at least that amount in the year in question.

President McKinley is still hopeful of definite and valuable results from the efforts in behalf of international bimetallism which were inaugurated by the Republican party immediately following his election. In his message he discusses briefly the work of the commission sent abroad for that purpose, expresses gratification that our great sister republic of France was willing to join with this country in an attempt to bring about an agreement upon this subject, and crosses his discussion of this question by saying that he has still reason to hope that the labors of this commission "may result in an international agreement which will bring about recognition of both gold and silver money upon such terms and with such safeguards as will secure the use of both metals upon a basis which will work no injustice to any class of our citizens."

President McKinley speaks in hopeful terms, in his message, of the prospects regarding reciprocity treaties with European and American countries. He expresses the belief that "by a careful exercise of the powers conferred by the recent tariff act some grievances of our own and other countries, in our mutual trade relations, may be either removed or largely eliminated and the volume of our commercial exchanges enlarged with advantage to both contracting parties."

"The recent victory of the fusionists in Nebraska," said Editor Edward Rosewater of the Omaha Bee, "was in no sense a victory for Bryanism. It was a protest of the voters against the disgraceful boodlerism that had characterized state and municipal officials who happened to be Republicans. The state treasurer, the state auditor and the city treasurer of Omaha had all been guilty of pilfering the public funds, and the Republican party had to suffer for their sins."

"The voters thought that the best way to rebuke such conduct was to defeat the party to which these men belonged, and there was no thought of any other issue. Mr. Bryan, of course, claims the fusion success as a personal triumph, but those who know the real conditions in Nebraska laugh at his pretensions. The Republican party has undergone its ordeal, and henceforth it will push to the fore. The people of Nebraska are with it on all the leading questions, and it is certain to come back into power."

Since protection is ordained to stand as our national policy for an indefinite period, will our free trade contemporaries contend that the tailors and other makers of and dealers in garments, are less entitled to share the benefits of that policy than their fellow-citizens engaged in other kinds of business? Is there any more reason why A should bring in a year's stock of clothing for himself and family free of duty than for permitting B to bring in an importation of wines, olive oil, cheese, or pickles?

The free trade newspapers are sneering at the small amount of revenue collected under this clause of the tariff. The Springfield Republican, for instance, says: "Some \$74,200 in customs duties was collected during October on the personal baggage of returning American travelers who landed at New York. At this rate the yearly revenue from that source would be less than \$900,000, against Mr. Dingley's estimate of \$10,000,000."

Well, a yearly revenue of \$900,000 is by no means a contemptible item. But that, considerable as it is at a time when revenues are behind expenditures is no gauge of the effect of that tax. There is every reason to believe that but for the personal baggage tax many millions' worth of goods would have been brought home in trunks, free of duty, that have come and will continue to come as freight. This is the chief benefit of that provision. It subjects to the duties imposed the vast amount of wearing apparel that under previous tariffs escaped taxation.—Washington Post.

Not a Bad Showing. The customs collections at the port of San Francisco for the month of October were \$432,167, or \$140,000 more than they were in September. Not a bad showing for the third month of the Dingley Bill.

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS.

SOME GOOD STORIES FOR OUR JUNIOR READERS.

The Crooked Sweet Pea Stem—Sport on the Ice—Whirligig Skating—Why a Horse Hates a Camel—Joining the Salvation Army.

A Fellow's Mother.
"A fellow's mother has bags and strings," said Fred, the wise, with his rosy cheeks and his merry eyes. "Knows what to do if a fellow gets hurt. By a thump or a bruise, or a fall in the dirt."
"A fellow's mother has bags and strings. Rags and buttons, and lots of things. No matter how busy she is, she'll stop to see how well you can spin your top."
"She does not care—not much, I mean—If a fellow's face is not always clear; And if your trousers are torn at the knee, She can put in a patch that you'd never see."
"A fellow's mother is never mad, And only sorry if you're bad; And I will tell you this, if you're only true, She'll always forgive you, what'er you do."
"I'm sure of this," said Fred, the wise, With a manly look in his laughing eyes, "I'll mind my mother quick, every day; A fellow's a baby that don't obey."
—Selected.

The Crooked Sweet Pea Stem.
In the queen's garden was planted a long row of sweet peas which grew and blossomed as only sweet peas in a queen's garden could grow and blossom. How lovely they were, and what a delight were they to the queen.
One bright June morning three tiny buds commenced to feel their way out to the sun, and that they might see the queen when he passed by. But long before it was time for the little buds to bloom, they were caught by one of the tendrils of the vine which held them fast, so that the stem on which they grew was bent all out of shape.
One afternoon the gardener passed by, and he saw the little crooked stem. "Oh," said the flowers, "he will snip us off and throw us away; for would not the queen feel sorry if she should come along and find us growing here?"
And this the gardener was just ready to do when something attracted his attention, so that he forgot all about snipping them off, and for a time they were safe.
Just at sunset the queen passed by. "Oh," cried the poor little flowers, "let us hide, so that the queen cannot see our deformity."
But the queen did see them. "What sweet little flowers," she exclaimed, "and this evening in my hair will I wear you. Would God that my crown were one-half as fair as the sweet faces of these lovely flowers."
All that evening the good queen wore the happy little flowers, and then, when she retired for the night she placed them in a tiny jeweled vase, that they might keep sweet and fresh for the morrow.
"Oh," exclaimed my poor little deformed boy, "is that a truly true story?"
"Almost," I replied.
"Tell me the true part of it," he asked eagerly.
"You are the little sweet pea blossom, my boy, and mother is your queen."
How the little lad's eyes shone when he joyfully cried out, "Oh! Oh! Oh! and the queen loves me. I knew she did. I am so glad, mamma."
"Yes," I replied, hugging him close to mother's breast, "I do love you. But Jesus loves us more than we can possibly love each other, and He has seen me, and He has seen my darling boy, and we know Him; so that by and by He will come and take us home to dwell with Him; there all the crooked shall be made straight, my precious boy." "Oh, how lovely," exclaimed the little lad.
Bay City, Mich.

Joining the Salvation Army.
Mary B. would like very much to join the Salvation Army, but her family and friends oppose her so violently that she has not the courage to take the step. She knows that her whole heart and soul are absorbed in their work and feels that there is no field in which she could be so useful to the world and so satisfactory to herself. It is almost a matter of conscience with her, but she has been brought up to the habits of the strictly obedience to her parents. She is only twenty years of age and some of her people advise her to wait a year or so and see if her present enthusiasm continues. If so she will be of age and can do as she pleases; if not the question will settle itself. Answer: The counsel of your friends is eminently wise and proper. Young persons often take violent fancies and become filled with philanthropic ideas that they abandon as they grow older and see more of the world. The best course for you to pursue is to keep your heart full of benevolence and good works, and if, when the year or two of waiting has rolled round, you still desire to become a Salvation Army lassie, the editor will wish you God speed.

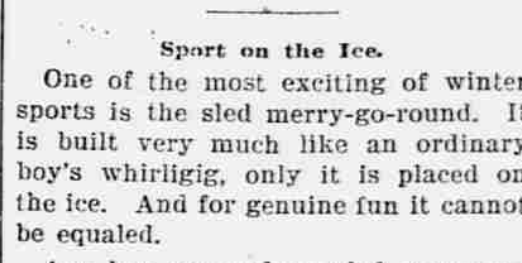
Seven-Year-Old Hero.
New York Telegram: Monday seven-year-old Abraham Eckerson of Guttenburg, N. J., was playing soldier

with his five little brothers and sisters in the kitchen, when they were suddenly confronted by seventeen writhing, hissing copperhead snakes. The largest, three feet long, led the rest, and was making toward the children when the boy saw it. He also saw the danger of his companions and screamed at them to run out of the room. They were so frightened that they could scarcely move hand or foot. Abraham drew his wooden sword from his belt, and, jumping in the front of the rest, struck the big copperhead a stinging blow. It recoiled, bleeding. He then advanced on the enemy and felled three more of the snakes that seemed ready to spring at the children. The whole body of snakes retreated as Abraham wielded his weapon. In the meantime his companions were screaming as loud as they could. Their cries brought in Mrs. Eckerson, armed with a poker and a powerful dog, Rex. While the Newfoundland dog jumped and gnawed at the wriggling mass Mrs. Eckerson thrust the children from the room. She then returned and killed the reptiles that still showed life. When the good work was over Mrs. Eckerson fainted from fright and excitement. The snakes are supposed to have been thawed out of a log which had just been hauled from the woods and placed beside the fire.

Why a Horse Hates a Camel.
Animals have their likes and dislikes as well as men, and they are quite as hard to explain. A cat naturally dislikes and fears a dog. The elephant hates mice and dogs. Horses loathe camels, and will not stay in the same block with them if they can help it. It is hard to give a cause for these aversions. Why should the horse dislike the harmless camel and be fond of the dog? It must be that the horse has a dormant sense of beauty and of humor. The ideal of the horse is grace, combined with strength. He disapproves from the bottom of his nature of the hopelessly vulgar, awkward and unesthetic camel. The bear, he sees at once, though clumsy, is unpretentious, truthful and not devoid of a sense of humor. The dog he recognizes as a good fellow, companionable and unselfish. A strong bond between the dog and the horse is that they are both fond of sport, whereas a camel would not go an inch to see the best race that was ever run.

Sport on the Ice.
One of the most exciting of winter sports is the sled merry-go-round. It is built very much like an ordinary boy's whirligig, only it is placed on the ice. And for genuine fun it cannot be equaled.
Any boy can make a sled merry-go-round. All the material necessary is a stout post, long enough to reach through the ice and find a secure resting place in the mud or sand in the bottom of the pond. It should reach about three feet above the surface. When it is put in place a hole may be cut in the ice just large enough to admit it, and a heavy mallet will drive it into place in the bottom of the pond. If it is left over night the water will freeze close around it and hold it solid. In the top of the post a large, round bolt or spike should be driven. The whirligig part of the merry-go-round is a long plank or scantling with a hole in the middle just large enough to fit over the bolt or spike. When this is in place the merry-go-round is complete. Before it is used, however, it is well to grease the top of the post and bolt so that the plank will slip around easily.
Any number of exciting games may be played with the sled merry-go-round. Perhaps the best of these is the sled contest. Two stout sleds are attached to the ends of the plank by long ropes. A boy sits on each of them. Then half a dozen other boys

stand near the post and set the plank to turning, exactly as in a whirligig. Of course the sleds travel at exhilarating speed, swinging out at the ends of the ropes and slipping and sliding over the smooth ice faster and faster, until the rider rolls off like the end boy in cracking the whip. The boy who can stick to his sled longest is the winner of the game.
Another exciting game is played without sleds. Skaters take hold of the ropes, and see how long they can hold on after the merry-go-round is started. And sometimes, when they let go, they are whirled rods away across the ice.
Any boy who is getting up a skating rink for the winter should not fail to have a sled merry-go-round as one of its attractions.
Truth is the band of union and the basis of human happiness. Without this virtue there is no reliance upon language, no confidence in friendship, no security in promises and oaths.—Jeremy Collier.

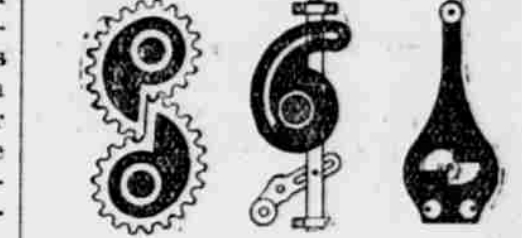


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All other blood Diseases are promptly And Permanently Cured By Hood's Sarsaparilla. If you suffer from Any form of Blood Disorder, you should Take Hood's and Only Hood's.

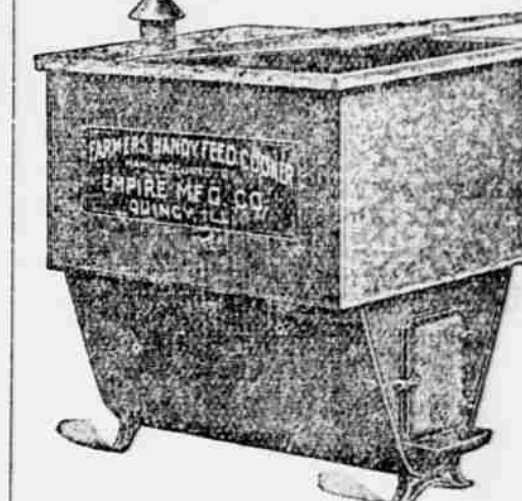
Inventors at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition.



The United States Patent Office will expend \$20,000 in making a display of models at the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition, to be held at Omaha from June to November, 1898. To bring this exhibit up to date, inventors will be invited to exhibit their meritorious inventions, and in this connection, inventor Thomas A. Edison has pledged himself to make an exhibit of one of his latest inventions. Inventors having models of clever inventions, should address Sues & Co., Patent Experts, Omaha, in charge of the section of inventions, for free information.

The monument which the members of the "Iron Brigade" will erect to the memory of General John Gibbon in the Arlington cemetery across the Potomac from the national capital is rapidly nearing completion. A bas-relief of General Gibbon appears on the front of the granite and the whole will be one of the handsomest monuments in the cemetery.

FARMER'S HANDY FEED COOKER.
We desire to call our readers' attention to the Farmer's Handy Feed Cooker, which is sold at the low price of \$12.50 for 50 gallon capacity.



By feeding poultry and stock with cooked food during the winter months, at least one-third of the food is saved; also having stock in a healthy condition, preventing hog cholera among your hogs, and insuring the hens laying freely during the winter months when eggs are always wanted at high prices. This Cooker will pay for itself in one week's time and is without doubt the best and cheapest on the market—just what its name implies, a Farmer's Handy Feed Cooker. Upon application to the Empire Manufacturing Co., 615 H street, Quincy, Ill., a catalogue, giving a full description, may be obtained. They are made in all sizes.

Diggs—They say that it is lawful for a man to gamble his wife away in Siam. Biggs—A law like that would be of no benefit in this country. Diggs—Why not? Biggs—It would be impossible to find a man to take the bet.

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Shake into your Shoes Allen's Foot-Ease, a powder for the feet. It makes tight or New Shoes feel Easy. Cures Corns, Bunions, Chubbains and Sweating Feet. At all Druggists and Shoe Stores, 25c. Sample sent FREE. Address, Allen S. Olmsted, LeRoy, N. Y.

Recent insurance statistics show that if the wife dies first the husband on an average survives nine years, while if the husband dies first the wife survives eleven years.

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Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All Druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c.

Ruskin's sixty-four books bring him in \$20,000 a year.

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Smoke Sledge Cigarettes, 20 for 5 cts.

Swinburne, who writes very little, makes \$5,000 a year by his poems.

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THE PERSONAL EFFECTS CLAUSE.



Returning Tourist (before July 24, 1897): "Pack it full; there is no duty to pay, and I won't have to buy anything at home for the next two years."



Returning Tourist (after July 24, 1897): "No, sir; not this time. I'll wait till I get back to America, where the finest and the best fitting clothes in the world are made."