

TO REFORM CURRENCY

INDIANAPOLIS CONFERENCE ISSUES A CALL.

Meeting of Board of Trade Representatives in the Hoosier Capital Takes Action Upon the Question of Holding a Convention.

Monetary Convention.

The preliminary conference in Indianapolis of representatives of the leading commercial bodies of the Middle Western States issued a call for a general convention of commercial bodies of the United States, to be held in that city Jan. 5, to consider the reform of the currency and banking laws. The vote, by which it was decided to call the convention, was unanimous. Chicago and Indianapolis were the only cities suggested for the convention. In view of the fact that the call for the preliminary conference had gone out from Indianapolis, it was decided to take the general convention there. The detailed work of preparing the call and fixing the basis of representation was left to a committee composed of one delegate from each city represented in the conference.

President Justus C. Adams, of the Indianapolis Board of Trade, called the meeting to order, and in a well-timed address referred to the importance of the object which it had been called to consider.

C. O. Stannard, of St. Louis, ex-Governor of Missouri, presided after Mr. Adams had finished his speech. Ex-Gov. Stannard said that he felt assured that if the commercial bodies of the country offered to Congress a financial system that would not be subject to change it would be accepted. The principal address before the conference was by John R. Wilson, of Indianapolis. He said there was a practical demand for reform. Expedients adopted by Congress in the stress of war as temporary measures had become an enduring system. The legislation of Congress on finance had been from hand to mouth since 1861.

E. V. Smalley, who represents the St. Paul Board of Trade, said the people of the Northwest, irrespective of party, were heartily in favor of the proposed national convention. The resolutions he introduced provide for a national convention of representatives of all commercial bodies in cities of more than 25,000 population, "for the consideration of the currency system of the country, and to recommend to Congress such measures for the remedy of such defects as will command the endorsement of the business public."

The conference agreed to that part of Mr. Smalley's resolution providing for a convention, but there was much discussion as to how large the convention should be, and it was decided to leave that question to a committee composed of one representative from each city present.

In the call, as finally agreed upon, it is proposed that the convention shall be composed of 1,251 delegates. The basis of representation is calculated upon the United States census of 1890, and gives to cities of \$8,000 to 10,000, one delegate; 10,000 and less than 15,000, two delegates; 15,000 and less than 25,000, three delegates; 25,000 and less than 50,000, four delegates; 50,000 and less than 100,000, five delegates; 100,000 and less than 200,000, six delegates; 200,000 and less than 400,000, seven delegates; 400,000 or over, eight delegates.

AVAILABLE SUPPLY OF GRAIN.

World's Total of Wheat Decreased 366,000 Bushels Last Week.

Special cable and telegraphic dispatches to Bradstreet's, covering the principal points of accumulation, indicate the following changes in available supplies last Saturday, as compared with the preceding Saturday:

Wheat—United States and Canada, east of Rockies, decrease, 2,670,000 bu.; about for and in Europe, increase, 2,304,000; total decrease, world's available, 366,000 bu.

Corn—United States and Canada, east of Rockies, increase 104,000 bu.

Oats—United States and Canada, east of Rockies, increase, 335,000 bu.

The more important decreases in available stocks of wheat last week not included in the official visible supply statement were 1,050,000 bu. in Northwestern interior elevators, 541,000 bu. at Fort William, Ont.; 172,000 bu. at various Manitoba storage points, 82,000 bu. in Chicago private elevators, 49,000 bu. in Milwaukee private elevators, 40,000 bu. at Louisville and 23,000 bu. in Kingston, Ont. There were very few increases in available stocks worthy of note last week, aside from those reported in the official visible supply statement, the more conspicuous being 253,000 bu. at Pittsburgh, 69,000 bu. at Rochester and 20,000 bu. each at Syracuse and Fulton, N. Y.

Katherine Clemmons.



The young actress to whom Howard Gould is engaged. His family oppose the union and it is said that by the terms of Jay Gould's will Howard may lose a large part of his inheritance by marrying against the wishes of the others.

A crew of shipwrecked English seamen fell into the hands of Spanish soldiers on the Cuban coast. The Spaniards, believing them to be filibusters from the American coast, treated the prisoners harshly, threatening to shoot all hands. Finally they were removed to Havana, where they were taken in charge by the British Consul, who sent them to New York.

Bondsmen of ex-County Treasurer W. J. Dawell, of Omaha, have been called upon to make good an alleged shortage of \$3,500.

FINANCES OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Statement of the Public Debt and Other Fiscal Matters of Interest.

The statement of the public debt, issued Tuesday, shows that on Nov. 30, the debt, less cash in the treasury, amounted to \$95,769,159, an increase for the month of \$8,270,203. This increase is accounted for by the corresponding decrease in the amount of cash on hand. The debt is recapitulated as follows:

Interest-bearing debt, \$847,364,520.

Debt on which interest has ceased since maturity, \$1,501,620.

Debt bearing no interest, \$372,170,117.

Total, \$1,221,126,257.

This does not include \$567,523,923 in certificates and treasury notes outstanding, which are offset by an equal amount of cash in the treasury. The cash in the treasury is recapitulated as follows, cents omitted:

Gold, \$169,527,101.

Silver, \$509,680,450.

Paper, \$129,616,155.

Bonds, disbursing officers, balances, etc., \$17,137,872.

Total, \$853,961,529, against which there are demand liabilities amounting to \$610,604,481, which leaves a cash balance in the treasury of \$223,357,098.

The comparative statement of the receipts and expenditures of the United States shows that during November, 1896, the total receipts were \$25,210,696, and the expenditures \$32,260,720.

The receipts for the five months of the fiscal year amount to \$131,630,480, and the expenditures \$171,597,335. The deficit for the month of November, therefore, is \$7,050,024, and for the five months \$39,946,846, as compared with \$15,869,337 for the corresponding five months of last year.

The receipts from customs during November amounted to \$9,930,385; from internal revenue, \$13,104,828, and from miscellaneous sources, \$2,175,482. This is a loss in customs, as compared with November, 1895, of \$1,524,929; a gain from internal revenue of \$64,744, and a gain of \$684,379 from miscellaneous sources.

The monthly statement of the Comptroller of the Currency shows that on Nov. 30 the amount of national bank notes in circulation was \$235,312,103, an increase for the month of \$414,446, and for the last twelve months of \$21,440,907. The amount of circulation based on United States bonds was \$216,609,684, an increase for the month of \$99,470, and for the last twelve months of \$26,140,158. The amount of circulation secured by lawful money was \$18,702,410, an increase for the month of \$314,776, and a decrease for the last twelve months of \$4,690,351. The amount of United States registered bonds on deposit to secure circulating notes was \$241,272,150, and to secure public deposits \$15,903,000.

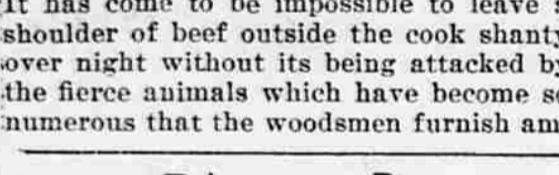
The statement of the director of the mint shows that during the month of November, 1896, the total coinage at the mints of the United States was \$7,458,722, of which \$5,064,700 was gold, \$2,305,022 silver and \$89,000 minor coins.

The coinage of standard silver dollars during the month was \$1,914,000.

WILD BEASTS GROW BOLD.

They Are Troublesome to the Wisconsin Lumber Camps.

The lumber camps in Northern Wisconsin are considerably annoyed this winter by the depredations of wild animals, more particularly the wildcat and the lynx. It has come to be impossible to leave a shoulder of beef outside the cook shanty over night without its being attacked by the fierce animals which have become so numerous that the woodsmen furnish am-



munition to any man who wants to take a gun and wait for the appearance of the brutes. There is a bounty for the delivery of scalps of the lynx, wildcat and wolf in the State, and it is expected that there will be many claimants for it this winter. The wolves and wildcats are much more numerous than they have been for years past and have encroached upon the limits of civilization. Timber wolves are frequently seen on the outskirts of South Superior. A settler from Lyman Lake, Gustave Peterson by name, reports that the pests are unusually numerous in that vicinity. Peterson brought to town with him a big wildcat, which weighed thirty-five pounds, and two lynxes of the "booted" variety, the larger breed. Peterson shot the wild cat about a week ago. One night after he had turned in there was a hurried knock at his door and a much frightened lumber camp hand told him that he had been visiting a neighboring camp, and on the way back had been followed by a couple of wild cats. The man was in considerable fright, but Peterson took down his rifle and went out. He saw a glaring pair of eyes and fired, bringing down his game. The other animal got away. The next night Peterson shot the lynxes, which were prowling about the clearing. The wild cat was of unusual size. It is very seldom that they will follow man, but it is reported from the more remote districts that the lumber jacks will not venture out in the woods after night un-

READY FOR A SHOT.

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Treating with the Indians.

Under the head of Indian affairs the Secretary repeats the recommendation of his predecessor for a commission of three, one of whom shall be an army officer, to take the place of the commissioner and assistant commissioner of Indian affairs.

With regard to the dispute over the Uncompahgre Indian reservation in Utah, in which valuable deposits of asphaltum have been discovered, Secretary Francis expressed the opinion that the commission which treats with the Indians for the allotment of their lands totally misunderstood the agreement of 1880, by which the Uncompahgre were removed from Colorado. The Indians declined to pay \$125 an acre for the lands allotted to them because they were led to believe that the purchase money would come out of their trust fund of \$1,250,000, which furnishes them \$50,000 per annum. This is not the case. The purchase money would not disturb the trust fund, but would eventually come out of the proceeds of the sale of their Colorado lands. The commission was dissolved last February.

Under the head of bond-aided railroads the Secretary says he has complied with the joint resolution of June 10, 1896, requiring him to continue the issue of patents to bona fide purchasers of lands sold by bond-aided railroads, but he says he declined to issue patents to all surveyed lands on the application of the Central Pacific. With regard to the Nicaraguan Maritime Canal Company chartered by the government in 1889, the Secretary says a preliminary report of the company submitted to him shows that no work was done during the present year.

In conclusion the Secretary calls attention to the cramped quarters in the Interior Department, the large sum paid for rent annually—reaching \$46,000 last year—and earnestly recommends the erection of another structure on a block adjacent to the present building adequate to accommodate all branches of the department.

The news of fraudulent voting and illegal conduct of election in a number of precincts of Oklahoma Territory has caused the managers of Delegate Flynn to institute investigation upon which to base a contest which they believe will result in the showing that Mr. Flynn is re-elected to Congress.

A crew of shipwrecked English seamen fell into the hands of Spanish soldiers on the Cuban coast. The Spaniards, believing them to be filibusters from the American coast, treated the prisoners harshly, threatening to shoot all hands. Finally they were removed to Havana, where they were taken in charge by the British Consul, who sent them to New York.

Mrs. William Astor gave her first dinner party of the season at her residence, 842 5th avenue, New York, in honor of Prince Louis de Savoy, Duke of Abruzzi, nephew of his Majesty, King Humbert of Italy.

LAND IS GOING FAST.

SECRETARY FRANCIS' ANNUAL REPORT.

His Statement Shows that the Country Is Being Rapidly Settled—Big Sums for Pensions—Problem of the Bond-Aided Railroads.

Uncle Sam's Domain.

The annual report of Secretary of the Interior Francis was made public Friday. It proposes a solution of the vexed problem of the bond-aided roads, deals exhaustively with the pension administration, reviews the progress of the Dawes commission negotiations and touches upon various matters of especial significance in the West. The report opens with a discussion of the public domain. It shows that the total number of acres disposed of up to June 30 last was 946,000, leaving public domain still vacant estimated at over 600,000,000, including the district of Alaska, with an area of over 369,000,000 acres. Since the homestead act was passed, on May 20, 1862, there have been 162,891,132 acres entered by homestead settlers. Of this almost 103,000,000 acres will all be patented when the legal conditions have been made. Of the remainder 42,000,000 acres represent entries cancelled. The total number of mineral entries up to date is 29,820; patents to railways and wagon roads since the first grant was made reach \$5,729,751 acres. There also have been 335,691,752 acres disposed of by pre-emption, cash sales, scrip, locations, military bounty land warrants, town sites, desert land, timber culture, timber and stone entries, Indian allotments and donations to settlers.

Rapidly Settling the Country.

The total grants of lands to the various States and Territories up to March 12 last, aggregated 181,868,630 acres, in addition to agricultural college scrip for 7,830,000 acres. The total of all lands segregated from the public domain aggregated 946,219,160 acres. The report says:

"These figures demonstrate that the country is being settled with great rapidity and that the public domain is being diminished by great strides. If the rate of disposition of the last thirteen years, which is 25,000,000 acres a year, is continued for thirteen years to come, there will be little of the public domain outside of Alaska in possession of the government at the expiration of that time."

Discussing forest reservations, the report says no permits to cut timber on public lands should be granted for any purpose other than to supply the needs of actual settlers in the neighborhood of the forests where timber is to be cut and should be accompanied by all possible safeguards. Secretary Francis urges upon Congress the necessity for legislation for the reclamation and disposal of lands within the arid regions. Unless the Carey act could be amended so as to give the State power to pledge lands for their reclamation, he says, it would be better to place the lands under the direction of the States only so far as may be necessary to secure their reclamation for the benefit of actual settlers.

The total amount paid by the government in pensions and the cost of disbursing the same for the last thirty-one years is \$2,034,817,769. This lacks only a little over \$346,712,500 of being equal to the high-water mark of the interest-bearing public debt. The present number of pensioners, which is 970,678, is greater by 4,666 than in 1892, when the maximum annual cost was reached, and is greater than ever before. This is due to the death of old soldiers and the continued payment of allowances to their heirs, while the amount paid is decreased through the death of invalid pensioners leaving no dependents.

The pension policy of the department has been to make the pension list a roll of honor rather than to save money to the government; the effort has been to defeat the designs of impostors, while recognizing the claims of the needy and deserving. General public sentiment, however, is that the obligation of the government is confined to those who fought for its maintenance and those dependent upon them. The total number of our pensioners in foreign countries was 3,781, who were paid \$582,735. Increase of from \$8 to \$12 a month is recommended for all wholly disabled and destitute Mexican war survivors.

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Thomas P. Fenlon, a well-known lawyer of Leavenworth, Kan., was stricken with paralysis while making an argument in the Supreme Court at Topeka. His entire left side was paralyzed, but it is thought he will recover.

STREET WAIF SELLS WAR CRIES.

One Takes Pity on an Army Lass