

\$2.75 a day in this neighborhood? And why do the commissioners pay twenty-five cents more one day for a team than on another?

And now come the three county commissioners with services at three dollars a day—two days being sometimes made out of twenty-four hours—and take salaries as follows:

Otoe county to C. J. Mullis, Dr.  
July 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13,  
14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23,  
25, 26, 27, 29, 30, at \$3. . . . \$ 72.00  
Four evening sessions at \$1.50 . . . 6.00  
Mileage, 300, at 5c. per mile . . . 15.00

\$93.00

Otoe county to Chas. Dorman, Dr.  
July 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13,  
14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25,  
26, 28, 29, 30, at \$3 . . . \$ 69.00  
Four evening sessions at \$1.50 . . . 6.00  
Mileage, 330, at 5c . . . 16.50

\$91.50

Otoe county to Theo. Webering, Dr.  
July 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14,  
15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25,  
25, 26, 27, 29, 30. . . . \$ 69.00  
Four evening sessions, at \$1.50 . . . 6.00  
Mileage, 320, at 5c . . . 16.00

\$91.00

In 1869 Otoe county ten per cent bonds sold in Nebraska City and in New York at seventy-five cents on the dollar, a discount of twenty-five per cent. But under the manifold diabolism of the gold standard Otoe county four per cent bonds sell in 1898 at par and a premium, anywhere in Nebraska or New York.

## CURRENT COMMENT.

### MEANING AND DERIVATION OF PROTOCOL.

That instrument called a "protocol," which stopped the war between the United States and Spain, derives its name from very ancient times. Like many other English words derived from other languages, "protocol" has long since lost its original meaning. Indeed it had lost that meaning long before the English borrowed it from the French, and even before the Latin borrowed it from the Greek.

The word itself is derived from the Greek "protos," meaning first, and "kollan," meaning glue; and meant originally a sheet glued in front of a manuscript, bearing the writer's name and other particulars. From this the meaning evolved into that of a rough draft of a document, and was so used by the Romans, who called it "protocollum."

The definition of the word as used in modern diplomacy is given as a rough draft of any document or a document preliminary to some transaction. It likewise is defined as a "diplomatic document or minute of proceeding signed by friendly powers in order to secure certain diplomatic ends by peaceful

means." It is the meaning given before the last that must be applied to the instrument signed by Ambassador Cambon and Secretary Day. This is a preliminary instrument created to secure peace at once, and is at the same time a rough draft of the probable future agreement.

### Peace Negotiations.

The protocol, on which the peace commissioners will work to settle the definite terms between the United States and Spain, is in its broad lines simple and direct. It includes four essential stipulations: The relinquishment of all claims over Cuba, with immediate evacuation by the Spanish troops; a similar course with respect to the island of Porto Rico; the cession of the island of Guam in the Ladrones as a coaling station; and withdrawal of all armed opposition to the occupation of the city, bay and harbor of Manila by the United States forces pending the settlement of the general Philippine question by the commission. To Americans these terms of preliminary agreement seem to be not only equitable, but generous and lenient. As compared with the exactions often made by the successful suitors in war litigation they show a disposition so considerate and modest that they should excite wonder on the part of spectator nations. It is not thus that a Bismarck, a Gortschakoff or even a Salisbury would have dealt in the situation of President McKinley. The conditions emphasize that while the United States stands firm on the principles for which she went to war and will take reasonable measures to recoup the expense of the war by enforcing a certain acquisition of territory in lieu of a war indemnity she is not desirous of crippling Spain or unduly humiliating that nation's pride.

But moderate as the terms of negotiation are it is not to be anticipated that Spain will be in haste to embody these in a businesslike way. A prompt settlement in the final form of a treaty is not probable. It would be opposed to all the traditions and methods of Spanish life, however sincere the commissioners may be. We naturally expect vain talk and delay, obstinacy one moment, irresolution the next, pedantic muddling and belated punctilio. These features are likely to stamp the Spanish proceedings, and they are not promising for active measures.

The London Spectator expresses the probability of dilatory tendencies in these words: "As Bacon said long ago, the Spaniards 'have been noted to be of small dispatch. Mi venga la muerte de Spagua (Let my death come from Spaine, for then it will be sure to be long in coming).' Unless, then, the Spanish nature has changed in the last few weeks it would seem impossible to look for a quick release for the unhappy men at Madrid, who have behind them a people whose first thought is not to

face the inevitable, but to turn their backs upon it."

In addition to the force of national disposition and method, the hope of wresting some further advantage by wearing the American commissioners out, as stone is worn by the dropping of water, and the immense leeway of discussion permitted by the protocol with reference to the disposition of the Philippines will almost surely prolong the sittings of the commission. The protocol is only the first stage, the prelude to the real struggle. Americans will expect in vain any swift and businesslike action, however certain of the end. Should it prove otherwise, it will be a miracle.

Congressman Dolliver of Iowa, in his recent lecture at Ocean Grove, N. J., said many interesting things relating to the present war. Among others he emphasized the immense debt of obligation under which we lie to England for her powerful support. He said: "The same influences that have restored the perfect union of our country have brought back also the harmony to which broad minded men of both countries have long looked forward in the relations of the English speaking world. At the outbreak of the Spanish war the restless diplomacy of Europe was circumvented by the prompt notice of the English government that any constraint placed by the powers upon the government of the United States would have to count on the disapproval and active hostilities of the government and people of England, and thus, by a simple act of national fellowship, the worn and threadbare prejudices of a century yield in both countries to a recognition of the common cause which the English race scattered throughout the earth is now to make for liberty and civilization." Now that England, fighting for the "open door" in the east, a policy also eminently for American advantage, appeals to us for a support similar to what she has recently given us it would only be common gratitude to return this moral backing in the strongest possible form short of battalions and warships.

### The Anglo-Russian Warcloud.

While we are emerging from our short and one sided contest with the prospect of peace on the horizon a black cloud hangs over affairs in the far east. It has been for some time evident that the international situation in China is a magazine crammed with dynamite. The partition of the country already begun is certain to proceed with an irresistible movement. The contest as to the limits of spheres of influence and control of trade in those spheres with the no less active competition for pre-eminence at Peking ripens the affairs of four great nations into a most inflammable condition. France and Germany, inimical to each other, yet share