

not so easy to arrive at, but the business done by the national banks has increased thirty per cent in the five years. This would look as if we were all a little better off.

Our unfortunate friends, the railroads, seem to be the only ones who, as a class, have suffered. The volume of business done by them was proportionate to the accelerated trade of the country, but their gross receipts fell off notwithstanding \$83,000,000, and their net profits \$21,000,000. This in the face of desperate efforts toward economy of operation, which the serious nature of their case has made obligatory upon all the roads. Some day the railroads will have to go out of business, and we will all revert to the good old methods of locomotion and transportation—the stage-coach, the ox wagon and the pony express.

1892 AND 1896. In 1892 the vote for General J. B. Weaver, populist, and Grover Cleveland, democrat, aggregated 108,077. That is, the combined votes of democrats and populists in 1892 was fifty-three and ninety-four one hundredths per cent of the whole vote of Nebraska.

In 1896 the combined Bryanarchic vote (free silver republicans, populists and deluded democrats) was 115,880, which, though a greater number than that cast in 1892 for populists and democrats combined, was a less per cent than that cast for Weaver and Cleveland. Bryan's vote was only fifty-one and ninety-one one hundredths—more than two per cent less than Nebraska's opposition to republicanism in 1892.

ANONYMOUS. THE CONSERVATIVE during the last twelve months has received many anonymous communications for publication. All have been declined, but one anonymous article received not long since, from Chicago, may, upon examination and comparisons by experts in chirography, prove worthy of publication in facsimile.

DECENT AND DIGNIFIED. M. B. Reese, the republican nominee for the supreme court of Nebraska, declining to make a political speech advocating his own election, remarks:

"In my view, it would not only be unseemly for a candidate for such a position to enter into a partisan contest, and thus contribute to the excitement and contentions of a political campaign, but such a course would result in a diminution of respect for our highest judicial tribunal. To avoid such personal political controversies has been the custom and practice of candidates for the high office under consideration, with few exceptions. Such has been the ethics of the people, the bar and the bench of our whole country. No other course has been, or would have been, tolerated. There can be no doubt of the correctness of this rule and I must decline to violate it. This rule appeals to my judgment, my sense of propriety, and of right. It has my fullest approval. In my judgment, it has, or should have, the approval of all right-minded people. It is my firm purpose to adhere to it. Believing this course is in accord with your views, and also with the views of all the people

of Saunders county, I am persuaded that my declination would not be considered as exhibiting any want of respect for either you or them. Under other circumstances I should be glad to accept your invitation. Under existing circumstances I cannot. Very truly and cordially yours, M. B. REESE."

The course of Judge Reese in this matter is decent and dignified and therefore in violent contrast to the attitude of vote-begging, House Rent Holcomb, who, as president of a fire insurance company, is running for supreme judge.

"Whatever might be said of Mr. Bryan's policy as a hold-over candidate, it is at the most a question of taste, the gentleman being a private citizen, free from every official restraint," says the Detroit Free Press (ind. dem.). "But President McKinley and the eight estimable gentlemen of his cabinet are the very head and front of the nation, and it is a repellent and unprecedented spectacle which they present as they pass through the country calling lustily upon the multitudes, in the name of everything sacred, from Plymouth Rock to Mr. McKinley's reelection, to accept and ratify the deplorable business which their blundering policy has brought the nation to in the Philippines."

LORD FARRER. THE CONSERVATIVE notices with sincere regret the death of Lord Farrer of Abinger Hall in the County of Surrey. He was an economic writer of great cogency and as an advocate of the gold standard for his native England achieved a deservedly high position among financial essayists.

He was permanent secretary of the board of trade of the United Kingdom of Great Britain. His death was sudden and unexpected although he was eighty-one years of age. The editor of THE CONSERVATIVE will never forget the hospitality of Abinger Hall, so cordially and lavishly bestowed upon him in the autumn of 1894, nor the kindly presence and delightfully instructive conversation of its proprietor.

The anti-imperialist Springfield Republican says that it can stand upon the Philippine plank of the Massachusetts republican platform, with its demand for "a government as free, as liberal, as progressive as our own, in accordance with the sacred principles of liberty and self-government upon which the American republic so securely rests." "These are words full of meaning," it says, "without obscurity, and pregnant with the doctrine of freedom as Massachusetts has preached and practised it. Thus the republicans of Massachusetts have spoken, and the party in this state is left standing nearer to Senator Hoar than to Senator Lodge. Not yet is the Bay State ranged on the side of conquest or of forcible annexation."

DEMOCRACY IN FIGURES

The State of Nebraska From 1872 to 1896.

	1896	1892	1888	1884	1880	1876	1872
Population.....	1,265,000	1,100,128	937,008	695,005	452,402	320,639	188,875
Voters { Native White.....	240,866	214,704	178,840	132,566	86,303	63,068	37,150
{ Foreign White.....	114,238	101,830	84,821	62,874	40,932	29,912	17,620
{ Colored.....	5,024	4,495	3,744	2,775	1,807	1,320	778
Electoral Vote.....							
Democratic Vote.....	*115,880	+108,077	184,778	\$54,391	32,473	17,554	7,705
Opposition Vote.....	107,965	92,115	117,854	79,802	54,979	31,916	18,242
Not Voting.....	136,901	120,837	64,773	64,022	41,590	44,830	29,901
Total Voters.....	300,146	321,029	267,405	198,215	129,042	94,300	55,548

Per Cent of the Vote Cast and of the Voters.

	1896	1892	1888	1884	1880	1876	1872
Democratic { Voting.....	*51.91	+53.94	141.83	\$40.53	37.13	35.48	29.70
{ Voters.....	*32.18	33.67	31.70	27.44	25.16	18.61	13.87
Opposition { Vote.....	48.09	46.01	58.17	59.47	62.87	64.52	70.30
{ Voters.....	29.81	28.67	44.07	40.26	42.61	33.85	32.84
Total { Vote.....	61.99	62.36	75.77	67.70	67.77	52.46	46.71
{ Voters.....	38.01	37.64	24.23	32.30	32.23	47.54	53.29

Nativity and Color of Voters.

	1896	1892	1888	1884	1880	1876	1872
Native White { Voting.....	61.99	62.36	75.77	67.70	67.77	52.46	46.71
{ Not Voting.....	38.01	37.64	24.23	32.30	32.23	47.54	53.29
Foreign White { Voting.....	61.99	61.99	75.77	67.70	67.77	52.46	46.71
{ Not Voting.....	38.01	38.01	24.23	32.30	32.23	47.54	53.29
Colored { Voting.....	61.99	61.99	75.77	67.70	67.77	37.77	46.71
{ Not Voting.....	38.01	38.01	24.23	32.30	32.23	32.23	53.29

*Democrats, Populists and Free Silver. †Democrats and Populists. [Copyrighted, 1899.]
 ‡Democrats and Union Labor. §Democrats and Greenbacks.