

two Gabriels aforementioned, or by any additional number that may join them in their senseless demands.—Eldorado (Kan.) Republican, Nov. 20, 1899.

## TAX-PAYERS' GUILD.

The value of personal attention, investigation and action relative to expenditures for the public by the resident tax-payers of a town and county has been thoroughly proved in Nebraska City.

On May 19th, 1877, The News published the following financial statement as to this city.

We give below our city's indebtedness, up to date, comprised in the following items:

Sundries.....	\$ 7,000
Refunding bonds.....	204,600
Bridges.....	10,000
M. P. Bonds.....	75,000
Coupons Unpaid.....	25,000
Judgments.....	25,000
Babcock.....	22,000
General Warrants.....	25,000

Total Indebtedness..... \$374,200

The late Thomas B. Stevenson organized a tax-payers' guild and proceeded with energy and skill to arrange for the reduction of that debt. He did a great and good work. He should be held in grateful remembrance by every lover of his home in this town—by the whole community. The debt of Nebraska City this day is only about two hundred thousand dollars. But it too must be speedily reduced and taxes lessened.

## OUR FOREIGN COMMERCE.

The remarkable excess of American exports over foreign imports into the United States is not materially checked, according to the figures of the Bureau of Statistics for October. The exports of merchandise for the month were \$126,764,786, while the imports were only \$72,705,894, creating a balance of exports of \$54,058,892. This is about \$12,000,000 less than the corresponding balance for October, 1898, when exports were \$118,619,563 and imports were \$52,349,526, but the excess of exports is still far beyond the normal balance of trade. The balance for October is at the rate of \$650,000,000 per year. The exports for this period of ten months have surpassed all previous records and reached a total of \$1,029,249,286. The imports have also increased more than \$130,000,000 above the figures for 1898, but have not been sufficient to radically reduce the balance in favor of this country. This balance for the ten months ending with October two years ago was \$219,248,144, and one year ago \$460,169,226. The net imports of gold for the ten months have been \$8,180,592, as compared with imports in 1898 of \$130,020,320. The excess of exports of silver has not varied greatly for the last three years, the figures for the last ten months having been \$18,806,721. Taking the entire account together, the merchandise and gold and silver move-

ment, the net credit balance in favor of the United States for the last ten months appears to be about \$380,000,000, while the balance for the same months of 1898 was about \$350,000,000. These figures are subject to the deduction of American obligations abroad on account of interest, freight charges and travelers' credits, but if these have amounted to \$150,000,000 for ten months the United States still has a credit balance on the business of the last ten months amounting to about \$230,000,000.—Railway World.

## TREES.

The largest tree recorded in the history of the world was found in California, near the Tule river, in 1874. When discovered the top had been broken off and the standing trunk which remained was two hundred and forty feet high while the diameter at the place of the breaking off was twelve feet. The age of this tree was estimated four thousand eight hundred and forty years. At its base, within the hollow of its trunk, one hundred and fifty persons gathered.

Some heathen in the infancy of that tree might have chopped it down for a barbaric festival and we then should never have known its majesty and worth. How many possible giants among the trees growing in the young forests of the United States are to be destroyed this year for Christmas celebration? THE CONSERVATIVE insists that some other method of observing that anniversary than that one which requires the destruction of millions of beautiful and useful trees should be adopted by all sensible and provident people.

## TAX-PAYERS' COMBINE.

The time for reducing expenses in the administration of local government is not during a political campaign. Systematic business is never inaugurated during a riot. But in the cool and calm of winter evenings the best citizenship of a community can get together and form a combine of tax-payers. This combine can consider the ways and means of lessening the expenditures of common councils and county commissioners. These representative tax-paying citizens can, should and must devise methods of lowering the rates of taxation.

The annual estimates for running Otoe county are needlessly exorbitant.

Otoe County. They can be reduced.

How?

By having every tax-payer residing within its limits acquainted with its thoroughly itemized expenditures.

How shall such general knowledge of its finances and business methods be brought to the public?

By means of the tax-payers' trust,

combine or conspiracy for the overhauling, criticising and correcting the lax, extravagant and wasteful methods of transacting the public business.

The tax-payers' combine will be organized in Nebraska City. It will employ a good business man and accountant to go through county and city records. This combine means business. It will do business in a business-like way. Many of its members are large tax-payers and some of them propose to attempt to provide for the liquidation of outstanding evidences of debt against both county and city, by paying up now, in advance, their full respective shares of such debt and to ask others to do likewise.

Taxes must be lowered. The cost of city councils and county commissioners is extravagant, unnecessary and destructive to the people.

## BRYAN'S CONGRATULATEE.

The gushing congratulations of Col. Bryan to Goebel thrilled the telegraph lines from Lincoln to Louisville just after the election, some days ago. And now, in its issue of Nov. 23rd, 1899, the Louisville Evening Post, a democratic newspaper claiming the election of Taylor, a Republican, to the Governorship of Kentucky, thus reviles Col. Bryan's friend and congratulatee:

"Goebel's public career is one long career of crime, beginning in murder and concluding in an organized burglary on an unparalleled scale.

"For more than a week Kentucky has been in doubt and turmoil because of actual crimes committed and other crimes ordered by the Goebel gang of desperadoes.

"All over the State Goebel's henchmen have wandered, stirring up strife, publishing falsehoods, intimidating weak-kneed officers and doing all the heart of a desperate and defeated political adventurer can conceive.

"He can succeed in his last desperate attempt to count out the man chosen governor by the people in case the people relax their vigilance, reduce their courage or change their determination.

"Should Goebel succeed in seizing the Governorship after defeat, we will know nothing of law, order or peace for four years.

"His very name inspires lawlessness. Every assassin and murderer was a Goebel man. Every thief is a Goebel man. Every gambler, lottery vender, pool room seller was or is a Goebel man; every outlaw of every degree is a Goebel man.

"Goebel's campaign from the Music Hall convention to the Nelson county scheme is a series of crimes against popular government, and no self-respecting community will accept his yoke or bow to his authority."