that the actual circu for the week endir			
follows: Date. Saturday, Feb. 12	Morning	Evening 6,550	Tota
Sunday, Feb. 18 Monday, Feb. 14		6.570	14,00
Tuesday, Feb. 15 Wednesday Feb. 16.	7,575	6,550 6,500	14.15
Thursday, Feb. 17 Friday, Feb. 18		6,550 6,510	14,15
Average	7,704	6,538	14,20

BISMARCK and the double-headed eagle of Germany are screaming loudly over the result of the elections.

Sixty-three per cent increase over last year is the latest clearings record made by Omaha. There is a world of meaning in the figures.

WEDNESDAY will usher in Lent. The forty days of penitence are respectfully commended to the consideration of the railroad lobby.

WITH diphtheria, scarlet fever and measles prevalent in our city the arguments against unclean back yards and filthy alleys needs no reinforcement.

COAL is being found in paying quantities all over the state. It is found on the track and in yards, the prevailing price running from \$3 to \$13 a ton.

Speculation in Omaha during the past three days has been largely diverted from outside lots to inside Patti concert tickets. One costs about as much as the

THE need of target practice for the Omaha police force is not apparent when an officer lying on the ground on his side can fatally wound a citizen at a block's distance.

DOUGLAS COUNTY pays one-ninth of all the taxes collected in Nebraska. This is doubtless the reason that the Nebraska legislature is anxious that other counties should override the wishes of her tax-

In the closing hours of his term Senator Van Wyck keeps up his labors for Nebraska. His efforts to secure appropriations for river improvements between St. Joe and Omaha have been eminently successful.

A BOARD of public works that cannot be used to further the private interests of the contractors does not naturally commend itself to the plunder and patronage lobby at Lincoln. But it will be approved by the taxpayers.

A GREAT deal of opposition is developing to Captain Greely's promotion. The average army officer looks with horror on a jump from a captaincy to a brigadier-generalship-in other arms of the service than his own.

Amid all the howl about the new charter from the contractor and scavenger brigade the one fact stands out clearly that under its rigid provisions Con Gallagher will not be able to draft and accept his own contracts with the city.

THERE are renewed rumors regarding Parnell's serious illness. The BEE's cablegrams several days ago denied, on the authority of the nationalist leaders, that Parnell's health was in any way seriously affected or that he was suffering from any fatal disease.

THE joint resolution of the senate, passed at the last session, providing for an amendment of the constitution changing the time for the inauguration of the president to the 30th day of April, has been agreed to by the house judiciary committee, and the member having it in charge is authorized to pass it under suspension of the rules. It provides that the term of office of the president and the second session of the fiftieth congress shall continue until the last Tuesday in April in the year 1889, and that the 30th of April shall thereafter be substituted for the 4th of March as the commencement of the official term of successive presidents, vice presidents and congress of the United States.

THE Eads' ship-railway bill, amended so that its provisions are now materially different from the original measure, was passed by the senate near the close of last week. Every proposition of a subsidy character has been eliminated from it, and it is now simply an act of national incorporation of the Atlantic & Pacific Ship railway company, with the following limitations-viz.: that the stock shall not exceed \$100,000,000, and that when \$10,000,000 of it has been subscribed for and fully paid up it may be assignable; that no bonds shall be authorized until the paid-in capital amounts to \$5,000,000; and that if these conditions are not satisfied within two years the charter will expire by limitation. In this form the bill passed the senate by a vote of 46 to 7. This having been accomplished, the Nicaragua canal bill, championed by Senator Edmunds, which stands on the same footing, as it does not ask for anything but a national charter, probably will pass also. The efforts of both companies, should their bills become laws, would be directed towards obtaining money through the influence of their charters. It of course remains to be seen what arguments they can bring to bear to induce the investment of capital. Of the two, the Nioaragua canal seems to be the more feasible and practical, but in either case the companies will have to make a definite showing

of what they can do as a guarantee for

New York and the Treasury. A great deal of guessing is being done as to who will succeed Manning as secretary of the treasury. The opinion prevalent a week ago that Mr. Fairchild, the assistant secretary, would be the fortunate man, is now less generally held, for the reason we have hitherto presented, namely, that he cannot bring to the position the political strength desired by the administration and its supporters. Proved capacity, fidelity and efficiency are not all the qualifications required of a cabinet officer in the present exigency. To be entirely available he must have political power and a following. In this respect the assistant secretary is not strong, and he appears not to be the sort of man to make a successful and useful politician of the kind the administration will need during the next year. Hence there is said to be no longer any doubt that Mr. Fairchild will not be Mr. Manning's successor,

Pumor has been busy with the names

of several other prominent democrats for this position. Mr. Pendleton is believed to have been called home either to be given the treasury portfolio or to replace some present member of the cabinetpossibly Bayard-who would be transferred to the treasury. Pendleton is in Washington, and a dispatch from that city states that he is extremely reticent respecting the object of his return home. The impression that he is to go into the treasury has raised the objection to him that his financial views in the past have not been in accord with the present policy of the treasury. This, however, would not be regarded as a fault by a majority of the democrats in congress, who might be drawn into closer intimacy and sympathy with the administration if Pendleton were a member of it. He is, moreover, a very respectable force in democratic polities and a man of undoubted ability. It might prove to be good tactics on the part of Mr. Cleveland to find a place in his official household for Mr. Pendleton. Mr. Carlisle has also been named, but there are several reasons why his appointment is not probable. Primarily, to accept a cabinet office in the middle of the administration's term would be a political blunder which it is presumed the Kentucky statesman is too shrewd to make. It is not apparent that such a position could be of any advantage to him politically. His connection with the administration might strengthen it with the party, or with the stronger element of the party of which Mr. Carliste is the leader, but the value of this advantage would be somewhat uncertain. The better reasons seem to be against Mr. Carlisle desiring a cabinet position or the president being disposed to give him one. Congressman Scott appears to be no longer thought of, and the suggestion of the names of Mc-

Donald and Morrison is not entitled to a

Meanwhile there is said to be a strong

moment's consideration.

pressure from New York, and there are good reasons to believe it may not be unavailing. Mr. Cleveland desires and needs to strengthen himself in every possible way in that state. In the game he is compelled to play against Hill he cannot afford to lose one trick. New York is the tighting ground which he must hold or hazard all. Nowhere else is he confronted by any serious danger, or at least none which he cannot easily overcome if his state remains loyal to him. The present situation there is doubtful, with the tendencies rather unfavorable to the president. They may very easily be rendered more so. The retirement of Manning from the administration will weaken it in New York unless a successor to him is found among the democratic leaders of that state. Mr. Manning cannot be politically so useful at the head of a bank as at the head of the treasury department, and it is not questionable that some of his following who have remained loyal to the administration because they could serve him, may find it expedient to transfer their support when he is no longer in a position requiring their service. Another leader may be able to make up for such a defection, and thus at least hold the forces of the administration numerically intact. Furthermore, the demand of the financial and commercial interests of New York that they should be represented in the national treasury by a citizen of that state will not be lightly regarded by the president. The policy of the administration thus far as affecting these interests has been wholly prompted and directed from this source, and whether or not Mr. Cleveland desires to change this, which has not been to the general advantage of his administration, he would hardly venture to do so under existing circumstances. These reasons render the appointment of a New York man to succeed

Manning strongly probable. Such an appointment would assure the domination of Wall street ideas in the treasury during the continuance of the present administration, and it is not doubted that the influence of Mr. Manning will be exerted to accomplish this. There is perhaps nothing serious to be apprehended from such a condition so long as there is a majority in congress not under the influence of these ideas, since the secretary of the treasury has no choice but to obey the will of congress, although he may do so reluctantly and stubborniy, for the purpose of obstructing, if not defeating, that will, as the present secretary is alleged to have done. But it is obviously desirable that the head of the financial department of the gov ernment should not be a man irrevocably wedded to the opinions of a section or yielding absolute obedience to such opinions. Such a man cannot be a broad, wise and safe counsellor in all circumstances. The great secretaries of the treasury in the last twenty-five years-Chase, Fessenden, McCulloch, Sherman -were not of this class, and the fact that the outgoing secretary is has constituted the obstacle to an entirely success ful administration of the treasury for which he

alone might have received the credit.

Butterine Life Insurance. Colonel Sabin, secretary of the Western Mutual Benevolent insurance concern, of Beatrice, has had himself carefully pumped by the Lincoln reporters. and has very reluctantly come to the front to tell what he would like people to believe about the solidity of the company. The modesty with which pronounces as a tissue of falsehoods everything we have published about his benevolent and charitable enterprise, is in striking contrast to the adamantine cheek of the average policy sharp. Mr. Sabin launches out with a tirade against

two policies, which probably called for \$12,000 more or less. We are very glad to hear that the Mutual Benevolent mortgages are placed on property double their value, but the trouble with the property that we have investigated is that either prior loans exist or the signers of the mortgages cannot convey title. The Colby and the mortgages referred would not be worth the paper they are written on if Colby and Sabin should resist their foreclosure. As to the business of the company we do not dispute that it has been lucrative. So was Dr. Buchanan's diploma mill down in Philadelphia and other enterprises gotten up on business principles for "benevolent" objects. The company and its officers are in this instance the chief beneficiaries.

It is hardly necessary to add that Mr. Burrows is not the subject in which the policy holders have much interest. Burrows may be a very disagreeable busybody, but the Mutual Benevolent cannot shield itself and its agents behind that screen. We still insist that the auditor should overhaul the concern, not only to satisfy himself that they are making pretense of complying with the law by some makeshift, but by searching the records and exposing their past condition and methods. If, as it is alleged and believed, this company has inflated its assets and propped itself on bogus securities and shirked its liabilities, proper steps should be taken for the protection of the public. If there is no law for such procedure then there should be a law passed by the legislature at this session to prevent further imposition by the butterine insurance sharks.

Advancing Lumber Rates. The first move of the Western Traffic association under the inter-state commerce law has been to advance the lumber rate from Chirago to Council Bluffs and Omaha from 14 to 20 cents a hundred pounds. The reason given for this action is the higher rates prevailing at interior points. Sooner than to reduce the local rates to the Omaha rates the railroads have advanced the Omaha toll above those charged to local points.

The result is a curious one which forms the most pregnant of all arguments for a prompt fixing of maximum rates by the states of Iowa and Nebraska. Illinois and Missouri have laws fixing a maximum freight rate. In consequence the Southwestern Traffic association has not been able to follow suit and advance the rates to Kansas City. In other words, as the result of prior state regulation, Itlinois and Missouri are now exempted from an arbitrary advance of rates from which Iowa and Nebraska must suffer until they afford themselves relief by the same means.

The Paving Contractors' Raid.

Barring the railroad lobby, the most desperate onslaught on the new charter has been made by the paving contractors' gang, of whom Hugh Murphy and Con Gallagher are head and front. Their point of attack was the proposed board of public works. They and their strikers insolently demand that the provision of the new charter which reorganizes the board be dropped and the old section with the present system be retained. In this demand they not only enlisted the dissipated crew of reporters at Lincoln. with whom they drank, dined and gambled, but also, by some mysterious influence, have brought to their aid Mayor Boyd through his famous letter to Colonel Colby. Now we propose to show the reasons why the paving contractors are making this raid upon the charter, and through it upon the taxpay ers and property owners of Omaha.

To do this we must recite the his tory of the present board, which organized four years ago, with James Creighton as chairman. Mr. Creighton was a very efficient, and as far as is known, upright officer. He appointed as clerk of the board his son-in-law, Con Gallagher, who is by no means too good for anything. Mr. Gallagher was then clerk in the Union Pacific headquarters and drew at the same time \$35 per month from the city as clerk of the board. In this capacity he became very useful to himself, and his present partner, Murphy. He handled all the contractors' bids, and was very often in a position to give valuable pointers to the inside ring which operated with him. For instance, when Mr. Fox put in a bid for paving Farnam street. When Farnam street was graded the enormous contract was let to a firm, of which Gallagher was a silent partner, while at the same time he was elerk of the board of public works. In other words, he handled the bids as confidential agent of the board, had an interest in the contract and was in position to promote his own interest and that of his partners in the acceptance of the work and auditing of the bills.

It has even been asserted at different times by one of his present partners that when Gallagher was clerk of the board he would sometimes read off bids different from what they actually were, and thus beat one class of bidders in the interest of their competitors.

Such barefaced jobbery and rascality could not happen under the new charter, which expressly prohibits all city officials councilmen and employes of the city from having any interest direct or indirect in any contract, work or letting. Since Mr. Creighton retired Gallagher has become partner in the largest contractors' firm in Omaha. During the last year this firm did \$250,000 worth of paving, curbing, guttering, etc., of which, at a low estimate, the profits were \$50,000. This work was all awarded by the present board of public works and done under its so-called supervision. Mr. J. E. House, the chairman of the board, is a man whose integrity nobody will question, but he has been like potters' clay in the hands of Gallagher and his con-

tractors. Every contract awarded to Murphy Gallagher & Co. this year was drawn by Con Gallagher himself. Some of these contracts were drawn cunningly so as to allow the contractor profitable extras. The city engineer never saw these contracts and had no chance to insert specifications that would prevent imposition. It is a notorious fact Mr. Burrows, and winds up with the com- that Con Gallagher drew up some

forting assurance that he has no influence of his own contracts, had them indorsed whatever. He manages, however, to by Chairman House within an hour, and sandwich in a nicely prepared bill of rushed through the city council the same particulars which goes to show, if it were | night. Under the new charter the engitrue, that a number of the company's neer would become equally responsible loans are well placed, and that one with the chairman of the board, and the woman has actually received \$2,000 on | council could not pass upon them hastily under restriction imposed. This

> one reason why Mar-Gallagher and the paving phy, gang oppose the new board of public works, and their greased organ-grinders are making such assaults on the new board. There is another very good reason why the new board of public works would not suit the paving gang. For the last year, the contractors have practically dictated the appointment of all inspectors, and when any inspector dared to raise his voice against bad work or inferior material he was transferred or laid off. When the contractors have control of the inspectors, as they can by logrolling with councilmen, they virtually do just as they please. When the work is done it is impossible to detect the imposition, and their estimates are allowed. Under the new charter the board of publie works has the entire responsibility for the fitness and faithfulness of inspectors, and the city engineer, as a member of the board, becomes a party to their selec-

Now, it is matter of record that the editor of the BEE, who was a member of the citizens' charter committee, was absent from Omaha when the provision reorganizing the board of public works was discussed and adopted by that committee. The contractors, and their allies of the monopoly press, cannot truthfully charge that this part of the charter has been tampered with through his personal interference. The Douglas county delegation has not changed one word of that section, and hence all the howl against them on that score is utterly mexcusable.

Dr. Peck's Death.

Another prominent figure is removed from the rapidly thinning ranks of Omaha's pioneers in the death of Dr. J. P. Peck. Among the earliest of professional arrivals in Omaha, for more than thirty years he has walked among us the Nestor of practicing physicians, beloved by a large circle of friends and respected and esteemed in the community which he saw grow from a straggling village to a powerful city. Dr. Peck's most marked characteristic as a professional man was his sturdy common sense in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases which placed experience above mere theory. At his best he had no superior in the application of his knowledge of therapeuties. His soothing presence, kindly sympathy and genial smile brought light and comfort to many a sick room. He was essentially the family physician in the best sense of the term and bundreds of home,throughout Nebraska bear grateful witness to his skill and tenderness.

Elsewhere the BEE has presented an outline of his life. It was a long and a busy one, memory of which will be long held in the hearts of those to whom he ministered in times of trouble and of

If the contractors and city scavengers are to make our charter Omaha tax payers will save themselves the trouble in the future of securing their ablest lawyers and most prominent citizens to draft such instruments. The Con Gallaghers. Fannings and Murphies will be retained as a permanent committee on charter revision.

Personal preferences should each and all yield to the public demand in the matter of railway regulation. Any measure which secures the required end will do. Division in the ranks of the friends of anti-monopoly will be fatal to the interests which they honestly desire to

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND finds "no warrant in the constitution' for several of the measures passed by a democratic congress. But what has the constitution to do with a democracy which twenty-five years ago were busy in the attempt to prove it a rope of sand.

GENERAL MOSBY is writing his memoirs under the title of "Mosby's Raid." The author who will write the history of the various raids on the state treasury at Lincoln proposed in a score of bills now under discussion will find a large and interested audience.

STATE AND TERRITORY.

Nebraska Jottings. Mason City is promised a flour mill Music is taught in the Pawnee public schools.

Crete paid freight bills to the amount of \$360,000 last year. Fremont is promised a \$20,000 manufacturing enterprise. Cedar rapids voted unanimously to put

\$5,000 in a public school. Fred Meyer, of Fremont, has a grand-father's clock 200 years old. Nothing less than 100,000 inhabitants in five years will satisfy Lincoln.

Ord threatens to put a squad of fifty militia men in the field. Ah, there, Plattsmouth is reviving with the spring haw, real estate prices are stiffening

and new railroads are skirmishing in the Kearney boasts that she will have largest opera house in the state" before the close of the season. The town's am-

bition is limited to the earth. The Fullerton Journal issued a double number last week, setting forth, in sim-ple colors, the growth and prospects of Nance county. It is a splendid adver-tisement for the country and a creditable enterprise.

to Brigham Young on the resurrectionist ticket next year. The cotton bale hero was found chewing the nails off his coffin recently, and will be brought at the appointed time. The item going the rounds of the state press that Omaha's city hall will cost \$50,000 is one fourth truth. The cost of

Andy Jackson will run in opposition

the foundation contracted for is \$48,000, and the estimated cost of the building complete is \$190,000. J. M. Nichol, yardmaster of the Eik-horn Valley road at Norfolk, and James Deavy, operating a switch engine, arbitrated a dispute with sulphurated words, lanterns, coupling pins and hammers. The crown sheet of Deavy's Jaw was cracked by a hammer, and Nichol's na-sal flues were stove in. The arbitrators

asked leave to sit again after the doctors are through with the repairs. The prosperity of Nebraska the present year will exceed all expectations. Property values are advancing steadily in every town in the state, and substantial booms are scattered broadcast. marvelous growth of Omaha has given neighboring towns a boost of considera-ble force and the effect is shown in various industrial schemes of local and gen-eral benefit. The jealous feeling toward

the metropolis which has existed in sev eral towns is now confined to a few small hearted individuals, and the state as a whole tramples petty spite under foot. The narrow chested must give way to the broad shouldered and big hearted

Iowa Items, Iowa inventors corralled 425 of the patents issued last year

highway of progress.

Rabbits are peeling all the apple trees n the Decatur county orchards Manilla, Crawford county, but a few weeks old, has a population of 400. The boom has struck Sioux City. Real estate transfers last Saturday amounted

Des Moines proposes to compel the railroads running into that city to gate their crossings.

There are 128 national banks in Iowa, and they have a combined capital of \$10,295,000. The Cedar Falls library contains 2,586 volumes. The total receipts of the year

were \$858.67, the expenditures \$647.09. The balance on hand is \$211.58. An expert in coal mining agrees to find coal in paying quantities inside the corporate limits of Leon, provided he is guaranteed the sum of \$8,000. In case of failure he will incur all expenses.

Engineer Simpson, of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern road, started out of Burlington last Monday with a new locomotive and had a lively run. He first killed a steer, ran into a freight train and then killed a horse.

At Washburn, one night last week, a young man in a tit of somnambulism arose from his bed, dressed himself and then built a fire in the stove. When the room was comfortably warm he prepared to shave himself. He made the lather, strapped his razor, and after coating his face well with lather began to tonsure. His nerve, however, did not appear steady and before he had made much headway the razor was gilding down the beard to the roots. Three gashes were made in his face before he was aroused from his somnambulistic condition.

Prophet Foster, of Burlington, furnishes genuine specimens of March weather in advance. He predicts a stormy and tornado month, with slight intermis sions for rest and recuperation. Small tornadoes are on the list for the 1st and 2d. Owners of unsheltered stock in Colorado, Nebraska, western Kansas, Indian territory and northern Texas are likely to sustain heavy losses from this storm from the 1st to 3d as the probabili-ties largely favor a "blizzard" in the former two states and a "norther" in the others. The second storm wave will be due on the 91st meridian March 9, and will be intensified by the earth's nearest approach to the sun's magnetic pole on the 10th and by the moon passing over the earth's equator on the same day. Another storm is looked for on the 11th. The fifth storm will strike the country on or about the 25th, and the last storm for the month will cross the Mississippi on the 31st. Further on the prophet says: "The excessive rams last of March and irst week in April will damage farming lands in various ways, principally by washing the land and the growing small Whatever can be done to prevent damage from these sources will pay to be looked after. After the storm of April 4 will be the time for farm work. The weather will be warm and fine and oats and spring wheat sowed about that time will have many chances of success.'

Dakota. The Rapid City School of Mines was formally opened last Thursday. The Iron Hill smelter when completed will compete for Black Hills ore with the Omaha reduction works.

There are 129,985 head of cattle in the two counties of Butte and Lawrence, representing a value of \$5,500,000.

Over a dozen brick business buildings, to be erected this year, have already been planned and contracted for at Mike Haley, now at Bismarck, offers to

nan in the territor sum of \$100 or hall receipts. Mike evidently has not forgotten how to use his mouth. Fears are experienced at Pierre that

with an early preaking of the river north a flood will be caused on the Missouri river bottoms, owing to the large amount of snow and thick ice. In 1876 there were only three priests

and a few Catholics in Dakota. Now there are 1 bishop, 1 vicar general, 80 priests, 125 churches, 52 chapels, 4 acadamies, 22 parochial schools, 26 students for priesthood and over 50,000 Catholics.

PROMINENT PERSONS.

Augustus Littlejohn, a celebrated orator forty years ago, has become a pauper at Kalamazoo, Mich. John C. Calhoun, grandson of the great

South Carolinian, has the second largest cotton field in the United States. William Perzel, husband of Marle Prescott has commenced proceedings for divorce on

the ground of intidelity, The late Mrs. Henry Wood never received cent on about a million copies of "East Lynne" sold in this country,

Senator-elect Reagan is now hving with his third wife and intrusts to her supervision his not very profitable Texas farm.

The Marquis de Neuville is lavishly spending money to entertain Americans at his London house. He delights in clam bakes. After the adjournment of congress the Rev. W. H. Milburn, chaplin of the house, will fill the pulpit of the Trinty Methodist

Episcopal church. Chicago, while the pastor, Dr. Alabaster, seeks rest and renewed health. New York Graphic: Miss Grace Howard, daughter of "Joe" Howard, is going to Dakota next month to spent two or three years in instructing the Indians. Miss Howard is an exceedingly talented woman, with a somewhat strong mind. There is said to exist a strong friendship between the lady and Miss Cleveland.

The Preacher in the Left Field St. Paul Globe. It is an affair like Boston paying \$10,000

for the release of a crack player in the

Chicago ball nine that confirms every poorty

paid clergyman in the country in the belief

that this life is but a fleeting show. The Trouble with Cleveland. New York Sun. He has the big head. It is a queer diseas When a man has it he may be able to manage his own personal business successfully, but he never can efficiently, disinterestedly and faithfully administer the affairs that have

That's what's the matter with Cleveland. Keen Eyes Are Needed in the West St. Louis Republican. Very naturally the attempt of New York surgeons to transplant the eye of a rabbit into the head of a western newspaper man was a dismal failure. Rabbit eyes may do pretty well for a New York journalist, but out in the breezy west nothing less than the quick and comprehensive eye of the hawk

been intrusted to him by a political party.

He cannot be a good agent or representative.

newspaper headlights, The Best Protection. Philadelphia Times.

or the eagle is considered good enough for

The western states are rapidly adopting high license, and where the liquor interests have been potential enough to defeat it prohibition has come with lawlessness and demoralization rather than the suppression of the liquor traffic. A square high-license law will be the hest mutual protection to dealers and to society, and all should unite to he w it enacted.

PRINCE AND PARLIAMENTS.

The "Man of Blood and Iron" Will Have Imperial Victory.

men who are guiding the state on the POLITICAL PEACE PROSPECTS.

> Great Party Strife in Germany-Plat. forms of the Contestants-The Army is the Great Theme -War Possible.

VIENNA, Feb. 7 .- [Correspondence of

the BEE.]-The international situation is in no way affected by the refusal of the reichstag to vote Prince von Bismarck's bill, and the consequeut dissolution of the German parliament. In point of fact, the reichstag did accept the principle on which the was based; it gave the 41,000 additional warriors who, Marshal von Moltke insists, are a sine qua non to national safety, but it affirmed its right to examine whether, at the end of three years, this annual merease of the military contingent is still necessary. On the other hand, the chancellor, who believes that to fix any limit at all to what he considers to be strictly the imperial prerogative, is a concession; he considers that he has made a maximum of concession in fixing seven years as the term, and that to accept a shorter period would be followed by efforts to bring the matter of military appropriation before parliament annually, as is the case in all countries where parliamentary action is not merely a fiction, Prince von Bismarck would not agree to the proposed compromise because, to quote his own words: "He will not consent that the German army shoued become parliamentary instead of being imperial." The question to be decided in Germany by the vote of the people on February 21, is political and not military, and is the conflict between the prerogatives and privileges of the emperor and the privileges and prerogatives of the parliament; it is nothing more, and whether the majority returned be imperial or parliamentary, the chances of war or of peace will be neither mereased nor lessened. GERMAN ELECTIONS.

Still, as the elections are made upon the platform of the septennate, the government and its supporters, viz., the con-servatives and the so-called national lib-erals, work strongly the patriotic chord, giving to their candidacies that character of patriotism, designedly exaggera-ted, which more than any question of home politics insures the support of the masses. The electoral struggle began at once; within ten days after the dissolution the whole country was deluged with manifestos and appeals, and each party took up its position, canvassed diligently and prepared for that fatidical date, when the chancellor's enemies hope to crush the "Man of Blood and Iron," for getting that Prince von Bismarck has always governed in spite of parliaments, and has always obtained a bill of indemnity for every act, though done in opposition to previously expressed parliamentary will. By the German constitution the lists of all candidates must be drawn up one ful month before the election day, fixed by government; in this instance it is Febru pry 21, and, as the settling of disputed elections must be made one formight after the first ballot, there is no time to be lost; the German electoral campaign will be terminated on March S. The situation of parties is clearly defined; it may be interesting to know their several programmes, the defensive and offensive resources of each, their several advantages and disadvantages, and these I propose to exhibit summarily.

The conservatives and national liberals who formed the governmental minority in the last reichstag, are only divided of insignificant questions of etiquette but vote in unison on all questions of genuine importance; they did aggregate 160 all previous to the dissolution and expect to be considerably reinforced, especially counting upon the influence upon the population of the emperor's message, which will appear or the eve of the elections. Their discip line is admirable; wherever practicable, only one candidate is presented in any district, and whenever two candidacie are maintained and the first ballot ha not given a decisive result, the individual least numerously supported retires, a the second ballot, in fayor of his rival In all their appeals to the constituencies

both these parties eschew the mention of economical and social questions: their one theme is the army; the sole guarantee of national safety, of German unity, of European peace; the army, which is the basis of national development, the ladium" (sic) of independence, and which must be strengthened at a moment when Fatherland is beset with perils on every side-perils that will exist for years to come, etc. Down with the triennate that measure voted by a heteroclite majority, only united for purposes of obstruction; the triennate will make of the army a mere electoral platform at every general election, etc., etc., and then, of course, Marshal von Moltke's prediction: "The triennate means cer-tain war!" In the septennate alone can Fatherland find salvation! The septennate only can ensure the future of th army, and consequently the preservation CHANCES OF THE "CHAMPIONS."

Such is the substance of every conservative and national liberal discourse but, charm they ever so wisely, it is doubtful that the champions of the government can rally to their platform enough votes to obtain the forty new seats which, in addition to the original 160 seats, are necessary to the constitu tion of a compact majority. At the pre-ceding elections several of their candi dates were returned, thanks to the vote of the center, which gave them its sup port, fearing the success of some social ist or liberal radical candidate, and a this support will now be withheld, the defection of the Catholies will be a seri ous element of failure. In the last legis ature the center disposed of eighty votes, and against it was directed the government's assurance, in the landlag, that Prussia's negotiations with the vati can were about to terminate satisfac torily.
In the Center's addresss to the elec

tors, its electoral committee parried this blow very eleverly. Knowing that its partisans were influenced exclusively the religious question, it only referred to the military question by declaring that, from the point of view of national con-troi, the triennate is the proper form for the military budget. But, on the other hand, it laid special stress upon the situa tion of the Catholic church in Germany, insisting that the "Kulturkampf" is not abolished, and that the struggle for the liberty and autonomy of the church is not at an end. The laws of May have not been abrogated, and these laws plac the clergy in absolute subjection to the state and paralyse its action. It is a mis-take to believe that the interest of the church are or can be independent of pol-In the matter of social questions the Catholic parts insists upon the pro tection which it has always given to the working classes, and to its consistent ac tion in promoting their fegitimate aspi rations. It pronounces strongly against monopolies of any kind, and demands equitable repartition charges, that is to say, it will support the

principle of an income-tax. principle of an income-tax. The programme is the most complete and the most interesting of all that have been presented, and will certainly be backed by a great many socialists and liberals against the Conservative National Liberal coalition; but there is little probability that the Catholic party can do more than hold its own; it cannot expect to increase the number of its representatives in parliament. sentatives in parliament.

GERMAN ANTI-MONOPS.
The position of the liberals is critical. it is especially among the liberal electors that the military question assumes the greatest importance, and few of these understand its bearing correctly. The septennate is the form under which the mass of the public is accustomed to view and discuss the military budget; it is convinced that Germany is, as Prince you Bismarck pretends, on the eve of war, and it is indignant that the deputies should have refused means of defense. The lib eral manifesto then attempts to enlighten the public on this point, insisting specially upon the triennate as the most efficient measure by which to keep con-trol of the national expenditure. Will the public take in these strong explanations? Here again doubt is admissible; the strong points of the liberal programme are, like that of the center; the abolition of monopolies and the institution of an income tax, so that the twenty-eight millions necessary for the support of the additional contingent of 41,000 men shall be paid from the pockets of persons possessing an income exceeding 6000 marks.

The socialists who form the fifth polit

ical group in Germany are of less importance than the others, and risk less by defeat. They are naught for the septennate nor for the triennate, but expert to gain ground from the divisions of the center and the liberals, who will vote against all government candidates, and even for the most ultra socialist candidate, if by so doing they can defeat the septennate bill in the next legislature. The socialists work hard and though, in consequence of the "petty state of siege" which prevents any of their public meetings in the capital, they are forced to operate clandestinely; their propaganda is active, and their appeals are freely is active, and their appeals are freely distributed everywhere; their last factum of a particularly incendiary character, was headed: "A New Year's salute to the Berlin workingmen!" and ended with the phrase: "Long live the International Democratic and Revolutionary Socialism." To avoid difficulties for the publishers of this document, the most violent one ever issued by the sect, it was printed at Zurich; but although every precaution had been taken to re-move individual responsibility, the police has made numerous arrests of socialists leaders among them being the Dantzig candidate to the reichstag, Herr

SWARMS OF ETHER-BUYERS. The government spares no effort to keep up the agitation produced by the speeches of Generals von Moltke and von Schellendorf; everywhere attention is called to pretended French military preparations in view of a spring campaign against Germany; and to accentuate the note of the organ of the finance minister, the Political News, signals the presence of "swarms of French agents endeavoring to buy up all the sulphuric ether in Germany for the manufacture of the new explosive material melinite. No one could have supposed that this recent invention of a French officer would have been first used as an electoral agent in

Naturally, the chancellor has not remained mactive, and as he cannot take any direct part in the campaign, he has aired his views extensively in the landtag, that Prussian assembly which is reputed to be the most somnolent institution of the kind on the globe. Prince von Bismarck gave his explanation of the situa-tion; on the question of the monopoles he was ambiguous, and on that of tax-ation he would promise nothing. But in re the constitutional laws, he was more explicit, and stated clearly that should an opposition majority be returned, he would neither dissolve the reichstag anew, nor seek to modify the constitution, he would pleased-ad usum delphini, and if that interpretation were not in accordance with either tradition or opinions of much the worse; is not Prince von Bismarck the "Man of Iron" before whom every other will must yield? His words leave no doubt as to his intentions: "In the next reichstag, the emperor himself will establish the proper peace footing of the army."

On the religious question, Prince von Bismarck was remarkably categorical. He disclaimed the paternity of the turkampf and the so-called laws of May which were invented when he was no prime minister; but he accepted all the responsibilities of their execution, and, "if it were not for the resistance of the center, which is not approved by the Roman curia, all difficulties with the Roman curia, all difficulties with the vatican would now be settled. The pope is a man of peace, who does not sanction attacks upon established governments. and when the electors learn this, as they shall learn it, they will not support the alliance of Catholicity with socialism." PROBABILITY OF WAR.
Should this statement be borne out by

facts, that is to say, if the revision of the ecclesiastical laws be submitted to the landtag this week. as is announced, the situation of the center becomes extremely government majority will be elected. repeat, the result, whatever it may be will not either increase or diminish the probabilities of war. Every citizen of Berlin and of Vienna believes war to be certain and imminent, and opens morning's newspaper with the conviction that he will read in it a declaration of war. The in it a declaration of war. The North American Gazette announces the "mobilization" of the Red Cross so-ciety, the Poste gives daily extracts of General Boulanger's proposed bill; some other journal relates the conversation of M. Paul Deroulede with one of the editors of the anti-German Novole Vremia, but all these are mere electoral maneu vres, and so was the article of the Daily News, which struck every continental stock exchange with such a panic. Still that article was not entirely unfounded; the cabinets of London and Paris, and the press of Germany can safely deny that any comminatory note was addressed to France, for no note was addressed to the French government, but it is positive ly certain that a "friendly" observation was made orally to-some one, to the ef feet that Germany felt uneasy at seeing the constant preparations made by a neighbor with whom she desired to remain on pleasant terms, and, should they be continued, she would be obliged to ask for explanations. Only this and nothing more, and yet this is sufficient, with the existing tension of men's minds to show that there may be troublous times a War is not probable, but it is most pos sible.

CARROLL TEVE

The Spoils System.

James Thomson The puzzling sons of party next appeared, In dark cabals and nightly juntoes met; And now they whispered close, now—shrug

ging reared Th' important shoulder then; as if to get New light, their twinkling eyes were inward No sooner Lucifer recalls affairs,

Than forth they various rush in mighty fret; When, lo! pushed up to power, and crowned their cares. In comes another set, and kicketh them down stairs.

President Cleveland, in his autograph note to the secretary of the navy on the Sunday the latter's infant was born, after congratulating him, added: "I think the congratulating him, added: "I think the first public prayer for mother and babe was made by my minister to day, when he prayed for the president and all dear