THE DAILY BEE.

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETORS.

THE DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

Sworn Statement of Circulation. State of Nebraska,
County of Douglas.
Geo. B. Tzschuck, secretary of The Bee
Publishing company, does solemnly swear
that the actual circulation of the Daily Bee
for the week ending May 6, 1887, was as
follows: April 30.....14,300 Sunday, May 1. 14,000 Monday, May 2. 15,625

 Tuesday, May 3
 14,430

 Wednesday, May 4
 14,310

 Thursday, May 5
 14,200

 Friday, May 6
 14,305

Average.....14.461 GEO, B. TZSCHUCK. Subscribed and sworn to before me this

7th day of May, 1887. N. P. FEIL, Notary Public. [SEAL.] GEAL. Notary Public.
Geo. B. Tzschuck, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that he is secretary of The Bee Publishing company, that the actual average dally circulation of the Dally Bee for the month of May, 1886, 12,439 copies; for June, 1886, 12,298 copies; for July, 1886, 13,314 copies; for August, 1886, 12,464 copies; for September, 1886, 13,030 copies; for October, 1886, 12,989 copies; for November, 1886, 13,348 copies; for December, 1886, 13,237 copies; for January, 1887, 16,266 copies; for February, 1887, 14,198 copies; for March, 1887, 14,400 copies; for April, 1887, 14,316 copies. copies; for April, 1887, 14,316 copies.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of May, A. D., 1887.

[SEAL.] N. P. FEIL, Notary Public.

THE order has gone forth that the

THE birth of the person who is to succeed the late Beecher has not yet been announced.

English sparrow must go.

RAILROAD building is reported very active in Arizona. Everything in Arizona seems active just now.

According to Governor Thayer's letter to the police commission, police stations must no longer be in saloons.

JAKE SHARP'S trial continues. If he is convicted he will be engaged as a museum freak when released from

DA MAGNIFICENT bronze statue of the late President Arthur, together with a costly monument, will be erected in New York city.

SARAH BERNHARDT has a new advertising dodge. Sam Small slung slang at her in Minneapolis the other night and the opera house was crowded.

ELEVEN hundred Chinamen in one steamship arrived in the San Francisco harbor one day last week. The restriction bill is accomplishing wonders.

hams and nutmegs, will try the prohibition amendment. The prohibition amendment is having a hard time of it. It should be prohibited.

GOVERNOR FORAKER is busy these days denying that he intended to reflect on Senator Sherman in any way, in his Pittsburg speech on Grant's birthday. Anything to keep before the people is the boy's governor's motto, and he will toy with a chestnut with a perseverance worthy of a better cause.

THE bricklayers of Chicago will not rescind the resolution passed last month making Saturday pay day. The contractors claim that it is impossible to get the pay roll made up by Saturday. The workingmen insist that they shall be paid Saturdays, threatening to strike. Trouble is anticipated.

NEW YORK and Pittsburg papers want so "revive in all its glory the good old style of celebrating the Fourth of July." A San Francisco paper also blends its voice with the popular clamor. Why not have a national celebration? Omaha, the geographical center of this land of the brave and home of the free, would be pleased to entertain the multitude which would gather from the four corners of the continent.

THE first woman ever elected a delegate to a conference by the Protestant Episcopal church in Pennsylvania was on Tuesday refused a seat in the body. The committee on credentials decided that the constitution expressly provides that the convention shall consist of clergymen and laymen, and this view was endorsed unanimously by the conference. Here is another golden opportunity for the downtrodden sex to raise its voice and shout

BECAUSE of the numerous interpretations of the inter-state law and general dissatisfaction caused by its enforcement, the Chicago Times thinks its author, Mr. Cullom, has rucned himself. It says: "It will stick to him closer than a mother-in-law or a poor relation. It is his child, and he can not disown it. It will never be the means of drawing the author to the white house, or anywhere else, except to very private life." Let it stick to him. To be the father of the law is glory enough, and Mr. Cullom can well afford to retire. A few amendments and it will be one of the best safeguards against the encroachments of corporate power ever offered the people. The railroads and subsidized newspapers may in a measure sne ceed in their attempt to make the law unpopular, yet they cannot defeat its intent. The grand underlying principle of the measure is an assurance that the law will never be repealed. After its detoots are known it will be an easy matter to secure a remedy. The railroads have too long had unrestricted and unlimited authority. They can no longer control the commmerce of the United States as has been their custom heretofore. The Times may think Mr. Cullom is dead. It is necessary to die in order to be a

Hunting Down Land Pirates. Since the president announced his views regarding the public lands, and they have received almost unanimous public approval, the commissioner of the land office appears to have taken fresh heart in the work of protecting the people against the land pirates of one kind and another who have made plunder of the public domain. Commissioner Sparks entered upon this commendable task very early in the administration of his office, but continual obstructions and repeated checks and defects of his efforts must have somewhat discouraged him until the president's position in the Miller case turned the tide in his favor. That was not only a victory for the commissioner in the special case in issue, but it was an assurance to him from the executive that the principle had maintained true one, which it the is the desire and intention of the administration shall prevail. It served

notice on the land pirates of all classes that their influence is at an end, and that as between them and the people the benefit of every doubt will be given to the people. Equally it was a notification to any who may have contemplated this sort of piracy that their schemes may as well be abandoned. Only a very small portion of the people of the United States have any idea of the vast areas of which they have been robbed by corporations, syndicates and speculators. Millions of acres have been taken from the people by these plunderers who have not hesitated at perjury and the subornation of perjury, at bribery

of corrupt federal officials, at fraudulent surveys, or any other available means to the accomplishment of their purpose. There have been repeated exposures of these robberies. The story has been told over and over again in the reports of the land office for the past twenty years. But the plunderers have always been able to exert an influence in congress and elsewhere that defeated all efforts to check their operations or compel them to make restitution.

Much the greater part of this pirated land the people cannot now recover But some of it may be returned to the public domain, and if there be any such Commissioner Sparks is as likely as any man to find it. He is now looking after the interests of the public in the southwestern territories, where large tracts of land have been acquired by parties who are believed to have no night to them The commissioner reports that in New Mexico there are four tracts embracing nearly 200,000 acres which do not rightfully belong to the people who claim them, and he recommends that they be restored to the public domain. But whether or not any part of the lands wrongfully taken from the people shall be restored to them, adherence to the principle avowed by the President will be of great benefit in shutting the door against further plundering of the public domain and preserving for honest settlers the millions of acres still available for the use of the people.

Not So Bad as Reported.

A correspondent writing from San Antonio, Texas, states that the reports sent to northern and eastern papers of the drought in southwestern Texas, and of the resulting widespread destitution, were a good deal exaggerated. He does not deny that the state has suffered severely from the drought, or that there is some destitution, but says the drought is not of exceptional severity, nor are the prudent, the industrious and the economical in distress. That the country is not in a starving condition is evidenced by the fact that the ranchmen are constantly shipping fat beeves and sheep to every accessible market. During the past month the finest fat cattle ever sent out of the state have been shipped from the ranches south of San Antonio. Nor are the current quotations for stock such as to indicate hard times. Sheep have been advancing in value for over a year, while cattle are no lower than a year ago, and stock of any kind is considered good property. The winter was an unusually mild one, and all stock came through in fine condition. The farmers in the vicinity of San Antonio will suffer if the dry weather shall continue much longer, but they constitute an insignificant part of the farming community of the state, In northern and central Texas the rains have been abundant and the crops are assured. "It will doubtless surprise many at the north," remarks the correspondent, "to know that we have plenty to eat and drink, with thousands of beeves and muttons to sell them, if they desire to buy; that we are fully able to provide for our own poor and needy; that business goes on as usual, and that anancial stringency is not apparent nor is a panic feared, but these are facts, and facts that should more than counterbalance the sensational reports of widespread ruin, famine and death." This cheerful statement of the situation in Texas reads much better than the lugubrious accounts from there with which the papers of the country have been supplied for some time past, and it is doubtless trustworthy.

Honoring a Veteran Actor. To-day the dramatic profession of New York will honor the veteran actor, Mr. C. W. Couldock, with a great bene fit incelebration of his fiftieth year on the stage. The event promises to be one of the most memorable of its kind in the history of stage performances. The varied entertainment to be presented will include most of the great exponents of dramatic art in this country, and even the supernumeraries will be actors and actresses of reputation. It is, in a word a testimonial of the dramatic profession of America to one of its number who as man and actor has throughout a long professional life proved himself worthy of such distinguished consideration. The sale of seats took place last month, and the Star theater in New York will be filled this afternoon by perhaps the finest audience that ever asssembled within its walls, and a chapter will be added to the history of stage performances unsurpassed by any that have pre-

The actor who will receive this honor is known to the present generation of playgoers for the unequalled impersonation of only a few parts-Luke Fielding in the "Willow Copse," Peter Probity in the "Chimney Corner," and Dunstan Kirke in the play of "Hazel Kirke." Those who have seen him in these characters will hardly look upon his like again, but they constitute only a very mail part of the admirable work that

Mr. Couldock has contributed to the stage in professional career of half a cen tury. Probably no other actor living has had an experience so broad and varied, and certainty none could have had a better training, for he grew up in his profession in association with the greatest actors the English-speaking stage has produced

Mr. Couldock came to this country from England with Charlotte Cushman in 1849, and the identification he then established with the stage of America has never been broken. An admirable and conscientious actor, and a most genial and companionable man, C. W. Couldock merits the honor which the profession will show him to-day, and those who knew him can understand how well he will appreciate it. The veteran is still in "the harness" at seventy-two, and the indications are that he will remain on the boards for many years to come.

Colonel Cody in England. Yesterday occurred the opening in Earl's Court, London, of the American exhibition. The most promident feature, and what to the English visitors will prove most interesting, is Buffalo Bill's Wild West show. While the aggregation, striking in its originality and wonderful in its completeness, has charmed and astonished thousands of visitors in the eastern states, the English people, already imbued with an idea of America's "semi-savage" population, will look with indescribable wonder upon the "wild west," and in their mind's eye, shudder with fear at the "bloomin' features of the blarsted country."

The only fear is that Hon. William Cody's show may give the people of Europe the impression that because he hails from Nebraska his Wild West has been picked up within the confines of our state. . This he must guard against. And he must also insist that his collection of "wildness" is not representative of American life. The British aristocracy must be taught that the Indians and the buffalo in Earl's court are only a lingering reminiscence gathered from the western borders of a great and populous civilized country.

Mr. Gladstone at Mr. Cody's lunch party said that "there was nothing more desirable on this side of the water than a true and accurate representation of the American world." Of course the great European statesman knows that the Wild West show is not in any sense 'representative of the American world,' but his utterance may cause many misinformed visitors to wrongfully interpret his language.

Mr. Cody is as fine a specimen of American manhood as is ever met with, and Nebraska is proud of him. Accordingly, as he pockets the sixpence or shilling of the curious Englishman he must take pains to inform him that the bloodcurdling scenes accompanying his Deadwood coach-robbery are largelydue to imagination, and the frontier, where such peculiar phases of civilization were once real, is now confined alone to yellow backed novels and oral traditions.

The Vetoed Gas Ordinance. Mayor Boyd's veto of the ordinance granting the right of way through our streets and alleys to a corporation which proposes to establish gas works in Omaha, in competition with the existing company, causes much unfavorable comment. We have not read the mayor's veto in full nor have we been able to procure a copy of the vetoed ordinance. On reneral principles it would be unfair to grant promiscuous rights-of-way to parties who propose to build gas works in Omaha because such a grant in the hands of unprincipled adventurers or schemers might be used as a means to levy black-mail on the existing gas company, If, however the ordinance contains provisions that would prevent the misuse of the grant, coupled with reasonable guarantees that the new company will erect works and supply cheaper gas to the public, there is no valid excuse for a veto.

While we doubt whether Omaha is lare enough to support two gas companies, it is manifestly the interest of our city to secure competition or such concessions from the gas company in the matter of rates as will make competition unprofitable.

A CASE has developed in Alabama which, in some of its features, is a counterpart of that of Kissane. One Jo sephus Compton recently fled from his home in that state, after years of exemplary conduct in which he won the respect and confidence of the people, who honored him with public trusts, Last year he was licensed as a Methodist preacher, and subsequently was elected to the legislature. He claimed to be from Ken tucky, but it is learned that thirteen years ago he wa making moonshine whisky in North Carolina, and while engaged in this unlawful business he shot and killed a revenue officer. He was convicted and sentenced to twenty-five years imprisonment, but escaped after serving four years. He was recently recognized by a man who had been a guard at the penitentiary, and who reported his discovery to the North Carolina officials. Papers were issued for Compton's arrest, learning of which he fled, and nothing has since been seen or heard of him. The proverb regarding truth and fiction still

holds. SINCE the New York Herald named Mr. H. W. Grady, the eloquent editor of the Atlanta Constitution, for the second place on the democratic presidential ticket in 1888, the statement has been made that he was not born in the United States, and therefore is not eligible This objection is disposed of by Mr. Grady, who states that he was born at Athens, Ga., on the 24th of May, 1851. The date also removes the doubt that has been expressed as to his being of the required age-thirty-five years. These two essential points having been determined in tayor of the talented Atlanta editor. the Herald will continue to boom him with increased zeal.

THE French delegation that came to this country to participate in the dedication of the Bartholdi statue of Liberty has just further attested its gratification with the treatment it received here by presenting the New York chamber of commerce with several vases from the celebrated Sevres National manufactory. to obtain which the permission of the government was necessary. The gift was accompanied by hearty expressions of friendship and gratitude. Meanwhile the grim and imposing statue looks out

upon the sea, but the torch that was to flare the republic's welcome to the strangers coming to its shores does not flare, and thus one of the most important functions expected of this embodiment of liberty is lest.

As MIGHT have been expected, the two editors who have been carousing in the saloons with Humphry Monayihan, night after night, have reached the conclusion that Monayiban is the only man in Omaha fit to be chief of police.

OMAHA again goes to the front with an increase of over 106 per cent in her bank clearances, as compared with the corresponding week of last year, and stands nineteenth among the cities reporting in the amount of her financial exhibit.

MR. MONAYIHAN is highly recommended for the position of chief of police by the sporting editor whom he generously supplied with a slung-shot to ward off imagmary burglars.

PROMINENT PERSONS.

Governor Hill, of New York, is a bachelor. Marquis of Salisbury is to be made a duke in a few days.

Sir John Dean Paul, Baronet, is earning his living as a photographer in London. Roscoe Conkling has been remarkably for tunate in his real estate investments in

Washington. Jay Gould is arranging to make his sor George president of the Pacific Mail steam ship company.

George W. Cable has been suggested for head of the celebrated Tremont Temple Bible class in Boston. George W. Childs' birthday anniversary occurred May and on that date special

efforts will be made to increase the fund of the International typographical union, to which Mr. Childs and Mr. Drexel gave \$10,000 last May. Next October Charles Dickens will begin in this country a course of public readings from the works of his father. He is about

forty-five years old, with brown hair and mustache and of nearly the same height and build as the elder Dickens, but less pro nounced in dress. Kossuth, the famous Hungarian patriot, has returned to Turin from Naples, "where,"

says a correspondent, "he spent the winter with his son, Major Kossuth, who resides in Naples, and who is the magnate-the Tom Scott-of the whole western network of Ital ian railroads, from the Corniche Ligurian coast to the occidental tip of the boot.

> A Base Hit. Deadwood Pioneer.

A Kansas City philanthropist offers to donate a town lot to the first member of the Kansas City base ball club who shall make a base hit. They adopt a great many plans to get rid of real estate in Kansas City. If such a premium was offered to the papers they would all get there.

Can't Hurry Him.

Chicago Tribunc.

Andrew Carnegie, the millionaire, was once a telegraph messenger boy. At his wedding the other evening were two guests who had been his companions as telegraph boys forty years before. Both are now quite wealthy. If it would infuse any energy into the messenger boy of the present age to point out how those three men became successful by qickness, promptness, diligencebut what's the use? Nothing on earth can

The American Exhibition. Chicago Tribune. We are pleased to learn, from the regular weekly bulletin of the American Exhibition in London, that the principal contract for supplying the refreshments at the exhibition as been let to Messrs. Borem & Snodgras of London, who employ a staff of 700 persons: also that the concession-note the felicity of that word concession-for the huge American bar under the grand stand has been granted to Messrs. Fillum & Bouncem of New York, who are assisted by a large staff - particular attention is requested to the fact that they have a staff-of trained American bartenders. Such facts as these cannot fail to impress the most careles reader with the immensity of the display and to those who have never gazed in speech less wonder at a fat-stock show or wandered through the imposing galleries of earth's rarest curiosities in a dime museum there will doubtless be much to admire in the great American Exhibition.

Frank Dempster Sherman, in St. Nicholas. May shall make the world anew: Golden sun and silver dew-Money minted in the sky-Shall the earth's new garments buy. May shall make the orchard bloom: And the blossoms' line perfume Shall set all the honey-bees Murmuring among the trees, May shall make the bud appear like a jewel, crystal clear, Mid the leaves upon the limb Where the robin lilts his hymn. May shall make the wild flowers tell Where the shining snow-flakes fell: Just as though each snow-flake's heart, By some secret, magic art, Were transmuted to a flower In the sunlight and the shower.

Is there such another, pray, Wonder-making month as May? STATE AND TERRITORY.

Nebraska Jottings. Bertrand claims a population of 500. The postoffice at Kalamazoo, Madison county, has been resurrected. A syndicate will build twelve cottages

in Columbus, to cost \$1,000 each. The fashionable craze in parlor mottoes in Fremont is, "God Bless Our Hum.

Beatrice has three brick and two frame school buildings, yet the rising generation cry for more room. The Nebraska City artesian well is

down 325 feet. Nothing softer than stone has been encountered so far. Red Cloud will hold an exhibition of speedy horseflesh on the 25th, continuing three days. A few fat purses will be hung

The tongues and throttles of Stroms burgers are as dry and lifeless as a cemetery in a desert. The tapping of a The tapping of a cemetery in a desert. The tapping of a semi-weekly beer keg utterly fails to

stimulate the community.

Crawford is a year old and thriving. Over \$100,000 have been expended in improvements in that time. Fifty-five houses have been erected, and a grist mill and flour mill are now under contract. The anti-pass law and the abolition of

annuals, have produced a wonderful change in press puffs, a revolution in fact. Here is the latest style from the Ponca Journal: "The miserable, con-temptible passenger car that humps ittemptible passenger car that humps itself up and down between Ponca and
Covington, would make a suitable "black
maria" to convey convicts to the penitentiary, but it is hardly good enough to
be popular with the traveling public.
The car is cramped, inconvenient, stuffy,
snuffy, dirty and poverty stricken. It is
distress on wheels, a moving wretchedness, it smells to high heaven of dust ness, it smells to high heaven of dust tobacco and cheese. However, we will live in hope of another railroad ere long, where such a parody and caricature of a passenger car will not be imposed

The prairie fire near Atkinson last week was a terror. The fire started at Moon Lake and when it struck the hay both salaries until December next.

flats in the vicinity was formed into a roaring conflagration. At one time it was feared that it would strike Atkinson but the wind changed and saved the town. Mr. Nevers, an old man, living six miles southeast, was helping protect a neighbor's house when he was obliged to go through the fire to protect his own house and was quite badly burned. When the fire reached a point about three or four miles southeast where there was much tall dry grass the flames rose in a solid body fully ten feet high and made a beautiful but terrible sight. All day Friday and Friday night and into Saturday and Saturday night the light

wind from the north blew strong and extinguished the last spark. lowa Items. Ackley has a curiosity in the shape of

and smoke were plainly visible unti

Sunday, when a rain set in and a cold

a three-legged cat. It is estimated that 300 men and 1,000 horses have left Clay county this spring to engage in railroad work. A popular Des Moines clergyman has worked out his poll tax this year, hand-ling a shovel with decided skill.

Cedar Rapids handled 477,090 hogs during the last twelve months, and the cost of the same to the packing house there was over \$5,280,000.

The railroads of the state will carry delegations to the Masonic grand lodge at Davenport June 7, at one and one third fare for the round trip.

The railroads all seem to be seriously troubled with tramps just now. They steal rides, destroy property, fool with the trains and train men, and at small stations and other unprotected points they make themselves generally disliked Prophet Foster fixes the date of May storms on the 10th, 16th, 18th, 21st, 27th and 31st. The storm of June 3 will also

belong to the last part of May storm period. From May 21 to June 3 will be one of the most important storm periods of the year, according to the Burlington Wyoming.

Laramie has a fair association and a new hotel well advanced to a certainty A committee of Laramie business men is skirmishing for railroads in Colorado. A road from Dever is eagerly sought.

The recorded deed shows that the B. & M. paid \$80,000 for the Warren Mercantile building and grounds in Cheyenne. Cheyenne will turn out in holiday regalia on the 18th, to give eclat to the ceremony of laying the corner-stone of territorial capitol.

The Cheyenne school board has decided to retain the Lord's prayer in the schools. A pious member of the board declared hat for beauty and utility it equaled the family bible on the parlor table. The Reed Mining and Smelting com-

pany, with paper capital amounting to \$5,000,000, has been incorporated in the territory. territory. Offices will be established at Cheyenne, Boston, Salt Lake City and Park City, Utah.

Laramie claims to have marble treas ures in the surrounding hills. Vast quar-ries of the "oriental alabaster" of ancient Carthage are about to be opened and th product placed in the market. It is said to be unequaled in color and shade and polishes beautifully.

The "Right" of Theft. New York Commercial Advertiser. The question of the Northern Pacific

Railway company's "right" to certain additional land grants by way of indemnity for deficiencies in the original grant, ought to be fully understood. It is evidently not well understood, even by many who have studied and are sin cerely interested in the subject. For instance, the Herald, which has manifested a commendable spirit and dilligence in exposing the meanness and iniquity of the railway manage ment, says this morning that the North-ern Pacific vis entitled to an indemnity grant of 257,556 acres." It makes this concession, obviously, from a deep desire to be generous, and to avoid even the matter which would tempt right minded men to err on the side of undue severity, through the operation of their just and proper feeling of indignation. But in fact the Northern Pacific road is not entitled to an additional indemnity grant of 257,556 acres in Washington ter ritory or anywhere else. It is not entitled to any additional land at all. The theory on which the indemnity withdrawal were based, may have been correct, but there never was any law directing these withdrawals to be made. They were made by permission, not by legislation. were obtained by a series of "rulings" in the interior department, the adminis tration of which branch of the government has been, until now, uniformly favorable to the land grant roads as against the settlers and the public.

But even if there had been any statu tory authority for these wholesate indemnifications, it would have been over-thrown and nullified years ago, by the simple fact that the Northern Pacitic railway company, by its failure to com ply with the law under which it came into existence, has forfeited its claim, not only to the indemnity lands, but also to at least four-fifths of its original grant. The greater always includes the less. The Northern Pacific road has no equitable or moral right, to-day, to any of the lands it holds, within either the original grant or the indemnity limits, except the comparatively small tract adjoining the few hun-dred miles of road which were completed before the expiration of the time named for the completion of the whole road in

the conditions imposed by congress, And yet the company has the effronter to claim the whole original grant, and also about ten times as much land, in the way of indemnity, as it can rationally lay claim to, even on its own representa tions; and in pursuance of these claims it does not hesitate to confiscate the improved farms of old settlers without any remuneration whatever, Th company's claim from beginning to end is a bare faced robbery and nothing else The senate of the United States is solel responsible for the fact that this gigantic theft of millions of acres of the pub main has remained unpunished until this The senate will hardly dare act much longer as a "fence" for the North

The Fire Cracker Trade.

A dealer in fire crackers says, in the

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: I have just received my first shipment of Chinese fire crackers for the Fourth of July trade They left Hong Kong just before Christ-mas and have arrived here in good shape Altogether in three shipments, the last will be here in a few days, I shall have 1,400,000,000 crackers, and these won' be half enough for the demand on be half of our youthful population. We get the crackers from China, because of the cheap labor there, as it is impossible for a man to earn half a dol-lar a day or anything like it, in making them to sell at current prices. The Chinese never raise the price per crate, but as they acquire civilized ideas concerning trade dodges, they reduce the number of crackers in a pack, of which there are 320 to a crate. Originally, there were 100 in each, then there were ninety, and then

they are absurdly cheap. Postmaster Mowry, of Charleston, S. C., is in luck. At the opening of the Forty ninth congress he was appointed clerk to the committee on public buildings and grounds at a salary of \$2,000 per annum. Recently the president appointed him postmaster at Charleston at a salary of \$3,500. Under the recent decision of the United States supreme court he will draw

eighty. Last year, there were seventy-two, and now it is lower than ever, hav-

ing got down to sixty. But, even now

JEWELS OF POTENTATES

The Crown Jewels of France to Pass to Plebeian Hands.

HISTORY OF PRECIOUS GEMS

Strange and Startling History of Sovereign Stones-Parisians Preparing to Purchase Relies of Monarchs Dead and Gone.

Parts, April 30,-The spectacle of s great nation selling by auction the jewels collected by generations of its kings is sufficiently rare to deserve a few words of comment. At the present moment a huge white poster pasted on the blank walls of Paris announces in large black letters the sale on May 13 of the diamonds of the crown, or, in other words of the French crown jewels; and in a few days all Paris will be crowding the Pavillon de Flore to see for the last time these precious relies of abolished roy-

According to expert opinion, these

iewels are more interesting from the historical than from the commercial point of view; indeed, their history is full of curious details and meiodramatic incldents. The collection of the French crown jewels dates from the time when Francois I. made peace with Charles V., whose sister, Eleonore of Austria, became the wife of the French king. Francois I. went to Bordeaux to meet his bride, and in that town, on June 15, 1530, he bequeathed the royal jewels indefeasibly to his successors—that is to say, to the state or to the crown. At that time these jewels consisted of a large necklace and six rings, and were valued at a sum equivalent to \$735,053. The precious stones composing the treasure came from Queen Anne of Brittany, who intended them for Marguerite de Foix. One of these stones was celebrated in the sixteenth century under the name of Belle Pointe. Another still more celebrated was a ruby weighing 206 carats, named Cote-de-Bretagne, and estimated at \$120,000. This stone has a history. In

1530 it was mounted as a neck pendant in the shape of a letter A. Catherine de Medicis had it remounted with eleven pearls and two other large rubies. In 1588 Henry III., being obliged to raise troops to drive back the Spaniards, pawned these three rubies to one of his ecretaries, named Legrand, for \$17,000 livres of Touraine. Legrand died with-out getting repaid, and it was not until 1670 that his heirs restored the three rubies to the crown, after Colbert had caused them to be reimbursed.

In 1749 the famous Cote-de-Bretagne was mounted afresh in the insignia of the order of the Golden Fleece, and Gay, the engraver of Mme de Pompadour's cameos, carved it into the form of a dragon holding the fleece in its mouth. In this form the Cote-de Bretagne, estimated then at 60,000 livres, was worn by Kings Louis XV. and Louis XVI. In 1792 this jewel was stolen, but subsequently restored to the treasury in circumstances which have remained mysterious. The dragon Cote-de-Bretagne will not be included in the sale of May 12; it has been placed in the Galerie d'Apollon at the ouvre as a national relic and a work

In creating the national treasure of the crown jewels Francis I. insisted that they should be worn only by the kings and queens of France. Nevertheless, Diane de Poitiers, the mistress of Henri II. made use of the royal jewels until the death of the king, and constantly wore on her breast a cross composed of nine large diamonds. This fact was the cause of some scandal, which is recorded by Brantome. Diane, however, after the death of the king, faithfully restored all the crown jewels which she had borrowed, but Francis II., in order to avoid all risks in future, drew up letters patent in 1559, by which he jointed to the crown jewels all the jewels which Henri II and he had inherited, and among them was a diamond Le Grande Table valued at 65,000 crowns. Catherine de Medicis offered this diamond to the English in exchange for the town of Calais, but the queen managed the nego-tiations so well that she obtained Calais and kept the diamond. Later, in 1569, when the Germans invaded France, the crown jewels had to be pawned once more. Catherine de Medicis, in want of funds, concluded a loan of 1,800,000 crowns with the Venetians, and gave to the republic as security the Grande Table diamond and the diamond cross of 00,000 crowns which Diane de Poitiers so much admired. Henri III appears to have squandered

the crown jewels on his mignons, and, in the troublous times which follow their history became very obscure and documents are wanting. M. Germain Bapst who is about to publish an important work on the history of the French crown jewels, has been unable to elucidate the mystery of this epoch, and all we know is that, by some means or other, Henri IV recovered possession of a part of the royal treasure. It was during the reign of Henry IV. that a strange person appears on the scene, the colonel-general of the Swiss guards, Nicolas Harlay de Sancy who was, it appears, a clever diamond merchant. Sancy's name has remained attached to a famous stone of 106 carats which he sold in 1604 to James I. of England. How Sancy became possessed of this diamond is not known. Tradition says that it belonged once to Charles the Bold, who lost it on the battle field of Granson, where it was found by a Swiss soldier, who sold it to a priest for a florin Charles I. possessed it when he came to the throne. At the time of the English revolution, Queen Henrietta Maria carried it away with her, and in 1655 gave it as security, together with another rare piece, called the Mirror of Portugal, to the Duc d'Epernon, who lent her the sum of 460,000 livers. In 1657 Mazarin reimbursed the Duc d'Epernon, and, with the consent of the queen of England, took possession of the Sancy and of her Mirror of Portugal. When Mazarin died, in 1661, he bequeathed to Louis XIV eighteen diamonds, among which were these two.

In 1792 the Sancy and the Mirror were stolen. Finally the Sancy was found in the hands of Charles IV. of Spain. By the advice of Napoleon it was sold. In 1829 it passed into the Demidof family. and in 1835 it was again sold for 500,000 silver roubles, and now figures in the Russian crown jewels. As for the Mirror of Portugal, like the Grande Table, its identity has not been established, and nobody knows whether or not it is still among the French crown jewels. XIV. had these eighteen Mazarin dia-monds mounted in a heavy chain, which he often wore; and, in 1651. Louis XV. added to them two extraordinary stones, the great blue diamond and the diamond of the house of Guise, of which all traces have been lost.

The Regent diamond remains, as it is described by Saint-Simon in his Memoirs in 1717, a unique stone of inestimable value. It was purchased at a stipulated price of \$400,000 the interest of which was paid to the dealer until the Regent could pay off the principal. Marie Antoinette used to like to deck

herself out with the crown jewels, and affected particulary a ruby set valued at \$29,000. The queen, with the permission of the king, added some of her own jewels to these rubies, and some of the crown jewels given to her by decree; but the national assembly in 1791 ordered the restitution of all the crown jewels to the days. The legislative assembly finally ordered the crown diamonds to be sold. but the "Septembriseurs" thought that simpler methods of appropriation were advisable. M. Germain Bapst, who has in his hands all the documents concerning this episode, thus narrates the events; During six days a band of individuals, composed of thirty or forty persons, pen etrated every night into the rooms on the first floor of the Garde Meuble by means of rope ladders. They broke the seals of the door, picked the locks of the cupboards, and carried off nearly the whole of the treasure. The police did not notice the theft until, during the night of September 16-17, some national guardsmen caught two men dropping from the windows of the Grade Meuble with jewels in their pockets. The depre-dations were then discovered, and the next day Roland, the minister of the interior, announced to the assembly that out of 25,000,000 francs of jewels there remained scarcely 500,000 francs. the operation no regular watch had been kept; the police roundsmen had seen nothing; and yet the thieves had lighted up the rooms of the Garde Mueble, and had eaten there several nights in succession, for the remains of food, empty bottles, and candle ends were found scat-tered on the floor. Public opinion ac-cused Danton and the advanced party of the crime. Finally some of the thieves were discovered and executed on the Place de la Concorde. A certain number of the stolen jewels were also found immediately, but the most important the Regent and the Sanoy, were hard to find. The latter, stolen by one Cottet, was taken out of France, as we have already seen; the regent was found about a year after the robbery in a wine shop in the Fauburg St. Germain, and on the day of his coronation Napoleon I. wore it on the hilt of his sword. The regent which is estimated nowadays at \$2,400,000 will not be sold, but will remain in the Louvre as national prop-

state, and the jewels were accordingly deposited in the Garde Meuble, where

they were visible to the public on certain

of diamonds in 1811 to increase the crown jewels. In 1814 the whole treasure was taken to Blois by Marie Louise, and in 1815 Louis XVIII. took it to Ghent for safety. When Charles X. came to the throne, all these jewels were remounted for the coronation ceremony, and re-mained in this condition until 1854, with the exception of two sets of mounted diamonds, valued at 292,000 francs, which were stolen during the revolution of 1848. During the second empire the crown diamonds were frequently remounted. In 1870, in August, they were intrusted to the care of the governor of the Bank of France, and since 1875 they have been kept in a safe at the ministry of finance. Now that the sale of these crown jewels has been decided upon, much curi-osity is naturally felt as to what will be-come of them. As we have seen, some of

Napoleon I. bought 6,000,000 of francs

the most precious objects in the collec-tion of the crown jewels will not be sold, namely, the regent diamond; the 206-carat ruby carved by Gay; an opal of unique beauty, a reliquary brooch con-stellated with diamonds, which were cut in 1476, and which is valued at \$14,000; one of the Mazarin diamonds; the sword of Charles X, which is valued at \$60,000, as a specimen of jeweler's work, en-riched with diamonds and a few minor objects which are considered as works of As for the imperial crown of gold, it

was melted at the mint of the republic last week, together with two ceremonial golden swords, the sword of the Dauphin and the sword of Louis XVIII. There remains then to be sold a quantity of rubies, emeralds, sapphires and turquoises 51,403 brilliants, weighing 9,910 carats; 21,119 roses, weighing 471 carats, and 2,693 pearls, weighing 7,934 carats. It i expected that this sale will not produce more than \$1,000,000, and the chief buyers will neces-sarily be the dealers who will buy the important pieces, which they will unmount, for two reasons: In the first place, in order to retail the stones, and, in the second place, because the existing mounts are old-fashioned. Some of the Pari jewellers are also forming private syndicates of customers for the purchase of lots, which will be divided and mounted according to advertised patterns.

But where is the guarantee of identiy? During the next few years Paris jewellers will doubtless sell nothing but "crown jewels," remounted, and the the diamonds "worn by Marie Antoinette" will become as plentiful as fragments of the true cross. In reality, in spite of the tirades of the reactionary newspapers, the sale of the French crown jewels is not a national disgrace, inasmuch as the jewels having a real artistic value are not included in the transaction, but merely a stock of precious stones the equal of which may be seen any day in the shops in the Rue de la Paix. Indeed, the French republic, by placing the choicest specimens in the national museum and frankly selling the rest, shows more respect for these crown jewels than was shown by many of the monarchs who pawned or squandered der their history more interesting. them, thereby, it is true, helping to ren-

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