

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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THE OFFICIAL BALLOT.

Nebraska has had a different form of official ballot nearly every two years since the Australian system has been put into effect. Whether the alterations have been in the direction of improvement or to meet altered conditions in the political situation, the confusion arising from the frequent changes has been marked and in some instances unnecessary.

CONFESSIONS FROM CUBA.

There is some promise that congress will inform the Cubans as to the concessions desired by the United States. The senate committee on relations with Cuba has under consideration several propositions to be embraced in a treaty with the new republic, instead of being incorporated in the Cuban constitution.

ONE MORE WEEK OF CONGRESS.

There is but one more week of the Fifty-sixth congress. In that brief time there is much business to be done in order to clear the tables of everything absolutely essential to the support of the government. Several of the appropriation bills are yet to be acted upon and the outlook is that some of them will not be passed until the very last hour of the session, though this would not be an extraordinary experience for the second or third session of congress.

FREE ADVICE TO THE LEGISLATURE.

Dakota City (Tele. Reg.) Should the Nebraska legislature conclude to pass a law establishing a state purchasing board through which everything used in the different institutions shall be purchased it would result in an enormous saving to the state, a saving of over \$100,000.

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A MATRIMONIAL MEASURE.

Proposals to fine bachelors of forty and over who do not marry. A member of the Connecticut legislature has introduced a curious bill to promote matrimony, by enacting that a man remaining unmarried until he is 40 years old may not marry until he has paid \$100 to the state as a fine.

SLAVERY IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

New System of Labor Contracts, So-Called, Said to be Iniquitous. Philadelphia North American. Slavery has been re-established in South Carolina under the name of labor contracts. The iniquity of the scheme was revealed during the trial of a farmer for the murder of a negro and a grand jury has been ordered to investigate the matter and begin proceedings to break up the system.

STATE EDITORS TALK POLITICS.

Pender Republican (rep.): Every day's delay in choosing senators at Lincoln is lessening the chance for the continuation of the political supremacy in Nebraska. We have heard remarks in the last week from as staunch republicans as are to be found anywhere that if this deadlock were not broken soon and two good republicans elected to the senate that they would not vote the republican ticket in the future.

GRAVE CRISIS IN CHINA.

Another War Cloud of Large Dimensions Looming Up in the Orient. Chicago Record. The formal declaration of the foreign ministers at Peking that under no circumstances will they accept the Chinese proposals regarding punishment virtually amounts to an ultimatum. The Chinese government is informed that they will have eight days to consider the matter, and if it remains obstinate in its present position diplomatic negotiations will be at a standstill.

GRAVE CRISIS IN CHINA.

A similar raid directed against any civilized power for failure to accept an ultimatum would be an act of war, and if it is not technically known as war in this case it involves a dangerous menace of actual war. It is to be hoped that the United States, reserving its right to secure its share of reparation in the final settlement, will exert every effort through the usual diplomatic channels to put a stop to the execution of Count von Waldersee's project. It is not apparent that these raids in the past have had any other effect than that of inflaming the anti-foreign sentiment in China. It is quite certain, on the other hand, that if the foreign troops in China are put to the task of enforcing compliance with the powers' demands, they can keep their futile operations so long as the emperor, ruler and her court choose to remain stubborn.

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Waldere's shows in promoting them gives evidence of the question whether a sincere desire of avoiding conflict and preserving the integrity of the Chinese empire. CURRENT HUMOR. Chicago Tribune: "That's about as hum a piece of statistics, depicting the war in the ever-plowed these waters. Oh, I don't know," replied the paragon. "It's a good deal stuck on it myself."

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UNITED STATES AT THE HEAD OF THE WORLD'S EXPORTING NATIONS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—(Special.)—The United States now stands at the head of the world's exporting nations. The figures for the calendar year, 1900, when compared with those of other nations, show that our exports of domestic products are greater than those of any other country. The exports of domestic merchandise from the United States in the calendar year 1900 were \$1,458,013,659; those from the United Kingdom, which have heretofore led in the race for this distinction, were \$1,418,348,000, and those from Germany \$1,056,611,000.

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Additional interest is attached to the fact that the United States is now the first nation in the world to have an exporting nation by the fact that a quarter of a century ago it stood fourth in that list. In 1875 the domestic exports of the United States were \$497,283,737; those of Germany, \$277,000,000; those of France, \$247,489,000, and those of the United Kingdom \$1,037,497,000. Today the United States stands at the head of the list, and France fourth, with the figures as follows: United States, \$1,458,013,659; Germany, \$1,056,611,000; France, \$277,000,000. All these figures, it should be remembered, relate to the exports of domestic products. Thus, in the quarter century the United States has increased its exports from \$497,283,737 to \$1,458,013,659, or 122 per cent; Germany from \$277,000,000 to \$1,056,611,000, or 37 per cent; the United Kingdom, from \$1,037,497,000 to \$1,418,348,000, or 34 per cent; and France from \$247,489,000 to \$277,000,000, or 11 per cent.

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The following table, compiled from official reports, shows the exports of domestic merchandise from the United States, the United Kingdom and Germany, in each calendar year from 1875 to 1900:

Table with columns: Year, United States, Germany, United Kingdom. Rows from 1875 to 1900 showing export values in dollars.

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