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At last accounts, the deposits in the savings banks of the United States amounted, in round numbers, to \$2,200,000,000—an impressive total, which represents an average of nearly \$30 for every man, woman and child in the country.

THE NEED OF SAVINGS BANKS.

More than four-fifths of the deposits, or, to be more nearly exact, a little more than 87 per cent., are in the 11 New England and middle states, leaving less than 13 per cent. distributed among the other 24 states.

A RECORD OF HEROISM.

The annual report of the federal life-saving service is one that is read by a few and cuts little figure among the department publications, and yet it deserves to be widely read as a record of heroism and service to humanity performed by the life guardsmen who patrol our ocean and lake coasts to save life and property, justly observes the Chicago Tribune.

Borrowing a convict from state prison to open a safe seems rather a startling thing to do. A dispatch to the Chicago Tribune from Columbus, O., tells of such an occurrence: "In order to secure valuable papers belonging to her dead husband, Col. F. J. Pickard, a civil engineer, who died a few days ago, an expert safe-blower, now a convict in the state penitentiary, was loaned to Mrs. Pickard by the warden to open the strong box in which the papers were kept.

R. Moore ran for justice of the peace in Bourbon county, Kan., at the recent election, and was defeated. He publishes an affidavit regarding his election expenses and gets in a fling at his successful rival in this fashion: "Uniontown, Kan., Nov. 28, 1900: Not having any blanks, and being a law-abiding citizen and a defeated candidate for justice of the peace in Marion township, I hereby certify under oath that I did not expend one cent to secure my election. I further swear and firmly believe if I had spent \$500, and had two butcher shops to back me, I could have been elected to a ten-dollar office."

DUE TO REPUBLICANS.

Rural Free Delivery of Mails a Beneficent Result of McKinley's Administration.

The rural free delivery has been such a surprising success that it has no open opponents. This has not always been the case. When the experiment was proposed by the Harrison administration it was quite generally condemned and congress made a meager appropriation for a very limited trial of the scheme. It was denounced on the ground that it would involve an expense far beyond the advantage promised.

Rural free delivery is more than the word success would imply, since it is the adoption of a new policy that is certain to change the relation of city and country to an extent that may be called revolutionary.

BRYAN'S MAGIC TOUCH.

The Discredited Prophet of Disaster Never Relinquishes His Hold.

So William Jennings Bryan intends to start a newspaper of his own. He is to do this in order, as he announces, to keep "in touch with social, economic and political problems."

We sincerely trust that Mr. Bryan's anticipations of a success that will allow him "more time with his family than he has been able to enjoy for several years" will be realized.

Talk of the Midas touch! The man who, by keeping "in touch with social, economic and political problems" in the columns of a weekly newspaper, can hope to allure one dollar a head from 6,502,925 American citizens annually has a snap beyond Col. Sellers' dream of selling eye water to 500,000,000 sore-eyed Chinese!

Great is Bryan, there's millions in his touch.—Chicago Times-Herald.

Senator Hanna has been the recipient of more abuse than praise, but the delegate in the convention of the Federation of Labor who declared that he would prefer Mr. Hanna in the cabinet over any representative of labor paid him a compliment worth having.—Indianapolis Journal.

The total McKinley plurality on the popular vote is now placed at 996,000. Later and fuller official returns may bring it nearer the million mark. Both on the electoral and popular vote President McKinley is a record breaker.—Troy Times.

PROSPERITY INFLATES.

Increase of Money in Circulation Through an Honest Policy.

In the report of the director of the mint appears convincing evidence of the utter absence of any necessity for an artificial inflation of our national currency. For the fiscal year we produced \$71,000,000 in gold, over \$6,000,000,000 in excess of the output during the banner year of our history.

Statistics upon this subject, as affecting the United States, throw additional light upon a feature of the recent report of the secretary of the treasury. Within the comparatively short period of four years there has been an increase of 33 per cent., or \$500,000,000, in the circulating medium of this country.

Nearly two-thirds of this expansion has been in gold coin and certificates; one-fifth in silver dollars, certificates and subsidiary silver coin, and the remainder in government and national bank notes.

The increase that has been made in a currency that is good the world over, is greater by 50 per cent. than all the mints in the country could have turned out in silver had they worked at their fullest capacity, 24 hours a day.

WILL BRYAN RUN AGAIN?

The Defeated Popocret Thinks the Democracy Will Act the Fool Again.

Mr. Bryan has recovered his breath and, being sure of his wind, enters the lists for the third battle. In a published communication Mr. Bryan announces the democratic platform for 1904. His announcement of that platform is in itself an announcement of his candidacy for the nomination in 1904.

Bryan reads out of the party for 1904, as for 1900 and 1896, the gold democrats. In his eyes defeat for the democratic party is less to be deplored than obscurity for Bryan. Perpetual candidacy brings Bryan a better income than ever did the practice of law.

CURRENT COMMENT.

At present democrats are very little disposed to look forward, but four years hence they will learn some valuable lessons, if so inclined, by looking backward.—Indianapolis Journal.

Adlai Stevenson does not display as much interest in the defeat of the democratic party as Mr. Bryan does. But then this was to have been Mr. Stevenson's second helping.—Washington Star.

McKinley had in the state of New York a majority of 96,072 over all other candidates. Such figures were unknown before the democratic party dropped to its present level.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Apparently Mr. Bryan has started in to write for publication and for compensation. Surely newspapers will not be so foolish as to contract for his interviews with himself at space rates!—Indianapolis News (Ind.).

Mr. Bryan's decision to start a weekly newspaper for the airing of his views is wise and should be satisfying to the public, for this means that the disowned prophet of the democracy run to seed will secure a harmless outlet for his superabundance of energy.—Pittsburgh Leader.

As a first step toward the reorganization of the democratic party Col. Henry Watterson should feed the Kansas City platform to his famous "horned lion of plutocracy." The moral might kill the creature, but it would be an immense relief to the party.—N. Y. Mail and Express.

William Jennings Bryan is to be admired for his courage, if not praised for his discretion. The man who can deliberately start a paper in defense of the principles of the Kansas City platform after reading the returns of the last election is certainly not lacking in nerve.—Detroit Journal.

Free trade, or, to use the modern term, "tariff for revenue only," is in keeping with the democratic ideal of as little government as possible, allowing the greatest freedom for individual initiative. Will the party swing back to these lines? It is bound to do so in time.—Indianapolis News (Ind.).

RESTS WITH DEVERY.

Tammany's Anti-Vice Committee Says the Chief of Police Is to Blame for Existing Evils in Gotham.

New York, Dec. 25.—The Tammany committee of five at a meeting held Monday issued a statement that Chief of Police Devery could rid the city of vice in two hours if he so chose. They further say that they will present facts to the grand jury in the event of no immediate action being taken by the police.

Chairman Nixon presided at the meeting. Several members of the police department appeared before the committee and said that the places mentioned in the list given to Chief Devery by Chairman Nixon were gambling dens and disorderly houses.

After an executive session of two hours, Chairman Nixon gave out the following statement: "The list of suspicious places handed to the police is by no means complete and we shall be guided by developments as to when and how they shall be made public. My object is to close such places, and by closing them demonstrate to their owners that those who have taken money from them for protection, lack the power to protect. No matter what party is in office, about the same sort of men will be found farming out immunity."

Every department of the city government except the police department is doing good work. I am satisfied by what I have found that the chief of police could close every gambling house and pool room in the city in a few hours. Our motive now is to show that these places are not protected by the Tammany organization and, further than that, to show that a system which has existed during this and the preceding administration, can be stopped if the police department can be induced to act.

The holding of public office should be an incident and not the extreme aim of the citizen. It should not be an end, but the means for the accomplishment of a purpose.

A DUEL AT A DANCE.

An Italian Revel at Mamaroneck, N. Y., Ends in a Murderous Battle.

New York, Dec. 25.—An Italian dance at Mamaroneck, N. Y., which was started Sunday night as a Christmas celebration ended Monday morning in a murderous row, one man being killed outright, another so badly stabbed that he is expected to die and several others receiving bad wounds.

The row was started by Antonio Dori. Verata Naraglano was waltzing around the hall with a young woman who had refused to dance with Dori. The latter followed them about the hall, ridiculing their dancing and making himself generally disagreeable to them.

Naraglano drew a revolver, Dori a stiletto. The latter made a plunge at Naraglano and drove his stiletto deep into the man's breast. Naraglano fired twice. One shot tore open Dori's arm and the other struck Antonio Guiseppi, one of the musicians, in the eye, the bullet penetrating the brain. This immediately precipitated a general fight.

Congress Must Act First.

Washington, Dec. 25.—It has been decided that no further action can be taken with regard to the return of the volunteers from the Philippines until congress shall make provision for their displacement.

Manila, Dec. 25.—Advices from the island of Leyte show that there is still considerable turmoil on the west coast, but that the east coast is quiet, the leaders having retired to the mountains.

Fighting in Leyte.

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Wholesale Arrests of Students.

London, Dec. 27.—Three hundred students have been arrested at St. Petersburg, according to a dispatch to the Daily Express, for propagating socialist doctrine.

FUSIONISTS FEAST.

Messrs. Bryan and Kern Deliver Notable Speeches at a Banquet Given in Lincoln, Neb.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 27.—The annual banquet of the Jeffersonian club of Lincoln last night brought together nearly 300 representative men of the democratic and populist parties of Nebraska, together with a number of leaders from other states.

Aside from the remarks of Mr. Bryan, the event of the evening was the speech of John W. Kern, defeated democratic candidate for governor of Indiana, who aroused the banqueters to a high pitch of enthusiasm, not only by his laudation of Mr. Bryan, but by his outspoken criticism of those democrats whom he accused of contributing to Bryan's defeat.

"Whether I shall ever be a candidate for office again is a question which must be determined by events. No one can speak with certainty of the future, for one's destiny is not known until his life's work is complete. I shall be content if it is my lot to aid in the triumph of the principles while others enjoy the honors and bear the responsibility of office."

Cannot Get Enough.

A letter received from Mrs. L. S. Magoon of Bagley, Iowa, reads as follows: "One bottle of your Lotion has given me so much relief from Tetter of many years' standing, that I am anxious to get more, and desire to know where in this region I can find it." Palmer's Lotion cures Tetter, Scabies, Barber's Itch and every kind of virulent cutaneous disease.

Her Pointed View.

Chappie (blase)—"Don't you think society is an empty thing?" Miss Fuller—I think there are lots of empty things in society.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Try Grain-O! Try Grain-O!

Ask your grocer to-day to show you a package of GRAIN-O, the new food drink that takes the place of coffee.

Too Refined.

"No," said Farmer Meddlergrass, "that Boston fellow that come here to run the paper doesn't seem to get along very well. Our folks ain't much for style, an when he referred to a skin game as 'an epidemic pastime' they thought he was becoming a little too high-toned."—Baltimore American.

Lane's Family Medicine.

Moves the bowels each day. In order to be healthy this is necessary. Acts gently on the liver and kidneys. Cures sick head-ache. Price 25 and 50c.

Concerning two things advise no one; marrying and going to wars.—Spanish.

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UPRIGHT. Straight and strong is the statue when the twists and curvatures of Lumbago are cured and straightened out by St. Jacobs Oil.

Advertisement for St. Jacobs Oil featuring an illustration of a man with a backache and the text "UPRIGHT. Straight and strong is the statue when the twists and curvatures of Lumbago are cured and straightened out by St. Jacobs Oil."

\$3.00 W. L. DOUGLAS SHOES \$3.50. UNION MADE.

The real worth of W. L. Douglas shoes \$3.00 and \$3.50 compared with other makes is \$1.00 to \$1.50.

Advertisement for W. L. Douglas shoes with an illustration of a shoe and the text "WE USE FAST COLOR EYELETS. One pair of W. L. Douglas \$3 or \$3.50 shoes will positively outwear two pairs of ordinary \$3 or \$3.50 shoes."

RECEIVERS ARE APPOINTED. C. R. Baird & Co., Steel and Iron Mill Owners, are Embarrassed.

Philadelphia, Dec. 27.—Judge McPherson, in the United States district court, yesterday appointed John N. M. Shimer and William H. Stoker receivers in bankruptcy of C. R. Baird & Co., operating a number of iron furnaces.

THE REASON more W. L. Douglas shoes are sold is because THEY ARE THE BEST. Your dealer should keep them, we give one dollar exclusive sale in each town.

Advertisement for Do You Cough? Don't Delay Take Kemp's Balsam for the Cough Cure. Includes an illustration of a person coughing and text describing the product's benefits.