

THE WAR DEBT

ITS UPS AND DOWNS DURING THE THIRTY YEARS.

High-Water Mark in 1867—Low-Water Mark in 1892—Principal, Interest and Premiums—In Round Figures, \$4,000,000 Paid.

(Washington Correspondence of the *Globe-Democrat*.)

Senator Cockrell delights to dwell in details. His mind naturally grasps the minutiae of Government affairs. This is so well known that it makes him an authority on his line among Senators. Especially is Senator Cockrell strong on the dollars and cents transactions of the Government. Recently he has been overhauling the figures pertaining to the public debt. He has had compiled some information which will interest and surprise the average reader who knows little and cares less about the nation's monetary obligations. There seems to be no political purpose in what the Senator has drawn forth. The results simply show in dollars the marvelous recuperation of the nation from the cost of the civil war.

The statement prepared for Senator Cockrell by the Chief of the Treasury Bureau of Statistics, Worthington Ford, shows the condition of the public debt for every year from 1865 to the end of 1895. That debt was \$2,221,311,918 at the end of 1865. It increased in 1866 and in 1867, reaching a maximum of the latter year of \$2,248,067,337.

In the thirty years ending with 1895 the country has paid on the principal of this debt \$1,505,109,858.

This reduction of the principal is magnificent testimony to the recuperative power of the United States. But what will people say when they learn that in addition to the reduction of principal the country has paid in interest during the thirty years a sum greater than the debt at its maximum? Here are the figures:

Paid on principal from 1865 to 1895.....\$1,505,109,858
Paid in interest from 1865 to 1895.....2,356,760,931

Total principal and interest paid.....\$3,861,870,789

The debt of the United States reached \$2,500,000,000 in round figures, but the country has already paid on account of it nearly \$4,000,000,000.

The lowest point reached by the debt was in 1892, the closing year of the Harrison administration. It stood then at \$585,029,330, about one-fourth of the debt at its maximum in 1867, and about one-seventh of the total amount which has been paid in principal and interest.

In the thirty years that the United States has been dealing with the war debt the reductions and increases present some interesting figures.

In the year that the debt reached its highest point, which was 1867, a payment of \$84,000,000 was made on the principal in addition to \$138,000,000 of interest. None of the debt was due in 1867. To persuade bondholders to let go of their appreciated securities the Government had to go into the market and pay a premium of \$10,900,000 in the extinction of this \$84,000,000 of debt.

Of the thirty years from 1865 to 1896, twenty-two years have shown reductions and eight years have shown increases of the debt.

The largest reduction of the debt in any one of these twenty-two years was made in 1882, the first year of the Arthur administration, when \$175,000,000 of the bonds was wiped out. These bonds fell due and were redeemed without the payment of any premium.

The smallest reduction in the twenty-two years was in 1876, when only \$11,600,000 of the bonded debt was extinguished.

In making the reduction of the debt faster than the bonds fell due the Government has paid \$119,000,000 in premiums. If the premiums are added to the interest paid and to the twenty-two reductions of the debt it will be seen that the total paid on account of the war debt is \$3,980,000,000.

Of the eight years in which additions were made to the debt, the first was the year 1868, when \$111,000,000 was the increase.

The second addition was made in 1874, the year following the panic of 1873. That increase was \$23,000,000.

In the year of the great railroad strikes, 1877, and in the two years of depression and hard times following, there were increases of the debt. The increase of 1877 was \$1,000,000 in round figures. In 1878 it was \$84,000,000. In 1879 it was \$3,000,000.

After 1879 the reductions began, and in every year for thirteen years the debt was cut down. It was during this period that the largest reduction, already mentioned, that in 1882, was made. In the thirteen years from 1879 to 1893, covering the administration of Hayes (in part), Garfield and Arthur, Cleveland (the first) and Harrison, the reduction was \$1,206,000,000.

In the last two fiscal years included in Cleveland's first administration there was a reduction of \$192,000,000. For the redemption of bonds called in before due, premiums amounting to \$25,000,000 were paid.

In the first three fiscal years covered by Harrison's administration the net reduction of the debt were \$245,000,000. The amount paid for premiums was \$30,000,000.

In the last nine months of the Harrison administration and first three months of the first year of Cleveland's second administration the debt showed an increase of \$7,000.

In the first fiscal year of Cleveland's second administration the increase was \$50,000,000. In the second, it was \$81,000,000.

100,000. The third full year will not be ended until June 30. It will include the February sale of \$100,000,000 bonds.

The interest paid on the war debt was \$15,977,697 in 1867. That was the high-water mark.

In 1892, the last fiscal year of the Harrison administration, the interest paid was \$22,392,833. That was the low-water mark.

The interest paid in 1895 was \$29,000,000. For 1896 the interest charge will be about \$34,000,000.

The interest charges of 1865 are about what the pension appropriation bill calls for now. The interest charges now are about what was paid in pensions thirty years ago.

The Government's fiscal year ends on June 30. The figures given above are on that basis. The presidential year ends on the 3d of March. In order to make comparisons more accurate, Senator Cockrell has had a separate compilation made by presidential years for the Harrison and the two Cleveland administrations.

When Mr. Cleveland entered the White House on the 4th of March, 1885, the public debt was \$1,196,149,690. During that administration the debt was reduced \$238,042,389. The interest paid during the first Cleveland administration was \$188,255,905. In principal, interest and premiums there was paid in the four years of the first Cleveland administration \$551,000,000.

President Harrison found the public debt \$858,106,220 when he entered upon his term. He left \$858,034,260. The reduction of the principal during the Harrison administration was \$263,496,260.

The interest paid during the Harrison administration was \$123,521,436. The payments on principal, interest and premiums during the four years of Harrison were \$423,000,000.

President Cleveland completed three years of his second term in March of this year. The debt was \$858,000,000 when he was inaugurated the second time. At the end of his third year, March 3, 1896, it was \$822,000,000, an increase of \$237,000,000.

The interest paid in the third presi-

ential year of the second Cleveland administration, the year that recently closed, was \$34,000,000.

In the third

presidential year of Harrison's term the interest charge was \$21,000,000.

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FROM TAUBENECK.

HIS REPLY TO THE JOLIET NEWS EDITOR.

The Position of the Populist Party Clearly and Patriotically Put—Fusion With Old Parties Would Be an Impossibility.

National Chairman Taubeneck has sent the following letter to Jas. H. Ferris, editor of the Joliet (Ill.) News. It speaks for itself:

Jas. H. Ferris, Joliet, Ill.

My Dear Sir:—Yours of the 20th inst. enclosing clipping from the "Chicago Record" containing press dispatch from Indianapolis, dtd May 19, giving what is supposed to be the proceedings of a conference between the Indiana populists, bimetallists and silver democrats, received yesterday. In reply will state, that so far as headquarters and the national committee are concerned, there is not one word of truth in the report.

It is a deliberate falsehood and fabrication from beginning to end. If Indiana populists have gone into a combination of this kind, they have not taken anyone in other states into their confidence. No populist, bimetallist or silver democrat, has ever mentioned a single word to me about a combination as stated in the dispatch. You must accept, with much allowance, anything that comes from Indianapolis.

Twice before, and within the last year, have fake statements and dispatches, in which populists have figured, emanated from that city. I repeat, as I have a hundred times before, that no nation of the reform forces can ever be perfected in either of the old parties I have spent too much time and labor to get people to leave the old parties and I shall not advise them to go back regardless of what their respective parties may do. Populist editors and populists in general must realize that we cannot control the columns of the old party press. We have no way to prevent them from publishing fake statements.

Anything that appears along those lines, especially now when there seems to be a break-up in the ranks of the old parties, must be accepted with much allowance. It matters not what the democratic party may do at Chicago, or what the bimetallists may do at St. Louis, or whether they meet us at all, the people's party will hold a national convention July 22, make a platform and nominate candidates for president and vice-president. Our convention will be controlled by populists, and whatever is done at that convention, will be the word of the representatives of the people's party elected by the members of that party throughout the United States.

This report from Indianapolis, in regard to the populists endorsing the nominees of the Chicago convention, is on a par with the statements made about a one plank platform, or a single silver plank platform.

There isn't a populist in the United States, so far as I know who has ever advanced a one plank platform, still less a single silver plank platform.

I never did, and do not now, favor such a platform. It is no credit to a gentleman or a populist paper, to misrepresent the views of others. The talk of selling out, controlling state conventions and state delegations, is a down-right insult to every populist in the land.

As though populists could be persuaded to do something against their convictions.

It is humiliating to the people's party to have populist papers publish such nonsense. If I had no better opinion of the average populist than these papers express, I would certainly give up the contest as hopeless.

I know the populists are honest, and at our national convention, they will do that which is best for the party and our country.

Every populist in the United States has a right to express his opinion as to what the platform should contain. He also has a right to work and vote to select delegates who will represent his views in the national convention.

Anything short of this means to throttle the law creating the National Bank notes or to restore circulation the government issue of money will be to provide the people with money, and will therefore seriously affect your individual profit as bankers and lenders. See your Congressman at once and engage him to support our interests that we may control legislation.

This one issued March, 1893, by the Bankers' Association to all National Banks:

The Bank Circular.

Dear Sir: It is advisable to do all in your power to sustain such prominent daily and weekly newspapers, especially the agricultural and religious press, as will oppose the issuing of greenback paper money, and that you also will hold patronage or favor from all applicants who are willing to oppose the government issue of money. Let the government issue the coin and the banks issue the paper money of the country, for then we can better protect each other.

To repeal the law creating the National Bank notes or to restore circulation the government issue of money will be to provide the people with money, and will therefore seriously affect your individual profit as bankers and lenders. See your Congressman at once and engage him to support our interests that we may control legislation.

The Panic Bulletin.

Dear Sir: The interests of the National Bankers require immediate financial legislation by Congress. Silver Certificates and Treasury notes must be retired, and the National Bank notes upon a gold basis made the only money. This will require the authorization of from \$500,000,000 to \$1,000,000,000 of new bonds as a basis of circulation.

You will at once retire one-third of your circulation and call in one-half of your loans. Be careful to make a money stringency felt among your patrons, especially among influential business men. Advocate an extra session of Congress for the repeal of the purchase clause of the Sherman law and act with the other banks of your city in securing a large petition to Congress for its unconditional repeal.

Use personal influence with Congressmen and particularly let your wishes be known to your Senators. The future life of National banks as fixed and safe investments depends upon immediate action as there is an increasing sentiment in favor of government legal tender notes and silver coinage.

Rich Thieves.

The rich thieves of the Union Stock Yards who stole water from the Chicago city water works, by connecting the water mains with pipes, that run into the packing and fertilizing manufacturing establishments of that nest of millionaire anarchists, have not yet been made even to pay for the water that they stole, and no effort has been made to indict them for the crime they committed.

Chicago is pretty steadily engaged in hanging friendless and obscure men who commit murder; in imprisoning little boys who, from their environments are led into little pilfering; in punishing men who sometimes steal to keep their children from starving, and men who steal a coat to keep them from freezing in winter; but a millionaire Stock Yards thief, perhaps a prominent member of the church and a star in the social circle is permitted to go unwhipped of justice. We have changed our mind in regard to a standing army. This country ought to have millions of men under arms, as sure as the sun shines and the seasons come and go, there will need to be a soldier with fixed bayonet on every third yard of our territory if this monstrous perversion of justice goes on.

The success of the wealth destroyer means ruin to the country and its credit.

The success of the wealth producer means universal prosperity, and a nation of homes and patriots, with national honor and credit.

One of these classes must go down in the struggle now on.

Either the wealth consumer must be crushed in his greed for gold

Or the wealth producer must go into wage slavery and peonage.

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Voter, for which class will you cast your ballot?—Southern Mercury.

when they know we will receive a large following from their ranks in the south and west.

Yours for our cause,

H. E. TA