

THE HERALD.

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BY EMMETT BROS.

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The Plattsmouth merchants enjoyed a large Christmas trade.

The grand jury returned thirty-nine indictments Saturday afternoon. Nineteen were against J. Dan Lauer.

The police pension fund of New York city has been enriched by a Christmas gift from Cornelius Vanderbilt. The gift is a check for \$5,000.

The council last night by a vote of six to two decided to carry the injunction case to the supreme court.

The Nebraska legislature will convene one week from next Tuesday. And in the mean time the fight for the speakership goes merrily on.

ANY democratic congressman has the right to introduce a bill to repeal the McKinley bill; but no democratic congressman has the spunk to do so.

SPEAKER CRISP is going to have another chance for a square meal and decent treatment. The banquet will be at Philadelphia where mugwumps sing low.

THOSE who hang up their stockings Saturday night, and especially those at Lincoln were presented with several presents by the grand jury that were not very acceptable.

MR. BLAND favors on income tax. So do two out of every three democrats in congress. Apparently the next congress will send an income tax bill to President Cleveland to either sign or vote.

If the B. & M. depot had caught fire Sunday night instead of Monday night the firemen would have been powerless to save it. The B. & M. should now build a decent depot at this place.

HILL will not resign when Cleveland nominates men for the federal offices in New York who are distasteful to him. He has a different view of the course to be pursued in order to make things unpleasant for men whom he does not like.

The large number now under sentence of death, as well as the number indicted for murder, in New York has alarmed empire statesmen, and they propose to repeal the law of death by electrocution and substitute imprisonment for life.

Two classes, the silver mine owners and the speculators, would profit by the reduction of the monetary system to a silver basis. The rest of the people, however, would be harmed by the change, and they are numerous enough to prevent the change.

The democratic party is in great luck at present. It has just got a lease of four years on all the offices here below, and its comfort in the next world is assured by an orthodox writer of eminence who has just declared that there is happiness in hell.

The democratic steering committee of congress will not steer up against the rock of the McKinley law until they feel that they are compelled to. They are a good deal more skittish than they were on the stump two or three months ago. They begin to see what a genuine statesman-like act the law is.

The scheme to elect a successor to M. B. Murphy last night was cut and dried; the newly elected members knew just how to vote. While Mr. Graves may be well qualified for the position, there were older members of the council who were entitled to the honor, a good deal more so than is Mr. Graves. Mr. Graves should have withdrawn in favor of J. C. Petersen.

SENATOR McPHERSON has introduced a joint resolution directing the secretary of the treasury to suspend all silver bullion purchases until otherwise ordered by congress. As such representative democrats as McPherson and such representative republicans as Sherman are against the silver law of 1890, congress ought to be able to either repeal it or render it harmless.

CHOLERA AND IMMIGRATION.

The announcement that cholera is on the increase in Hamburg will strongly impress the United States with the necessity of promptly adopting all practicable measures to bar out this malady. At no time since the pestilence first secured a foothold in that city five or six months ago has it been absent from the place says the Globe-Democrat. With the advent of cold weather, of course, the number of cases declined, but it is understood that there have been some cases all along. In Russia, too, the malady has been present from the time that it has passed into that country from its breeding grounds in Asia. Even now, when the pest-stricken region of Russia is having severer weather than this country as far north as the latitude of New York has felt, accounts are frequently published of deaths from this disease. It will remain there throughout the cold months, undoubtedly, and will break out with greater violence in the spring than it revealed last summer. This is the usual course of procedure in all countries where cholera secures a chance to develop itself. In one or two points in Italy and France seven or eight years ago this happened, and the utmost vigilance and skill of the authorities failed to root it completely out until after it had manifested itself for two or three consecutive years.

The duty of congress, therefore, is so plain and so imperative that it cannot be ignored or dodged without leaving that body open to the charge of criminal stupidity or incapacity. The Chandler immigration bill, or some measure as drastic and effective, must be passed at the earliest practicable moment. We know that the cholera has been present in Hamburg and at several points in Russia all through the cold season thus far. Our diplomatic agents in those localities have reported this to the state department at Washington, and as these officials were late in reporting on its original appearance, its presence must be manifest enough to be seen by everybody on the ground, or else they would hardly note it. Immigration from Europe must be entirely suspended for a year, or until the malady disappears altogether. It is reasonably certain that Hamburg will have a worse siege from cholera next spring and summer than was known last summer. It will undoubtedly pass to other places on the continent, and perhaps to the British Islands, and all these points will be distribution centers to menace the rest of Europe as well as the United States. Under the present conditions of unrestricted immigration it would be absolutely impossible to keep cholera out of this country, even by the exercise of the greatest vigilance and intelligence at our seaports. The wise course for us in this crisis, and the only course that promises any satisfactory results whatever, is to cut off all immigration from Europe to this country for the time being. This measure of defense against the pestilence the public safety demands should be adopted by congress promptly after the close of the holiday recess.

BLAINE ON GARFIELD.

New York Press: Blaine's tender eulogy of Garfield just ten years ago is recalled with pathetic interest now. It was delivered in the house of representatives before both houses of congress, and it closed with this eloquent peroration, Garfield's last day: "As the end drew near his craving for the sea returned. The stately mansion of power had been to him the wearisome hospital of pain, and he begged to be taken from its prison walls, from its oppressive, stifling air, from its homeless and its hopelessness. Gently, silently the love of a great people bore the pale sufferer to the longed-for healing of the sea, to live or die as God should will within sight of its having billows, with sound of its manifold voices. With wan, fevered face tenderly lifted to the cooling breeze he looked out wistfully upon the sea's changing wonders; on its far sails whitening in the morning light; on its restless waves rolling shoreward, to break and die beneath the noonday sun; on the red clouds of evening arching low to the horizon on the serene and shining pathway of the stars. Let us think that his dying eyes read a mystic meaning which only the rapt and parting soul may know. Let us believe that in the silence of the receding world he heard the great waves breaking on the further shore, and felt already upon his brow the breath of the eternal morning."

It MAY be taken for granted that Cleveland has practically selected all the members of his cabinet, and there is no reason to believe that his mind can be changed by visiting delegations of men whose names are not on the list.

It is not surprising that the missionary societies which exercise so powerful an influence in English politics should have strained every nerve to prevent the British government from abandoning Uganda. Since 1876, says the New York Tribune when mission stations were first established in the Nyanza district, no less than eighteen missionaries, including two bishops, have lost their lives in carrying out their work of propagating Christianity and civilization. The native Christians in Uganda, where several millions of dollars have been spent by the missionary societies, number many thousands, and for the English to evacuate the country would be to abandon them to persecution and annihilation. Under the circumstances the announcement that the British government has consented to reconsider its determination and to retain, at any rate for some time to come, possession of the country, will be received with satisfaction by all people interested in the spread of civilization.

KALISPEL, the city of Northern Montana, on the Great Northern railroad, is not two years old, but its growth is marvelous. It is lighted by electricity, is just completing water works which will furnish an unlimited supply of pure mountain water, and has a well organized city council and board of trade, and public buildings and residences that would be a credit to cities fifty years old. It has in Flathead Valley Reservation the finest body of farming land in the state, while the mountains and hills are rich in mineral wealth. A great immigration is expected along this new line of the great northern in the early spring, when the road will be completed to the Pacific coast.

THE HERALD takes pleasure in presenting the name of Prof. Geo. R. Chatburn of Wymore as the proper person for principal of the institute for the blind at Nebraska City. Mr. Chatburn is now superintendent of the public schools at Wymore and was for a number of years superintendent of the public schools of Plattsmouth city. Mr. Chatburn is eminently qualified for the position and if he should secure the appointment would discharge his duties in an able and satisfactory manner. THE HERALD, therefore, submits the name of Mr. Chatburn to Governor Crouse for his consideration.

RUSSIAN authorities acknowledge that the cholera the past year took off 270,000 persons. The probabilities are that it was fully one-third larger than this. The cold weather has checked its ravages, but the disease still shows itself alive in every infected district. If the United States congress refuse to take warning, and prevent its entrance into the country, they will be false to the best interests of the country.

SENATOR PALMER says that he opposed the anti-option bill when he made his campaign for office two years ago. The senator remembers a good many things now that were not heard of before. He will after a while remember that he has always been the warm personal friend and admirer of Horizontal Bill Morrison, if that gentleman gets into Cleveland's cabinet.

THE next administration must be conducted from the white house, and not from Tammany hall, says the New York Herald. That is just what the republicans said during the campaign, but the Herald was then very quiet about Mr. Cleveland's pledges to Tammany leaders. The Herald should have made its protests about four months ago.

THE late Senator Gibson, of Louisiana, was one of those, exceptionally competent men whom the South occasionally sends to Washington, and it is to be hoped that his successor will be of the same class, though the chances are all against such a selection.

PROBABLY the democratic bosses in the western states which have senatorial contests on hand are equal to the rascality which the exigencies of their party demand, yet the national bosses officiously interfere in these fights.

THE popular sentiment in favor of a national quarantine is practically unanimous, and congress has no excuse for delay in the matter of providing such a safeguard against a possible visitation of cholera.

It is strange about Cleveland. Before the election he answered every letter by return mail. Today a letter signed with an A. M., L. M., M. D., gets no response.

If the populists can elect a senator in Kansas, Mrs. Lease is undoubtedly the strongest man.

THE SWEATER SYSTEM.

It may be recalled that a sub-committee of the committee on manufactures of the house of representatives visited this city some months ago to investigate the sweater system as it exists in Chicago. The same committee visited other cities for the same purpose. Testimony has been taken in Washington also, and a statement was made public yesterday which ought to stimulate reform. It shows a sickening condition of affair.

There is just one bright side to the picture, and that is the absence of evidence of immorality. "I have the greatest respect," says Chairman Warner, "for the manliness and the womanliness of the persons employed." Well he may, for it appears that they work from 5 or 6 o'clock in the morning until 9 or 10 at night. The temptation for such people to abandon industry for vice or crime as a source of livelihood must be very strong. Drudge from early morning far into the night for the meagerest kind of a living won't make a life of leisure and plenty pecuniary attractive. But there is a dark side to this feature of the system. Mr. Warner and his committee did not meet the men who had turned habitual criminals and the abandoned effort to make a respectable living. If the statistics of the slums could be taken it would be found, no doubt, that overwork and underpay, going hand in hand, were the great recruiting officers for the predatory ranks of society. Thomas Hood sang with tenderest pathos the song of the shirt and the requiem of the "One More Unfortunate" in the same breath. The sweater system, in its essential character, is found wherever labor is excessive and wages inadequate to frugal comfort, and is the whip with which vice drives its victims into its pens.

Chicago is not quite as bad as New York and Philadelphia. This difference is probably due to the fact that this city has not the same residence district in the old part of the city. In those other great cities the down town districts are congested by large tenement houses, occupied by the poorest class, but in Chicago the cheapest rents are to be found remote from the center, and as a consequence darkest Chicago is streaked with light as compared with New York or Philadelphia. But here it is bad enough to be revolting. Dingy rooms, reeking with a stench more intolerable than the filthiest stables, are crowded with men, women and children, taking in poison at every pore and sowing the seeds of disease and death. Says Chairman Warner:

Children in every condition of filth and health swarmed in most of the shops. In the last one we visited every one had gone except two wornout fellows, who had made a pile of the bundles of goods ready to be made up, upon which, without bed-clothes they proposed to sleep, without change of the filthy condition of their persons or their clothes. The "sweater" and the "sweated" perfectly agreed as to the miserably low wages paid.

The problem is to find a remedy. There are a great many employers who care only to get their work done at the cheapest possible rate, but even if all were sincerely anxious to secure reform it would still be very difficult to bring about a change. For one concern or all concerns in that line in one city or a few cities to turn a new leaf with the New Year, while others in the business kept on the old way, would defeat its own end. The margin of profits is narrow; at least it is not wide enough to admit of any very great change in the wage scale, except through some concert of action. The people would be willing to pay a little more for their ready made clothing if that would help matters, but some way must be devised for concerted action. Perhaps congress can pass some law having in it practical relief. The practical end of the report of this sub-committee will be awaited with interest. A mere diagnosis is not a cure. It simply shows what there is to be cured.

SIX YEARS FOR PRESIDENTS.

The proposition before congress for an amendment to the Constitution lengthening the terms of presidents to six years has often been brought forward, says the Globe-Democrat, yet it does not seem to gain much in the popular favor. The scheme has its champions, as it has had for many years past, but it has not enough of them to give it the faintest chance of adoption. Perhaps the men at the head of it think this is a favorable opportunity to place congress on record on the question and to test public sentiment. Such a view, it must be conceded, has some reason for being. There is more loose thinking on grave political questions going on than has been known since the early greenback party days. The

people's party, which is a lineal descendant of the old greenback party, is as ardent and outspoken in the cause of "reform" as its predecessor ever was, and is as reckless regarding means and results. It boldly challenges established judgments and vigorously and persistently assaults established usages and institutions. If that party were powerful enough to accomplish its purposes much of the social and most of the political fabric would be overturned and refashioned out of the new. Therefore, this is as favorable a time as the cranks and impracticables are ever likely to have to gain consideration for their hobbies.

Many of the members of the convention which framed the constitution were in favor of a six-year term for presidents, and a few of the arguments urged in advocacy of the project than are available now. On the whole, however, the plan which was adopted has served its purpose well. After a century's experience with the four-year term the country is not at all anxious to change it. Although thinking people are naturally averse to altering the constitution, they would not hesitate to do so where the necessity was obvious and when the alteration would be a manifest and important improvement. But the case here referred to is not a case of this kind. The plea that quadrennial elections seriously disturb trade and arrest the development of the country is not very impressive. Trade was not disturbed in any harmful degree by the canvass which recently ended, and the work of opening up new industries and extending old ones was not materially retarded. At all events, the political education which these four-year campaigns confer on the people is worth far more than it costs. Such a schooling voters and to think of drilling them in the duties of citizenship. It does not come too often. Four years, with or without the privilege of re-election, may or may not be too short for a good president, but a six-year term, or even a one-year term, would be too long for a bad president.

THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION.

The annual report of the Interstate commerce commission was submitted to congress Monday. It deserves says the Inter Ocean, more than usual attention on account of the proposed changes in the law. The act as it now stands is a mere shred of its original self. The courts have torn and rent it until there is hardly enough left for a sample of the cloth.

This report savors somewhat of Mark Tapley, for it is bright and cheerful in the face of all discouragement. Salaries go on all the same. The commission is gratified at being able to report that many railroad managers of the highest standing now concede the necessity of government regulation and avow themselves in favor of further enactments that will make the regulation effective. This is a clear case of small favors thankfully received. The great railroads back from cutting rates, but when it comes to giving rebates to big shippers they snap their fingers at the law. The rate-cutting lines "pirates," but the rebate form of robbery is doing business on business principles. The grievance of the public is not so much extortion as unjust discrimination, and the relief demanded is protection from favoritism.

The report is entirely right in one important respect. It insists that the recent decisions against the interstate commerce act do not invalidate the principle on which the law stands. That is the one encouraging feature of the case. The Brewer, Riner and Gresham decisions have very nearly destroyed the state as a power in its present form, but the foundation stands secure, and congress can build upon it a statute effective in character. The appliances for carrying out the law have been almost destroyed. Such destruction is a very different thing, however, from undermining the basis of operation. The Gresham decision came the nearest of any of the three to being hostile to the fundamental idea of the law, but it fell just a little short of that. While that decision denies the power of congress to require the federal courts to use the process to compel the production of testimony herefore a non-judicial tribunal, it does not question the right of such a requirement before a judicial body, and the statute can be adjusted to meet the variations in detail.

The shortness of the session ought not to prevent the passage of a new bill. Every committee has its day in congress, and an amended bill should be agreed upon and pressed vigorously. There is urgent need of such legislation as the decisions of the court and the experience of nearly six years unite in indicating and recommending.

C. W. SHERMAN is still in the lead for the Plattsmouth postoffice.

THE CRISIS IN FRANCE.

If France, without recourse to revolution, can extricate herself from her present disgraceful mud-dle in which are involved legislators, ministers, journalists, society itself, it will be because Paris is no as inflammable as in the days of '88. The outrages of Louis did not exceed in wrong to the people the bare-faced swindles the exposition of which has incensed the French people to such a degree that they already confound the mal-administration of the government with the character of the government itself, says the Inter-Ocean. The excitement of having a minister, four ex-ministers and five deputies formally charged with the worst possible form of political corruption might be of itself enough to foment evil passions in the hearts of the disturbance loving Parisians; but when to this is added the popular outcry against the universal government, the cry that "all are guilty," it is easy to understand that there is a crisis impending in French affairs.

The question is, can it be averted peacefully? That result might be attained by a proceeding to determine who are guilty and by prompt action to the fitting punishment of those convicted but for the fact that there are so many interests hostile to the existing form of government operating in every way possible to reactionary frenzy. At this time public sentiment is so strong against the representatives of the government itself is practically under trial. The wholesale plundering has involved so many men of eminence that the public seems to be unwilling to discriminate in favor of any, and imperialists, royalists, Boulangiers and radicals alike see in the airing of the scandal the opportunity for a coup d'etat that may give one of these over-hopeful factions the supremacy.

The wife of one of the Panama directors in surrendering herself a prisoner is quoted as saying: "Should the trial take place M. Carnot will not be president longer than two months." The trial is ordered to take place, and this prediction may be construed into the assurances of revelations that will overwhelm the government. Fortunately Carnot is a man of excellent judgment and sound courage. It is believed, too, that he is a man of integrity. He will meet the issue fearlessly, we doubt not calmly. He will be a tower of strength to the happily if he prove sufficient. But at best the world can but regard the French situation as one of grave international consequence. The dogs of revolutionary war may not be shipped, it is true; but the possibility of their breaking loose is great and not to be lightly considered.

The French populace, urban and rural, is not given to being swindled with impunity to the swindlers. To be robbed heartlessly, shamefully, and to incredible extent is maddening to the French, who are easily worked up to a frenzy. While it is hoped the public will leave the investigation and the punishment to the law, it is feared the constantly enlarging revelations may precipitate an insurrection with a cry of "A bas!" to everything existent in the form of republican government. The greatest assurance of a quiet settlement by legal procedure is the danger that threatens France from without. A France revolution would be the signal for foreign invasion, very likely. The peace of Europe is concerned in the progress of the Panama Canal scandal. From present signs there is no forecasting with certainty the outcome of the disgraceful affair.

WALL street's recent gold flurry is not expected to reappear this winter. The January settlements abroad took out from this country all the gold which will be sought for here at the present time, and heavy exports of the metal are not looked for again until the spring or summer months. Still it must be remembered that the balance of trade in our favor in our dealings with Europe is smaller than usual for this time of the year. Therefore, the stock of gold in the treasury and the banks is not likely to increase largely in the near future.

THE treatment of Chili by the present administration a year ago called out sharp criticism and a multitude of sneers from political opponents. But the critics are all modestly quiet now. Chili has paid her bill in solid cash, and her relations to the government are pleasant and friendly. Uncle Sam not only demanded justice, but he got it, and made a friend of Chili in the bargain. Chili will lose nothing by her promptness and courtesy.

It is only a very few days until people will begin to make new resolutions only to be broken in a few days at the least.