

THE OMAHA BEE.

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Great preparations are being made in the City of Mexico for the celebration of the completion of railway connection with the United States.

There is danger that our capitalists will kill the goose that lays the golden egg by keeping up high rents. They are driving away people of moderate means who are desirous of locating here.

A gas inspector in St. Louis has delivered a lecture on "The Veracity of Gas Meters." The people of Omaha would like him to lecture on that subject as well as the veracity of gas meters.

The selection of Capt. H. E. Palmer as commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, department of Nebraska, is a well merited compliment to a veteran who has seen a great deal of active service.

Dr. COLLINS, late of the state reform school, threatens to make exposures on the part of Land Commissioner Kendall in connection with that institution. By all means let us have the facts, Dr. Collins, let the consequences be what they may.

MINNEAPOLIS and St. Paul have been quarreling for several years as to which is the terminus of the Northern Pacific. This matter will be settled shortly when the Northern Pacific finishes its extension to Chicago.

EX-GOVERNOR FOSTER, of Ohio, is now taking his revenge for being left out of Arthur's cabinet. He sees nothing but disaster in Arthur's nomination. Mr. Foster probably has an eye on the main chance himself. He expects to come in as an Ohio dark horse.

This Iowa legislature proposes to sit down on the army of quacks in that state. It appears that the loose medical laws of Iowa have afforded a fine field for quacks who have been driven out of other states. The legislature of Iowa will undoubtedly pass a very stringent law regulating the practice of medicine, and the impostors will have to emigrate.

LEADVILLE has been very unfortunate with its banks. One year ago there were in that city four banks, all of which were supposed to be prospering. These four banks have within this short period all gone to the wall, and there now remains in Leadville but one bank, which was recently established. The failures are attributed to bad management and rashness. In this connection the Denver News says: "The Bank of Leadville was ruined by the political ambition and reckless conduct of its president, the last republican candidate for governor. The City Bank of Leadville closed up its affairs in consequence of senseless quarrels among its directors. The First National bank was ruined by the rashness of its president, Dewart, who is now a fugitive from justice. It is not easy now to tell just what provoked the run on the Merchants and Mechanics bank, which failed to meet the demands made upon it yesterday. * * * The failures will have no effect in Denver. Our banks are all strong in funds, and there is complete confidence on the part of depositors. The financial condition of the community was never better, and there is nothing in the visible future to cause the slightest alarm in any quarter."

We are challenged by the Republican to produce proofs of any dissatisfaction with the railway commissioner system in Iowa. We will cheerfully accommodate our contemporary. The following letter, circulated throughout Iowa, before the legislative met, explains itself:

DAVENPORT, Dec. 15th, 1883. DEAR SIR: Will you do me the special favor to give me your opinion, favorable or otherwise, of the enactment of some judicious law to limit freight charges, and prevent unjust discrimination by the railroad corporations doing business in this state. Your suggestions shall be held, by me, as strictly confidential, if you so desire. The enclosed pamphlet and figures will call your attention to some of the main features of the case, and doubtless, local facts will supply deficiencies. It is not the aim of this movement to cripple the railroad interests of the state, but rather to apply the curb (as we would to a favorite colt) to prevent mischief, and thus insure a steady pace, which is so much needed in business transactions. To this end we earnestly invite your cooperation. L. F. PARKER, Chairman Committee on Legislation, Board of Trade.

The pamphlet referred to in the above letter is a scorching. If the Republican has not received a copy it is probably because its relations to railroads are too well known. Perhaps Mr. Kimball can procure for the inquisitive young man a copy.

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.

The system of education that has prevailed for centuries is not suitable for this busy practical age, and particularly in the United States. The time has passed when education should be devoted to the mind alone. Too much time is wasted in the study of the dead languages and other branches that are of no practical use when one is thrown upon his own resources to earn a livelihood. How many young men there are who, upon graduating from college, find themselves at a loss to know what to do in a practical way. They have an education, it is true, but they hardly know what to do with it. They cannot enter into the field of mechanical labor, invention, or manufacturing, and the result is that they seek some of the professions, which are overcrowded, or some genteel occupation—generally clerical or book-keeping. There are probably to-day more unemployed clerks and book-keepers than almost any other class of genteel "laborers." As a rule, the strictly college-bred youth regards an artisan with contempt, and looks upon his labor as a menial occupation. The sooner this idea is corrected the better, and the only way to correct it is in improving our system of education by introducing manual training in our schools and colleges, more especially in the former. Instruction in the mechanical arts and manufacturing industries should be made an important part of the higher grades of schools, the object being, of course, to prepare boys and girls to make their own way in the world. The old system of trade apprenticeship has become almost a thing of the past, and hence we have so few really first-class artisans, a fact that is indeed deplorable. Industrial education would to a great extent remedy this serious defect. The field for competent artisans, mechanics and inventors is almost unlimited, not only for making a comfortable living, but for winning fame and fortune. Look at the wonderful range of possibilities for a practically educated man in the field covered by machinery, steam, electricity, chemistry and the manifold manufacturing industries. Yet how few of our highly educated young men know anything about the mechanical arts, and to whom steam and electricity and the uses to which they are applied are mysteries.

The thinking people of this country are beginning to realize the value of industrial education, and it is gratifying to note that here and there steps have been taken to promote instruction in the mechanical arts. The Boston Institute of Technology is probably the leading institution of this kind in the United States, and it is meeting with great success. In France there are quite a number of such schools, some of which are maintained by manufacturers in order that they can secure skilled help. American manufacturers, particularly those engaged in manufacturing textile fabrics, contemplate the establishment of such schools to train American operatives rather than depend upon foreign skilled help. In some of the states there are industrial departments attached to the state university, and in some instances, where rightly conducted, they are proving very efficient in manual training.

The president of the Chicago board of education in his recent annual report recommends that manual training should be made a branch of the high school course, and we believe that in Boston manual training has recently been incorporated in the public school system. In other cities the matter is being seriously considered, and we believe the day is not far distant when manual training will be combined with the education of the mind, so that when our boys and girls leave school and go out into the world they will be fully prepared to make their own way, instead of being burdens to those who have reared them. This progressive age has no use for ornamental education—it is the practical that is in demand.

GOVERNMENT RAILROAD DIRECTORS.

The people are beginning to learn what the government directors of the Union Pacific railway really are. No where in their labored report of nearly one hundred printed pages, is there found anything but commendation of the management of the road, and the men go out of their way to some extent to discuss and defend the land grant policy. They even go so far as to plead for an extension of time in the payment of the obligations of the road. While confident that the road will be able to pay off its government debts, they believe that if forced to settle when they become due it will be placed in a disastrous situation. It seems to us that the railroad company could not have prepared a more favorable report if it had had the work done by its own attorneys at the dictation of its own directors. It is rather singular that the government directors in taking legal advice as to the validity of the tripartite pool contract should have consulted the Union Pacific general attorney, Ex-Judge Dillon, who of course told them in answer to their inquiry upon the subject, that the tripartite contract was not a violation of the charter, and thereupon they ratified the contract. Notwithstanding congress intended, when it aided railroad construction by magnificent land grants and subsidies, to encourage competition, the government directors by their action foster and encourage the opposite policy. It is no wonder that the people are beginning to look upon the Union Pacific government directors as frauds and to regard their annual reports as mere mockeries. So far these directors have rendered no valuable service except to the railroad.

DR. NORVIG GREEN assures the senate committee on postoffices, who have the

postal telegraph under consideration, that the Western Union proposes in the near future to make a large reduction in its tariff. Does Mr. Green imagine that there is anything green about that committee!

CONVICT LABOR.

The convict labor-contract system is being discussed by the New Jersey legislature. The house committee, appointed last year to investigate the subject, has prepared its report, and recommends the adoption of the ideas which were suggested in THE BEE a few weeks ago, namely, that the state should receive the full benefit of the convict labor; that the labor of convicts should not be put on the market at a less rate than honest labor, and that the convict should have some part of his earnings to aid his family and to assist him in making an honest start in life upon his release from prison. In their report the committee recommends the adoption of the "piece system." Under it the proper agent of the state can be authorized to contract with responsible parties for the manufacture of any article, stipulating in all cases that the price paid shall not be less than the rate laborers receive outside the prison. It being admitted, the report says, that a convict performs 75 per cent of the work done by a laborer outside of prison, the state will receive by the piece system \$1.50 per day, where it only now gets 60 cents. The report recommends that convicts be given two-thirds of their earnings over 75 cents a day. As the New Jersey legislature has recently done some very sensible things, it is likely that the committee's report will be adopted and the recommendations carried out.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

Political excitement in Great Britain is intense on the eve of the session of parliament. An urgent summons has been issued to the conservatives to "whip" the state's amendment relative to the Egyptian policy. An important division will be taken in the house of commons on the 7th of February. A delegation of workmen have presented an address to Gladstone asking for an extension of the right of suffrage. Mr. Gladstone assured the workmen that the government was favorably inclined toward this important reform, which would be brought about at an early day if the government is not hampered by obstructive methods. This was virtually an appeal to the working people against Parnell and his followers, whose policy is to obstruct the party in power at every step.

Latest advices from Egypt indicate that the forces under General Baker are making successful resistance to the incursions of the followers of the False Prophet. General Gordon is expected to reach Khartoum within a few days, and his presence will inspire new life into the panicky Egyptians. The fact that the Rothschilds have advanced several millions to the Khedive, would indicate that the capitalists have faith in the ability of the British government to sustain the Khedive in Egypt against all adversaries.

Just as soon as General Gordon reaches Khartoum his appointment as governor general will be publicly proclaimed at the military posts throughout the Sudan, in the hope that it will produce a reaction in the tribes in favor of the government. The concentration of the garrisons at Khartoum will give General Gordon seventeen thousand troops. The general has obtained full powers to evacuate or defend Khartoum and treat with or fight the mahdi as he sees fit.

The cabinet councils are understood to be engaged, among other things, in settling upon a draft for a reform bill. The general scope is agreed to be an extension of the franchise. Redistribution will not make a part of the same bill, nor will the ministry probably make the expected statement of their views of redistribution. It is certain that Ireland will be included. The Irish franchise will be assimilated to the English. Votes based on a purely property qualification, now numerous in English counties, will be swept away, "tagots," of course, included. Some means will be found to deal with fancy franchises in a manner to remove anomalies and to establish suffrage on a national liberal basis identical in the three kingdoms.

Latest advices from the seat of war in Tonquin represent the French as having met with a serious repulse in their assault upon Bac Ninh. These reports are as yet unconfirmed, but the fact that nothing has been heard of Admiral Courbet, commanding the French forces, has created a wide-spread belief in Paris that he has met with some reverse. That the Chinese have been massing a large force at Bac Ninh to resist the French army is undoubtedly a fact.

The Chinese government is very well prepared for a war—far better than is generally understood. The lack of railroads, however, is a serious deficiency, and railroads will not be built until the government abandons the tradition that no measure must be tolerated which is likely, in the celestial imagination, to injure the people in any way. The Chinese view of railroads is that they will deprive boatmen, truckers, and the millions engaged in freightage by hand or back of their occupations. China is so entirely self-supporting that a foreign war could not affect her food supply. The government collects internal revenue amounting to about \$300,000,000 and \$20,000,000 from customs dues, and even war with France and the blockading of her ports deprived China of her import duties, she could double her internal revenue receipts without any difficulty. As to military resources, China can count on troops, about 200,000 really effective or troops out of the 800,000 nominal. About 100,000 of these effective are Tartar troops. The Green Flag troops are Chinamen numbering 500,000, but the

material is crude, although very quick to learn the drill and fall into military habits.

Two facts are conspicuous in French politics at the present moment; the one, that the revision of the constitution, so long discussed as a thing not likely to come to pass, has now been fully determined upon; and the other, that the church has so altered its attitude toward the French government as to cause marked surprise even among those who are accustomed to attribute Jesuitical motives to every generous movement of churchmen. While the Romanists have evidently got the watchword to be particularly sweet to all except the radical republicans, the ministers and moderates generally—very likely, urged to their change of sentiment by the recent visit of a certain German personage to Rome, and the announcement of the Italian alliance with the great Austro-German military power—are excessively polite to every one who wears the black robe. In short, both sides protest a little too much; still the tension is far less than it has been for many years, and in profiting largely by it M. Ferry shows his great shrewdness and marked skill. That he is an able man is sufficiently shown by the quickness with which, after he had acquired popularity by a good stroke, he brought forward his programme, snubbed the radicals, patted the church followers on the back, and in a few days made friends out of those who had once been his deadly enemies. M. Ferry has been soundly abused for announcing his intention to bring about a revision of the constitution on the double ground that it would give an opportunity to the royalist party on the one hand, and to the ultra-radicals on the other. It does not appear to be altogether the leap in the dark which his adversaries represent it to be. By taking the initiative of the measure he cuts the ground from under the feet of the extremists, who, had he not done so, would have organized an agitation which might have proved dangerous. Possessing, as he does, a clear majority both in the senate and the chamber of deputies, he is entitled to consider that he has a fair chance of conducting the revision, so that it will not be the real and revolutionary measure it would be under a weaker minister. Moreover, M. Ferry's critics in France, and in England, might possibly reflect that he is the only Frenchman in high office who is not an absolute tyro in politics. His public life dates from twenty years back, and the lessons of experience probably not been thrown away upon him.

The outlines of the German and Austrian alliance have at last been made public. The present Austro-German alliance may be styled offensive and defensive, though the principal point of the agreement is the "assistance in case of need." Thus in case of war either party can call for the assistance of its ally if the necessity demands its aid, and not alone, as The Cologne Gazette asserts, in the case of two opponents joining forces against one. The necessity arises if one of the allied powers being engaged in war finds itself in difficulty or liable to defeat, and in this case the ally is bound to render military assistance. The actual mobilization of the ally, however, is not necessary until the necessity becomes actual. This alliance sprang from the recent threatened danger of a Russian attack on Austria. Italy is also connected with this alliance, but in a different manner, resulting from her geographical position.

Bismarck, it is said, contemplates a change of policy in the government of Alsace-Lorraine. If so the count shows mercy as well as wisdom. The people of Alsace-Lorraine have felt their burdens terribly ever since they became subjects of Kaiser William at the close of the Franco-Prussian war, and their bitterness against Germany is as strong now as in 1870. Bismarck has hitherto studiously ignored all these circumstances, and has treated the people of Alsace-Lorraine like a conquered tribe, forcing upon them the manners, language and institutions of their conquerors. The count has, perhaps, at last discovered that kindness and not oppression must be resorted to if he would bring the people of Alsace-Lorraine to anything like cordiality with Germany, and the change of government policy may indicate the approach of a brighter and happier day for the provinces lost to France through the stupidity of Napoleon III.

The Austrian government, as well as the Russian, seems likely to have to contend with the nihilists, who are apparently showing their old force and activity in Russia. The successful murder of Colonel Sudeikim at St. Petersburg is the most clever piece of work they have yet done. He had risen into power and favor with the court altogether through the skill with which he hunted the nihilists down and frustrated their plots, and had escaped them a score of times. They caught him at last in actual consultation with his own most trusted employees, who seem to have been in the nihilist ranks. Apparently he had pushed the rule to "set a thief to catch a thief" a little too far, for he accepted the services of a captured and converted conspirator, and relied on his gratitude to insure his fidelity. This man lured him to his doom. Colonel Sudeikim's death is said to have again thrown the court into a panic, for it shows that there is no absolute security now and that the conspirators seem now to have reached Vienna, where an active detective has been shot down in the street by a murderer, who is described as elegant and refined in exterior, but whom nobody knows, and who refuses to give his name or tell anything about himself, except that he is the agent of a Socialist executive committee.

There is much dissatisfaction in Spain over the new ministry under Canovas del Castillo, and a reactionary programme is already mapped out by the opposition. The oppositionist programme, however, has promised liberal measures, but it is not in a confirmed condition of retrograde policies, to act on liberal lines. Canovas is Alfonso's old instructor, and he has been premier during the greater portion of Alfonso's reign. It was only by the pronounced evidence of popular repugnance to ecclesiastical influence which, in Spain, is always pulling, on trying to pull the country back to the middle ages, that King Alfonso was induced to part with his favorite in 1881, and summon the dynastic liberal, Sagasta, to organize a cabinet. Sagasta, during his three years' term, showed himself a practical statesman. He sought to better the financial condition of his country, which has been deplorable, and to reconcile the discordant liberal groups with the bourbon dynasty on the constitutional basis. He failed to receive the support to which he was entitled from the liberals, and his successor, a "progressist moderate," could not command support.

Cable dispatches received from Lima

announce that the elections in Peru have resulted in constituting a national assembly which will sustain General Iglesias and ratify his peace treaty with Chili. On what scale they were held—how generally the departments of the interior participated in them—is not stated. But it is probable that there has been quite as respectable an expression of popular will as ever occurs in an election in Peru. During the 62 years of Peruvian independence it has never been consulted with entire fairness and fullness.

It is likely that the condition of our own government properly has required as a preliminary to recognizing Iglesias that there shall be something like a display of free will in his favor, and not a mere extension of obedience by the presence of Chilean troops—will be found to be fulfilled as nearly as may be, and that his recognition at Washington will speedily follow. And in the present condition of Peru it will apparently be the best thing for that country if he can sustain himself without bloodshed, not only through the process of ratifying the treaty, but afterward. There is no indication at present that when the Chileans have gone any revolution which would oust him as a penalty for making this treaty would put so respectable a man into his place.

The pilgrimage to the grave of Victor Emmanuel, which seems to have been a counter-demonstration to that of the Catholics in honor of the pope, has been a great success. The number of pilgrims amounts to about 20,000, who in the procession displayed more than 700 banners, including some sent from Salonica, Bucharest, Trieste, Paris, Valparaiso, Shanghai, Smyrna, Yokohama, Melbourne, Tientsin, Lyons, St. Petersburg, etc., etc. Upon the tomb were placed 500 crowns, of which thirty were of bronze, four of silver, two of bronze-iron, and one of gold. The demonstration is said by the Italian papers to have been most imposing, favored as it was by good weather.

The new harbor of Trieste, which has lately been finished with great ceremony, is a remarkable piece of modern engineering. It has taken fifteen years' work and has cost over \$7,000,000. It consists of nearly two miles of quays, arranged to inclose three basins of eighty-five acres of water surface, and these are protected by a 3,000 feet long sea-wall running parallel with the shore and 1,000 feet from it. The work has been one of enormous difficulties because of the unstable bottom, and it is stated that the walls when once under way sank gradually for a year, then suddenly slipped forward and out of sight. But the present walls have already withstood two of the greatest gales known in this century. The importance of this work to Austria must be very great. It is the chief seaport of the country, it has a large mercantile navy, and its exports foot up \$50,000,000 a year, and its imports \$70,000,000. Theresa in the last century, has been entirely inadequate to its steadily growing commerce. No vessel of more than 300 tons burden could come to its quays, and though larger craft could find generally safe anchorage in the outer roadstead, they have been exposed to danger from southerly storms. The new pier now make it possible for vessels of any size to find safe shelter in the harbor of Trieste.

Huntington's Wholesale Purchase. To the Editor of The Bee:

The astonishing facts coming to light through the Colton-Huntington suit is enough to make the public think that some of the past congresses should have been furnished with striped suits and their heads shaved. It is plain that if justice was meted out as it should be, there are some members who would still receive the benefit of the state institution for criminals, or be punished for their crimes as traitors should be (i. e., hung.) Such disclosures as those coming from the pen of congress-purchasing Huntington, should show the people that the cry of unjust laws, and an unjust administration of laws, is not an empty clamor, but has cause sufficient to warrant the outcry. Let everybody read and learn something of the character of the men who have trusted, and spot the betrayer, and let none of them return, nor let them find any friends at home, for they are the worst evils this country has ever produced. H. G. SEWART.

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It is said in history that the tomb of Julian Dubuque, the first white settler of Iowa, was covered with lead, and the covering stolen off by miners, Mr. Thomas, Treasurer of Danbury, says he saw the tomb in 1880, and it was then covered with elm bark, laid in cross layers, from the wretched ends of the bark. He is of the opinion that it was placed there by Indians, and that it was never covered with lead.

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