

THE OMAHA BEE.

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It may be that Sam. Tilden is selling his Union Pacific stock in order to increase the funds in his "bar" for campaign purposes.

It is a plain issue between monopoly and the people which the republican convention of Nebraska will meet to-day. How will they decide it?

Will the republicans of Nebraska become the mere tools of the railroads and send the corporation lawyer, Thurston, to misrepresent them at Chicago?

The Union Pacific employes, after the reduction of ten to fifteen per cent of their wages and the payment of the hospital fund assessment will not have much of a surplus left.

Mr. Dossy is in Washington with the intention of relieving his bosom of the star route secrets with which it teems. The world is holding its breath until the great man speaks.

The New York alderman who not long ago astonished the city by assaulting people with his head, under the impression that he was a goat, has explained his delusion by saying he had taken an overdose of quinine. This new name for it will come in handy quite to Iowa saloon keepers who want to dodge the prohibition law.

The council has taken a step in the right direction in introducing an amendment of the liquor license ordinance to conform to the Slocum law. The amendment provides that \$1,000 must be deposited with the city treasurer before a license can be issued. This amendment will probably be passed at the next meeting of the council.

There is now some prospect that the Farnam street improvement will be made this year. The council has acted wisely in adopting the report of the appraisers. The next step is to make the tender of damages, and pass the necessary ordinance. This ought to be done at the next meeting, so that the work of improving the street can be begun at an early day.

J. STERLING MORTON has reached Chicago, and, just as we expected, he has been interviewed by the Chicago Times, which as usual dubs him ex-governor of Nebraska. After confidently stating that the Morrison bill will pass in the house, he takes up his free trade bobby, and says that free trade is going to win, it may not be in his time, but in the end. When the end will come, ex-Governor Morton does not say.

The Herald officially announces: "Mr Morton has left Nebraska City Sunday for Chicago and the East. He will probably not attend the coming state convention on account of absence." If Mr. Morton is not present at the state convention, his fellow democrats will know from the above that he is absent. If he is present, it will be because he is not absent.

If the assurances of the director general are well founded the coming New Orleans exposition will be a great affair. He says that applications for space have already been received from more exhibitors than appeared at the centennial exposition; that thirty acres will be covered by exhibitors, and in the whole it will be the biggest exposition of the kind ever held in the world. Thirteen foreign nations will be represented, and those from the United States will occupy 800,000 square feet of room. The exposition is hailed as a great factor in the social and industrial regeneration of the south.

According to Gen. Adam Badeau, late United States Consul at Havana, the state department of this blessed country is in a very bad way. He charges it with "grave restriction on public duty," "gross and continued neglect of inquiries and results," to Americans abroad, with shielding corruption, with making treaties without the knowledge of the senate, and with diverse other causes and misdemeanors. It also appears that this wicked state department has sunk so low that it actually refused to accept his resignation until he had tendered it twice. As to this last accusation, if it be true, Secretary Frelinghuysen is certainly much to blame, when a man as anxious of office as the eminent Mr. Badeau, is willing to leave, his resignation should be accepted at once. As to the rest of the charges, something more substantial than these assertions are needed. The conduct of the state department is not all that it should be. It is unappreciated that the state department is not so much to blame as it is represented to be.

A WORD OF WARNING.

(Republished from the Bee of April 23.)

The republican state convention assembled at Lincoln on the 1st day of May, to select four delegates at large to the national convention. Upon the action of this convention depends to a great extent the success of the party in the impending campaign.

If the delegates chosen to represent Nebraska republicans are in any way tainted with the blight of monopoly it will be an avowed admission that the party still continues to be dominated over by the railroads, and cannot hope to emancipate itself from their despotism.

No matter how loyal republican anti-monopolists may be to the cardinal principles of republicanism they will refuse to support its candidates this fall if it is a foregone conclusion that the party in Nebraska merely registers the decree of the railroad bosses. No matter how earnestly we may desire republican success we cannot reconcile republican anti-monopolists to a support of republican candidates while railroad attorneys and lobbyists are its most honored representatives in the councils of the nation.

As a sincere friend we warn republicans of Nebraska against committing themselves again to the disastrous policy that has driven more than 12,000 republicans out of the party into the anti-monopoly ranks.

The official organ of the Union Pacific railroad asks the republicans of Nebraska to send John M. Thurston as delegate at large to Chicago. Will the party recklessly defy the known sentiment among the masses, by selecting as one of its representatives in the national convention the chief political attorney and lobbyist of the giant monopoly? Are there no men of approved ability and integrity to be found in the republican ranks outside of the corporation employ? Is the party so slavish and degraded that it can only do honor to men who draw princely salaries from railroad monopolies for packing primaries and conventions, bribing and debauching legislatures, and subverting justice in our courts by venal juries? Will the republicans of Nebraska refuse to profit by the bitter experience of the past two years which was due entirely to the bulldozing and overreaching policy of such railroad bosses as John M. Thurston? Four years ago the republicans of Nebraska could not vote for James A. Garfield without voting for Thurston and Laird, the one chief lobbyist of the Union Pacific and the other the political attorney of the Burlington railroad, who were forced upon the electoral ticket by the monopoly bulldozers. Hasn't this man Thurston been honored enough in being made an elector at the presidential election of 1880? Is the next president again to be laid under tribute by the Union Pacific railroad through Thurston as a delegate to the national convention? Let republican leaders who desire to go before the people next fall calmly reflect before they lend themselves to this brazen attempt to make the party a mere hewer of wood and drawer of water for railroads. Let them remember in the language of Van Wyck that the ballot box has its healthy revenges where the mass of the party has been overreached or betrayed.

The residents of Manitoba are struggling with the Hudson Bay route to Europe again, and a committee of their legislature is trying hard to make them believe that it is feasible. This committee has procured evidence going to show that the route is open four months in the year, and is 570 miles shorter than the way by Montreal, and 1,050 shorter than by New York. A railroad can easily be built from Winnipeg to the Bay, and then, the Canadians think, they will be free from their present subservience to the Canadian Pacific monopoly and the extensions of the American railroads. No doubt this would be a great relief to the oppressed people of the province, but it will be hard to show that a railroad built through a region of almost perpetual snow and ice, and a steamship line through a route frozen up eight months in the year are practicable things.

It is reported from the not very reliable source of Cuban revolutionists in New York that Spain is trying to sell Cuba to Mexico. These irresponsible parties assert that Mexico has partially consented to the sale, and that Spain is insisting that the United States shall become a party to the transaction by becoming security for Mexico's payments. If this latter is an indispensable condition of the sale, it is safe to conclude that it will never take place. The United States will have all it can do to take care of its own financial liabilities without shouldering any of Mexico's. The fiscal condition of the latter country, moreover, is not such as would justify any confidence in her to pay the debt, and this country would eventually have to assume it. That would mean the annexation of Cuba. We don't want Cuba. We might just as well have a title to the mountains in the moon. We have no use for any country where the normal condition of the inhabitants is chronic revolution.

The recent speech of Senator Wilson, of Iowa, in favor of the regulation of railroads, has attracted a good deal of attention, as an illustration of the marvelous and complete change that has taken place in this gentleman's views in the last few years. It is recalled with considerable interest that it is only a short time since he appeared before the Iowa legislature and argued against the very control of the roads which he now supports, and with fully as much earnestness and eloquence as he now exhibits. This complete reversal of opinion on the part of the senator has been explained by the fact that he has been cured of the system by the system. Charles Marton deserves explanation on the same thing, certainly, to have been discovered the error through which Wilson came into the number of the monopolists, but there

about the suddenness of his conversion that needs light. Otherwise a good many people will be disposed to think that if he was entirely honest in working for the corporations then, he is not very honest in working against them now.

SOME FORGOTTEN FACTS.

It is difficult to see how any member of congress can read the report of the house committee on the debts of the Pacific roads, without being convinced that something must be done at once to protect the government against further robbery. Certainly, it leaves no possible ground whatever for the silly idea of some timid members that these roads must be treated tenderly. The total sum now owed to the government by these defaulting corporations amounts to \$102,375,312.94. The interest on this is \$10,000,000, and as not a cent of it is being paid, it is constantly being added to the principal. It is plain enough that unless something be done soon, the debt will grow to such dimensions that the government will never realize it. The idea that the defaulting companies are too poor to be honest is completely exploded by the report. It shows that the Union Pacific has 16,000,000 acres of land, which, if sold at the rate prevailing in 1880, would realize enough to pay its debt to the government twice over. Besides this, it has an annual surplus of over \$1,500,000, and its net earnings, without the interest to bond holders, amount to about \$8,000,000 in a year. The 35 per cent which the government will require will not take more than \$2,800,000 of this. It is evident then that so far as this road is concerned, the fault with the proposed law is not that it is too severe, but that it is too lenient. It might have set about 75 per cent of the net earnings without doing any damage. The total debt now due from the Union Pacific amounts to \$57,544,181. To give it twenty years in which to pay it is certainly mild enough.

The committee also recall some interesting facts about the construction of the Union Pacific, which seems to have been entirely forgotten. It cost but \$51,000,000 to build and equip the entire road. The government subsidy in the road was over \$27,000,000. The first mortgage drawn was more than \$27,000,000. These two contributions therefore a good deal more than built and equipped the road. But besides these there came in \$10,000,000 of land grant bonds, and \$10,000,000 of income bonds, and the road was stocked on \$36,000,000. When the Kansas and Denver Pacific roads were consolidated this stock was increased by the convenient process of watering to \$59,000,000, and subsequently to \$60,868,500 at which figure it now stands. Now that a road which has had all these advantages, and resources, and has besides made all its owners rich by extortion and robbery should refuse to pay its legitimate debt to the government is a little too audaciously dishonest. Really, the best thing that the government can do is to take possession of the entire road and squeeze the last breath of life out of the infamous corporation that controls it.

The Western Union, and all other telegraph companies, have made a cut on night rates to fifteen cents between New York and a great number of points east of the Missouri river. With the true magnanimity characteristic of a monopoly, the Western Union officials announced that their action was not brought about by competition, but only by a philanthropic desire to benefit the public. This pretty little lie, however, is nailed by the significant fact that the reduction only extends to points where there is competition. To all other places the rates remain as before. But if competition can make lower rates in one part of the country, why can't it in all other parts, when it is once well established? Therefore, why can't the people of the west hope for some alleviation of their burden when the Baltimore & Ohio, or some other line strings its wires through in this direction?

CONGRESSMAN Beach, of New York, is about to set a splendid example to all statesmen who find themselves unable to get to congress to go into the investigating business. He wanted a commissioner appointed to look into the matter of food adulterations and when his bill was defeated he very properly undertook to do the work himself. He is going to make particular examination of the butter offered for sale in the large cities, and will hire a chemist at his own expense, to perform the analysis. When he gets through he will make his own report to congress, supplemented by a speech, and statistics. This opens up a way of utilizing a good many congressmen who have hitherto been only ornamental. They can be set to work at conducting their own investigations.

It may not have been solely on account of his white wife that Fred Douglas was defeated for chairmanship of the Pittsburg convention of colored men, but it is certain that his recent matrimonial venture has immensely injured his popularity with his race. By that step he lost his place of leader forever. Perhaps some colored man can tell the difference between discriminations against Douglas on account of his wife's color, and discriminations against other colored men on account of their own color. To the ordinary observer, however, the difference between these things is entirely too minute to be seen.

A Fatal Mistake.

CHICAGO, April 30.—Mrs. Laura Williams residing on Butterfield street, this city, died this morning from the administration of morphine instead of quinine being used for the prescription. Charles Marton deserves explanation on the same thing, certainly, to have been discovered the error through which Wilson came into the number of the monopolists, but there

VALENTINE'S VALEDICTORY.

The speech of Congressman Valentine at the third congressional district convention was the effort of his life. It was a farewell speech to his constituents. His valedictory was permeated with veins of sadness. He formally notified his constituents that on and after the 4th of March, 1885, he would retire to private life. It was a great effort for him to make this declaration. It was well received and enthusiastically applauded. Although retiring to private life, Mr. Valentine intimated that he was willing to hereafter to serve the people, if they should call upon him. In other words he proposes to stand ready as a dark horse. It will thus be seen that his declaration is not absolute, but he might as well have made it so, for in the future he will be left in the dark.

Mr. Valentine expressed his indignation at the democrats in congress for not having, long ago, declared forfeited the unearned railroad land grants. He knew very well that he could say this without hurting the feelings of the Union Pacific, whom he has served so well. He knew that such forfeiture would hurt its rivals, principally the Northern Pacific, and hence he was in favor of the measure. Had the Union Pacific any unearned lands Mr. Valentine would have been more guarded in his remarks.

Mr. Valentine's speech, however, gave great satisfaction to his constituents, particularly that portion of it in which he bade them farewell and declared his intention of retiring from public life. This was conceded to be the most pleasing thing that he could possibly have uttered. It was a great relief to two-thirds of the convention.

The fact of it is that Mr. Valentine's retirement was by no means a voluntary act. It was forced upon him. The entire western part of the state was against him, and even his own county was opposed to him. This explains how J. H. MacColl was elected delegate to the national convention.

Occurrence and Value of Mica.

[From the Leadville Herald.]

A reporter yesterday met Mr. Hazelton, a mica miner of many years experience, and obtained the following interesting facts concerning this mineral: Muscovite mica, the ordinary mica of commerce, is found in nearly all the granite and gneiss areas of the country, yet, while abundant, a good quality of mica is scarce, especially of the fine, so-called "patent" mica. The total annual production of commercial mica in the United States does not exceed 80,000 pounds, the average value of which is \$3.40 per pound, making a total value of \$272,000. At present North Carolina produces two-thirds of all the mica mined in the United States. The center of this industry is at Berkersville, Mitchell County, North Carolina.

Senator Clingman, a gentleman of scientific knowledge, had noticed in two geological investigations of the formation of Mitchell County ancient mounds upon which large forest trees were growing. Supposing these mounds to be the dumps of some ancient mines worked in prehistoric times he opened several, but found no precious metals, only mica, which he believed worthless. Therefore the exploration of these mounds was abandoned. A few months later a "cute Yankee" from Connecticut, while prospecting the country for mineral, and coming upon a mound which Clingman had opened, upon examining the mica, and determining its value, soon afterwards obtained a lease upon the property in question, and by his energy and practical knowledge of the business soon made a handsome fortune. At the present time there are in this section but two mines, that are large producers, the Cloudlook, now 100 feet deep, and the Ray mine, the most valuable property of its kind in the country, which is being worked at a depth of 300 feet and producing two tons monthly. The Clairsville mine near Baker'sville, at one time produced about one-half of the total product of the United States, but after being worked to a depth of 365 feet has been abandoned, as the vein has pinched and the mine is now very dry.

A large portion of the product of North Carolina is mined by farmers who eke out a scanty subsistence by prospecting for this valuable mineral. In this mica belt, which is thirty miles wide and one hundred miles long, the mica is found near the surface and of as good a quality as is obtainable by a common experience anywhere, since mica is not as quickly oxidized as other minerals. After the vein is opened a few feet in depth, say 10 or 20 feet, if no mica is found the prospect is usually abandoned. These mica miners are well satisfied with the finding of a few pockets yielding \$100 to \$200 return for a season's labor.

It is notable fact that all the best mines of North Carolina are of prehistoric origin. The ancient people working these mines were doubtless contemporaneous with the mound builders of the Ohio Valley, since in Chillicothe, Circleville, and other places have been found in the mound adjacent sheet of mica covering human remains, also mica lying upon ancient altars, evidently used for sacrificial purposes, while perforated disks of mica found in graves suggest they were worn as ornaments.

Mica mining in the Rocky Mountains has this far not proven a very profitable industry, the obstacle to its successful prosecution being the poor quality of the mica and high price of labor. In the Black Hills a considerable quantity has been mined, of a very good quality, but the large expense of mining has hitherto rendered the business not profitable.

In New Mexico one or two new mines have been opened, promising, we are informed, satisfactory results. The past winter some prospecting has been done on Current Creek, in the southeast section of the South Park, and about 100 pounds of commercial mica have been recently shipped to Philadelphia, but it is apprehended the cost of production will bear further development in that section. The quantity is abundant in Colorado, but most of it is stained and factored.

Electric Girls.

New York Times.

The introduction of illuminated ballet girls has greatly added to the attractions of the spectacular stage. Girls with electric lights on their foreheads and batteries concealed in the recesses of their clothing first made their appearance a year ago, but as yet the use of illuminated girls has not spread beyond the stage. There is, however, a great future awaiting

ing the grand idea of incandescent girls, and there is reason to believe that in a very short time private houses will be lighted by girls instead of stationary electric lights.

The formation of the Electric Girl Lighting company is an event second in importance only to the invention of electric lights. This company proposes to supply girls of fifty-candle power each in quantities to suit householders.

The girls are to be fed and clothed by the company, and customers will, of course, be permitted to select at the company's warehouse whatever kind of girl may please their fancy.

A very beautiful design for a front hall girl is now on exhibition at the company's office, No. 499 6th street. The present system of lighting the front hall of a dwelling house has the disadvantage that the light—whether it be a gas light or an electric light—must be kept burning all the evening, and that a servant must be made to answer the bell. Thus there is a double expense—the cost of the light and the cost of the servant.

The Electric Girl Lighting company will furnish a beautiful girl of fifty or a hundred candle power, who will be on duty from dusk till midnight or as much later as may be desired. This girl will remain seated in the hall until some one rings the front door bell. She will then turn on her electric light, open the door, admit the visitor and light him into the reception room. One girl thus performs the duties of lighting the front hall and answering the bell, and her annual cost is much less than that of a servant and a gas light. If, however, any household should desire to keep the electric girl constantly burning and to employ another servant to answer the bell, there can be no doubt that the electric girl, posing in a picturesque attitude, will add much to the decoration of the house.

Under the present system electric lamps or gas burners are fixtures, and cannot be moved from place to place. The electric girls, on the contrary, are movable. One girl can be made to give as much light as a large sized drawing-room chandelier, and she can be moved from one room to another, leading the way to supper, for example, and placed wherever she may do the most good. There can be no comparison between a beautifully designed and chaste executed electric girl and a massive chandelier that constantly threatens to fall on somebody's head; and every household of esthetic instincts will be glad to exchange his chandeliers for girls.

An inexpensive electric girl of one or two candle power will be of great use when a person desires to go from one room to another in a dark house. Instead of having to carry a candle in his hand and incur the risk of dropping it, or having it blown out by a draught of air, the happy possessor of an electric girl can turn her on and send her before him to light the way. The student who is now troubled by the flicker of his gas light, or his inability to move the electric light from one part of his desk to another, can be made perfectly "happy by an electric girl, with a ground-glass shade, who will take any position that the student may desire in order to throw light on his book or paper. No one who becomes accustomed to such a girl will think of returning to old-fashioned methods of lighting.

The new company proposes to furnish the new light at a little less than the charge made by the Edison and Brush Companies, and promises that in a short time the light will be decidedly cheaper than gas. The company's plant already comprises 2500 girls, and both electric boys and footmen will be at the command of the public as soon as certain experiments to the possibility of enabling electric boys to give a steady light are completed.

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PROPOSALS FOR INDIAN SUPPLIES AND TRANSPORTATION.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, Office of Indian Affairs, Washington, April 23, 1884.—Sealed proposals for the purchase of supplies for the Indian Reservation at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, will be received at the Office of Indian Affairs, Room 45 and 67, West Street, New York, until 12 o'clock, Tuesday, May 27, 1884, for furnishing for the Indian service about 250,000 pounds Bacon, 250,000 pounds Beef of the red, 100,000 pounds Beans, 45,000 pounds Baking Powder, 750,000 pounds Corn, 450,000 pounds Coffee, 7,000 pounds Flour, 70,000 pounds Feed, 100,000 pounds Hard Bread, 50,000 pounds Honey, 15,000 pounds Lard, 700 barrels meat pork, 150,000 pounds Rice, 100 pounds Tea, 100 pounds Tobacco, 200 (100 pounds Salt, 150,000 pounds Soap, 50,000 pounds Soda, 85,000 pounds Sugar, and 40,000 pounds Wheat.

Also, Blankets, Woolen and Cotton Goods, (including in part of Ticking, 20,000 yards; Standard Canvas, 15,000 yards; Prilling, 9,000 yards; Duck, 9 free from all sizing, 80,000 yards; Denims, 17,000 yards; Ginghams, 10,000 yards; Kentucky Jeans, 28,000 yards; Cheeset, 4,100 yards; Brown Sheetting, 175,000 yards; Bleached Sheetting, 15,000 yards; Hickory Shirting, 10,000 yards; Calico Shirting, 6,000 yards; Winesy, 1,500 yards) Clothing, Groceries, Notions, Hardware, Medical Supplies, School Books, etc., and a long list of miscellaneous articles, such as Harness, Flows, Rakes, Forks, &c., and for delivery at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, and also for delivery at various points on the Pacific Coast, with California Blakes, delivered at San Francisco.

Also, transportation for some of the articles, goods, and supplies that may not be contracted for to be delivered at the Agencies.

This list is made out of government blanks, specimens showing the kind and quality of substance supplies required for each Agency, and the kinds and quantities of articles, and their prices and articles, together with blank proposals, conditions to be observed by bidders, time and place of delivery, terms of contract and payment, transportation routes, and all other necessary instructions will be furnished upon application to the Indian Office in Washington, or to the Office of Indian Affairs, New York; Wm. H. Lyon, No. 48 Broadway, New York; the Commissioner of Subsistence, U. S. A., at Cincinnati; Chicago, Leavenworth, Omaha, Salt Lake, Saint Paul, San Francisco, and Yankton; the Postmaster at Sioux City, and the Postmaster at the following named places in Kansas: Arkansas City, Burlington, C. Howell, Dodge City, Emporia, Edwards, Great Bend, Hays, Hutchinson, Larned, McPherson, Marion, Medicine Lodge, Newton, Ogea City, Selaw, Sterling, Tipton, Wellington, Wichita, and Winfield.

Bids will be opened at the hour and day above stated, and bidders are invited to be present at the opening.

CELESTINE CHECKS. All bids must be accompanied by certified checks upon some United States Depository or the First National Bank of Los Angeles, Cal., for at least five per cent of the amount of the proposal.

H. PLUCE, Commissioner.

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