

THE DAILY BEE.

E. ROSKATER, Editor. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

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Table with 2 columns: Day, Circulation. Sunday, December 18, 26,045; Monday, December 19, 23,694; Tuesday, December 20, 23,714; Wednesday, December 21, 23,754; Thursday, December 22, 23,669; Friday, December 23, 23,948; Saturday, December 24, 24,751.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 24th day of December, 1902. N. P. FEIL, Notary Public.

Average Circulation for November, 26,059.

THE question of the hour is, what did Santa Claus leave in Jerry Simpson's shoes?

THE prophecy of Pop Leo that a war cloud will soon gather in Europe is perfectly safe. War always has ten chances where peace has one in the lottery of European politics.

IT is not alone in Omaha that juries require discipline. A Chicago jury recently failed to judge in a proper order because the judge refused to order liquor and cigars for their entertainment.

THE increase in the capital stock of the South Omaha Stock Yards company to \$6,000,000 indicates the expansion of a local concern that is certain to become in a few years the greatest of its kind in the world.

IT is evident that Adlai E. Stevenson does not know that the campaign is ended. He is still making speeches about the "force bill," which was dropped long ago by every other democrat in the country.

THE latest news from Emin Pasha is that he is still alive, despite the report that he was dead. Emin has been dead and alive so many times that he ought to be able to answer some interesting theological questions.

REDUCED cost of production always cuts down the price of a commodity. For example, in 1885 aluminum was worth \$90 a pound, but it can now be had for 70 cents a pound, and is being put to practical use in many ways. This, of course, is an extreme case, but it illustrates the principle.

IT is said that Colonel North, the "nitrate king," has so much money that he does not know what to do with it, and that he thinks of investing in mining interests in this country. As coal mining is now unprofitable, according to the testimony of those who control it, perhaps he had better invest in American coal mines and relieve the poor coal barons from impending ruin.

THE United States fish commission has for several days been distributing small fry from this city to various points in the state for stocking the public waters, which encourages the hope that the labors of the state fish commission will soon begin to show practical results. Perhaps the time is not far distant when Omaha's supply of finny delicacies will not be entirely imported from Chicago.

THE Liberator Building society scandal in England is almost equal to the Panama scandal in France. In some respects it is even worse, for the millions of dollars stolen in England robbed the poor of their savings and did not greatly affect the rich, while the great Panama deal involved both rich and poor. It begins to look as if public trust and public robbery were closely allied in France and England.

THE Mexican government, it is said, proposes to make an effort to secure emigrants from Europe, in the event of this country suspending immigration. Mexico can offer some inducements to immigrants, but very likely she would have an experience similar to that of Canada in the business of promoting immigration. Most of the people who accepted the opportunity to go Mexico would eventually find their way into the United States.

IT is customary to invite all of the functionaries of the royal household to a full-dress dinner on the occasion of the queen's birthday, and although the late Lord Tenyson was regularly invited for forty-two years he never attended. He was comfortable in the loose and ill-fitting garments which he habitually wore, but would doubtless have been very miserable in a dress suit. He was about as far from being a dandy as our own Joaquin Miller.

HON. PAUL SCHMINKE, whose death is chronicled from Nebraska City, was one of the best known and respected German-Americans in this state. He was highly esteemed among all classes of citizens, and at various times occupied positions of honor and trust with marked ability and commendable fidelity. He had been repeatedly elected to the state senate, and was at the time of his death mayor of Nebraska City, to the growth of which town he had contributed very largely by his enterprise and public spirit. By his death the state has lost a valuable citizen.

THEY MUST BEGIN RIGHT.

The people of Nebraska are looking forward with great interest, if not anxiety to the opening of the legislature which convenes at Lincoln next Tuesday. Very much depends upon the character of the officers chosen to preside over and keep record of the proceedings of the two houses.

The lieutenant governor is by the constitution made the presiding officer of the senate. The corporations and jobbers have a powerful ally in the chair at the coming session, who will lose no opportunity to block legislation they consider detrimental to their interest. For this reason the choice of acting president and secretary of the senate who are not in collusion with the oil-rung gang will be of the utmost importance. The secretary of the senate and a clerk of the house are almost as potent as the lieutenant governor and speaker of the house. They can retard and block good legislation and expedite jobs and steals by mislaying, pigeon-holing or garbling resolutions, bills and orders. The clerks of the two houses are in position to do an infinite amount of mischief. The most infamous jobs and steals that have been perpetrated in former legislative sessions have been pulled through by the help of dishonest clerks.

If the legislature wants to make a clean record it must give a wide berth to the professional pigeon-holders and log-rollers of the Watt Seelye and Tom Cook band.

The senate should, by all means, make up its own committees, whether standing or special. And the house should reserve the right to revise the list of its most important committees whenever the majority may deem it advisable. The choice of speaker should be made with due regard to capacity and previous record. No man should be placed in the speaker's chair who is known to have strings tied to him either by corporations, contractors' combines or special interests. He should go into the chair free from all incumbencies. By this we mean free from pledges with regard to the make-up of committees or patronage at his disposal. Above all things he should be a man who has never been trained with ringsters and public plunderers. This quality is of much more importance than his profession of any political creed.

If the legislature makes a good start half of the battle for good government will be won at the outset.

OPPOSED BY MONOPOLIES.

One of the largest and fattest monopolies in the country is the elevator ring at Buffalo, which has a profit out of about all the grain that goes to New York from the west. This ring is now greatly disturbed over the prospect that a ship canal will be built to connect the great lakes with the sea so that grain and all other products shipped from the west can be sent through to tide water without breaking bulk. Like many other powerful monopolies it has a newspaper organ, and the Buffalo Courier seems just now to be overtaxing its strength in its efforts to prove that the ship canal project is not feasible.

The most absurd of all the arguments put forth by the journal named is the grave and solemn assertion that inasmuch as grain in transit is liable to heat and spoil it is necessary that it should be aired by being hoisted into the elevators whose interests it so zealously represents. This idea has struck THE BEE as supremely ridiculous, but it has also the authority of one of the most experienced grain dealers of Omaha for saying that grain would go to the seaboard much more safely without than with the service of the elevators, as it would be less liable to injury if kept in bulk in the holds of good vessels than if it were taken out at Buffalo or anywhere else. This would be the case in warm weather especially, as a ship's cargo is below the water line and is therefore kept at a cool and even temperature. It has been demonstrated that grain shipped down the Mississippi in barges is much less frequently damaged than that shipped by rail. It does not need to go through an elevator and whether western grain is transported in cars or canal boats at Buffalo it is only subjected to risks which would be avoided if it went through to the sea without being disturbed.

As to the argument that the proposed ship canal would be expensive, that is entirely without force when it is remembered that it would save an enormous sum of money that is now wasted, some of it in elevator charges at Buffalo. What the people want is cheaper transportation, and they are willing to pay for it; that is to say, they are willing to put their money where they know that it will bring them good returns in due time. It is to be expected that the elevator ring, the Vanderbilt roads and every other interest that would suffer by the carrying out of this project will fight it bitterly, but that should only make its success the more certain. An ample waterway to the Atlantic is demanded, and it is gratifying to note that all the great and rich section of the country which it would directly affect is rapidly becoming awakened to its importance.

POSTAL TELEGRAPHY.

Postmaster General Wainmaker submits another convincing argument in his annual report in favor of a postal telegraph system, but unfortunately there is very small probability that it will make any impression upon the present congress. What the sentiment of the Fifty-third congress may be on this subject it is useless to surmise, but if the party coming into power March 4 next carries out its promise to regard the wishes of the people it will give the country postal telegraphy. It is not to be doubted that the great majority of the people desire it.

The postmaster general is entirely correct when he says that the government will never properly do the postal work committed to it until it connects electricity with the service, and therefore he advocates the utilization of both the telegraph and the telephone. He characterizes as an antiquated anomaly the existing method for all postal communication, when a wire and a telegraph instrument for the needed quick messages might connect the major part of the postoffice. A large part of the mails must always be transmitted as at

present, "but there is another considerable part that seeks quicker transit that does not find convenient the 10,000 distant telegraph offices, often distant from villages, that does not find the telegraph tariff within the reach of working people." The plan of the postmaster general does not contemplate the ownership of telegraph lines by the government, nor an increase of federal offices or officers. It does not require any outlay of capital by the government. It simply proposes that the government shall make a contract with some telegraph company to connect postoffices by telegraph or telephone, commencing with the most important offices and proceeding gradually in the order of probable usefulness. The telegraph company would perform the service with its own operators for a fixed sum per message, which sum the postoffice department would charge the public, adding a small charge for delivery.

The advantages of such a system have been so often presented that the public ought to be entirely familiar with them. Postal telegraphy contemplates a very much cheaper service for all who should desire to use this means of communication, and a very much better service. It would reduce the average cost of telegraphing by at least one-half and it would insure the promptest possible delivery. It would enable a very much greater number of people to use the telegraph than now do so. It would be a benefit to all classes of the population. This is not a mere conjecture. It finds authority in the experience of England and other European countries where postal telegraphy prevails. Especially in England is the testimony most conclusive as to the advantages and general benefits of the system. Its effect has been to vastly increase correspondence among the people, and it has become a source of revenue to the government.

There is no reason why the postal telegraph system cannot be made equally successful here, and with this practical consideration disposed of there remains no objection to the system that is worthy of serious attention. There ought to be a very earnest expression of public opinion on this subject, which has very close relation to the interests and welfare of the whole people.

CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE.

According to Mr. Erastus Wiman, whose testimony in the matter is worthy of considerable attention, Canada is ready for continental free trade. He scouts the idea of annexation as being unattainable within a quarter of a century, even if then, and only to be brought about by revolution or constitutional means, neither of which conditions he thinks can happen. Continental free trade, however, he regards as at least an early possibility, without seriously interfering with existing protected interests, and he looks upon such a policy as containing the greatest advantages for both the Dominion and the United States. As to England he believes she would consent to continental free trade because of the "enormous" advantages that flow to her from the development of the United States continent with the meagre results that have followed the arrested development in her own possessions on the same continent.

Mr. Wiman has for years been a persistent and most intelligent advocate of this policy, but it is by no means apparent that he has succeeded in convincing any considerable number of the ruling classes in Canada that it is what they need for the progress and development of that country. Neither the preceding nor the present government of the Dominion has given any intimation of a desire to make any very great departure from the present economic policy of the country. The platform upon which Sir John Macdonald made his last campaign did not contemplate any such thing and the representatives of the Canadian government who went to Washington with a view to reciprocity negotiations did not propose anything looking in the direction of continental free trade. On the contrary the government party in Canada has for several years made it very plainly understood that it is determined to maintain the policy of protecting the industries of the country, and the men in power have justified their position in this respect on the ground that England would not tolerate or consent to anything different.

It is undoubtedly true that the agricultural producers of Canada, almost to a man, desire free trade for their products, and in order to secure this they would doubtless support the policy so earnestly and eloquently urged by Mr. Wiman, but they are not in the majority. The controlling classes are the manufacturers, the railroad corporations, and the capitalists, and so far as appears these are practically a unit in favor of maintaining the existing economic policy, modified only as to its bearing upon natural products. The American people would not be satisfied with a trade arrangement that went no further than Canada has thus far shown a willingness to go. It is not alone the manufacturing industries of the United States that are concerned in the question of freer trade with the Dominion. The farmers of this country have something at stake in the determination of this question, and it will need very strong argument to convince them that they would be benefited by any trade policy that the Canadian government has thus far proposed.

Continental free trade is a pleasing theory, but at present there are grave difficulties in the way of putting it into practical effect. Concessions would be necessary on both sides which probably neither is prepared to make, and despite the opinion of Mr. Wiman to the contrary England is the greatest obstacle to the realization of such a policy.

THE ST. LOUIS LUMBERMAN.

One of the leading journals devoted to the lumber business, has an article concerning trade in that line in Omaha which shows that the lumber dealers of this city have done a prosperous business during the past year. It has been the best year in the whole history of the trade in this city. Although margins have been small on account of cuts in prices and unsatisfactory freight rates, the large

ward step. The high standard set by a long line of able and patriotic men, must be preserved. Massachusetts has ever led in the councils of the nation, and her senators have always exercised an influence second to none in the senate chamber.

A Hint to Cleveland's Fool Friends.

There is only one democratic candidate for speaker of the house, and his name is Charles F. Crisp. He comes from Georgia. He has been engaged for the past year or more in demonstrating in high fitness for the office with which the party honored him at the beginning of the Fifty-third congress. We have never heard that Speaker Crisp is a candidate for re-election, in the personal sense; but he is all the same the candidate, and the one candidate of political common sense, democratic harmony and hope, and recent record for the precedents and proprieties that govern the caucus arrangements of a well conducted political organization like the democratic party.

Don't Look Like Fusion.

The fusion agitation between the democrats and populists to control the coming session of the legislature is meeting with considerable opposition. The leaders and office-seekers in the party are not so easily won over to a higher view of politics than to merely act as tools for boosting someone into office. The heavy ten or dozen dependents who take the position that to tie up with the democrats now is to wreck the party for their part in the future. There may be a fusion, but the chances cannot be said to look favorable at the present writing.

If They Be Sensible.

In our legislature the republicans, though they have no majority, are stronger than the other parties, and undoubtedly can get a majority, if they propose really good measures. This will induce sensible and liberty loving men of the other parties to join them. The republicans are sensible; they have a good chance to recover in the state a majority, if not quite so large as formerly, but a good sound majority that is not fusion, and that they must get out of from all connections with monopolies or fanatical factions, which have hurt them considerably and come pretty near ruining them.

Said One of Great Career.

The misadventures which have befallen the once proud Count de Lesseps in his declining years might touch a sympathetic chord even in the breasts of many who have been made cynical by the misadventures of the Panama canal venture. His chateau is to be sold, and his financial ruin has been supplemented by a pitiable condition of mental and physical decay. The melancholy close of a career once so full of luster is a solemn lesson on the vanity of human ambition; yet the heedless man has consented to the sale of his estate, which will scarcely raise to powder it, or to profit by it.

For Straight Business.

Legislation in the interest of the whole people should take precedence over political log-rolling and combinations to keep the dominant party in the background. The party which refuses to take an active and determined part in wholesome legislation at Lincoln, by reason of its cowardice, will be relegated to the rear henceforth. The people of Nebraska are in no humor to condone cowardice and duplicity.

To Reduce Railroad Rates.

The Omaha Bag appears to be getting back on the old anti-monopoly lines, and giving some good advice in regard to the legislature's duty as to lowering railroad rates the coming winter.

CHAPLIE AND HIS TAILOR.

Detroit Free Press: Trustily! My tailor wants me to pay him up. Biller—And my wife wants me to pay down. Trustily! What is the difference? Biller—In one instance you can get the goods out of the store and in the other you can't.

Brooklyn Eagle: Cholly de Sappiens—Are you—

Two friends meeting, the following colloquy ensued: "Where have you been?" "In my tailor's, and I had hard work to make him accept a \$100 bill me out. You astonish me! Why?" "Because he wanted more."

Clothing and Furnisher: Travers—This overcoat seems pretty tight around the chest.

Tailor—When you have taken the money out of your pocketbook to pay for it, sir, it will fit all right. COMFORTED IN HER SORROW. "I know," she said, "it's sad and all that. That Charley and I disagree— But you ought to have seen the love of a hat I wore when he liked me."

Molly—Don't you think Miss Noysgard is

NEED—Mebbe. But she's a splendid shape. BE FOUND SOLACE. He longed for some familiar thing That he had known of yore. So he bought a campaign journal and he looked the drawings o'er.

LITTLE LUMPS OF LEVITY.

When a bicyclist goes at top speed he calls it spin. Binghamton Leader: When a woman gives her husband a good talking to, he realizes what is meant by a good word of mind. Archbishop Globe: It is hard to be grateful to the man who fights your battles for you, and gets killed.

Washington Star: It is said that a good deal

Life: "Hallo, Mike; whose valentine is you carrying on the line?" "Ah! go 'way an' don't bother me. Ain't yer answer that there 'sacred moments when a man wants to be by himself?" St. Paul Globe: Dr. Feiburn to the janitor—Glo, what do you think about that man at Owatonna who drank a quart of alcohol and kicked the Old-Val, at tank a hater's party week new York Herald: Stranger—I notice you called your friend Professor. Is he really a professor? Bowyerlie—Is should say so. Why, dat feller swallers a sword eighteen inches, stands on his feet, and is as light as a church. Professor! Well, I should just smile.

Elmira Gazette: Some men are so conscientious

Lowell Courier: It is proposed to construct a road of all-weather material. A good idea; that will put our men on their metal. Elmira Echo: "There's one wise thing about having only one leg," said the veteran. "You get it last twice as long as you would otherwise."

THE VAGABOND HAIRPIN.

What maiden fair from out her hair Has lost this pin of wire? So black, so best, so full of scent It sets my heart on fire. Full many a night, I've mirror bright, Seen it in my finger slips. This little pin, so crook'd and thin, And how I miss it, I'm sure. But now alas! it's gone to grass, And left to rust and me. A watchman hit, picked up the pin, On floor of P. O. D.

MAKING A FAIR DIVISION

Regulating the Distribution of Cadetships in the Naval Academy.

WESTERN INTERESTS TO BE PROTECTED

If the Representatives Fail to Make Appointments in Their Districts the Governor May Attend to Those Details.

WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE BEE. 513 FOURTEENTH STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 27.

A bill has been introduced to secure greater fairness in the distribution of cadetships in the naval academy. Under its provisions the secretary of the navy is required to notify representatives of vacancies existing in their respective districts on the 5th of March in each year. In case no recommendation is made by the 1st of July the secretary is required to notify the governor of the state in which the vacancy exists and to appoint upon his recommendation such representatives, and the governor having failed to recommend a candidate on the 1st of September, the appointment reverts on that date to the president.

It is insisted that under present conditions representatives through either ignorance or indifference very often fail to make appointments to the naval academy, particularly those from the west. That there is a colony of resident and attached naval officers here in Washington waiting for every such appointed vacancy and eager to secure it by influence of the secretary of the navy for their sons and that in consequence such appointments at the expense of the west congressional districts are very numerous. Under the provisions of the proposed bill full publicity will be given to the fact that vacancies exist and that the secretary will be able to correct the delinquencies of careless congressmen.

To Wipe Out Sectional Lines.

Cabinet gossip tonight centers about Congressman Herbert of Alabama, secretary of the navy. Mr. Herbert is the chairman of the naval affairs committee in the house, and Secretary Tracy has taken great occasion to advise to secure a hearty and intelligent co-operation with the department in everything looking to a great navy. Mr. Herbert was a confederate soldier in the war, and it is suggested that Mr. Cleveland might select a confederate soldier for the head of the naval department as the best way of wiping out all sectional lines and proving that the south view with the north in keeping up the strength and the dignity of the country.

Miscellaneous.

William C. Bell has been commissioned lieutenant colonel of the 25th Infantry, U. S. Army, at Ticonderoga, N. Y. P. S. H. Eliah Halford has frequently preached in small hoosier villages. John Townsend, the veteran tragedian, is dying of cancer of the liver at Toronto. Dr. Josef Stefan, the famous professor of physics at the University of Vienna, is hopelessly ill. During his long career as a champion John L. Sullivan never wrote fool love missives to the girls of the city.

One hundred and sixty-five confederate

army generals yet survive. Twenty-nine have died this year. Herr Krupp has, according to recent statistics, declared income of \$1,000,000 in Germany. It is \$2,000,000 in the United States. General Wade Hampton of South Carolina has just written a letter freshly declaring his opinion that the negro is a dangerous and contemptible race.

PEOPLE OF NOTE.

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THE REWARD OF A HERO.

Brandon Bunker. He stood on the track, young Jimmie, With hot and fevered breath, Waving his lantern madly, and he said: "For he knew that an awful death Was in store for the happy people On the train just a mile away. Who had been to a woodland picnic That bright September day.

A rock on the track behind him Made his forehead cold and damp; That's why he feared for his safety— That's why he swung the lamp. The train was stopped, and the people Flocked all around the young Jim. Who stood there, a little hero, Trembling in every limb. And did they take up a collection For him for saving their lives? And load up that wad with money— Twenties, and tens, and fives; And call him a brave young hero, And cheer him upon the cars. As the sturdy young boy who had noticed The bowlder upon the track?

Nay, nay—neph, neph—I guess not; They took him upon the cars And carried him to the city, And put him behind the bars. He was tried, convicted, and sentenced To eighteen months in jail. He never told a lie, but they knew him— That trick of his was stale.

PERSONALITIES.

The latest from Texas is in the nature of a surprise. It seems that Web Clannagan is out of jail.

Minister Egan will sail for Chili on January 2. He will have time for a lunch there before commencing the voyage home. One of the most imperative needs of the United States is a better navy than we have. Mr. Helms of Indiana, a former state legislator, has submitted only a rough sketch thus far, but will now proceed to work out a model Iowa cruiser will be the site of the statue, and bronze the material.

NEWS FOR THE ARMY.

List of Changes of Importance in the Regular Service Yesterday. WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 27.—Special Telegram to THE BEE:—The following army orders were issued today: Captain Augustus W. Corliss, Eighth infantry, is detailed as a member of the examining board convened at Fort Niobrara, Neb., vice Captain Charles Porter, Eighth infantry, hereby relieved. First Lieutenant Robert F. Ames, Eighth infantry, will report in person to Colonel David S. Gordon, Eighth cavalry, president of the examining board convened at Fort Niobrara, Neb., for examination for promotion. The leave of absence on surgeon's certificate of disability granted Captain Sydney B. Clark, Second infantry, is extended two months on surgeon's certificate of disability. First Lieutenant Benjamin L. Teneyck, assistant surgeon, is relieved from duty at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and will proceed at once to San Antonio, Tex., for duty with the troops in the field. Major George W. Baird, paymaster, will proceed at once to Salt Lake, U. T., for temporary duty in the Department of the Platte, reporting in person en route to the commanding general of that department. When Major Baird's services can be dispensed with in the Department of the Platte the commanding general of that department will order him to return to his station.

Tennessee's Coal Miners.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 27.—General Keller Anderson returned from Coal Creek today, and to the question: "Do you anticipate any serious outbreak on the part of the miners?" replied: "No one can tell just what the miners will do. There are many turbulent spirits among them who persist in threatening the convicts, but whether or not they will carry the threats into execution remains to be seen."

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BROWNING, KING & CO. Largest Manufacturers and Retailers of Clothing in the World. A Great Kicker. Was John Randolph of Roanoke? They say he was so much opposed to the tariff on wool that he would go 40 rods out of his road to kick a sheep. He had it so bad that he probably wouldn't appreciate the benefit we are giving this week on heavy wool underwear. All heavy underwear will go at straight 20 per cent off regular plainly marked prices. If you kick on that 'cause you've got 'nuff underwear, try the other sale. Every man's suit and overcoat in the house is cut like this, (no special lots, the whole business included) \$12.50 suits or overcoats are \$10. \$15 suits are \$12.50 and so on. Inventory next week; that's why we are making these reductions. BROWNING, KING & CO., S. W. Cor. 15th and Douglas St.