

THE DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

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GEORGE B. TSCHUCK. Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 4th day of February, 1893.

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THE Indian police force at Pine Ridge agency certainly has a keen perception of the requirements of the business.

THE election of a senator is not the only object for which the legislature is convened. The people want a few good laws and a thorough investigation into state institutions.

CHICAGO now has a milk inspection department, but there is no inspection of the water that goes into the milk. The exposition city needs pure water as much as it needs pure milk.

MR. AMES will probably suggest that the headline and editorial writers of our esteemed contemporary get together, particularly when he is the subject of distinguished consideration.

THE sudden changes of temperature that have been experienced in Omaha during the past few days must not be charged to the weather bureau. It is impossible to keep track of the blizzards that originate in the great northwest.

THE bereavement suffered by William C. Whitney in the death of his wife will occasion a feeling of sympathy everywhere. Mrs. Whitney was a particular friend of Mrs. Cleveland. During Mr. Whitney's term of service as secretary of the navy, his wife was a prominent figure in Washington society.

THE postal clerks of the Omaha office have petitioned congress for a bill whose provisions aim to put the clerks of all first and second class postoffices on the same footing with carriers and route agents. There is no good reason why their claims should not receive the favorable consideration of congress.

A GOOD deal of interest is being manifested in what is termed the "free trade coal combine," which refers to an organization of American capitalists who propose to control the coal fields of Nova Scotia and market the product largely in the United States. In order to enable them to do this they are counting upon a removal of the duty from bituminous coal by the next congress. Of course the coal interest of the country is denouncing the scheme, but the very great majority of consumers will be found to be in sympathy with it, and these are the people whose interests congress will undoubtedly consider.

JUDGE MAITIN of Kansas, chosen United States senator by a fusion of populists and democrats, has a record as a democrat that will commend him to the hearty fellowship of the most pronounced "hoorbons" in the next congress. When he went to Kansas in the territorial days he was an ardent pro-slavery man and was largely instrumental in securing the enactment of laws for the protection of slavery. He tried hard to make Kansas a slave state. The judge's democracy may have somewhat improved since that time, but as it is of the Missouri quality it can be depended on to comprehend all that is most objectionable in that political faith.

THE point made by City Attorney Connell in the Pullman tax case, if found to be tenable, will be worth a great many dollars to this city. He is proceeding on the theory that this city and county are entitled to assess and collect taxes against the Pullman company irrespective of the returns of the State Board of Equalization. The outcome of this case will be watched with unusual interest because upon it will hinge the right of this city and county to assess the property of the Omaha Belt Line railway in the same manner as the street railway is assessed. Common sense suggests that the city attorney is right. Public policy would dictate his action. The question is Can two powerful corporations through legal technicalities evade the payment of their taxes?

IMPROVEMENT in postal facilities increases the revenues of the service. So marked has this been under the present administration that it is estimated the receipts will this year amount to some \$2,000,000 more than the expenditures. In view of the fact that the balance has heretofore been on the loss side the present condition of things is exceedingly encouraging. No other argument can be needed to enforce the proposition that the policy which has produced this result should be continued. The surplus revenue of the Postoffice department should not be diverted from that service, but be used to still further increase postal facilities. Great progress has been made during the last four years, but the limit of improvement has not been reached. There must be no parsimony in connection with the postal service.

HOUSE ROLL NO.

Among the bills which the legislature ought to pass without a dissenting vote is House Bill No. 89, introduced by Mr. Sheridan. The entire bill, including the emergency clause, is embodied in just five lines. It is nothing more nor less than a repeal of the law creating the State Board of Transportation, otherwise known as the railroad commission. The people of Nebraska have never derived any benefit from the railroad commission. It costs the state not less than \$7,000 a year and has rendered absolutely no service. All we have to show for the \$70,000 which has been paid out in the last ten years is a batch of misleading reports and unreliable statistics. The railroad commission was originally created at the instance of the railroads with a view to staving off railroad legislation. That purpose has been admirably served by it. Although the supreme court has pronounced the commission as valid and its powers have been defined as equal to those of the legislature in the matter of railway regulation, the board has persistently refused to exercise the power vested in it and defiantly disregarded all appeals for redress by the people.

The utter uselessness of the commission warrants the repeal of the law which created it. So long as the board is made up as it is, and so long as its secretaries remain mere catspaws of the railway magnates, the people have nothing to expect from the State Board of Transportation. The legislature should pass House Bill 88 and follow it up with a reasonable maximum freight rate bill and bills prohibiting rebates and railroad passes.

THE TRANSMISSISSIPPI CONGRESS.

The next session of the transmississippi congress will be held at Ogden U. T., beginning May 2. Four sessions of the congress have been held, one of them, the third, in this city, and their effect has been useful in stimulating popular interest, not only in the west but throughout the country, in western affairs. The territory embraced in the representation to this congress takes all the country west of the Mississippi and that part of Louisiana east of the river in which New Orleans is situated. The governor of each state and territory has the right to appoint ten delegates; the county commissioners or county judges may name one delegate from each county; the mayors of all towns and cities select one delegate for each 5,000 people or fractional part thereof; all commercial bodies in all towns and cities may appoint the same number as the mayor. This last includes chambers of commerce, real estate exchanges, produce exchanges, and all similar commercial bodies. All transportation companies are entitled to one delegate each. The object of the congress is to discuss all questions affecting the west that may be the subject of legislation at Washington, and to speak through its resolutions to the national congress. Hence irrigation, arid lands, public lands, Pacific coast defenses and many other important questions come up in a body composed entirely of western men. The great west, which contributes annually to the wealth of the nation more than any other section of the country, and is still far from the limit of its possible development, must make its wants known in order that they may receive proper consideration, and there is no more effective way of doing this than through an annual congress of its people, composed of representative men. In this way the representatives of the people at Washington get a good understanding of what their constituencies desire and western influence in the government is strengthened. Nebraska should be well represented in the next congress.

WHERE WE ARE AT A DISADVANTAGE.

Recent events have naturally renewed attention to the defenseless condition of this country and the relative weakness of its naval force. A prominent naval officer recently said that in the event of a war with England, within thirty hours after it was declared Charleston, Savannah and New Orleans would probably be in ashes, for they are this distance of time from the naval station of the Bermudas. An armored battle ship in three days could steam up the Delaware and bombard Philadelphia at her leisure. New York is also but three days from the Bermudas and Boston but five days from Halifax. The Nova Scotian fleet, said this naval officer, would obligingly stop at Portland, bombard and burn that important railroad center, steam to Boston, take a shot at Bunker Hill monument, lay the city in ruins and proceed down the coast in Long Island sound. In the meantime three or four armored battle ships have sailed up from the Bermudas or St. Lucia, in the Barbadoes, and casting anchor outside of Sandy Hook would blockade New York. In twenty-four hours after a declaration of war, continued this naval authority, there would be no northwestern portion of the United States. It would be British possessions. Equilant, a British naval station, is but a few hours from Seattle and Tacoma. One gunboat would lay every town on Puget sound in ruins in two days. While this naval officer draws an altogether improbable picture, it cannot be said that it is an impossible one. The defenseless condition of our coast is undeniable, and the Pacific coast would be absolutely at the mercy of any naval power with which we might have war. Here is our great weakness, and although the subject has been discussed for years very little has been done to improve the situation. In case of war with Great Britain, and who can say that this may not happen in view of the reported schemes for annexing Canada, our naval force would be found inadequate to the protection of the seacoast. Counting vessels in commission and those under construction which will be available within a year, the strength of the United States navy consists of forty-two modern vessels, to which may be added the sixty-four old monitors, wooden and iron vessels, sailing ships and tugs, which would be practically useless in modern naval warfare. January 1, 1889, the British navy consisted of 373 effective vessels afloat, and

by January 1, 1894, it is estimated the number will have increased to 501. In addition to her effective naval force the British government holds as reserved merchant cruisers twenty-five ocean steamers now engaged in trade. That makes a fleet of 526 vessels, the greater number of which could be used in case of war against the United States, and it is easy to see at what a disadvantage we should be on the water and in trying to defend our coasts. It is true that we have some of the finest war ships in the world, but to secure these must be more of them. Of course we do not require any such navy as that of England, but we should have a naval force large enough to do effective service in the protection of our coasts and seaports.

It ought to be apparent to everybody that the United States has reached that point in its progress as a commercial power where its relations with other commercial countries are liable at any time to produce serious and troublesome controversies, and it is manifestly sound policy to be prepared for any exigency that may arise. This country must maintain its position among the nations of the earth, and in order to do this it must have the means at command to exact from other nations a just regard for its rights and a fair consideration of its claims.

THE SLEEPING CHOLERA BACILLUS.

There is a great deal of significance in the views presented by Dr. Guarch, an eminent German scientist, who has made a special study of bacteriology in respect to the causes of cholera. His opportunities for making himself familiar with the disease have been of the best, and his conclusions are therefore entitled to much consideration. He says: "As far as I can see the bacillus alone is not the cause of the epidemic. We have cases of the bacillus remaining for days and days in the body without any harm being done. They might have passed anywhere. Thus it seems that if the epidemic appears in Germany next summer it will be impracticable to keep up a quarantine between the neighboring towns. * * * The great thing is to get your towns into a sanitary condition. The absence of cholera in England, for instance, is due to the admirable sanitary arrangements there. When you have pulled down the cholera nests in the poor districts, the cholera, like other epidemics, will disappear."

The idea that effective quarantine between towns is impracticable will be readily accepted, but there can be no doubt that a quarantine between countries separated by the Atlantic ocean may be of great value if it is rigidly enforced. But in a country having so vast an extent of seacoast to guard as America has it is manifestly difficult to prevent the disease from effecting an entrance, and if it once secures a foothold no subsequent quarantine precautions can avail anything. Hence it follows that the prime importance of maintaining good sanitary conditions in all towns, which Dr. Guarch regards as the only safeguard against cholera, must be universally recognized if the disease is to be surely prevented from developing into a scourge among the people. The reference to England's example is timely and appropriate. That country has a vast number of people living in poverty and squalor, and yet in spite of her commercial intercourse with neighboring countries in which cholera has prevailed the disease has not become epidemic within her borders. She has vigorously enforced sanitary laws and has profited thereby.

The chief danger in this country arises from a false sense of security on account of our isolated position in relation to the rest of the world. The statement of the German scientist that the cholera bacillus may remain for many days in the human system before making its presence manifest shows that our distance from the shores of the old world cannot serve as a protection, for people bearing the seeds of the disease may pass the strictest quarantine. The energetic enforcement of laws compelling the people to purify their environments, and the faithful performance of duty by the constituted health authorities, can alone insure safety. Every city and village in the United States must thoroughly perform its part in this work, and it must not be delayed until the dreaded visitor has actually arrived.

SUGGESTIVE LEGISLATION.

There are bills on the calendar of the two houses of the Nebraska legislature that should never be enacted into law; others that are mere duplicates of laws now on the statute books, and again many that should be amended in order to meet the demands of the people for good, wholesome legislation. No greater service can be rendered the state than that of a competent sifting committee, whose members could discard the useless bills and substitute in their places measures that will be beneficial. The Colorado legislative session is somewhat further advanced in its work than is the Nebraska legislature. Our neighbors on the west have reached that stage of proceedings where no more bills can be introduced. There are now before that body a number of important measures whose titles are suggestive. Considerable attention is paid to railroad legislation. Among the more important bills of this class are to be found the following: A bill fixing the damages at not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$15,000 in case of death resulting from railroad accidents and injuries from cars or engines owing to carelessness or negligence on the part of railway employees; a bill regulating the charges for sleeping car berths and fixing the maximum daily charge of \$1.25 for lower and \$1 for upper berth and for a parlor car seat, 25 cents a day; to regulate the sale and redemption of railroad tickets—compelling railroad companies to redeem unused tickets purchased of them; a bill to regulate express charges; to require railroad companies to give thirty days' notice to employees before increasing work hours or cutting salaries; to compel all railroads to fence their tracks.

We note also the following bills now being considered by the Colorado legislature and commend the various sub-

A SACRED DUTY.

Republicans of the Legislature Must Redeem Their Pledges.

Republican members of the legislature must make an effort to redeem the pledges made by the party to the laborers and producers of this state in its several platforms or become responsible for inevitable disaster. Party platforms either mean something or they mean nothing. They are either an honest declaration of party principles and a true enunciation of pledges in favor of reforms demanded by the people or they are a delusion and a snare.

The republican platforms of 1890, 1891 and 1892 pledge the party to specific legislation in the interest of the laborer and producer. The platform of 1890 contains the following plank in favor of railroad regulation and the abolition of railroad pass bribery. We demand the reduction of freight and passenger rates on railroads to correspond with rates now prevailing in the adjacent states to the Mississippi, and we further demand that the legislature shall abolish demand and free transportation on railroads excepting for employees of railroad companies.

The platform of 1890 also pledges the party to enact laws for the regulation of elevators and the prohibition of discrimination against any class of shippers. The plank on this subject reads as follows: Owners of public elevators that receive and handle grain for storage should be declared public warehouses and compelled under penalty to receive, store, ship and handle the grain of all persons alike, without discrimination, and the state regulating charges for storage and inspection. All railroad companies should be required to switch, haul, handle and receive and ship the grain of all persons, without discrimination.

The platform of 1891 embodies the following plank: We are heartily in favor of the general provisions of the interstate commerce act, and we demand the regulation of all railway and transportation lines in such a manner as to insure fair and reasonable rates to the producers and consumers of the country.

The platform of 1892, upon which every republican member of the legislature was elected, reiterates the pledges made in the two preceding platforms in the following language: The republican party is the friend of labor in the factory, mill, mine and on the farm. It will at all times stand ready to adopt any measure that may improve its condition or promote its prosperity. The farmers of our state who constitute the chief element of our productive wealth creating population, are entitled to the cheapest and best facilities for storing, shipping and marketing their products, and to this end we favor such laws as will give them cheap safe and easily obtained elevator and warehouse facilities, and will furnish them with equitable rates and proper transportation facilities for all accessible markets.

We demand the enactment of laws regulating the charges of express companies in this state to the end that such rates may be made reasonable. We favor the adoption of the amendment to the constitution providing for an elective railroad commission, empowered to fix local passenger and freight rates. On the question of labor and the prohibition of Pinkerton police the party stands pledged in the following planks: We deplore the occurrence of any conflict between labor and capital. We denounce the agitation of demagogues designed to foment and intensify these conflicts, and we most earnestly disapprove the use of private armed forces in any attempt to settle them. We believe that in protecting the laboring men by all necessary and judicious legislation and to this end we favor the enactment of suitable laws to protect health, life and limb of all the employees of the transportation, mining and manufacturing companies while engaged in the service of such companies.

Will the republican members of the legislature stand up for Nebraska and the republican party, and redeem the solemn pledge made to the people, or will they heed the appeals of corporation mercenaries and become recreant to their trust? This is the last chance the republican party has for regaining popular confidence. It must either keep faith with the people or disband and let some other party assume the reins of power.

Does Bayard Fill the Bill?

There are obvious and forcible reasons why the next secretary of state should be a thorough, aggressive, star-gazing American.

In Loud Commanding Tones.

The whole American people, except a few niggwumps who are not Americans, speak with one voice to other nations regarding the Hawaiian matter, "hands off."

Resenting Chicago "Impudence."

For pure and unadulterated effrontery nothing of recent occurrence has exceeded the suggestion made by "General" James McBride, the representative of the Chicago fair management, in regard to the Philadelphia Liberty bell.

A Fatal Alarm.

With every appearance of solemnity there comes from Nebraska the rumor that the Nebraska legislature will probably send Paul Vandervoort to the senate.

Omaha's Rescue Hall.

Rescue hall is the name of a charitable institution in Omaha which deserves the commendation and assistance of the citizens of that city to a marked degree. The old People's theater has been converted into a home for unfortunate men, women and children and its management is on a right basis.

People are furnished with food and lodging, absolutely free, and in case of illness, they are taken to the hospital as soon as circumstances permit. Gospel services are held each evening. When the unfortunate are converted under the ministrations of the lord and desire to live a different life they are given work and in every way possible aided to leave the old life behind. This is practical Christianity.

Relief for the People demanded.

Address County Democrat.

THE OMAHA Bee wants the republican party to redeem its pledges made to the people in its platforms regarding railroad freight reduction every year for ten years and has moderate. The Bee is to be commended in its brave stand. The people should be relieved from extortionate freight charges, and each political party should unite to accomplish this result.

Telephone Extension.

Telephone rates are higher in America than in English and European cities, and higher in large cities than in small. There is absolutely no justification for this, and in a number of instances where legislatures have exercised their undoubted power to reduce telephone rates to reasonable charges, the rates have instantly been cut down by the company. The effort to reduce these rates in this city deserves public support and legislative action.

An Intellectual Titan.

When Premier Gladstone arose in the House of Commons to discuss the policy which was outlined in the "88, each from the throne against the attack of the leader of the opposition, a spectacle was presented in that body such as no other legislative assembly in the world could match, and such as even that body never matched before.

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Vote of Nebraska, 1890-1892.

With a view to obtaining a careful judgment of the exact conditions prevailing in the various congressional districts prevailing in the territory lines prevailing in 1892 and giving the returns for the same territory for the congressional election of 1890. It will at once be recognized that this is a very difficult undertaking, as over one-half of the states in the union have been redivided, owing to the change of new census. Comparative returns are of little value unless they represent the same territory. It will be remembered that prior to the present Nebraska had but three congressional districts; now she has six. From the returns given below it will be noticed that three protection republicans were elected, one democrat, one independent and one fusion between the democrats and the people's independent; that the republican vote of 1890 increased over that of 1892 by 26,351 votes; that the people's independent fell off 1,886 votes, and that the protection vote increased 159,493 votes.

It is surprising considering the conditions in Nebraska—namely, the rapid increase of the alliance, the alleged increase in the democratic strength, and the fact that the state has a very limited number of manufacturers feeling the effect of the protective tariff—that a result like this should be attained. It is inferred, therefore, that the republicans should increase their vote, in the face of the increasing alliance, by 10,000 votes in two years. It is also hopeful that the free trade democratic vote should slump 25,000 in two years.

THE RETURNS IN DETAIL BY DISTRICTS FOR THE TWO YEARS.

Returning for congressional elections for the state of Nebraska.

Table with columns: Districts, Rep., Dem., People Ind., Pro. Rows: First, Second, Third, Fourth, Sixth, Total.

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Partisanship Gives Way to Sympathy.

In the presence of overwhelming misfortune or death the animosities aroused by party strife are forgotten and bitterness gives place to sympathy.

This fact has been strikingly illustrated in the case of Mr. Blaine. The dead leader was a partisan of the most pronounced type.

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