

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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WHY ALL THIS IMPOTENCE?

Every tub should stand on its own bottom. It may be good politics to rush the charter through the legislature without correcting any of its serious defects...

There is no proposition now pending before the Omaha city council to extend the water works franchise. The ordinance which the mountebank mayor threatens to veto with a tremendous explosion simply proposes to modify one of the terms of the contract between the city and the water company...

As a business proposition it would be safer to buy the works by condemnation process, in which the court or city appoints all the appraisers, than under the arbitration clause of the contract which gives the city one arbitrator, the company one and allows the two choose the third...

Neither the legislature nor the governor will be excusable for hasty action on this important measure under pretense that they would prevent the extension of a franchise worth millions, as asserted on the floor of the house.

The action of the senate on the exposition bill practically limits the state appropriation to \$100,000. While this is not a very munificent contribution it might have proved of very great advantage to the enterprise had it been made promptly after the opening of the legislative session in January instead of coming near the close of the session in the middle of March...

The Fifty-fifth congress will meet in extraordinary session today. There will be no delay in organizing the new house, the republican caucus having voted to continue all the present officers and also the rules. There was no opposition to the re-election of Speaker Reed, which shows how entirely groundless were the reports sent out some time ago to the effect that there was a good deal of feeling against the speaker by reason of the way in which he applied the rules and his firm stand against expenditures deemed to be extravagant...

It is presumed that the work of the session will be confined to the tariff bill and the delinquent appropriation bills, though possibly some attention will be given to the currency. The tariff bill will probably be ready for presentation to the house today and as outlined by Mr. Dingley it will be at once referred to the ways and means committee, from which it will speedily be reported back and its consideration by the house entered upon...

A prominent applicant for diplomatic office is quoted as saying that he has reason to believe the president will appoint him to the desired ministry. There is nothing like faith. The office seeker who is not willing to believe the job is coming his way may as well have kept out of the race.

When the republicans were in power we were constantly told by the populist press that the state house teemed with idle occupants of useless offices. The Bee agreed with these papers that some of the offices were unnecessary, such, for example, as three high salaried secretaries of the State Board of Transportation, whose work can readily be performed by a single clerk. But has any one heard of any of these offices being abolished since the populists got hold of the places?

If Senator Pettigrew has any right to speak for his associates, the so-called free silver republican members of the United States senate will not lend their votes to any obstructive tactics against the new tariff bill. If Mr. Pettigrew and his friends also recognized the futility of trying to push a 10 to 1 free coinage measure in the present congress and refrained from wasting the senate's time in declaiming on this senseless issue, they could improve their standing materially with the general public.

everybody should be able to acquiesce in the hope expressed by Speaker Reed

that all branches of the government will be in accord as to the policy of giving to the people immediately whatever relief their wisdom may devise.

A NEW LEADER.

The democratic party has a new leader. He is Joseph W. Bailey of Texas, who will today receive the support of the democrats of the house of representatives for speaker. The country does not know much of Mr. Bailey. It is safe to say that a large majority of democrats have never heard of him. He represents the Fifth Texas district, but is a native of Mississippi. He is a young man, being not yet 34, and is a lawyer. He will enter upon his fourth consecutive term in congress today, but his name has not been prominently identified with any legislation except a bill providing for voluntary bankruptcy which nobody familiar with the subject approved.

Mr. Bailey has, however, been something of a factor in democratic politics. It is interesting to note that as a member of the Chicago convention he was opposed to the nomination of Mr. Bryan, regarding him as essentially a populist. Mr. Bailey was so dissatisfied with Bryan's nomination that he published a letter declining to run for congress, but was finally persuaded to accept a renomination, which carried with it support of the popocratic ticket. As the democratic leader in the house of representatives, the Texas congressman will have a vantage ground for his ambition that will enable him to broaden his leadership if he have the ability to do so. That he has ability must be presumed from the fact of his having been successful over such democratic veterans as McMillin of Tennessee and Bland of Missouri. Mr. Bailey will have the best possible opportunity in the present congress to show what there is in him. If he can win prestige as a leader the chance is now before him. Should he justify the evident confidence of his democratic colleagues he will become a force to be reckoned with by the aspirants for the democratic presidential nomination in 1900. Mr. Bailey has bounded into national prominence and his future will be watched with no little interest.

Secretary Sherman is used to being criticised and therefore is not likely to be troubled by the flings that are thrown at him by some American newspapers and by the American correspondent of the London Times, but none the less these should be resented by all who appreciate the great services which the veteran statesman has rendered to the country. The attempt of the correspondent to discredit Mr. Sherman as the head of the State department is reprehensible. It seems that the secretary of state was not disposed to unfold to the correspondent, for consumption abroad, his views as to our foreign relations, and therefore the Times man concluded that the secretary has no definite opinions or does not expect them to exert any influence and that he is woefully in mind and purpose. This discourtesy to a distinguished statesman, in whose wisdom and discretion the great majority of his countrymen have the fullest confidence, cannot be too vigorously condemned. It reflects upon the president himself, who called Secretary Sherman into the administration because he knew his great ability and his soundness of judgment.

If it be true that the secretary of state does not regard foreign affairs as of first importance he is in accord with the intelligent opinion of the country. Important those affairs certainly are, but they are secondary to the question of domestic prosperity and the purpose of the administration to subordinate them is approved by the great body of the people. There is no necessity in the mind of the president or the secretary of state regarding the policy to be pursued in our foreign affairs, nor is there any doubt that they are in perfect agreement. We shall mind our own business, protecting our interests everywhere, but seeking no controversies or conflicts with any other nation. This is the meaning of what President McKinley said in his inaugural address and it is wise and right.

Mr. Verner has volunteered the statement that if he were only given a water works franchise in Omaha he could furnish the city with fire hydrants without charge. If memory serves us correctly this is the same Mr. Verner that controlled the present water works plant in Omaha during the wrecking period before it went into the hands of the court. If memory serves us correctly the same Mr. Verner entered into an agreement with Mayor Bemis on behalf of the water company in consideration of the payment of a disputed claim for \$37,000 against the city to give the city the privilege of relocating without cost 100 fire hydrants from places where they were useless to places where they were needed. But when this same Mr. Verner had cashed his warrant he repudiated the contract made in good faith by Mayor Bemis on behalf of the city.

Is the man whose promise to relocate 100 hydrants without extra charge was broken almost as soon as it was made, the man whose promise to give Omaha free hydrants would be worth any more than the paper it is written on? Is not Mr. Verner's play to use the city for pulling his own chestnuts out of the fire too gaudy to deceive anybody who does not want to be deceived?

Mr. Yelzer is the legislative champion of the initiative and referendum. General Coxey goes Yelzer one better. Coxey now stands for the initiative, referendum and imperative mandate, whatever that may mean.

It ought not to be difficult to find eligible members for the proposed new community that is to get along without money. People are not at all scarce who have been involuntarily getting along without money for months past and

who did it without joining any communitarian community.

One of the chief objections to the initiative and referendum is that it would be the beginning instead of the ending of a long series of expensive experiments in impracticable and visionary measures of pretended reform.

At least it is definitely known now how much the state will appropriate for the exposition, and, although the amount is altogether inadequate, anything is better than continued uncertainty. In Theory, at least. The indications are that public office will continue to be a public trust. Needless to be alarmed. When the word hears of the proposition to mobilize the militia of all the states at the coming Omaha exposition we presume international stocks will go tumbling and the powers will wish they hadn't bulldozed Greece. Mistake of the Office Hunter. A large number of eminently respectable and eager citizens have yet to learn that a change of business does not necessarily involve a change in the village postoffice, nor new men in other clerical positions of the government.

An account is given in the scientific journals of a new method of condensing vast quantities of reading matter into small space by means of new methods of photography. But for practical purposes the better plan would be to condense the fight advertisements into doing every day for hurried readers. The announcement comes from Washington that the president will not dispose of the office of the attorney general for which the special session is called shall be enacted. This is the thing to do, as it will tend to push the passage of the tariff bill by effectually and induce senators who are independent to themselves in position to talk with the president about local officers. The early election of the attorney general is of more importance than all of the patronage it wets a hundredfold as much as it is. Mr. Sherman offers the patronage to repeal the Sherman tariff and to change the tariff and a president with more diplomatic advisers may use it even to better advantage in pushing the passage of the tariff bill.

The Lexow anti-trust committee has made a \$10,000 report to the legislature at Albany without having the public any idea of what it didn't possess already. The report states that the trusts are formed to suppress competition, to raise prices and increase profits, but it fails to suggest any effective way in which they can be controlled or suppressed. The only remedy offered is in the shape of a bill enlarging the powers of the attorney general to deal with trusts that attempt to restrain trade. The report itself shows that the trusts are not so powerful as the powers of state officials and legislatures are restricted by the federal constitution. Compressed into plain, everyday English the report is a valuable document and requires a statesman of larger caliber than Senator Lexow to discover a legal way of regulating the tendencies of trusts that will not do more harm than good.

Colombus Telegram: The senatorial session at Lincoln have thus far developed two bruisers who should, if they had their deserts, be working out sentences instead of participating in the game for the government of the state. Senator Ransom has been mentioned to challenge the winner of the pugilistic battle in Nevada. He is said to be keeping himself in practice during the present session at Lincoln. Senator Ransom has been mentioned to challenge the winner of the pugilistic battle in Nevada. He is said to be keeping himself in practice during the present session at Lincoln.

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DISPLACED PUBLIC CONFIDENCE.

Deceals Record: Eugene Moore and Joe Deceals will find favor on the fellows who supported them for office if they will stop their jaws and put up the dough.

Pierce Leader: The only way to settle for state money relief by ex-state officials is to settle. The actions of Bartley and Moore in standing trial only serve to add to the belief that they are guilty of plain, unadorned stealing. Ponca Journal: Two or three hundred years ago some one remarked that the way to get rich is to keep one's mouth shut and give every dollar he sees. That is perhaps the recipe that has been followed by certain officials at Lincoln. McCook Tribune: The York Times says that President Bartley has won the gratitude of the business men of Nebraska. But the price was too high, Tim; too all-inclusive altogether. A few more such victories would sweep the state.

Freemont Herald: Up to date ex-Treasurer Joe Bartley has not only neglected to turn over any of that half-million deficiency, but to conduct the state treasury where it is. He should read up the career and history of Barrett Scott, and not get too bossy. The people of this state are not getting into a hurry to get rid of Bartley, but they are getting into a hurry to get rid of Bartley's successor. Hebron Republican: Ex-State Treasurer Bartley knew two years ago that in January, 1897, he would have to cash up with his successor. As a forerunner man he should have made himself and his countrymen state funds together for a turn-over to the new treasurer with that surprising swiftness to purposely please himself, his political friends and to discomfit his political enemies. It would seem, however, that Mr. Bartley has taken us all—republicans, democrats and populists—for chumps.

Nebraska Republican: Can it be possible that ex-State Treasurer Bartley will go into court and plead that he was two days late in giving his official bond, hence is not liable to the state for \$2,000 he is short? Can it be possible ex-Auditor Moore will go into court and plead that he is not liable to the state because the treasurer, not he, should have received the insurance fees? The good people of Nebraska are law-abiding, but if they are forced to the conclusion that public ex-state officers in a franchise election as it was in Holt county then they will welcome Holt county methods. Beatrice Woman's Gazette: Ex-State Treasurer Joseph S. Bartley was arrested upon the complaint of the attorney general for the alleged theft and embezzlement of \$339,762.33 of the state funds. There are fourteen different counts against the ex-treasurer. Bartley was released on a \$50,000 bond. It seems to us that a bond should at least cover the amount of the alleged theft of the state funds. The embezzling habit appears to be one that is very hard to get rid of after once being contracted, and there should be some scheme devised to prevent the loss of such large amounts of money to the state at the end of each term of office. Mr. Bartley says he intends paying every dollar back in time to come, but he should have thought of this before appropriating the funds to his own use. There is a place sometimes mentioned as being paved with good intentions.

Schuyler Quill: The present session of the Nebraska legislature is getting up a reputation on the scrapping line. Randolph Times: Senator Ransom has been mentioned to challenge the winner of the pugilistic battle in Nevada. He is said to be keeping himself in practice during the present session at Lincoln. Senator Ransom has been mentioned to challenge the winner of the pugilistic battle in Nevada. He is said to be keeping himself in practice during the present session at Lincoln.

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POINTERS ON PERTINENT TOPICS.

Dodge Criticism: The streets of the state house will find to strengthen the hold The Omaha Bee has enjoyed upon the confidence of Nebraskans generally.

Wallace Tug: An alrshab has never been seen in Nebraska west of the 100th meridian. This speaks well for the grip medicine dispensed in this end of the state. Neigh Leader: The Omaha Bee has of late been engaged in a laudable task of giving publicity to the numerous vicious bills introduced in the state legislature. This has been undertaken, not in a spirit of partisanship, but in the interests of good government. Minden Gazette: The Bee publishes a sensational statement to the effect that the present legislature will select an investigating committee to through state houses and fellows for the past twelve or more years, in the hope of stirring up something good to campaign thunder this fall. It is a good scheme.

Broken Bow Beacon: Rumor has it that Governor Holcomb will call an extra session of the legislature after the first week in April to give another maximum of a fair and bill in case the one now pending in the United States supreme court should be declared unconstitutional by that body. This is a good scheme. Kearney Hub: The Omaha Bee makes a pertinent inquiry. It wants to know why the amendment recent should stop with the proposed amendment to the constitution at the last election. Of course the only answer is that the populists do not care for the amendments further than the use that may be made of them in setting a couple of partisan supreme judges. For instance, they have made a great hullabaloo about the investment of the school fund. Why don't they recollect the ballot case for and against that particular amendment? Kearney Hub: There is a penitentiary warren over in Iowa who has been running the battle at Fort Madison. He wants to make it produce a neat balance to the credit of the state. The other day he turned over \$6,000 as a part of the penitentiary's surplus and he has since turned over another \$10,000 in proportion to build new cells. What a curiosity he would be in Nebraska. Prison management in this state has always been a change of state administration and the turning over of the records for examination, after they were obliged to abandon all hope of seeing the reform enacted, and succeeded in purging it of its selfish and corrupt managers. They are the same "straight" papers that are now busy kicking the convicted ex-state officers in a franchise election to save themselves right before their constituents. The "bolters" can now recall the vilifications of the "straights" with serenity of spirit, recognizing this as but another proof that he who stands for the right may stand alone for a time, but his reward and vindication must come, for the right shall finally prevail.

Wisner Chronicle: The "straight" republicans have retired from the business of abusing the Bee and the few country newspapers of Nebraska that had the honesty, independence and courage to demand a change of state administration and the turning over of the records for examination, after they were obliged to abandon all hope of seeing the reform enacted, and succeeded in purging it of its selfish and corrupt managers. They are the same "straight" papers that are now busy kicking the convicted ex-state officers in a franchise election to save themselves right before their constituents. The "bolters" can now recall the vilifications of the "straights" with serenity of spirit, recognizing this as but another proof that he who stands for the right may stand alone for a time, but his reward and vindication must come, for the right shall finally prevail.

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FLASHES OF FUN.

Chicago Record: Patient-Say, doctor! Surgeon (calmly opening his case of instruments): Well, Patient-Remember-we are insured in the same mutual company.

Detroit Free Press: He-What's the matter, my dear? He-It's nothing, I'm afraid. Then she talked a blue streak for fifteen minutes. Life: Hunter-It is odd what an affinity the presidential office has for working women. Harkins-What do you mean? Hunter-Washington cut down a cherry tree, I'm married to a new one and the presidents have been cabinetmakers. Judge: Aunt Tolgate (aghast)-Brother Hubbard, that is the finger you are drinking from. Uncle Jimmie Common (to the judge):-Point name for it, sister. I saw, it does take every finger a feller's job to hold their thing while he's gittin' drunk, 'gosh.

Detroit Journal: "Oh yes," the far-wandering Ulysses further replied, "I guess there were other ways. If the horse of wood had had some, I might have tried a plug of tobacco, I suppose. I was bound to get the horse on the Trojans in one form or another." Chicago Tribune: "I wonder," mused Allen Sparks, looking over the bill the plumber had sent him for making sundry hot water connections, "if he hasn't figured in something for that strong pipe he was smoking?" Cleveland Leader: The Minister-My good man, do you believe in a hereafter? Shotwell-A hereafter? Said why I did, I'm married to a new woman. I believe in sheveral hereafters.

Excusable. Cleveland Plain Dealer. She wore her high hat to the play. It made the boys admire her very. Not a word a harsh word did they say. No uber came down the aisle. And asked her with a warning smile. To kindly stoop the towering tile. No-There she