

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

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THE REORGANIZED UNION PACIFIC.

The advent of Horace G. Burt as chief executive of the reorganized Union Pacific railroad marks an epoch in the history of the pioneer transcontinental trunk line. Mr. Burt is pre-eminently fitted for inaugurating reforms that will insure the operation of the Union Pacific upon strictly business principles and place it in position to regain the prestige which it enjoyed when it was without a rival in competing for transcontinental traffic.

As a thoroughbred railway manager the new president realizes that a railroad weighted down with superfluous or inefficient favorites can no more hope to win in a race against a well-managed competitor than a regiment of regulars burdened with a long baggage train to overtake a band of mounted Indians on the war path.

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Of course federal laws will apply, sometimes more severe in their penalties than state laws, but they do not cover all the misdemeanors and crimes punishable by state law.

It would be better to invoke the superior jurisdiction of the federal courts only where the question involved relates to the federal business. In the St. Louis case the federal government was not interested in the fight between a porter and a janitor, and no harm could have come to the United States had the state courts had jurisdiction.

Contrary to expectation the protest of the American ambassador at Berlin against the decree of the Prussian minister of finance prohibiting the importation of American fresh fruit was not without effect. The decree was modified to the extent of permitting fruit to be admitted which has been inspected and found to be in satisfactory condition.

The matter was discussed at the cabinet meeting Friday and Secretary of Agriculture Wilson is reported to have said that the action of Prussia might be entirely proper and clearly within its right, since it is a fact that certain well known fruit diseases could be carried on the fruit itself and thus the infection could be communicated to healthy trees at a great distance.

Meanwhile there appears to be, accepting the view of the secretary of agriculture, no substantial ground of complaint at the action of the Prussian minister of finance. He did no more than has been done by certain states of the union, which Secretary Wilson said had in times past prohibited the bringing within their borders of particular kinds of fruit from infected sections of other states.

Prison records show that life sentences are not very long on the average. Of the forty-two prisoners that have been received at the prison in Joliet, Ill., under life-sentences forty-one have died in prison, three, but fourteen have died in prison, nine were pardoned, six were sent to insane asylums, eleven had their sentences cut short and two were discharged by reversal of judgment.

These are stupendous figures and it is not surprising that they command serious attention, or that men who have always been earnest friends of the pension system are urging reforms that would operate to reduce the amount without doing any injustice to those who deserve a pension.

It has been stated that pensions of this class, paid to former widows are now costing the treasury \$10,000 a day. Again, it is now possible for a minor child of a deceased soldier, who never applied for a pension during the term of his minority, to file a claim for the money that he would have received from the government up to the age of 16. Such an applicant may be 40 years old today and yet if he was entitled to a pension twenty-five years ago he can file a claim at the pension bureau that must be allowed under the law.

The liberal policy of our government toward the union soldiers is in the highest degree honorable to the American people and that policy will be maintained as long as there is a war veteran to be benefited by it.

It is no question that reforms can be effected which would do no injury or injustice to the old soldiers and would materially reduce the demand for this source on the national treasury.

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The South American trade has attracted the attention of the British traders in recent years and now it is announced that the British Board of Trade is about to establish a bureau of information for the benefit of persons engaged in commerce, an object of which is to ascertain the condition of the South American market and keep the British traders informed.

The Canadian authorities are doing something toward encouraging prospecting in Alaska by an order forbidding anyone entering the Klondike region without at least a half ton of provisions.

The most authentic report on farm stock and its value for the year 1897 shows an increase over the aggregate value of the preceding year of \$10,952,000, the figures for the two years being \$2,637,912,000 and \$1,835,359,000.

There are all sorts of jobs, but the chap who is expected to say something new to the American public every twenty-four hours has one that keeps him reasonably busy.

Dr. Nansen has given Americans a surprise by announcing at the close of his lecture in New York Friday evening that he might accompany Lieutenant Peary on his next polar journey.

It is an exceedingly pretty idea, if the battleship Kentucky is to be christened with water instead of a more proverbial Kentucky liquid, that the water should be taken from the clear, cold spring on the farm where Abraham Lincoln was born.

Now that the house has come to be regarded, and justly, as the conservative branch of the national legislature, the friends of justice and common sense look for a more conservative and constructive effort of Mr. Lodge's bill to restrict immigration.

What then, is left of Mr. Hoar's plea for a virtuous ballot box? What protection against corrupt politics is to be found in the exclusive illiterate party?

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

A Baltimore man named Hugg is seeking a divorce. A man with two g's in his bug should not be restricted by conventional ties.

Charlotte Smith evidently regards as hopeless the case of bachelor politicians and she is now giving her undivided attention to the reformations of Chinese laundrymen.

That Chicago man who claims to hold the secret of transmuting base metals into gold will learn something to his advantage by consulting the Philadelphia promoters of Edgemont, S. D. His system, however, cannot approach in celebrity and magnetic power that of Messrs. Grabo and Keutz.

The enhancement of values applies to horses, cow, cattle, sheep and hogs, mules and other class showing a diverse character. The largest increase is in sheep, which show a gain of 29 per cent for the year.

Philippian indignation has been kindled at the report of the land commissioner that the year 1897 shows an increase over the aggregate value of the preceding year of \$10,952,000.

Some day, when honesty and moral courage have supplanted humbug and hypocrisy, men will cease to interfere with the rights and opinions of other men.

It is not surprising that they command serious attention, or that men who have always been earnest friends of the pension system are urging reforms that would operate to reduce the amount without doing any injustice to those who deserve a pension.

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ANOTHER INDIGANT PROTEST.

The ambitious architect-in-chief insists on being advertised. The recent publication by Leslie's Weekly or an illustrated article upon the Transmississippi exposition seems to have provoked another outbreak of architectural indignation from the Boston end of the long distance telephone in the shape of the following letter addressed to its publishers:

Chicago Tribune: The record-breaking case of modesty occurred at Elizabeth, N. J., the other day when Rev. Martin Gessner, a Roman Catholic clergyman, ran away to avoid receiving a purse containing \$2,500 in gold in honor of his twenty-fifth anniversary as a priest.

Chicago Post: Bishop Vincent of the Methodist Episcopal church wants gushing stopped. Why doesn't the bishop say something that is within the range of possibility? Or, if he does express himself for something of this sort, why does he not come out boldly and demand the abolishment of girls' boarding schools?

Chicago Tribune: Waiting for a man to propose is even more tiresome than waiting for a man to propose to you.

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