

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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The bottom fact in regard to the Maine is that it is full of holes.

Now, if Joe Bartley could only have a few days' vacation one of the first things he would do would be to join his old pals in one of the Lincoln reform and purity clubs.

The judges who are to award the Nobel prize to the person who has done the most during the year 1898 for the permanent peace of the world ought to be out taking notes now. They would learn who is least entitled to the prize.

The commission of engineering experts sent to Niagara reports that the ship canal connecting the two great lakes can be built if enough cash is put up to pay for the work. This was suspected before and now it is certain.

The English bearer of a lordly title was given five years' penal servitude for obtaining goods under false pretenses. If this measure of justice should be given all titled persons who marry American heiresses the foreign jails might have to be enlarged.

Omaha is always patriotic and its citizens always in readiness to respond to a call of their country in case of need. But the call to arms must emanate from the national authorities and not from blatherers and professional firebrands who deal in patriotism as a purchasable commodity.

The owners of the Cyclone street sweeper will have a good opportunity to make a practical test of their machine as soon as spring weather sets in. If performance comes up to what is promised there is a good prospect of Omaha boasting the cleanest streets in the country.

The attorney general of Colorado has decided that there is no law in Colorado to compel a woman to adopt the name of her husband on marriage and that in case she is a notary she may continue signing the name under which she was commissioned before marriage. Thus old customs and traditions have to give way to the end-of-the-century innovations.

Even the popercote organs denounce the attempt of Chairman Edmiston to drag a man 300 miles from home for trial on a trumped-up charge of criminal libel. The most charitable try to cover the scandal by silence, while none uphold or excuse it. The perpetration of this outrage, in fact, goes far toward making the story of the recent frauds credible.

A bill pending in the New York legislature makes it a misdemeanor to organize a theatrical company, take it to the country and leave it stranded, thus compelling the members to walk home. If this method of training actors in the rudiments of the profession is abolished by statute there ought to be established by law some substitute less annoying to the residents of the rural districts.

Book agents report good business in the states of the Mississippi valley and the west. The people have both the money with which to buy books and the inclination to delve into good literature. Possibly this may be only the inevitable reaction from the surfeit of books of the "Cain" caliber, but it may more likely indicate the return of contentment.

Nothing but a conflagration or a cyclone can now prevent the gates of the exposition from being opened promptly on the first day of June. And yet there is a vast amount of work to be done that requires the utmost energy and intelligent direction by some man in authority whose whole time is devoted to the supervision of the complicated machinery that goes to make up a great exposition.

The water supply for the exposition is now assured, but inasmuch as the bill of expenses to the exposition will foot up over \$50,000 by November 1, it would be pleasing to the management to have the men who congratulate themselves on their successful fight against the water works company come forward with subscriptions to the exposition stock or with contributions to the amount of at least one-fifth of this expense. It will be remembered that these men are pledged to raise enough money for the exposition to pay its water bills, whatever they might be.

THE AGGRESSIVE AGRARIANS.

The German agrarians are pushing their fight for protection against American competition with great earnestness. They are determined to have excluded from the German market all American products that it is practicable to exclude and the indications are that the sympathy of the government is largely with them. The expressions of the representatives of the government, both in the Prussian Diet and in the Reichstag, distinctly indicate a feeling in governing circles favorable to the demands of the agrarian element, which it should be understood means the great landholders, and while there is a disposition on the part of those in authority to pursue a somewhat conservative policy, at least for the present, the pressure is so great that it would not be at all surprising if a course should be adopted that would compel a retaliatory policy on the part of this country.

The sentiment of those who are urging the German government to a policy of discrimination against American products was expressed in a declaration of a member of the Reichstag who said that a tariff war with the United States has no terror to the Germans and it appears to be evident that this feeling is widespread and growing. The question of excluding American products or discriminating against them promises to be made an issue in the coming election for members of the German Parliament and the whole influence of the agrarian element will be directed to the one object of securing such power in the legislative branch of the government as will enable it to dictate terms to the government. There is strong opposition to this movement, but whether powerful enough to check its advance and defeat its purpose is problematical. The great body of German consumers, particularly the working classes, should be opposed to this crusade of the agrarians, which contemplates an advance in the cost of all the necessities of life, but they may not be able to successfully resist the onset of the agrarians, which has behind it enormous capital and influence. The fact cannot be concealed that the situation threatens a commercial conflict between Germany and the United States of a very serious nature, though it is to be hoped the German government will see the wisdom of avoiding a course that could not fail to be disastrous to that country.

FURTHER FORBEARANCE INTOLERABLE.

It is eminently right and proper for the city of Omaha to place its public buildings in condition for the inspection of the vast throng of visitors expected during the exposition season. It is a matter of absolute necessity that its streets be kept clean and in good repair during the exposition season. It is the imperative duty of the city also to protect visiting strangers from imposition and extortion by fakirs and keepers of disreputable resorts who make it a business to prey upon unsuspecting victims. Above all things, however, it becomes a matter of grave concern and responsibility to assure for the multitude that has been invited to the Transmississippi Exposition reasonable safety from things, thieves, pickpockets and bunco steersers. In the present state of scandalous police inefficiency, this is a subject which demands serious consideration. If the police commission can be not indeed to do its sworn duty to give Omaha effective police protection, appeal must be made to Governor Holcomb, who is the responsible head of our police government. This appeal for better protection should be made irrespective of partisanship and entirely outside of political grounds.

Governor Holcomb should be impressed with the emergency that calls for police reorganization and the odium to which his administration will be subjected unless action is taken to safeguard life and property in Omaha. If he does not already know the deplorable demoralization of the police department, investigation will disclose a record of police inefficiency that can not be matched in any other city in the country. While a great deal of the lawlessness and disorder has been reported in the press, much more has been suppressed, either by the police or by citizens who do not want to blacken the city's reputation. Such a state of affairs could not be much longer patiently endured by law-abiding people, even if we had no exposition before us.

Now that we are rapidly approaching the time for opening the exposition gates, further forbearance with police misgovernment becomes contributory negligence if not crime. Not only has there been no improvement or prospect of improvement under the present police management, but things are going from bad to worse from month to month. The people might tolerate a partisan police board if it afforded them police protection, but they can not remain indifferent when, to promote partisanship, they are exposed to an unbridled reign of all the criminal classes.

PASSED A BANKRUPTCY BILL.

By a vote of 158 to 124 the house of representatives on Saturday passed what is known as the Henderson bankruptcy bill, reported to the house as a substitute for the Nelson bill which passed the senate at the extra session. This measure is a modification of the well known Torrey bill, but contains the essential features of the latter and provides for both voluntary and involuntary bankruptcy. It is noteworthy that the involuntary feature of the bill was sustained by only a small majority and that the number of republican votes against the measure was larger than the number of democratic votes in favor of it. This fact is not altogether reassuring, since it will undoubtedly exercise an influence upon the senate unfavorable to the bill. The nearly unanimous democratic and populist vote in the house against the measure may safely be regarded as indicating a like vote from these parties in the senate and as there will undoubtedly be republicans in the senate opposed to the bill the chances of its acceptance by that body are obviously very small. The matter will go to a conference committee of the two-houses, from which it is possible that some sort of a com-

Promissory measure will be evolved that will become a law, but there is really no very bright promise of such a result. The fact is that the obstacle of involuntary bankruptcy seems to be insurmountable and the probability is that upon this rock the two houses of congress will split, as they have done heretofore, and that thus the proposed legislation will be defeated. There are prominent republicans in both branches of congress who are immovably opposed to the involuntary feature and these exert an influence very much beyond their numerical strength. We will not venture to say that there will be no bankruptcy legislation at the present session of congress, but it must be confessed that the outlook is not promising.

The business interests of the country desire a uniform bankruptcy law. This they have manifested in a most unmistakable way through a vast volume of petitions to congress and otherwise. These interests, it has also been shown, are in favor of a measure providing for both voluntary and involuntary bankruptcy. The measure passed by the house throws every just and reasonable safeguard about the debtor, while fairly protecting the rights and interests of the creditor. There is no reason to believe that under its operations both creditor and debtor would not receive absolutely fair and just consideration. We confidently believe that if this measure should become law it would prove most beneficial to the business interests of the country and would have a very decided influence in promoting prosperity.

The Business Men's league of Sioux Falls is engaged in the good work of bringing small factories and jobbing houses to the city and in all proper ways encouraging the upbuilding of the city. The officers of the league argue rightly that there ought to be one or more good cities in the eastern part of South Dakota where the people of the state can do their trading without going to Chicago or eastern cities and that Sioux Falls is splendidly located for an important trade center. There will also be several cities of importance in the Black Hills and as these cities grow and the smaller towns of the state become more important South Dakota will make more rapid strides toward that greatness all the people of the state so much desire.

The triple appeal for fusion on a spoils platform is tailed up with the announcement that Congressman Newlands of Nevada, representing the national silver party, concurs in and recommends the unification of the silver forces in the coming campaign. The national silver party is a more ghastly myth, if that is possible, than the silver republican party because it is an army solely of generals and mighty few privates at that. The continued pretense of imaginary parties supporting the free coinage agitation is characteristic of the campaign of deception and delusion waged on behalf of the silver bullionists who are footing the bills with the profits of their silver mines.

The fact that several congressional nominations have already been made again emphasizes the weakness of the present system of electing members of congress many months before the date for the beginning of the session to which they are elected. But for the special session last summer congressmen who are now serving a first term would have had only a month or two of actual official life, during which time it would be impossible to form a just estimate of their worth as legislators. Either there should be a change in the time of electing congressmen or there should be a change in the time for the commencement of the annual sessions.

There is a Cornell college and a Cornell university, but few persons know that the former, which is in Iowa, was founded nine years before the latter, which is in New York. On the recent occasion of a college club dinner in Chicago President King of Cornell college, who has been president for thirty-three years, called attention to this fact. Another Iowa college is soon to celebrate the jubilee of its founding. The men who founded the western states prepared for the education of the young people at an early date and the policy they so wisely begun has never been abandoned.

The three eminent salary-absorbers who constitute the donothing State Board of Transportation have not yet ventured to explain how it comes that although the legislature that adjourned months ago passed several laws authorizing the board to regulate the charges of express, telephone and telegraph companies, not one of them has yet received an order reducing rates exacted from the public. The board might have hidden behind injunctions were it not for the fact that it had the enforcement of only two out of three of its new powers enjoined.

Governor Holcomb has been on the stand in the second Bartley bond trial, but he has not yet explained satisfactorily why he acquiesced in a treasury settlement with Bartley on mere pieces of paper purporting to be certificates of deposit without inquiring into the solvency of the banks by which they were said to have been issued or even taking a memorandum of the papers accepted as cash.

It is always gratifying to see men as well as women who have gone to the bad show signs of reform, but a Magdalena is not generally selected as the head of a female reformatory. For the same reason the republican party cannot afford to make itself ridiculous as well as unsavory by accepting as leaders of reform and purification the very men who brought it into disrepute.

Discussion of the Hawaiian resolution has brought out renewed interest in the Aleutian islands and the route past them for American commerce to Asiatic ports. When Russia has made Vladivostok the chief port of the Pacific for Asiatic trade, American merchant vessels will naturally seek a northern pathway across the Pacific and in due time a cable will be laid

connecting Seattle or Portland with the chief cities of Asia. The Aleutian islands may in that event be worth something to the United States aside from stopping places for sealers and whale hunters.

Corners Ancient and Modern.

Let's call the game in Joseph. In this connection it will be remembered that what might be considered the first grain corner on record was managed by a person of that name.

Don't Want to Read.

If two of our leading financial papers could induce their editors to read the financial column, day after day, showing a financial column in excess of demand, it is possible they might find the publication of such a thing a little more to the point.

Coming Here for the Best.

One manufacturing firm in Delaware is building the machinery for the largest paper mill in the world, to be located in Sweden. An Ohio concern is constructing a vast unit of apparatus for a sugar refinery now being erected in Hawaii. Anybody anywhere in the world who wants the best of anything now comes to America to get it.

All Travel the Same Road.

The road that has been traveled by the manufacturers of bicycles is similar to that which will have to be traveled by the manufacturers of typewriters. The latter are beginning to feel the effects of competition from the bicycle makers. The bicycle is under new patents, and the days of \$100 machines are gone. The typewriter must drop in price to \$50 or even less for a first-class machine, and the days of producing them in quantities of 20 to 30 per cent of that amount. Like the sewing machine, which sold for \$50 and \$100 when the manufacturers were producing them for the first time, the typewriter will have to come down in price to something reasonably near the manufacturers' cost.

Spreading the Worth of Corn.

If European nations could be prevailed upon to practice a system of free trade in corn and if the northern states could be made to know that life did not altogether depend upon the result of the rice harvest, corn would be a cheap article. It is in properly prepared for human consumption. In the form of pork, beef and whiskey, and to a limited extent in the form of other articles, there has been able to find foreign buyers; but there is no demand at all for the product of the capacity of supply. We trust that the corn growers of the north may be able to push the way for their great product side by side with American cotton. If we can fill the bellies and clothe the backs of the nations what more could we ask?

Jury System of France.

The manner in which the jury in the Zola case was secured and is managed is worthy of passing notice. Forty talesmen were called. One died, two fell ill and two were excused. Of the remaining thirty-five, fourteen were chosen by lot. The prosecution had a right to challenge ten and the defense eleven. In republican hearts a story twelve will frame the verdict, the other two being supernumeraries, to serve only in case of a vacancy occurring in the box. The jury will be impaneled by the determining agreement, but by a mere majority vote of the twelve. And, finally, the jurors are not kept under guard, but are permitted to go to their homes and attend to their business and discuss the case with friends as much as they please. Truly, a striking contrast to the American jury system.

Boogie Republicans to the Rear.

Courage on the part of the republicans of the house on the coinage issue has begotten breath in republican hearts in a free state, the Wyoming republican state central committee, which met on Tuesday, having decided to make the issue of free coinage and a legislature that will elect a United States senator squarely on the St. Louis platform. For six years republican candidates have been indulging free coinage, but as this is the game of the hour, they have been beaten by democrats and populists. The Wyoming republican leaders have decided to fight for the issue. It is quite possible the republicans may lose the state on this issue, the cause of an honest currency will be lost, and the issue will be left to the hands of the legislature. There is room for a real republican party in some of the other silver producing states.

About Prosperity.

Where now is your prosperity? Where are the good times? Where is the boom? Dictating is not all that talk about good times a will-o-the-wisp and a delusion? If times have improved, where is the evidence that shows it? Some men are so constituted that they can see a fly on a barn door at the distance of a mile, but they cannot see the barn; and these people are disturbed by the fact that the existence of day in the light of the moonday sun. There were men among the crews of Columbus who wanted to turn back to the harbor and give up the voyage, but the captain, seeing the perilous on the vessels and could smell the odors of the orange groves of San Domingo. Good times and bad times are relative terms. Times may be hard in some localities and good in others. With some men times are always good, and with others they are always bad. Whether the country is prosperous or not depends upon the eyes of the beholder. The existing conditions in a particular family or a certain locality; but the evidence of increasing activity in industry and trade times may be hard in some localities and good in others. With some men times are always good, and with others they are always bad. Whether the country is prosperous or not depends upon the eyes of the beholder. The existing conditions in a particular family or a certain locality; but the evidence of increasing activity in industry and trade times may be hard in some localities and good in others. With some men times are always good, and with others they are always bad. Whether the country is prosperous or not depends upon the eyes of the beholder. The existing conditions in a particular family or a certain locality; but the evidence of increasing activity in industry and trade times may be hard in some localities and good in others. With some men times are always good, and with others they are always bad. 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