

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

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THE NEXT PAPER. The next paper jubilee celebration threatens to take the form of an ice carnival. Now for the most important president's message since the foundation of the republic.

THE UNITED STATES OF CENTRAL AMERICA. The United States of Central America appears to have gone out of business without even the formality of a receivership. That highly ornate and enlivening yellow journal, known by the name of the Congressional Record, is about to resume publication.

THE SULTAN. The sultan is informed that the new commissioner will safeguard his rights in Crete. The sultan, however, would doubtless prefer to have his right to name a friendly commissioner safeguarded. People are prone to wonder whether it is due to coincidence or habit that the same property owners appear every year before the board charged with the equalization of taxes and ask to have assessments on their property reduced.

THE DEWEY ESTABLISHMENT. The Dewey establishment is one of the latest dances. The costume in which the original was performed on the memorable May morning was a little airy for this climate, but no complaint has ever been heard that the step was not lively enough.

THE CHRISTMAS PRESENTS. The Christmas presents for the Nebraska soldiers at Manila have at last started on their long journey. With the best possible speed and no delays enroute they cannot reach their destination before the middle of January, but as pleasures in prospect are generally more enticing than the realization, the boys will surely bear the disappointment with military patience.

SPEAKING OF THE FUTURE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY. The newly elected governor of Colorado talks glibly of the turning down of Tammany and the eastern sound money democrats by the party. What though the electoral vote of New York is put irrevocably beyond the reach of the party, he says, Colorado is safe on a silver platform. The republicans could, perhaps, well afford the exchange, if one or the other of the two states had to be abandoned, but the prospect is good for putting them both in the republican column of 1900.

IMMUNITY FOR PRIVATE PROPERTY.

From the discussion evoked by the memorial presented to President McKinley urging the extension of the rules of international law to include immunity for private property in time of war whether on sea or land, it appears that this proposal, although in line with the trend of American precedent, is certain to meet with vigorous opposition. So eminent an authority as Captain A. T. Mahan of the Naval Strategy Board has taken a stand favoring the continuation of the present system of naval confiscation and he will surely be reinforced by all the beneficiaries of the pernicious prize system.

While not a party to the famous Paris convention, the influence of the United States was one of the principal factors that led up to its consummation and the agreement then effected has been adopted and observed by this country in all its international affairs. By this convention privateering was abolished and the rights of private property safeguarded in time of war so far as covered by neutral flags. The proposition now is to extend this immunity to private property under the enemy's flag except of course contraband of war and the cargoes of vessels disregarding blockades.

This prohibition has long applied to captures on land. No invading army has a right under the present rules of warfare to confiscate private property which may come into its hands. On the contrary the practice is to pay or give receipts for every article, even when taken for the use or support of the army itself. Why then should any different procedure be followed for captures on sea? Why should naval officers and men reap large rewards from prizes when the land forces know no such bounty? Certainly the prospect of prize money is no more necessary to stimulate bravery and insure loyalty on the sea than it is on land.

Neither will an attempt to justify the confiscation of private property taken at sea on the ground that it is essential to deprive the enemy of the influence of its commerce be more convincing. Commerce on sea is no more important than commerce on land—in most countries, especially the United States, it is of far less importance—although with the United States it includes practically all of its foreign commerce. Nations no longer wage war upon private individuals. If under our constitution the property even of the criminal convicted of treason is safe against forfeiture, why should not the private property of individuals have equal immunity when the only offense of its owners is that they have consigned it for shipment in vessels that fly the enemy's flag?

Whenever the opportunity presents to make war less onerous upon innocent noncombatants the United States should be ever ready to take the lead in revising the international code. A LARGER STANDING ARMY. The necessity for increasing the standing army is very generally recognized and it is not anticipated that there will be serious opposition to the recommendations of the administration in this direction. It is contemplated to increase the regular army to 100,000 men and Secretary Alger suggests that a portion of this army be recruited from the inhabitants of the islands occupied by the United States. Perhaps it would be expedient, for the reasons presented by the secretary of war, to obtain fully one-fourth of the proposed force in this way and there would probably be no difficulty in recruiting all the men desired in Cuba and Porto Rico, but it is not so certain about securing them in the Philippines, unless the natives there shall peaceably submit to American control. In that event the number required would not be large.

It is proposed that the increase of the army shall be chiefly in the infantry and artillery. The War department feels that the ten regiments of cavalry now in the service will be sufficient for future needs with an army four times the size of that which, prior to the late war, garrisoned the various posts throughout the United States. The plan is to increase the artillery from seven, as at present, to twelve regiments, which is deemed necessary for manning seacoast defenses and also to increase the force of light artillery. The increase in the infantry force, over the present basis, would be about 35,000. It is the desire of the president that the volunteers now serving in the new possessions shall return to the United States for muster out just as soon after the signing of the treaty of peace as arrangements can be made to replace them with troops of the regular army and therefore congress will be earnestly urged not to delay making provision for increasing the regular army. Most of the volunteers who are out of the country are exceedingly anxious to return and undoubtedly there will be a strong pressure in their behalf after the signing of the treaty. The act under which they enlisted provides for the maintenance of the volunteer army only during the existence of war, or while war is imminent, also that all officers and men comprising said army shall be discharged from service when the purposes for which they were called into service shall have been accomplished, or on the conclusion of hostilities. There will be a disposition to interpret this in the interest of the volunteers and it is easy to see that a disturbing controversy may arise.

Hence the importance of early action.

Since the government must have an army to meet the demands of new conditions. It is assumed that about 60,000 troops will be needed in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines for some time to come, but it is not unlikely that the estimate of 20,000 for the Philippines will be found too small. Doubt has been expressed as to whether the government can secure additional soldiers for service abroad and it finds some warrant in the slow work of increasing the regular army to the number provided for in the act of April 26. Unquestionably it will not be found an easy matter to obtain soldiers for garrison duty in the dependencies and it may be necessary to offer better inducements for enlistment in the army than at present. But there need be no apprehension that the military power of the government will not be equal to whatever demands may be made upon it.

THE POOLING QUESTION.

Senator Foraker of Ohio, who framed the pooling bill introduced at the last session of congress, thinks that the measure should be done with the measure at the approaching session. The decisions of the supreme court having made any traffic agreement between the railroads impossible, Mr. Foraker says there should be special legislation at the earliest possible moment and he expresses the belief that the enactment of a pooling bill would result in the establishment of just and reasonable rates to the shipper, would remove all temptation to violate the law making rebates illegal, would give to all shippers the advantages of stable rates and above all would add to the prosperity of the railroads.

The Ohio senator's views in regard to the desirability of pooling legislation are undoubtedly in accord with the opinion of most railroad managers, but there are some of these who do not believe that legalized pooling would have all the beneficial effects which its advocates claim for it. One such is the president of the Louisville & Nashville railroad, who says that allowing the railroads to enter into pooling contracts would not stop secret rate cutting and that the large increase of power desired by the Interstate Commerce commission would be equally ineffective to that end. President Smith asserts that rate cutting was practiced by roads belonging to the pools while such pools were lawful and would not be suppressed by repealing the prohibition of pools. In regard to the functions of the Interstate Commerce commission, the law forbids secret rates lower or higher than the published rates and if the commission enforced this provision all the supposed benefits of pooling would be secured, but as a matter of fact the commission cannot stop the secret changing of rates and no enforcement of its legal powers, in the opinion of Mr. Smith, would enable it to do so. Therefore in his judgment an act to legalize pooling is undesirable, because impracticable. If it gave the commission power to fix rates—and there can be no pooling legislation that does not provide for this—the last state of the railroads would be worse than the first, for in the opinion of this railroad president "the commission must use its power to fix rates unjustly or injudiciously from sheer inability to acquire the knowledge required in each case for a wise decision, with the result of impairing the rights of investors in railroad properties." He contends that it is undesirable to place interests so vast as those of the 1,000 railroad companies in the United States in the power of any commission, however wise.

Mr. Smith says that if railroads would uniformly observe the present law and charge in all cases the rates fixed in the duly published schedules, making no reductions except upon three days' public notice, the present demoralization in rates would speedily disappear. "If railroads openly disregard these solemn legal obligations there is no ground whatever for hoping that they will discharge any greater obligations, or even the same obligations, if imposed upon them merely by contracts among themselves." It is not to be doubted that a large part of the business public in this view. The railroads are themselves responsible for the conditions of which they complain and the remedy is in their own hands. But they have been faithless to every agreement among themselves and it is questionable whether any legislation that can be devised would entirely correct the evils that are so damaging to the railroad interests of the country. The chief obstacle to the enactment of a pooling law is the lack of public confidence in the integrity and the sense of obligation to law of railroad managers.

BUCKET SHOP VERSUS BOARD OF TRADE.

The conviction in Chicago of the proprietors of a bucket shop on the charge of using the mails for the purpose of fraud is heralded as being the death blow to that class of speculators. Constant warfare has been waged for years by the so-called legitimate, or board of trade firms, on the proprietors of bucket shops. All conceivable schemes have been adopted to prevent the bucket shops from receiving market quotations and to outlaw their business. If the federal statutes governing the use of the mails have accomplished the object the general public will probably shed no tears, for the methods of doing business by these concerns are nothing but gambling pure and simple, no less seductive and damaging to public morals than the betting upon the turn of a wheel.

There is one thing, however, which the board of trade operator may have overlooked in his zeal to stop the operations of the bucket shop operator. It is the same cry which the proprietors of ordinary gambling places raise whenever interlopers come into the field which they assert is their own by right of prior possession. To the ordinary observer or to the man who has dropped his money in grain speculation the distinction between the bucket shop and the board of trade operator is

hazy, if not entirely invisible. A growing sentiment in this country for favorable legislation to prevent the speculation in staples known as dealing in options has found fruit in the introduction of numerous bills in congress, one of which, fathered by Senator Washburn, not long ago came near being enacted into law. There is a possibility that out of this fight between rival classes of speculators may result the collapse of the entire fabric of option dealing.

There will be no inconsolable grief among either producers or consumers if the fight should bring about this result. More fortunes have been dissipated, more men ruined and brought to shame by the allurements of future and option speculation than through any other one cause. Ordinary people who get money only by earning it fail to distinguish between the two systems of separating a man from his money. In one of which the broker accepts the bet of the customer on the turn of the market and in the other the broker, for a commission, finds his customer a man who is willing to accept the bet. It may be reasonably doubted, therefore, whether the bucket shop can be suppressed without at the same time abating the whole speculation scheme.

AS TO NEW DEPARTMENTS.

Will territorial expansion create a demand for new governmental departments? Shall we need a department of commerce and a department of colonies? The National Business League of Chicago recently sent a communication to President McKinley advocating the establishment of a department of commerce and industries, in which it was urged in behalf of such a department that the expansion of our commercial relations to include many new peoples, living under widely different conditions, "seems to deepen the conviction that tariff questions are getting to be questions of fact for experts rather than of party politics." This conviction may be correct, but as a reason for erecting a new department it is by no means conclusive. Can we not now have tariff experts in the service of the government? Is it not a fact that there are such men in the Treasury department? Suppose there was a new department filled with tariff experts, what particular advantage would it be? Congress frames tariffs and it is history that congress pays little attention to experts outside its own body. The idea of a department of commerce and industries is not new. It was first suggested several years ago and has not made much progress in public favor. A bill to organize such a department was introduced in the senate two or three years ago and has not since been heard of. It is not likely that the present or the next congress will seriously consider the proposition.

A newer suggestion is that a department of colonies be created, charged with looking after the affairs of the new dependencies, or at least their civil government. There is less to be said in support of this proposition than of the other. Hawaii will be given a territorial form of government; Porto Rico will undoubtedly in time be treated in the same way; the Philippines may be treated as a colony, but certainly it will not be necessary to create a new executive department to look after the administration of affairs in those islands. It is true that new problems are to be solved growing out of this acquisition of territory, but the duty of doing this will devolve upon congress, which can get all the information and assistance it will require from existing departments. There is no necessity for another executive department at this time, nor is there likely to be for many years to come.

RESTORATION OF THE UNION PACIFIC.

The week just closed has recorded another step in the movement that must eventually result in the complete re-union of the Union Pacific and Oregon Short Line, whose segregation, along with that of other branch and connecting lines, was one of the unfortunate incidents of the late receivership and foreclosure of the Union Pacific system. No matter what managements may be in control, these two great railroads must be regarded as really constituting one transcontinental route and the inevitable working of economic law makes their harmonious operation essential to the prosperity of each. While it may be some time before consolidation proceeds even to the point of union reached before the receivership, the advantage of one policy for both roads pursued by one directing head cannot be long overlooked, particularly where the financial interests behind both corporations are identical and actuated by a sole view to making the properties a paying investment.

For Omaha and Nebraska and the states traversed by this overlaid route as contrasted with those served by the competing lines to the north and to the south, the closer reunion of the Union Pacific and Oregon Short Line has great significance. It indicates that in the competition for transcontinental traffic the original Pacific road proposes to be in position to hold its own against all competitors. Bringing this traffic through these states cannot help but assist materially in their development by increasing the employment dependent on increased business. The unification of the old Union Pacific system, therefore, cannot be accomplished too soon for the people of this part of the west.

The obliteration of Spanish sovereignty in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines means new confusion to the postage stamp collector, who will be compelled to rearrange the geography of collection. The American post-office stamp spreads out with the American boundary and holds good throughout the jurisdiction of the American postal service. Another question that also assumes importance in this connection is whether the uniform postage charge between all parts of the United States is to apply to our new acquisitions, or whether we will go back, once more to graduated postage, according to distance or destination. A letter goes to the furthestmost settlements of

SECULAR SHOTS AT THE PULPIT.

Chicago Post: When a man in New York sells his wife for \$5 to another man it does seem as though there was still a field for the home missionary as wanting in cultivation as are some of the far-away foreign fields. Buffalo Express: The pope wants all Roman Catholics in this country to be Americans. His decision refusing to recognize racial distinctions among American Catholics will be displeasing to some foreign born priests, but it will conduce to the growth of the church in the United States.

Boston Transcript: One of the most amazing spectacles which any country has seen in the last 100 years is that so many people who never gave a penny and who never offered a prayer for foreign missions suddenly believe in bearing to a half-savage people the blessings of a Christian civilization at an outlay of blood and treasure not yet to be calculated. It is marvelous how a sudden, when the exercise of an alleged religious duty happens to accord with their worldly desires. There are more ways than one of masquerading in the liverly of heaven.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

Every newspaper in Kansas is ready to admit that Stockman Gillett's paper has the largest circulation in that state. At last accounts Boston had a shade the best of New York as the hub of winter blizzards. Both outlast Medicine Hat. That Ohio chewing gum manufacturer who paid \$15,000 for a horse should blow himself on Jersey or Galloways if he wants a chewer thing. Admiral Schley's remark at a New York banquet that "dictators are not born upon this soil" goes to prove that the hero of Santiago is not familiar with the politics of his country.

Twenty-five years ago there were over 1,000,000 Indians in this country. Now there are 250,000. A few illuminating statistics of this kind should be presented to Mr. Emilio Aguinaldo before the shooting begins. The esteemed Joe Chamberlain asserts in a magazine article that Anglo-Saxon ideals are "humanity, justice, freedom and equality." At the same time Joe is keeping a close watch on the Boers and clubbing free speech in Ireland. Greater New York is rapidly and knowingly drifting toward a human tragedy, the engineer who planned and built the Brooklyn bridge warns the city authorities that the bridge is sustaining a greater weight than it was built to sustain. It is overloaded, but the town will not realize it until disaster comes.

Some New Neighbors.

By acquiring the Sulu islands we are bound to get on intimate terms with "the wild man from Borneo." Republicanism and Prosperity. St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Iowa's public school fund amounts to \$5,000,000 or \$6,000,000 and the people are so prosperous that the money cannot be loaned at a profitable rate of interest. Iowa is one of the noblest works of the republican party.

An Accommodating Ruler.

Kansas City Star. The czar of Russia insists that he is sincere in his desire for the disarmament and peace of Europe. In the meantime the czar is accused of a disposition to stir up several fights in Asia. He evidently wishes to know which of the powers wants war and which peace, and that matter decided he will endeavor to accommodate both.

Good Advice Spurred.

Philadelphia Ledger. Carvera seems to be repeating the experience of Columbus. He sought to do Spain a service by showing the folly of rushing into war with the United States, but, when forced into it, did his duty like a man. He was bullied by his superiors, abused by the people and went home in disgrace. It now remains for posterity to honor his memory, after he dies, as a true patriot.

Shifting the Responsibility.

Philadelphia Record. Judge Day cleverly lays the responsibility for keeping the Philippines upon the shoulders of Admiral Dewey. He says: "Our opportunity of giving them up was lost when Dewey did not weigh anchor and sail away." As Dewey had no open port to receive him, no coal with which to reach a home port and no orders to return, he will be able to make a satisfactory defense.

Turn of the Financial Tides.

That the United States is now a creditor country is proved by the fact that large sums of money owned in this country are loaned in Europe. A leading banker who has made a careful investigation of the matter came to the conclusion that \$40,000,000 has been sent from New York to Europe as loans within the last few weeks. It is asserted that, in addition to the above, New York banks and trust companies have not less than \$20,000,000 loaned in Great Britain and on the continent.

DOMESTIC PLEASANTIES.

Detroit Journal: The Nurse—Twine! And how! The Father—Good! Now we shan't have to decide whether Sampson or Schley is the hero of Santiago! Truth: Fortune Teller—Your future husband will be tall, have dark complexion and be wealthy. The Caller—Now, tell me another thing. How can I get rid of my present husband? Cleveland Leader: Mrs. Henpeck—Do you dare to look me in the face and say that? Mr. Henpeck—Not on your life. I propose to always reserve the right to dodge whenever I make a remark to you. The rolling pin struck a corner of the mantel and fell harmlessly to the floor.

Detroit Free Press: "I always trust my wife to buy me a hat," says a man. "Has she superior taste?" "Well, she buys me a better one than I would dare buy myself." Chicago Tribune: Ethel—Have you noticed how Mabel Garthorn is stuck on young Mr. Gravy-Snapp? Her mamma—Stuck on? Is an odious phrase, I don't like to hear it. Ethel—I used it, advisedly, mamma. It's the son of a wealthy marriage manufacturer.

Brooklyn Life: "But can't you learn to love me?" persisted the wrong man. She shook her head gently. "I've learned a good many difficult things," she replied, "but they have always been things that I wanted to learn." Cleveland Plain Dealer: "Is there any hope for me?" he plaintively asked. "Yes," she said, "a little. Papa is coming down from the face and is just a possibility that you can get away before he heads you off." Indianapolis Journal: Lot, from the corner of his eye, detected the wife of his bosom in the act of looking back. "Rubber!" he shouted, and hastened on. Meanwhile the plain dealer could be heard the strains of the Sodom Silver Cornet band, playing defiantly, "There'll Be a Hot," etc.

OUR COUNTRY.

John G. Whittier. Our thought of thee is glad with hope, Our heart is full of love and prayer; Thy way is down no fatal slope, But up to freer sun and air. Tried as by furnace fires, and yet By God's grace only stronger made; In future tasks more brightened see, Thou shalt not lack the old-time aid. The fathers sleep, but men remain As true and wise and brave as they; Why count thy loss without the gain? The best is that we have today. Thy lesson all the world shall learn, The nations at thy feet shall sit; Earth's darkest moment tops shall burn With watch fires from thine own uplift. Great, without seeking to be great, By fraud or conquest—rich in gold, But richer in the large estate Of virtue which thy children hold. With peace that comes of purity, And strength to simple justice due, So runs our loyal dream of thee, God of our fathers, make it true. O land of love! to thee we give Our love, our trust, our service free; For thee thy sons shall nobly live, And at thy need shall die for thee.

COURAGE.

Harper's Weekly. It is not that they knew Weakness or fear who are the brave; Those are the proud, the knightly few Who show their will to serve and save. But they who, in the weary night, Amid the darkness and the stress, Have struggled with disease and blight With plied world-weariness; They who have years to stand among The trials and might of the earth, Whose sad, aspiring souls are wrong With starless hope and hollow mirth— Who die with every day, yet live Through countless unbrightened years, Whose sweetest right is to forgive, And smile divinely through their tears; They are the noble, they the strong; They are the tried, the trusted one; And though their way is hard and long Straight to the plying God it runs

OUR DAILY BULLETIN.

SUNDAY DEC. 4. NEW YORK, Dec. 4, 1898.—The six-day bicycle race begins in Madison Square Garden tonight at 12 o'clock. Nine of the twenty-six contestants entered were in last year's race. Among these is Oscar Julius, who, in 1897, though untrained, made a good showing.

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Our Showing Consists of \$25.00 Suits for \$20.00 20.00 Suits for 16.50 18.00 Suits for 15.00 15.00 Suits for 12.50 12.50 Suits for 10.00 10.00 Suits for 7.50 7.50 Suits for 5.00 Then there are overcoats and ulsters that you can buy at just as big a discount—from \$2.50 to \$5.00 saved on every garment or garments you buy now of the lots we are closing out before January 1. Everyone invited to inspect them—a genuine bargain guaranteed.

