

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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H. J. PLUMB, Notary Public.

The present weather should be entirely satisfactory to the cold water convention in session at Des Moines.

The people of the national capital are celebrating a peace jubilee. The example set by Omaha seems to have many followers.

The latest competition is for the record for automobile locomotion. A race between automobiles must be nearly as exciting as a race between trolley cars.

The adjournment of the Missouri legislature after a session of 138 days is simply another reminder for the people of Nebraska to be thankful for what they have missed.

Omaha is to be designated a recruiting station for the regular army. This will afford an opportunity for men who want to enter the service of Uncle Sam to do so without walking to Fort Crook.

The Illinois Central road is to commence operations on its new extension by driving a golden spike. This is decidedly different from other lines projected on paper commenced by disposing of a gold brick.

There is no reason why the drawing of a woman juror should create such consternation in the district court. A jury system which sometimes subpoenas dead men plays more of a freak than one that puts the name of a woman in the jury box.

It appears that the War department has several times with many applications for the loan of captured Spanish cannon as it has cannon to distribute. The only way to satisfy the demand for war trophies is to start another war and make a few more captures.

It is now asserted by the city officials that the railroads are simply playing for time in their negotiations for the replacement of the Sixteenth street viaduct with a substantial steel structure. The fact is that the railroads have been playing for time for six years or more and the time has arrived for the people to call the game.

The United States consular offices in Porto Rico and the Philippines are to be closed July 1. It would certainly be paradoxical for this country to send diplomatic representatives to its own possessions. The only bad result will be the appreciable contraction of the number of consular jobs at the disposal of the patronage distributors.

At last the city council is waking up to the fact that it has been duped by the railroads in putting off the demolition of the Sixteenth street viaduct and compelling the railroads either to build a new one or to take the risk of accidents that would inevitably happen if their tracks were unprotected. Had the council pulled down the ransacklike wooden bridge two years ago Sixteenth street would have had its steel and stone viaduct by this time.

The decision of the district court of Lancaster county that former Superintendent Abbott of the Lincoln Insane asylum is entitled to his claim for the entire amount appropriated by the legislature as his salary reaffirms the long established ruling that a court will not go back of the law as recorded in the enrolled and engrossed copies of the bill. This may be of interest to other parties who have set hopes upon upsetting legislation by juggling with the records of the two houses.

We are told that the bids for the governor's mansion have been kept secret by the State Board of Public Lands and Buildings for fear some of the bidders might raise their prices if they found out how high others had screwed up their property. This is an excuse as is also probable that a combine will be made by parties who have the inside to build a mansion on the state at two prices and divide the commission? Publicity is always the best safeguard against jobbery.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

In his carefully prepared address at the Peter Cooper club dinner Governor Poynter threw the following horoscopic view upon the political canvas:

What of the future? Shall these great divisions of the armies of reform turn their backs upon the common foe and direct their warfare against each other and allow Nebraska to again fall into the hands of the party that has despoiled her and tarred her with a bad name? Even what shall we divide? Is the doctrine of 16 to 1 any less true now than it was in 1897? Is the principle of monetary reform less vital now than then? Do we disagree upon the necessity for the control of corporations, trusts and monopolies? What one of the great principles we have been advocating since 1892 are we now ready to abandon, or are we asked to abandon? Not one? My friends, if we allow narrow-minded hickerings and strife to divide the friends of reform along the lines of the great principles by which Nebraska has stood firm '96 and by her example help to disintegrate the grand army which is now gathering for the great conflict of 1898, we will, to say the least of it, countenance that which would be little less than a political crime.

Who is the common enemy and what is the mission of Governor Poynter's armies of reform? Were these armies recruited solely to make war upon republicans, right or wrong, or were they enlisted to battle against abuses from which the producers were suffering? Were the forces of reform recruited for the purpose of political conquest and a division of spoils, or were they rallied under the banner of political independence of corporate domination and enrolled for the relief of the overtaxed and oppressed farmers in the workshop and on the farm?

Judging the future by the past, what have the forces of reform to hope or gain from a continuance of an alliance which has been productive simply of change for the worse rather than for the better? The armies of reform doubtless agree upon the necessity for the control of corporations, trusts and monopolies, but what about their leaders who have shown themselves more subservient to the railroads and other corporations than has what Governor Poynter is pleased to call "the common foe?"

What use to prate about trusts so long as the reform attorney general of Nebraska ignores the anti-trust law put upon the statute books by republicans, which he might at least try to enforce if he had the courage of his convictions?

What use to talk about the great principles which the sham reformers have been advocating in the face of the shameful record they have been making with their donning railroad commission and State Board of Equalization that play into the hands of the railroads at every turn?

The grand army of reform has become a grand army of dupes and the future holds out no more assurance of relief from corporate domination through the spoils combination in possession of the state house than the disappointments of the past. On the contrary, if the privates in the army of reform allow themselves to be hoodwinked and humbugged into fighting battles in 1899 and 1900 for the professional pie-bickers and railroad stooge-pigeons masquerading in the reform livery as they have in 1897 and 1898 they will put a premium on political duplicity and imposture "little less than a political crime."

THE POLICY IN THE PHILIPPINES.

President McKinley goes as far as his authority as commander-in-chief of the army and navy will permit in defining the policy of the United States in the Philippines. The promise held out to the natives, which some of them are said to regard as liberal, is that they shall have a considerable participation in the government to be formed, though not in the higher positions, which at first will be filled by Americans. The Philippines are to have representation in the judiciary and they are to be allowed to elect an advisory council whose duty it will be to submit recommendations to the governor general and advise that official in regard to public matters. This will give the natives direct representation in the government and enable them to at all times make their wishes known, with the certainty of always obtaining a hearing. They undoubtedly will select for such a council their most intelligent men, those who could be relied upon to judiciously and carefully look after the interests of the people; and in all practicable ways endeavor to promote their welfare. There is no lack of men qualified for an office of this kind and it is needless to say that an advisory council is indispensable in connection with civil government.

It is not surprising that the Filipinos are distrustful and want some more definite assurance than has been given them of the sincerity of American promises. The hard lessons those people learned of Spain and which have been impressed upon them through generations cannot easily be unlearned. Betrayal of pledges made to them has been their uniform experience and they could not reasonably be expected to unhesitatingly put their faith in Americans, of whom until within a year they knew almost nothing. Nor has our course toward them been of a character to win their confidence. Having asked and obtained their co-operation when it was most important and valuable our subsequent treatment of the Filipinos was not calculated to inspire faith in us. But it is not easy to see how our government can make its promises more definite or what it can do to better assure the Filipinos that the policy it proposes will be carried out, so long as the president is permitted to shape the policy. What congress may do cannot be foreseen, though it is highly probable it will approve the plan of President McKinley, as being perhaps the best that can be devised under existing conditions. If congress shall decree that the United States shall retain possession of the islands it will hardly go further than the president's plan in presenting the form of government.

It begins to look as if the Filipinos have about concluded that their aspiration for independence and self-government is not to be realized and that if they can be convinced that American promises are sincere they

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A PROMISING OUTLOOK.

The statement of Ambassador White in regard to the peace conference outlook is more encouraging than the earlier reports, which conveyed the impression that nothing would be accomplished. Mr. White is especially hopeful in regard to mediation and arbitration, which subjects will be given the foremost place in the consideration of the conference, the question of reducing or restricting armaments and military expenditures going to the foot of the list. The prominence thus given to the subject of arbitration places the United States, as the leading champion of the principle, in a conspicuous position in the conference.

In the discussion of this subject and also those of mitigating the hardships of war and the exemption of private property on the sea, not contraband, from seizure in time of war, the American delegates will doubtless have the leading place. This country has long taken an advanced position on all these subjects and particularly that of arbitration. Our delegates will therefore discuss these questions with the earnestness of profound conviction, knowing that they represent the practically unanimous sentiment of their country. It will reflect no little honor upon this nation if it shall succeed in impressing the representatives of European powers with the expediency of applying the principle of arbitration to international disputes capable of being thus treated.

As to the question of armaments, Mr. White declined to say anything, thereby implying that the American delegates will leave that matter entirely to the consideration of the European representatives. It is obviously a question in which the United States has no practical concern and our delegates wisely concluded to let it alone. The fact that it was transferred from the head to the foot of the list of subjects indicates that there is little expectation that its consideration will have any practical result.

It is apparent that the United States will play an important part in the conference and there is every reason to think with gain to its prestige and influence.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

Throughout the British empire the eightieth anniversary of Queen Victoria's birthday will be celebrated with the usual interest and enthusiasm. The British people, with practical unanimity, have a profound respect and affection for their aged ruler, chiefly on account of her womanly qualities, which are universally commended and admired. She has been a conservative and judicious ruler, giving intelligent attention to affairs of state, but rarely asserting her authority aggressively. Her reign, extending over more than three score years, has been the most important period in British history. The Victorian era has been justly characterized as England's golden age. In great achievements it is incomparably beyond any other equal period in British history. It is not what Victoria contributed to this, however, that gives her claim to the world's respect, but her true womanhood and her unblemished domestic life. She has set an example that has exerted a wholesome influence.

There have recently been reports that Victoria is breaking down and they are not incredible, yet she may live for years and while she lives she will doubtless remain on the throne, for she loves the power she possesses and is not likely to voluntarily part with her crown