

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION...

ANOTHER GRANDSTAND PLAY.

The popocrats of Nebraska have been treated to another dose of gall and verminage from the defuncto candidate for the United States senate in the shape of a double-headed transposition to the State Board of Transportation...

The text for this extraordinary edict is said to be embodied in the recent decision of the supreme court on the Weaver insurance bill, which is interpreted by the defuncto candidate for the U. S. S. as a patent of mobility for the three eminent salary grifters that hold a soft snip in the state house under the meaningless title of State Board of Transportation.

According to this profound expander of constitutional law, the decision on the insurance bill affirms beyond a question the validity of Joe Edgerton, Jim Dahlman and Gilbert L. Laws. As a matter of fact, the authority vested by the legislature in the railroad commission was affirmed by Maxwell, Roscoe and Cobb, acting as judges of the supreme court years ago, and there has never been anything in the way of the bogus commissioners except their natural sense of gratitude to their corporate godfather.

The defuncto candidate knows full well that the present popocratic reform board stood pledged to protect the producers against unjust discrimination and extortion, but had absolutely failed to redeem a single pledge. He knows that these men were chosen from among other aspirants because they were satisfactory to the corporations as well as to himself and the Jacksonian machine.

What possesses him so suddenly to slap his friends in the face and heap insult upon the state house machine we are not able to divine. The popocratic farmers may be fooled by this grandstand play and high-sounding demand for action, but people who have been under the tent and know the performers cannot be fooled. The do-nothing board was purposely picked to do the bidding of the corporation managers. They are satisfied with their jobs and do not propose to resign or die just because the defuncto candidate for U. S. S. has the tantrums and feels pleasure in harpooning them.

THE SUNDAY BEE. Patrons of The Bee Sunday will be reminded of the holiday season by receiving a special double Christmas number of The Illustrated Bee. This number is so filled with instructive and entertaining literary and pictorial features that it would be fruitless to attempt to enumerate them.

It has the Christmas flavor from first to last. It is encased in a handsome colored cover, printed in three colors characteristic of the season, and includes twenty pages of crisp reading matter, set off with clear half-tone cuts. It is a number which every person will want to read through and preserve for future reference and should be sent to friends in other cities as a most suitable souvenir of Christmas in Omaha.

Watch for The Sunday Bee and insist upon having it. Christmas will not be complete without it. The usual price.

THE TWO CURRENCY BILLS. The currency bill framed by the senate finance committee will be presented as a substitute for the measure passed by the house. There is no doubt that at present the weight of public opinion is in favor of the latter and the more carefully the two measures are considered the stronger this opinion is likely to become.

We have already referred to some of the differences between the two measures and particularly to the refunding provision of the senate bill, which is perhaps its most vulnerable feature. In reference to this the Philadelphia Inquirer remarks that there is much room for doubt both as to its feasibility and wisdom.

There is practically no division of opinion among our citizens as to the desirability of the city owning and operating the water works, gas and electric lighting plants as soon as conditions will permit. The mere voting of bonds in the sum of \$5,000,000 or any other amount for the purchase of the water works or the construction of a rival water system will not solve the problem with which Omaha is confronted.

There is no controversy of which the political machinists are more afraid than the voting machine. These contrivances have now been so perfected as to insure the ballot effectively. The voter cannot put more votes for any single candidate than he is entitled to cast. The machine gives the result as soon as the voting is ended, and the voting is done with greater rapidity than under the present system of balloting.

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doing well enough now that to further extension on the ground of excessive cost will be tenable. But the Nebraska law stands and can not be suspended by any interstate commerce commission.

The popocratic organs are greatly worried because Secretary Gage has taken steps to relieve the temporary monetary stringency. Nothing would so offend the purposes of the popocratic politicians so much as a financial panic which would obliterate the present prosperity. It matters little to them what distress might follow in its wake so they be enabled to ride into office on a wave of calamity.

The Douglas country democracy is to be established the first of the year in permanent headquarters, but whether it can outdo the Jacksonian club in the magnificence of its sideboard will only be determined after due examination and test by a commission of experts selected by lot from the membership of the two organizations.

We are pleased to read among the local brevities of our amiable contemporary that "Prince Hohenlohe will spend the Christmas holidays with his son." We were not aware that Omaha had the distinguished honor of counting a son of Prince Hohenlohe in its population, but the prince will be welcome just the same.

It will require something stronger than double column editorials to awaken the State Board of Transportation from its slumbers. Even if temporarily roused the board soon reverts to a comatose state. Every expert who has ever diagnosed the case has pronounced it practically hopeless.

It is reported the Philippines are buying artillery in Europe. It is to be hoped the guns are modern and up to date. The United States needs a few more such weapons in its business, and if the Philippines will pay for them the soldiers over in Luzon will look after their transfer to the United States.

The coming of the new year will give several people hereabouts an opportunity to discover how it feels after a long time to be separated from the public pay roll. They can console themselves, however, with the knowledge that others have gone through the same experience and survived.

Meeting New Conditions. Baltimore American. Aguinaldo has changed his style of manifesto into that of a running comment.

Doping a Black Eye. Chicago Chronicle. The democratic party in Nebraska is still applying raw beef and profanity to the black eye it won in its recent victory.

Now for a Tussle. Washington Post. The octopus is engaged in foreclosing mortgages on the property of Hon. John Peter Gray. This ought to produce some fierce screaming.

One Good Result. Buffalo. One result of the slump in stocks undoubtedly will be the suspension for a time of the formation of new industrial consolidations. This will be regretted by no one, for the public already has more of such books than it is able to digest.

How We Grow. New York Mail and Express. Forty-one new towns have been established in the states of Minnesota and Nebraska within the last year, owing to the necessity for more receiving and distributing points for business. The prosperity boom in that part of the country evidently has an unusually high voltage.

Machine Against Machine. Philadelphia Record. There is no contrivance of which the political machinists are more afraid than the voting machine. These contrivances have now been so perfected as to insure the ballot effectively.

Dewey's "Maiden Effort." Washington Post. Senator Dewey, adjusted his frock coat and glanced around the senate. He was a picture of manly beauty.

Dewey Asks Too Much. Chicago Chronicle. Admiral Dewey may plead for the admission into the country of the Chinese who served under him at Manila, but it will be a somewhat delicate matter for congress to grant the desired permission. It is true that a man who is good enough to serve on a nation's war ship ought to be good enough to step ashore at the end of a triumphant cruise, but congress can hardly concede to Dewey's Chinese, who are not citizens, rights which are denied to the Filipinos, who are under the benign and sheltering folds of the Old Flag. In other words, it would be somewhat incongruous to admit the Chinese while the collector at the port of San Francisco continues to grab by the nape of the neck and the seat of the trousers every Filipino in sight, to be pitched on board the first steamer bound for our Philippine possessions.

A Cheerful Colonel. J. Stillwell Merritt. The hilarity and exuberance of Colonel Edgar Howard over the nomination of Silas Holcomb to the supreme court has been duplicated by that same gallant disciple of populism in his rejoicings because of the appointment of Allen to the senate by death and Governor Poynter. Death primarily, and Poynter secondarily, have rendered Howard the happiest of all the hypocrites now pretending to trust in the visions and vagaries of fusion, illusion, delusion and confusion as represented by a leadership which in Nebraska at all times has sacrificed principle, friends and party for personal promotion. We congratulate Colonel Howard upon having said "amen" to the appointment of Allen to the senate by death and Governor Poynter. Death primarily, and Poynter secondarily, have rendered Howard the happiest of all the hypocrites now pretending to trust in the visions and vagaries of fusion, illusion, delusion and confusion as represented by a leadership which in Nebraska at all times has sacrificed principle, friends and party for personal promotion.

The Glass Tableware trust has issued an official circular from which it appears that the combined value of all the property of the trust, including plants and goods on hand, is \$4,000,000, bonded for half that amount. In addition stock outstanding equals the value of all the property the trust owns. As the trust controls practically all the plants in the country it proposes to make the public pay dividends on this enormous overcapitalization and during the past year seems to have succeeded in doing so. Still the trust managers contend that this institution is perfectly legitimate.

The railroads have been granted seven months more in which to comply with the safety appliance law. This will save the companies a little money, but how about the lives of the employees? The railroads are certainly

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS. There are rumors in London that the British government intends to negotiate a loan to meet the cost of the war in South Africa. The addition of \$100,000,000 or so to the public debt of Great Britain would be the least serious of the consequences of the conflict with the Boers. The permanent funded debt of Great Britain, on March 31, 1888 (the latest date for which exact statistics are available), was \$787,824, or nearly three billions of dollars. The high-water mark of the British public debt was reached in 1895, when it exceeded \$900,000,000, or four and one-half billions of dollars. All of this sum has been expended in foreign wars, beginning with the American revolution and ending with the conflict which brought about the downfall of Napoleon. During the past fifteen years the funded debt of Great Britain, which as late as 1883 was \$713,000,000, has been rapidly reduced, and it had been expected to cut it down within the ensuing twenty years by at least \$200,000,000. Several weeks ago the outcry for the Boer war was estimated at a little over \$2,000,000 a month. The reinforcements of the army will nearly double this sum and even if the war should continue a twelvemonth, as seems probable, the total cost would not exceed the amount of the permanent debt redeemed by the British treasury at the current rate in two and one-half years.

Japanese influence is said to be so strong in Peking that the Russian representatives in the Chinese capital are unable to take advantage of England's troubles in Africa to obtain fresh concessions in the Chinese empire. The hold which the Japanese have gained upon the empress dowager and the strongest of her associates in the Chinese government seems to be growing more and more secure, and the feeling spreads in China that the best friends of the nations of Asia which are still independent will be found in the same continent, not in Europe or America. This is a very natural sentiment, and it may have a great influence upon the development of China. If the Japanese can wake their big neighbor to anything like the life which Japan enjoys all projects for the partitioning of the Chinese empire between the ever-hungry land-grabbing powers of Europe will have to be abandoned. Then Asia would be more likely to be ruled and led by Asiatics, permanently, than it has seemed possible it should be at any time since the war between Japan and China.

The French budget committee has rejected M. de Lanesseau's proposal to construct two immense ironclads of 14,800 tons each and his amended scheme of constructing two ironclad cruisers. It has decided that the money available for next year must be devoted to hastening the completion of vessels already on the stocks. The construction of these gigantic vessels, each costing 35,000,000 francs, is thought, however, to have been simply postponed, not actually abandoned, and a prominent naval officer, an admiral, who has been interviewed by the Paris Figaro, maintains that they are absolutely necessary, as combining all the requisite qualities, offensive and defensive. It is better, he holds, to expend the 70,000,000 francs on a single vessel than to spend 25,000,000 or 25,000,000 francs on one which might be shattered by a shell. Had the unanimous decision of the admiralty council in 1889 been carried out the French fleet, he remarks, would have ships to vie with the Majestic and Magnificent, of which England is so proud, and he proceeds to point out that all the countries, while complaining of the cost and risk of loss, are increasing the size of their ships.

From time to time rumors of the existence of gold in the Italian colony of Erythraea have raised hopes that the territory might prove less burdensome to the Italian exchequer in the future than it has been in the past. The reports of gold mines in Erythraea have acquired consistency sufficient to warrant the employment of two mining experts, one from New Zealand and the other from Alaska, in order to investigate the nature and extent of the gold-bearing reefs. Replies to questions on the subject in the Italian Chamber the other day Signor Fiesinato, under secretary of state for foreign affairs, confirmed the existence of deposits and added that the results of expert investigation were of a nature to justify hope, though further examination would be necessary to decide whether operations on a considerable scale would be profitable. Meanwhile the Italian government would treat all applications for concessions with the utmost favor and do everything possible to encourage private enterprise.

The French minister of war, the Marquis de Galliffet, has just issued a significant circular to the generals commanding the different army corps, in which he says that it is well understood that the best interests of the public service require that there should be mutual understanding and consent between the civil and the military authorities and he then proceeds to remark that the establishment and maintenance of these friendly and co-operative relations depend mainly upon the manner in which the representatives of the two authorities behave to each other. It is especially to the interest of the army, he maintains, that these relations should be of a friendly and cordial character. He concludes with the assertion that the order is one to which he attaches especial importance and with a request that commanding generals will direct all their subordinates to pay particular attention to it.

Nets are now to be tried as a means of lessening the motion and force of sea waves. They are floated on the surface of the water by an invention of Baron d'Alessandro and are said to be more efficacious than oil which used for the same purpose. Last week the week there were 250,000 Christmas trees piled up along the water front in New York, varying from six to thirty feet in height. The latter, according to the Times, "are for churches and for the outside of saloons." This does extremes meet in a common interest, at Christmas.

Book lovers in London and even on this side are already greatly interested in the probability of the sale at public auction of the collection of Bernard Quaritch, the famous and eccentric bibliophile of London, who has just died. Some single volumes of his cost \$5,000 and he once spent as much as \$200,000 at a sale.

The orders of decoration worn by the German emperor, according to a Berlin newspaper, are worth about 1,000,000 marks, or a little more than \$200,000. The Kaiser's principal and most valuable decorations are the insignia of the Black Eagle, the Order of St. John, the Order of the Garter and the Order of the Prussian Dragon. In all he has over 200 orders, stars, medals and other insignia.

Whether the question as to which shall have precedence in official functions, Dewey or Miles, is settled or not—and no one seems to know—the controversy has resulted in a new rule that no unmarried woman shall precede a married woman. Thus when a cabinet member sends her daughter to represent her at a state affair the daughter must precede her place below the wives of all cabinet officers.

Chief of Police Broder of St. Joseph, Mo., evidently believes that the way to curb high-way robbery is to kill the footpads. With this end in view he has posted a notice at headquarters offering a reward of \$100 to every officer who kills a footpad. "Mind you," he says, "the footpads must be dead. I must have the coroner's certificate before the reward will be paid. It's the footpads' hide that I want pay for, not a live robber. We have too many of that kind now."

DEATH OF GENERAL LAWTON. Minneapolis Journal: Lawton's heroic death will fill the army in Luzon with fresh determination to make complete and thorough the dispersion and suppression of the insularity that has marred the hour of a new birth for their country to strike at the flag which carries freedom and light wherever it goes.

Kansas City Star: There is no other man in the American army who can exactly fill General Lawton's place. In the days of the insularity that has marred the hour of a new birth for their country to strike at the flag which carries freedom and light wherever it goes.

Indianapolis Press: Happy is the hero that dies in battle. Upon the shining record of this man is no single blot of folly in peaceful life, such as has made so many military heroes suffer in the history of the world. There is not even so much as a mistake of judgment to dim his luster. The page of history can record no cleaner life, no nobility of mind, no braver spirit, than that of Lawton.

Chicago Record: His memory will endure in the annals of the army as that of an absolute and fearless and tireless soldier, an indomitable fighter and a military leader of genius. He had no superior among the generals in service. The time of his death and, in some respects, no equal. The rare combination of pluck and judgment which he possessed marked him as of the best type of American soldier.

Detroit Journal: The country will particularly regret his death at this time, when all the conditions of the campaign favor the probability that he would soon be on the rest he had so completely earned and so fully deserved. That the war in Luzon promises an early ending is perhaps due as much to Lawton as to any other one man and it is a cruel blow that takes him away in the hour of almost completed triumph.

Minneapolis Times: In the minds of the American people the name of El Caney and San Isidro will always be associated with that of Lawton. In the hearts of his countrymen his name will dwell as that of a man without guile, a soldier of undimmed brilliancy and a public servant of the highest and most disinterested character. To his ashes, peace! To his memory, laurel! To his comrades, high example!

Kansas City Journal: General Lawton's part in the battle of Santiago was instrumental in giving him a particularly strong hold upon the affections of the people. His heroic exposure in leading the charge at El Caney and the success that attended both the plan and the action of that charge once more demonstrated the superior stuff of which great soldiers are made and vindicated the judgment that governed his selection for such a great responsibility.

LAW OF LIFE AND TRADE. Illinois Supreme Court Rules on Department Store Regulation. Chicago Chronicle. The supreme court of Illinois has decided that the ordinance of a public safety act of Chicago regulating the business of department stores are not constitutional and are void. One of the ordinances prohibited the sale of meats, butter, lard, vegetables and other provisions in the same building where dry goods, clothing, jewelry, and other articles were sold. The other ordinance prohibited the sale of spirituous and malt liquors in store where dry goods were sold. The cases against several proprietors of department stores where dry goods were sold, of the peace, from whose judgment an appeal was taken to the criminal court. From the judgment in that court an appeal was taken to the supreme court. The highest tribunal holds that the multifarious business of department stores is legitimate and is entitled to the protection of law.

The decision is based on first principles. A man has a natural right and a right under the constitution to enjoy his property and to dispose of it in his discretion. This right is subject to police regulations for the protection of the public. A man cannot use his property nor dispose of it in a way to injure the general health, the morals of the community or the safety of individuals. The police power of the city and the state are confined in its exercise to the protection of the public health, morals and safety. Beyond this line all interference with individual and individual rights violates the constitution, which was ordained for all. The public are not injured if meat, vegetables, liquor and dry goods are sold in the same store.

A long line of decisions by the supreme court of this state affirm the rights of ownership in real and personal property. This right is subject to police regulations for the protection of the public. A man cannot use his property nor dispose of it in a way to injure the general health, the morals of the community or the safety of individuals. The police power of the city and the state are confined in its exercise to the protection of the public health, morals and safety. Beyond this line all interference with individual and individual rights violates the constitution, which was ordained for all. The public are not injured if meat, vegetables, liquor and dry goods are sold in the same store.

As a practical matter, the department stores exist because they sell goods for less than the same articles cost in stores which have but one line of trade. They advertise extensively and offer every class of merchandise at prices with which dealers in but one class of merchandise cannot compete. While all sympathize with the small dealer who is being driven out of business because his customers leave him and flock to the big stores where prices are lower, to unnumbered thousands of his kind there is a higher price which he is compelled to charge in order to realize the amount of his rent and other expenses, saying nothing about profits. The public wish well to the small retail dealer on the far north side or west side or in the southern wards, but they pay a nickel each for a rifle to the busy center of trade, where all kinds of goods are cheaper. Sympathy is good, but it counts for nothing against the attractions of a bargain counter.

And this is the law of life and trade. It would seem that the only way for the retail dealers in single lines of goods to protect themselves from extinction is by uniting their amounts of capital or credit and organizing department stores in their respective neighborhoods. By making large quantities they could buy cheaper and could reduce prices to customers. By advertising extensively they could attract purchasers. There are instances of large department stores at a distance from the downtown center. By giving publicity to their facilities for supplying the local trade they would increase their sales.

SPOTS OF THE HOME GUARD. Philadelphia Ledger: England has no better fighters than the Irish in her armies and no fiercer foes than the Irish at home. It's queer.

Springfield Republican: Now is the time for the apologists for war as a blessing to nations to show what good this South African horror is doing any one in particular. Who or what is being benefited?

Philadelphia Press: It is strange that no one has suggested that the monodic halcyon of Secretary Joe Chamberlain may be responsible for the misdirected view he is charged with taking of South African affairs.

San Francisco Call: The glee with which French, German and Austrian newspapers welcome British reverses in South Africa is something more than a mild indication of why the czar's peace conference was a fiasco.

Boston Transcript: Lord Roberts was born in Ireland. Lord Kitchener comes from the Emerald Isle; so does Wolseley. The duke of Wellington was also a native of Ireland. Somehow it seems as if none but Irish need apply for high commands in the British army.

New York Tribune: It can scarcely be disputed that England, neglectful alike of sacred and secular admonitions, was altogether too boastful while putting on her armor. It looks as if she would have abundant opportunity to regret the indiscretion before she is permitted to take her armor off.

Kansas City Star: A Russian newspaper which is called Syet says in regard to General Buller's defeat that "God is punishing an arrogant and rapacious people who have oppressed and persecuted other races in order to enrich themselves." This curious item will be read with mingled emotions of amusement and surprise in Poland, Finland, the Caucasus and other sections which have been incorporated into the Russian empire within a century or so.

Chicago Record: "What's the difference between a probationer and a patriot?" "A probationer has to pay cash, but a patriot gets it charged."

New York Journal: Milliken—Did you see cowboy Casey that he was in the zoo? "Must be dead." "For it's good boy, but I'd bet him plain to it."

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "I notice that Robert Tabor has secured the management of a London theater." "That's business. Now he can control the billboards."

Chicago News: Young Wife—Tom presented me with a lovely pair of diamond earrings this morning. "Her Mother-in-Law: I wonder what he's been up to now?"

Washington Star: "Can that prima donna reach a high note?" asked the man who didn't know much about music. "That's a high note," exclaimed the enthusiastic manager, "should say so. A \$10 bill is easy for her."

Indianapolis Journal: "Do you believe that Protestants are an unchristian people?" "Now, I know a Presbyterian girl whose attention secured a young Methodist minister clear out of the state."

Somerville Journal: Hightley—Why do you say that Watson is extravagant?" "Clegely—Because he has three silk hats."

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "My wife asked me yesterday what I wanted for Christmas." "Yes?" "I told her a rug for her sewing room, a pair of chenille curtains, or a new set of silver, toilet accessories for the guest chamber."

Indianapolis Journal: "If the boys keep on taking prisoners and adding to their culinary responsibilities they'll have to fight and go back to farming." "That's right. If they don't, first you know we'll be hearing that the prisoners are reduced to one koppe a day."

Somerville Journal. With loads of things to give away. I'd give mamma a new silk dress. And I'd give a watch to Brother Ned. A bicycle to Sister Nell. A pair of drudy slates to Jack. A diamond pin to Cousin Belle. I'd give nice gifts to every one. Then what was left upon the shelf I'd label plain and give it away. And soap in the whole lot myself. Gee! What a load-pile chum I'd have. And what a merry Christmas day. If I were only Santa Claus. With all those things to give away!

SEASONABLE RHYMES. Charge of the Christmas Brigade. Chicago Times Herald. Half a foot, half a foot. Half a foot onward! Down on the Christmas toys Swooned the six hundred. Grabbing for drum and horn—Many a skirt was torn. A pair of toes was crushed By the six hundred! Clerks to the right of them, Clerks to the left of them! Clerks massed in front of them Fumbled and blundered! Things ripped to pieces there, Arms reaching through the air. Mad women jamming and Grabbing things everywhere—Frightful six hundred!

With all those things to give away!

"Fire in the Window"

would hardly cause more comment than they do now. Loaded as they are with such choice offering for Christmas day. Have you seen them? If you are in doubt about what to get for a present it will be well worth your time to walk around and look at them. You will see what you want. But if not there, you will surely find it on the inside.

We close all day Monday

So do your trading Saturday. We close all day Monday

LIEBIG COMPANY'S EXTRACT OF BEEF. SAVES DOCTORS' BILLS. BROWNING, KING & CO. Reliable and Exclusive Furnishers. Open Evenings.