

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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Parties leaving for summer: Parties leaving the city for the summer may have The Bee sent to them regularly by notifying The Bee Business Office...

Republican national platform is a paean of prosperity: Governor Roosevelt should have taken his storm cellar with him to Philadelphia.

The Orientals will realize before long that the "foreign devils" are very much plural.

It is to be hoped a skyrocket war in China will not be reflected in the laundry prices in America.

McKinley brought the country prosperity: By keeping McKinley the country will keep prosperity.

Philadelphia evidently wants to get its full money's worth by keeping that convention as long as it can.

A unanimous renomination is something that has been enjoyed by few presidents of the United States.

Des Moines is entertaining the National Music Teachers' association and of course harmony pervades the entire section within hearing distance of the Iowa capital.

Another strike of Nebraska coal is chronicled in northeastern Nebraska. A gold discovery on the banks of the Blue is in order to even up things for the South Platte.

What is the county board going to do about the proposed raid on the county treasury in the guise of a fake county fair? Will it stand and deliver without even an attempt at self-defense?

All three of the Nebraska boys included in the last installment of West Point appointments have made successful entrance into the institution. The Nebraska boy will hold his own anywhere.

A resolution has passed the council authorizing the expenditure of \$600 realized from the dog tax for feeding the city prisoners. Is this a case of making the guests at the city jail live on dogs?

The World-Herald heads up an article on the local census under the caption, "Criminal foolishness combined with incompetence." These are serious charges. To whom are they directed?

Railroad men are again puzzling their brains to evolve some plan by which rates can be maintained. The simple case of living up to agreements might work if the railroads could be induced to try it.

Having redeemed all the pledges made for it in 1896, the republican party is in position to make new promises with perfect confidence of its ability to carry them out if retained in control of the national government.

There is no politics in our courts—that is conceded. But some people cannot help wonder why both of the referees appointed to take testimony in the suits brought by Attorney General Smyth should be democrats of decided political activity.

The international column which is being collected to go to the relief of Pekin will probably be the most cosmopolitan military force ever assembled for active service and the commanding officer could use to advantage the talents of an Elihu Burritt.

Omaha people are paying their city taxes so fast that the prospects are good for the retirement of nearly all the outstanding interest-bearing warrants early in July. In that event the city will be nearer a cash basis than it has been in years. Yet some near-sighted boobies still insist that prosperity has nothing to do with tax payments.

THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM.

While exceeding the usual limits of political platforms, the declaration of principles by the Philadelphia convention contains no superfluous or unnecessary utterance. It forefathers sets forth the salient facts in the record of the present administration and in unambiguous terms defines republican policy and purpose.

A just tribute is paid to the statesmanship and patriotism of President McKinley, whose administration, it declared, has distinctly elevated and extended the influence of the American nation. It proclaims renewed allegiance to the gold standard and to the policy of protection, both necessary to our material progress and prosperity.

In regard to trusts, there is unqualified condemnation of conspiracies and combinations intended to restrict business, to create monopolies, to limit production or to control prices, and legislation is favored that will restrain and prevent such abuses, protect and promote competition and secure the rights of producers, laborers and all who are engaged in industry and commerce.

This is in line with the previous utterances of the party, which has attested its sincerity by placing an anti-trust law on the statute books and by an effort in the present congress to increase the power of congress to deal with trusts and monopolistic combinations.

In regard to the new possessions, it is declared that "the largest measure of self-government consistent with their welfare and our duties shall be secured to them by law." Among the policies favored are reciprocity, more effective restriction of the immigration of cheap labor, merchant marine legislation, improvement of public roads, national legislation for reclaiming the arid lands and the application of civil service regulations to appointments for the insular possessions.

An isthmian canal, constructed, owned, controlled and protected by the United States, is favored, without specifying any route. Reduction of war taxes is declared to be the policy of the party. An important statement is that the pledge of independence and self-government to Cuba shall be performed to the letter.

The platform will be approved by all republicans and no one who reads its plain and unequivocal declarations can have any doubt regarding the principles and policies of the republican party.

CHINA'S GREAT STATESMAN. The announcement that Li Hung Chang, China's most eminent statesman, has been summoned to Pekin, is regarded as promising a change in the situation.

According to the Chinese minister in Washington Li Hung Chang has the confidence of the dowager empress and his going to the capital is thought to foreshadow her submission to the dictates of the powers. The veteran statesman is more familiar than perhaps any other of his countrymen with the world outside of China and he is a man of conservative tendencies, who might be expected to do all possible to avert the calamity of a war between China and a combination of European powers.

He is especially friendly to the United States and American interests will be protected if it is in his power to do so.

It is stated that when Li Hung Chang was last in Europe he frequently talked of the missionary question, which he said must sooner or later cause serious trouble. He stated that the average missionary invariably jarred on the nerves of the most tolerant Chinaman and his idea was that the European powers should arrive at an agreement to forbid missionaries to go to China, or that the missionary work be confined to natives, if it must be carried on, which of course he did not admit.

The situation continues very serious and whether even Li Hung Chang will be able to restrain the uprising is a question, although his influence is doubtless greater than that of any other person in China except the dowager empress. If he has gone to Pekin and shall succeed in restoring peace it will be the most important work of his eventful life.

INVESTIGATION IN CUBA. Governor General Wood proposes that there shall be a thorough investigation of the charges that have been made of wrongdoing in the military administration in Cuba and for this purpose will appoint a special commission consisting of an officer of the army and two Cuban civilians, authorized to hear testimony offered by any who wish to make specific charges of malfeasance in office or of official extravagance. General Wood thinks the time has come when the persistent accusations against non holding office should be faced. "Let us have these charges threshed out," he says, "and see if there is anything in them; my desire is to keep officialdom in Cuba as clean as possible."

Accusations have been made in both Cuban and American papers and also in congress, though those making them have offered nothing in the way of proof, the allegations have come to be widely accepted as probably true and therefore the only way to ascertain whether or not they have a substantial foundation is to prosecute a rigid investigation and give those who make the charges an opportunity to testify. It is due alike to the Cuban people and to the American people that this be done. The postal frauds have naturally induced many people to think that there has been a carnival of corruption and extravagance in Cuba and nothing will remove this impression but a thorough investigation, by a commission that will command confidence both there and here. No fair-minded person will doubt for a moment the integrity of General Wood, but it is possible that wrongs have been committed in spite of his care and vigilance.

It is needless to say that the Washington authorities will approve whatever the governor may do in the matter of an investigation, for the administration must suffer if the accusations are ignored. Its opponents will make all the use they can of the postal frauds and if the allegations of other wrongdoing are not met they too will be made use of in the campaign. General Wood is a

man of action and having decided to make an investigation it is to be expected that he will proceed promptly and spare no effort to make it thorough.

INTEREST IN NATIONAL POLITICS. Although the identity of the opposing presidential nominees has been practically fixed for months and the work of the great nominating conventions confined to matters of comparative unimportance, the public interest in their proceedings is more active everywhere than in most previous presidential campaigns.

The general position of the different political parties on the various questions prominent in the public mind has been defined by the policy of their leaders in congress, yet the precise formulation of the platform has been awaited with intense expectancy. The choice of vice presidential candidates, which ordinarily is of secondary moment, has been projected to the front so as to occupy the prominent position in the convention preliminaries.

Four years ago it was said that nearly every man in the country constituted himself a street corner statesman to solve the great financial problems pressing upon the nation. The unusual excitement over the money question at that time was explained largely by the fact that so many workmen had been left without employment by the stress of financial depression. This year, on the other hand, every able-bodied mechanic and artisan is steadily employed at better wages than ever before, but his interest in continuing the present prosperous conditions is vital and direct.

We believe, therefore, that it is a good sign to see the people so generally awake to the magnitude and import of the impending political contest that is to determine the control and policy of the national government for another four years. If the people were listless and indifferent to the proceedings of the national conventions there would be good cause for apprehension, that the interest they owe as citizens were being denuded when its constant activity is necessary to the circulation of the life-blood of the nation.

Much as we may deplore the disturbing force of each recurring presidential election, this pronounced interest in national politics is the best guaranty of the success of our system of popular government.

The South Omaha tempest over the enactment by the city council of an ordinance declaring corporations disqualified to hold liquor licenses has been allayed by the repeal of the ordinance, though, as a matter of fact, how the interests concerned could be affected by this piece of municipal legislation is not clear. The statute prescribes explicitly who is and who is not qualified to take out a liquor license and whatever the council might attempt to do to add to or take away from these requirements would have no binding effect. The obnoxious ordinance, however, has served to keep South Omaha stirred up for several weeks as if it were one of the most weighty public measures ever before the people.

"Moore scores a victory" is the way the outcome of the disputed claim for office by the county against Mayor Moore, as clerk of the district court, is chronicled in the organ which has been so virulent in its attacks upon the mayor. It fails to state, however, that this determination of the controversy takes away every vestige of foundation for most of the malicious accusations with which it has been filling its columns from time to time and fully supports the contention of the mayor that the unsettled balance was due to him instead of from him.

The weekly crop bulletin refers to the recent rainfall in Nebraska as excessive, inflicting considerable damage, but adds that the heavy rains of the week were very timely and proved of great benefit to the small grain crop, especially in the central and southwestern sections, where considerable damage had already been done by the dry weather of the preceding weeks. This means that the reported damage to growing crops has been considerably exaggerated and that Nebraska will be blessed with most abundant harvests, barring, of course, still further climatic obstructions.

The promised contest over the Douglas county delegation for the democratic convention seems to be simmering down to a very tame affair. After sifting up the situation the leaders appear to have arrived at the conclusion that there is nothing worth fighting about, inasmuch as carrying any fusion ticket in Douglas county this fall is out of the question.

There never was any great probability that the fusionists would attempt to make campaign capital out of the management of the state auditor's office, but the latest developments regarding insurance fees make it still more unlikely. The fusionists will be forced to return to promises, which are their long suit.

Nebraskans who look over the weekly crop report of this state cannot suppress a smile, which becomes broader as they see the price of wheat mounting upward. Nebraska is prepared to pass when it comes time to serve calamity.

Montana democrats have congratulated ex-Senator Clark on the clean campaign he had made to secure the office. The political orifices of Montana democrats cannot be acute or they would have detected the odor before this.

If the flood of nominating oratory is kept bottled up much longer in Philadelphia there is likely to be an explosion which will wake up the city. It is dangerous to build a big fire and then spike down the safety valve.

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