

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROEWATER, Editor. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: Daily Bee (without Sunday), One Year, \$5.00...

LEGISLATIVE APPOINTMENT.

One of the promises made in the platform adopted by the Nebraska republicans for their state convention provides for a reapportionment of the legislative and congressional districts that will accord fair and equal representation to the people in every section of the state.

Reapportionment measures will be looked upon as among the more important legislation demanding the attention of our lawmakers this winter, and the history of the present apportionment offers the most forcible argument in favor of a careful and well-digested measure.

The Nebraska constitution established the first legislative apportionment by virtue of its own provisions and the districts were to be rearranged by legislative enactment in 1881 and every five years thereafter in accordance with the population disclosed by state and federal censuses in the even and odd decades. Nebraska's only state census was taken in 1885 and was followed by a redistricting of the state in 1887.

In 1891 the populists and democrats had control in the legislature and thwarted the legislative reapportionment, although the congressional redistricting bill became a law. The chief reason for the failure of the redistricting in 1891 was found in the predominant growth of the larger cities of the state and the corresponding reduction which would have been entailed upon certain rural counties.

The legislature of 1893, which was also controlled by the fusion parties, and that of 1895, which was republican, was powerless to apply the remedy because the constitution expressly forbids the redistricting of the state by any legislature except that which convenes immediately after the census period. The state census which should have been taken in 1895 was omitted for the sake of economy, coming as it did on the heels of the disastrous crop failures, calling upon the state treasury for relief for the drought sufferers.

Thus for fourteen years Nebraska has been subject to the apportionment of 1887, which is notoriously unjust to many parts of the state. Under the constitution, the present legislature is the only body empowered to pass an apportionment bill in conformity with the recent census. This duty must not be evaded nor shirked nor should it be performed with purely partisan ends in view.

For most of the counties the districting of legislative representation is purely a question of arithmetic, the only opportunity for division being in the construction of the districts comprising two or more counties. By setting to work at this task in a proper spirit it can be accomplished without any factions or opposition.

The debate in the national house of representatives on the resolution of inquiry into the disfranchisement of negroes in the south disclosed the spirit that dominates the political element in control in that section. It is determined to entirely eliminate the colored citizen from politics if it is possible to do so. Representatives from Mississippi, Alabama and North Carolina practically admitted that the fourteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States is a dead letter in their states and that they have taken effective means to prevent the negroes exercising the right of franchise.

A CRITICAL SITUATION.

The latest advices from Venezuela state that the situation growing out of the "asphalt war" has become critical. Last week the Department of State received from Minister Loomis, at Caracas, information that the trouble was rapidly assuming serious proportions and Washington dispatches reported the feeling there to be that the difficulty would shortly cease to be a conflict between two corporations and become an issue between Venezuela and the United States.

The trouble is due to the claims of two asphalt companies, both American, to which concessions have been made. The New York and Bernudes company obtained a concession from Venezuela which the company construed as covering all asphalt lakes in the department of Bernudes. The Venezuelan government construed it as covering only certain lakes and subsequently the government granted another concession. When the company having the later concession attempted to take possession it was resisted and the company appealed for support to the Venezuelan government.

In the meantime suit had been brought to determine the government's right to grant the second concession and this suit is pending before the courts. It is the view of the Washington government that both parties and the Venezuelan government should await the decision of the court before taking any action, but in the event of President Castro using the army against the company having the first concession, before a judicial decision is rendered, our government may protest. The claims of the two companies have been laid before the Washington authorities and will undoubtedly receive whatever consideration they may be entitled to.

Meanwhile these war ships have been sent to Venezuela for the protection of American interests, but this does not mean there is any intention on the part of our government to interfere in the trouble, unless, indeed, there should be some gross injustice on the part of the Venezuelan government that would justify our interposition. The fact that both the asphalt companies are American somewhat embarrasses the situation so far as this government is concerned. The American minister is exerting himself to procure an equitable settlement of the difficulty and this is all that can be done under existing circumstances.

We shall not get into any serious trouble with Venezuela by reason of this conflict between rival asphalt companies. Whatever may be necessary to properly safeguard American interests will be done, but it can confidently be said that our government will not become involved in a quarrel with the southern republic over this asphalt controversy.

Undoubtedly the great secret of the success of the late Philip Danforth Armour was his close attention to detail. As an organizer of business enterprises he stood with few peers, even among a generation of wonderfully strong men. His foresight was keen enough to perceive the day when his hand would no longer guide his business and he prepared for it. As a result the great Armour enterprises will go steadily forward under control of men whose ability was thoroughly tested by the founder.

The frequency with which men just released from prison at once resume their criminal career brings the question of passing an habitual criminal act to the fore. If society, in the exercise of the right to protect itself, can send men to prison for crimes committed, it has the same right to keep habitual criminals there who persist in their bad habits. Two-thirds of the crimes are committed by people with criminal records behind them.

KIDNAPING AND KIDNAPERS.

Chicago Post: Pat Crowe is now quoted at \$53,000 on the Omaha police bulletin. Washington Post: Hon. Pat Crowe continues to Dewet his way through the west. Philadelphia North American: The Cudahy case has promoted not an epidemic of kidnaping, but an outbreak of juvenile romancing. Small boys of vivid imagination and defective veracity cannot resist the temptation to become the heroes of temporary sensations and for some time yet tales of kidnaping may be expected from all over the country. The Kerschner case at Bethlehem has already turned out to be the well-concocted lie of a 13-year-old boy. Philadelphia Times: The only way to prevent child-stealing from becoming a regular part of the trade of the criminal classes is for the entire police force of the country to unite in offering rewards for the arrest and conviction of every child kidnaper wherever the crime may be committed. The only way to prevent child-stealing from becoming a popular crime for the public to make common cause and hunt the kidnaper to the farthest parts of the earth. It will be stopped whenever it shall be known that child-stealing cannot escape discovery and punishment of the law, and liberal rewards will be certain to catch the criminals and bring them to justice.

Humor of the Situation. Globe-Democrat Express. The rise of the United States during the century from a seaboard state, with a population somewhat less than that of modern Holland, to a continental and then a world power, is a population movement nearly homogeneous, that of Europe and more numerous than that of any state of Christendom, save Russia, is significant, not only as the greatest specific fact in the political history of the century, but for what it already meant to the world, and, most of all, for what it must mean to the world hereafter.

Someone in the Philippines should preserve the humor evolved by American soldiers since they landed in what was practically a strange world. Scarcely a letter of a week or so ago from a private without examples of new words or phrases of an American fun. A company of infantry on a transport that repeatedly stuck fast on the coral ridges rebaptized the ship the "Chamois, because she skipped from rock to rock with such ease. One correspondent described the "mattie" or native girl of the season and says: "I was glad to finish the trip with my immortal soul and a toothbrush." Along the route the monkeys came out and barked in chorus. Then "they" would laugh and grab their mothers' tails and drink water from the troughs that they knew we were not enjoying our selves." American volunteers have always been the keenest of spontaneous humorists.

America to the Rescue. Old World Nations Leaning on Uncle Sam's Financial Strength. St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Europe's faith that the United States will prevent a stringency in the old world's monetary centers is profound, and is justified. London, Paris, Berlin and the rest of the world's nations are all eager to earn an enormous reward by capturing any reasonably suspicious person, and not too particular whether they captured the person dead or alive. Presumably Mr. Dennis of Boston wasted no time in giving a full and credible explanation of his mission and his survival is sufficient evidence that he is a ready and lucid speaker, whose gestures never carry his hands below his waist line.

PERSONAL NOTES. Cleveland rather rubs it in when she declares that Cincinnati will monopolize the business of royalty and pugilism. Canada manages without the intervention of an ax to absorb a few modern ideas. The Dominion has just abolished lotteries by law. Those of Mr. Carnegie's gifts which have been publicly announced during the past year amount to \$3,000,000. Last year he gave away \$5,000,000. Ex-President Cleveland and Senator Hanna agree upon the tenure of office for president, but on most points of policy they are not unanimous. Charles S. Francis, the new American minister to Greece, is a graduate of Cornell, but, before going to college, learned the printer's trade in Troy, N. Y. George Edgar Vincent, professor of sociology at the University of Chicago, is to be the next president of Northwestern University. He is a son of Bishop Vincent of the Methodist church. "Mark Twain" says he has found sixty-four or more religious sects in South Australia, but that, as we were ourselves well supplied, he decided not to import any into the United States. No one can deny that the late Ignatius Donnelly died in a year that had a cipher. Two days before he could have departed in one with two, but he probably thought a single cipher would answer his purpose. The Cleveland World is celebrating the new year by issuing a paper dated January 1, 2001, and phrased in mongrel English. If such Joshihingsgate is to be the lingo of the next century the ambition to live out the twentieth will receive a grave check. Mrs. Nelson of Kansas, who is in jail for shaking holy rocks at saloon glassware, declines to give up a few "rocks" for liberty. If the muscular crusader actually hit the glassware the throw must be classed as an accident, else the traditions of the sex are smashed. John Hartman, justice of the peace at Millville, N. J., got into a wordy war with some visitors to his office and used language of the sulphurous variety. After the fuss was all over he asked the mayor for a warrant for his own arrest on the charge of disorderly conduct. "I caught myself rebaptized," said he, "and why shouldn't I pay a fine just like any other citizen? I'm an honest man even if I am justice of the peace." A small fine was imposed.

MONEY SUPPLY OF THE WORLD. Stores of the Wherewith Available in Commercial Nations. Chicago Post. Director Roberts of the national mint will present some remarkably suggestive figures in his annual report, now going through the press. Preliminary summaries indicate the scope and character of his information, which has a direct bearing on the question of the sufficiency of the world's money supply, and the charge and safety of the outstanding uncovered paper. The monetary needs of the world have been supplied, and will continue to be met, without inflation or any material increase in the paper money in circulation. The progress made during the lifetime of one generation is indicated by the following table, giving the money of the world at various periods:

Table with columns: Gold, Silver, Uncovered Paper Money, Total. Rows: 1872, 1886, 1896, 1900.

These figures show that the amount of money available in 1872 was about \$4,499,000,000, while the amount in actual use at the beginning of the present year is \$81,600,000,000. This means an increase of more than 18 percent during the brief period of twenty-seven years. It is true that there is some doubt about the correctness of the figures regarding the gold stocks of certain countries, but no one doubts that the amount of the world's money has been multiplied by three at least. The amount of paper money has not increased much, the tendency having been steadily toward a strengthening of the metallic reserves. As for the distribution of the yellow metal, the figures have been given repeatedly, but it will do no harm to set forth once more the estimates for the leading countries: United States (stock of gold), \$10,000,000,000; France, \$2,000,000,000; Russia, \$2,000,000,000; Germany, \$1,000,000,000; Great Britain, \$1,000,000,000. The strength of the existing monetary system, based on the gold standard, can hardly be better illustrated than in the above tables. A large proportion of the increase in gold has taken place in the last seven years owing to the rapid development of the South African and Klondike mines and the increased output of American and Australian gold fields. The prospects for further heavy additions to the gold supply are unusually good. Commerce is expanding, and though the credit system diminishes the need of metallic currency, there is no danger of excessive hoarding upon credit facilities. The cry for more money is being answered not by legislative fiat, but by mother earth.

EARNED DISTINCTION.

Blair Courier. Being of a conservative temperament, we have long admired the conservatism as well as the push and accuracy of The Omaha Bee. We heartily detest what is known as "yellow journalism," and don't like to see things magnified all out of proportion or deliberately lied about. The Bee is a great newspaper for this western country and deserves the substantial support it receives. Editor Rosewater is not an angel, but he is running an amazingly good paper, and if he is elected as one of Nebraska's senators he will have long since merited the distinction.

ST. JACKSON'S DAY. Eighty-Sixth Anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans. This is St. Jackson's day in the morning. Eighty-six years ago today General Jackson pulled off his fight with General Sir Edward Pakenham and shot the packing of the proud hoaster who marched gaily toward New Orleans for booty and beauty. Long-distance admirers of Jackson celebrate the day as though it were the anniversary of the political dictum, "To the victor belong the spoils." Americans who have no designs on spoils cherish the day as the anniversary of a national triumph second only to Yorktown.

The battle of New Orleans was really an epitome of the whole war of 1812 to 1815. In that battle, as throughout the whole war, both on land and sea, the advantage in numbers of men, weight of metal and experience both of officers and soldiers was with the British. The latter had in addition almost a surprise of the victor before the invaders were at the Villere plantation, nine miles below the city. While the Americans were watching for them on the Mississippi's sound and at the mouth of the Father of Waters, the British effected a landing on the shore of Lake Borgne, and marching through the marsh on the east bank of the Mississippi river, had reached its banks nearly 100 miles from its mouth. Retiring in their horses, the creole gentlemen inquired and were received by "Old Hickory," and to him they communicated the above tidings. General Jackson had been ill for several weeks, but the news of the approach of the enemy and the peril of his country did more than all his army surgeons or the most skilled physicians. Within thirty minutes military secretaries were rapidly writing out orders and couriers were dashing away with them to the commanders of the various war levies, which were the only hope of Jackson to turn back the picked veterans of the Napoleonic wars.

It is not generally known, but there were really four battles of New Orleans; one the 23d of December, one the 28th, one the 31st of January and one the 8th of February. The first three were only slight skirmishes and casualties were only a few slightly wounded Americans. The fourth was the battle, in which less than 6,000 war soldiers, most of them armed with blunderbusses and muskets, defeated 12,000 of the flower of the British army, veterans who had received their training under the eye of Wellington, and who had caused to set the star of the great Napoleon.

Contrary to the general belief, there was not a single cotton ball in the breast of the behind which the handful of Americans repulsed the foe, whose watchword for that day was "Booby and Beauty." It was mostly earthenware riveted by plank, and exploded when struck along an old sawmill race, or culvert. The line of the old earthworks is now the southern boundary of the Chalmette National cemetery, the ground so gallantly held that day is now the last vestige of thousands of Americans, and apparently it is the only ground of battle history, upon entering it today, the eye is first greeted by a stone tablet bearing the immortal rhymes of Theodore O'Hara: On Pakenham's eternal camping ground / Their lonely tents on pole-top mounts / Their white glory guards with solemn round / The idealistic dust of many a hero's soul. The story of the battle proper is found in every school history. It began with the dawn, and at 8 o'clock the invaders had been repulsed with a loss of nearly 3,000. The evening of the 28th was equally engaged. The casualties in the American forces were only thirteen killed, thirty-nine wounded and nineteen missing. The losses in this battle are more disproportionate than in any other battle in the history of the world.

One incident in connection with this battle is of peculiar interest as showing the character of Andrew Jackson. It coming to his knowledge that certain American officers of the enemy were strongly suspected of disaffection and an inclination to communicate to the British the weakness of his force, he caused them to be summarily arrested and placed under guard, although they were distinguished officers secured for them writs of habeas corpus, commanding the general to produce his prisoners before Judge Donnelly Hall. To do this the general knew meant their release, and he deliberately disobeyed the writs. The day after the battle the general was in the full tide of his popularity, a ballot with a warrant for his arrest for contempt of court arrived at headquarters and the sword-bereft which invading thousands had rolled back before him, before this bit of paper and the general whom the captors of Napoleon could not subdue yielded himself a prisoner to an humble tipstaff. When brought before Judge Hall, despite the threatening attitude of the throng assembled in the court room and public sentiment, which unanimously approved the action of General Jackson, and in accordance with "Old Hickory's" exhortation, "I have done my duty; now do yours," the general was paid by him, the old soldier refusing to allow it to be paid for him. As stated, the battlefield of Chalmette is now organized as a national cemetery. In 1857 the ground was donated by the city of New Orleans to the national government for that purpose and in it now rest 6,512 "known" dead and 5,779 "unknown." On the site of the old plantation house, where General Jackson had his headquarters, there was a stone shaft about twenty feet square at its base and has been carried to a height of about fifty feet, but there the work stopped. Its base is surrounded by a ring of rank grass and weeds whose seeds have been dropped by passing birds or wafted there by vagrant winds that rocked a little of the glories of that day as the heroism of the men who made it famous, as the pos-

A BIT OF MAGIC.

Transition of the Torani Republic to the United States. Cincinnati Commercial Tribune. Comparisons are, as a rule, odious. But there are, of course, exceptions. Otherwise, the rule would hold. Since the old century has gone on a long journey to the hazy and the new is yet too confused with the glory of his reception to take particular notice, a few figures on commerce as the old century found it and as it confronts the new will not be challenged as offensive. In 1800 the world's interchange of product was valued at \$1,000,000,000 and is now not less than \$20,000,000,000. The per capita of commerce in 1800 was \$2.31; now it is \$12.27. Submarine cables transmit 5,000,000 messages a year. The world's yield of gold from 1800 to 1899 averaged but \$15,000,000 a year. Last year it was worth \$300,000,000 and mined and added to the wealth of mankind.

This one beats it. The United States, a baby among nations in 1800, now transacts more than one-tenth of the world's foreign trade; it mines one-fourth of the gold; in railroad enterprise it is far ahead of any other nation. Its agricultural surplus is the largest. Its agricultural machinery the best, a mineral development the greatest and its prosperity transcends that of any other country. Enterprise has done it—push, force, progressiveness, brains. Railroads, steamships and electric communication, all introduced during the nineteenth century, have made the atomosphere possible. The shipping of the world has increased fifteen-fold since the beginning of the century. Railroads, unknown a hundred years ago, now cover 442,000 miles; telegraphs, another modern invention, embrace 932,000 miles and submarine cables 128,000 miles.

Upon this wonderful commercial basis the world has just begun a new century. It is no surprise to find the American people earnestly interested in extending their facilities of shipping and communication and in the annihilation of space. Commerce has been placed where it is by the greatly bettered facilities for intercommunication. The advancement of the future is clearly dependent upon the activity of fresh enterprise in the same direction.

LIGHT AND BRIGHT. Chicago Record: "I haven't half enough to lay my debts." "Well, I'm worse off than that; I paid mine, but I look every cent I had." Cleveland Plain Dealer: "How is your coal burning?" "I'm not a bit worried over the way my coal is burning. It's the way it's disappearing that bothers me." Philadelphia Press: "Every barber, it seems to me, talks too much." "I don't know, but I've seen a barber to shave a man unless he has a little chin." Chicago Tribune: "Girl with the Fur Jacket—Some people think it all right to eat onions and starch. It's only a matter of taste." "Girl with the Storm Collar—Oh, it isn't. It's a matter of money."

Chicago Post: "When I was your age I never thought of spending as much money as you do." "Well, sir," the careless youth replied, "I cannot do more than offer my sympathies. It was grandfather's fault; not mine." Detroit Free Press: Amateur. What does it mean in theatrical circles when they say "the show winks"? "Veteran Actor—It means that the rest of us don't have to." Washington Star: "Do you approve of lobbying?" inquired the young man who is learning politics. "No, sir," answered Senator Borah; "I emphatically do not. What a man wants to do is to get elected, and he ought to get himself or have a representative there so that he can do absolutely sure things are going right." Philadelphia Press: The poet's wife had tried her best to grasp the metaphor that the sonnet he had submitted to her. "In sorry, dear," she said to her husband, "but I can't make any sense of it." "Hurray!" he chorused in his glee. "I'll make dollars out of it then. I'll send it to the poet."

THREE NEW CENTURY SONNETS. Mrs. Whitton-Stone in Boston Transcript. Hushed for the watching stars grow blind / Overhead, / Where red auroras flame up higher and higher, / And, wrapt in its magnificent attire, / On breast of midnight lies the century, / Dead. / Look ye your last on it, nor shrink, nor pause, / For past it, in a breathing cloud of fire, / Comes the new century like a new Messiah, / Of whose of "what shall be" prophetic word. / What shall be? Lo, when unborn men de- / scend, / Love as sublimest of discoveries, / And, heaven affirms, to higher levels rise, / Nor less content than to be divine, / Nor less than to be godlike shall suffice.

Count not the centuries as centuries, / Count them as evolution of a plan. / This was conceived before the world be- / gan; / Count them as years of heaven in earth's / disguise. / Eternity still in embryo lies, / Jehovah held. Lo! He alone can span / The everlasting year and eon unen- / gaged. The casualties in the American / forces were only thirteen killed, thirty-nine / wounded and nineteen missing. The losses / in this battle are more disproportionate / than in any other battle in the history of / the world.

On the white page of this new century / Write, / O bright evangel, write that wars shall / cease, / That there shall come a universal peace, / And ere the century dings, and the light / Will stream through human souls, unite / All wrongs shall overcome, all bonds re- / lease. / The songs shall flow from thought's divine / increase, / And dim shadow forth the infinite. / Write for those knees that ages are not / dumb. / And that already we can, hating, hear / Their oracles proclaiming, "Hear ye, / 'What good men failed shall find fulfillment / here. / Write, in this century's race, immortal / sum, / Of what makes men immortal shall ap- / pear."

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