

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 21st day of January, A. D. 1901. M. B. HUNTING, Notary Public.

Inquisitive Reader is informed that there is no connection between liquid air and hot air.

With talk so cheap down at Lincoln why should the legislators want to reduce the telephone toll still further?

The senatorial game at Lincoln has got to a point where the dealer needs a substitute to enable him to take a rest.

The forists will be the next to complain if the legislators at Lincoln persist in distributing so many free bouquets.

That legislative bill compelling street railway companies to run owl cars through the night must have originated with the Howlers' club.

It is unfortunate that the only honest man in the United States senate is to retire March 4. It must be so, however, for Pettigrew himself has said it.

Ex-Senator Towne prepared two speeches for delivery during his short term, but only delivered one of them. He made no discount on his salary for that reason, however.

Bryan has declined an invitation to make a speech on the plea that he was too busy to talk. People who have observed his proclivities can form a good idea of just how busy he is.

Bryan objects to lengthening the presidential term to six years, presumably as it would be too long between campaigns, and he does not get any too much fun out of it as it is.

The best way to settle the controversy over the barbers' bill would be to invite the members of the legislature to offer themselves as subjects to the novice class in a so-called barbers' college.

It might not be out of order for the fusion county officials who want to engage in fistie exhibitions to advertise the event in advance and give the public a chance to witness it from the spectators' seats.

If Mrs. Nation should decide to go to Washington the waiters will please remove the "cold tea" from the senate restaurant. The people of the country would not like to see the beautiful capitol building wrecked.

When Governor Dietrich stated that he would not allow a prize fight to be pulled off in this state he did not anticipate that democratic politicians would spring one so suddenly with a fat office as the stakes.

The Wisconsin legislature is considering a bill to abolish the free lunch. The members of the legislature should not be so particular. Their present graft may not last forever and they may live to regret hasty action in the proposed direction.

Senator Pettigrew is realizing that only a few weeks more remain in which his remarks will be recorded in the Congressional Record and is losing no opportunity to have his memory embalmed in the pages of that monumental publication.

When Emperor William of Germany died memorial services were held in this country as a tribute to his great work for the German nation, and there is no good reason why any one should object to memorial services now over the decease of Queen Victoria.

If Representative Lanham of Texas really desired to accomplish anything by his speech on the reorganization of the democratic party, he might have delivered it before a body which contained a larger number of democrats than the congress of the United States.

The Douglas County Democracy has elected new officers for the coming year, but failed to include the pugilistic county poom superintendent in the honor roster. Unless the club gives proper recognition to its combative members how can it expect to hold its own against its Jacksonian autogists?

TALK OF AN EXTRA SESSION.

An extra session of the Fifty-seventh congress appears probable. Although both the president and the republican leaders in congress are said to view with much reluctance the prospect of an extra session, running probably into midsummer, yet the conditions are such as to warrant the belief that the convening of the next congress very soon after the expiration of the present one will be imperatively required.

Undoubtedly the appropriation bills will get through, although, as happens at every short session, some of them may be hanging by the edge even on the morning of adjournment. Of course if any of these bills should fail of passage an extra session would be unavoidable, but there are other important matters which it now seems are not likely to be acted upon at this session and which the president may regard as of such urgency as to make it his duty to promptly convene the new congress.

Perhaps the matter of paramount importance relates to Cuba. This was considered by the cabinet a few days ago and it is understood to be the opinion of the administration that this government should insist upon certain stipulations as to the relations hereafter to exist between the United States and Cuba. It has been expected that the Cuban constitution would be ready for submission to this government by the middle of the present month, but it appears likely that the date of its completion will be later. In that event the present congress will not be able to give the constitution the careful scrutiny that is desirable and the president is said to be of the opinion that it would be neither prudent nor creditable to defer this matter to the regular session of the new congress next December.

He thinks the Cubans should not be compelled to wait another year before being allowed to put a government in operation.

Legislation for the Philippines, at least to the extent recommended by the Taft commission, the administration also evidently regards as of urgent importance. It looks improbable that anything in this direction will be done by the present congress, since the opposition to the Spooner bill or any similar measure could block action. It is a very serious question whether existing conditions respecting the Philippines should be allowed to continue for another year, when in the judgment of the commission proposed legislation would tend to pacification and improvement, and the failure to provide such legislation would itself almost justify an extra session of the next congress.

The canal question is another important matter, though not of so great urgency. The proposed currency legislation can safely wait for the next congress, though its enactment at the present session is to be desired.

The really pressing matters relate to Cuba and the Philippines and if nothing is done regarding them at this session the calling of the new congress in extra session is to be expected.

TAX REDUCTION BILL IN DANGER.

The tax reduction bill may not pass at the present session of congress. The senate finance committee has not definitely decided upon a program for the consideration of that measure and the hesitation shown in this particular is strengthening the suspicion that it is not intended to seriously push the bill to a passage at this session. Moreover, the senate bill is obnoxious to republican leaders of the house, who, it is said, are disposed to regard the reversion of the senate committee in entirely rejecting the bill as an infringement upon the constitutional prerogative of the house to originate revenue measures. The house is tenacious of its rights in this particular and it is not to be doubted that it would assert its prerogative if the bill should be returned to it.

The indications are, however, that there will be no action on the measure by the senate. The fact is that a number of republican senators believe that the proposed reduction in revenue, amounting to nearly \$40,000,000 as estimated, cannot safely be made and in view of the increasing expenditures they have a strong argument on their side. The public expectation in this particular is therefore very likely to be disappointed.

THE TAX RATE QUESTION.

The city council is once more confronted with the question of the tax rate for the coming year, which must be decided at its next meeting, when, under the law, it must pass the annual tax levy ordinance.

Every time this question comes up a conflict between contending forces is precipitated—on the one side the property owners clamoring for the lowest possible tax rate, and on the other the demand for the necessary expenses for running various departments of municipal government, coupled with the outstanding obligations which must be met if the credit of the city is to be maintained unimpaired. If the obligations of the city are not provided for out of current funds, they must be carried along with a constant drain of interest cost.

Two causes stand at the bottom of the apparent high tax rate in Omaha: One is our radically defective system of assessing property values, by which the listed valuations are far below actual selling prices, while a great deal of taxable property escapes the assessor altogether. Under our separate tax commissioner the assessment has been practically doubled in the aggregate, but the inequalities have not been completely wiped out. And it is unequal taxation that is unjust taxation.

On the other side, the inflation of municipal expenditures dates back to the boom era, when the framework of our city government was constructed on the basis of a population of 150,000 and the garments cut with a view to still further growth. Compared with cities placed on an equality with Omaha by the census of 1900, our municipal government appears to be top-heavy in spite of constant efforts at retrenchment.

It must be remembered, too, that the same people are supporting a dual government for city and county, which could readily be consolidated, with great saving to the community, were it not for the constitutional provisions requiring separate county organization.

The tax rate question will be with us from year to year in much the same form. To keep the levy within reasonable bounds would require work along two distinct lines: First, a more equitable and comprehensive assessment of property for the purpose of taxation, and, second, a simplification of the city government and eventual consolidation of city and county offices that duplicate one another's work.

RAISING A NEW ARMY.

The army reorganization bill having passed congress will doubtless go into effect at once, as there will be no delay on the part of the president in signing it. Under this measure the army may be recruited up to the maximum of 100,000 men and some doubt has been expressed whether the number of men required can be enlisted between now and June 30, when the term of enlistment of the volunteers in the Philippines expires. Senator Hale, in a speech on the bill, said the secretary of war will have no easy task in bringing recruiting up to the measure which the act demands. He points out that the best that has been done in the army in the way of enlisting during the past year has been at the rate of 1,000 a month. In the five months between now and July 1 that rate would give only 5,000 men. Adjutant General Corbin, on the other hand, has expressed the opinion that there will be no difficulty in recruiting the army up to the maximum, though certainly the figures given by himself do not justify his confidence.

It is possible that with some slight relaxation of the tests imposed at the recruiting stations enlistments can be increased, but there must be a great spur forward in recruiting in order to secure the 75,000 men required in the next five months, and it is indeed extremely doubtful whether this will be realized. It is assumed that perhaps 15,000 soldiers now in the ranks will re-enlist, a bounty being offered for re-enlistments, but the probability is that no such number of the volunteers will remain in the army, so general is the desire among them to return home. Grant that number of re-enlistments, however, and there must still be recruited 60,000 men and to secure that number for service in the Philippines will plainly be no easy task.

As we pointed out some time ago congress should have provided a moderate bounty for recruits and we note that this is the opinion of some military men at Washington. Failure to raise the new army within the required time would be most unfortunate, but it is clearly possible.

Lincoln's Commercial Club Proposes to Abolish the City Council as a Part of the Municipal Government and Substitute for it a Board of Three Commissioners.

This is apparently on the plan of the government of the city of Washington, the only difference being that the commissioners in the national capital are appointed instead of elected. Whether the governing body is called city council or board of commissioners, the operation would be the same and it would be just as hard to get good men to serve as commissioners as it is to get good men to serve as councilmen.

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News from the Philippines is to the Effect that the Board of Inquiry has Acquitted Captain McCalla of the Charges Preferred Against Him.

The public will rejoice at this. The bluff old captain redeemed himself from former discredits during the war with Spain and marked several scores up on the other side. As the leader of the American forces in the first effort to reach and relieve Pekin he earned still further credits, and the country would regret to see him disgraced or even humiliated by a reprimand.

Real Estate Auctions were once quite common in Omaha at the time additions to the city were being platted and put on the market, but auctions of inside property have never been had because investors can pick up bargains any day.

The man who puts his money into well located Omaha property is sure to reap rich returns.

The number of men who can hereafter insert in their biographies the statement that they were at one time voted for United States senator has been largely increased by the present legislature. The rod which fails to catch a little lightning when it is flying around so promiscuously must be a poor one.

The experiment of vesting independent taxing power in three or four local bodies has not proved a glittering success. Each addition to the taxing authority means another addition to the tax levy. If all our local taxes could

be imposed by one responsible authority the results would be more reassuring.

SOME OF OUR DOCTORS.

The surplus of doctors of medicine has been subject of comment for many years, and young men have been urged to seek some pursuit which would offer better rewards and a more certain living to conscientious workers. The phrase "There is always room at the top" however, has upheld thousands of bright young men whose natural bent is for the practice of medicine or surgery. That there is, in fact, room for thorough educated physicians and surgeons is suggested by the revelations of ignorance on the part of some of our doctors who have succeeded in making a living by private practice or in the public service.

Another line of sympathy between England and Germany may be found in the fact that the duke of York has the German measles.

Patrols Chose to the Staff.

Whatever may be the differences as to the limitations of the constitution, there is no question that the promoter and the carpet-bagger "follow the flag" wherever there is a scent of spoils.

A Stampede in Prospect.

The Philippine commission announces that all rebels who remain hostile after March 1 will be ineligible to hold office. If there are any Ohio-born Filipinos in the bunch this will be sure to cause them to lay down their arms.

Popular Election of Senators.

The senatorial deadlock in Delaware, together with the similar impasse in the Nebraska legislature, because two great railway companies whose lines traverse the state cannot agree upon a candidate, point alike to the natural conclusion that contests for federal senatorships should be held on a broad field of public selection, and not behind the scenes in noisy legislative halls. Under existing political conditions in the United States opposition to the election of senators by the people means treachery to popular government and free institutions.

Fair Dealing with Cuba.

Whatever may be the defects of the constitution adopted by the Havana convention, it embodies unquestionably the will of a majority of the Cuban people. Under the terms of the order constituting the convention its work must be accepted by congress, and this duty should be by no means the most repulsive of any that the regular session of the federal legislature will begin. To postpone until December the acceptance of an instrument submitted in the preceding January would be to invite the most serious of offenses.

Hobos Cost Considerable.

It is estimated that the support of tramps in the United States costs over \$25,000,000 annually, which is contributed by benevolent people or by people from whom the vicious tramps pilfer. If the tramps could be set to work, there would be some quick return on the investment.

Increased Cost of Government.

Unless some very effective pruning shall be done, of which there is no sign, the appropriations for the second session of the Fifty-sixth congress will reach \$800,000,000. The appropriations for the first session were \$710,000,000.

Punishment of Kidnapers.

Regularly with the assembling of the legislatures of the eastern states there comes a revival of the question of the advisability of establishing the whipping post as a means of punishment for certain crimes which in the estimation of some people are inadequately dealt with by either fine or imprisonment. That discussion is now going on at a lively rate in the east owing to the fact that in Delaware, where the pillory and the whipping post are used as penalties for the most heinous crimes, while in Connecticut, where they do not exist, there is a movement to establish the whipping post, if not the pillory.

Law Providing Adequate Penalties a National Need.

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PERSONAL NOTES.

The Danish legislator who has started a newspaper to oppose the sale of the islands to the United States is in danger of infringing on Editor Bryan's patent.

Frank Rockefeller's cattle ranch in Texas is about eight miles long and varies from two to four miles in width. Here Mr. Rockefeller spends nearly all his leisure time, and he is then, to all appearances, a typical cowboy.

Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, K. C. M. G., has presented to the Royal Irish academy his valuable collection of books, manuscripts and curios relating to Ireland. His "Ballad Poetry of Ireland," which was issued in 1846, has passed no fewer than fifty editions.

Grover Cleveland has accepted honorary membership in the Mercer County N. Y. Frosting association, which numbers about seventy-five sport-loving Trentonians. Mr. Cleveland, in his letter to the secretary of the club, hopes that his acceptance will not involve danger to "the life or limbs of an old man."

The horrors of the outrages, massacres and looting in China by Christian soldiers leads a correspondent of the New York Evening Post to observe that "the Christian warrior of today is on the same plane as the cave bear and the mastodon, except that today he uses more deadly weapons."

After thirty-five years of continuous service the Justice Dept. has resigned from the New Jersey supreme bench. That his intellectual power is unimpaired may be gathered from a remark he made on announcing his intention to resign. "I much prefer," said he, "to withdraw when the public may wonder why I do not."

Queen Victoria was a grandmother at 40 and a great-grandmother at 60. Her first grandchild is emperor of Germany, and her great-grandchild is the daughter of the emperor's eldest sister. It was a member of a famous Boston military company visiting in London who, in toasting Victoria, spoke of the queenliness of the woman and the womanliness of the queen.

871 adjutants, 547 corporals, 25,146 soldiers, 242 musicians. There is the active part of the colonial army to be consist of 552 sergeants, 2,368 corporals and 24,948 native soldiers.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

In consequence of the growth of German trade and commerce in all parts of the world the German emperor has decided to found an institute for the study of oceanology in Berlin in connection with a naval museum. Both are to be part of the Berlin university and will serve as an academy for naval instruction on the most modern system and in the widest sense of the word. One of the main objects of the institute, not only of students in the subjects dealt with, but of all persons interested in them, including ships' captains, ship owners, merchants, etc. The museum will be formed on a very large scale, the emperor having ordered that all the naval collections at Wilhelmshaven, Dantzig, Kiel and Hamburg shall be brought to Berlin, as well as all special collections in other museums, and the greater part of the German naval section, exhibited in Paris last year. The emperor has allotted 250,000 marks for this purpose and the Prussian Landtag has also made an appropriation. Though the institutions are still in course of formation a series of free public lectures on oceanology, etc. by several of the leading German professors will be started at once.

The first census in Russia was taken in 1724 and showed a population of 14,000,000. On the accession of Catherine II. in 1762, the population of the empire was 23,000,000. At the time of her death, in 1796, 36,000,000. In 1815, under Alexander I., 45,000,000; under Nicholas I. in 1835, 74,000,000; under Alexander II. in 1858, 104,000,000; under Alexander III. in 1894, 132,000,000. The population is now estimated at 150,000,000. The population now increases at the rate of nearly 2,000,000 a year in a quarter of a century. Russia will number 200,000,000 inhabitants. The average ratio of inhabitants to the square kilometer, whereas in Belgium, the most densely populated country in the world, it is upward of 200. The population of Russia is, however, very unequally distributed. In the province of Volynia it averages 25 inhabitants per square kilometer, which figure is superior to the average in France—21 per square kilometer. The region of the southwest (Kiev) has 58 inhabitants per kilometer, the province of Moscow 41 inhabitants, Lithuania 16, the Baltic provinces 25, southern New Russia, 24, the Volga basin 17. Finland has but 7 inhabitants per kilometer and Archangel 3 inhabitants per kilometer. In the regions of the Amur the proportion of inhabitants is but 1 per 300 kilometers.

The population of Russia, which was for centuries almost exclusively rural, tends more and more to become "urban." Thus, in 1724, the urban element was but 3 per cent of the entire population, but in 1894 it forms 13 per cent of the whole. In 1724 the total population of the Russian empire was hardly more than 300,000. Today it is nearly 170,000,000. Thirty years ago Russia contained only four cities of 100,000 inhabitants, which were upwards of 100,000. Today there are twenty-two cities of this kind. St. Petersburg and Moscow each have over 1,000,000 inhabitants and Odessa, which was founded only 105 years ago, already has a population of 420,000. Lodi, which has 12,000 inhabitants thirty years ago, now has a population of 325,000. Baku has, in the same space of time, increased from 13,000 to 115,000, and Kiev from 48,000 to 225,000. Thirty years ago the population of six cities with a population of 50,000 and over, today there are sixty cities of the kind.

That Russia may invade Sweden some day is certainly more than an idle supposition, and is well within the range of probability. It has long been known that the War department has a carefully drawn-up plan of campaign for the invasion of Sweden and Norway. The officers of the Russian general staff are of the opinion that an army of 120,000 men is sufficient to compel Sweden and Norway to accept the conqueror's terms. It is, likewise, well known that numerous Russian spies have recently been sent to Scandinavia, and that the Swedish language is now studied by many Russian officers. The apprehensions of the Swedes are, therefore, well grounded, particularly as the Russians have made no secret of the fact that they want an outlet on the open sea, and where could they better ports than on the Norwegian coast, where the sea never freezes, even in the coldest winters? To reach the Norwegian coast the Russians must pass through Sweden, in other words, they must conquer a great portion of the Scandinavian peninsula to attain their purpose. Hence, the great importance attached to the proposed reorganization of the Swedish army. In all probability the Russian will adopt the government's proposal, and will grant the necessary sum, which is a considerable one, for its realization.

From the beginning of the new year France will have a purely colonial army, an army which will be under the minister of war, instead of, as formerly, under the minister of marine. Part of the colonial army will remain in France, while the other part will be abroad. The period of service abroad has been fixed at from three to five years—according to the climate—and the colonial army will be perfect in every department and ready to undertake any little colonial war, without calling either upon the territorial army or the navy for assistance.

It may be mentioned that the personnel of the artillery passed from the navy to the colonial army, consists of one general division, three generals of brigade, nine colonels, ten lieutenant colonels, nineteen chiefs of escadron, eighty-three captains, eighty-three officers for administrative purposes, sixty-two military employes and six companies of workmen and skilled artisans.

The total effective strength of the new colonial army has been fixed at thirty-five chiefs of battalion, 148 lieutenant colonels, 1,152 lieutenants and second lieutenants.

The text of the new canal bill has been communicated to the Prussian Diet. It is a revision and extension of the scheme of 1858, which proposed to connect the Rhine with the Elbe by means of a canal navigable for vessels of considerable tonnage and to canalize the Weser from Bremen to Minden, where the canal would cross it. Among the many objections which were brought against this plan was the charge that it would benefit only the western half of the monarchy. The present agricultural provinces to the east of the Elbe would, it was urged, actually suffer from the creation of a cheap means of transport which would lessen the price of foreign agricultural products on the Berlin market. The government has now revised the original bill into a measure providing for the extension of the canal system in all parts of the kingdom. This will, of course, involve a much greater expenditure. It contains seven different schemes, of which the total cost to the state is estimated at 389,016,700 marks, or nearly \$100,000,000. These include the Rhine-Elbe canal, which, it is calculated, will cost 260,784,750 marks; a ship canal between Berlin and Stettin, to cost 42,500,000 marks; a waterway connecting the Oder and the Vistula, of which the cost, together with that of a channel rendering the Warthe navigable for ships from Posen to the junction of the Netze, is estimated at 22,510,000 marks; and a canal connecting the province of Silesia with the canal joining the Oder to the Spree. The bill further proposes that the state should participate in the work of improving the flow of water in the lower Oder and the upper Havel to the extent of 40,925,000 marks and 8,570,000 marks respectively, and should contribute the sum of 9,238,000 marks towards the canalization of the Spree.

TICKLISH TALK.

Detroit Journal.—A sucker is born every minute, and a martinet statistician indicates that he usually lives to grow up.

Chicago Record.—"You always look pleased when you meet Jibbs." "Yes, he's since tried to cheat me and couldn't."

Pittsburgh Chronicle.—"I suppose you're very fond of Kitty and that she's perfect in every way?" "That's true, but she's a little 'Trust Live' kind, queer, that's right. She has a perfect monopoly of me."

Detroit Free Press.—Husband—'What about time Mrs. Borrows was returning our call?' Wife—'Yes, but if she does return it will be with a different set of clothes than the other things she gets from us.'

Cleveland Plain Dealer.—"I've often felt sorry for old Alanus." "Because he never had a chance to show the full measure of his ability. Think how he would have scored burglars away from the house."

Washington Star.—"They tell me that you young woman who tries to make conversation." "I've—nothing. My wife says I'm a pig. I'm making vain endeavors to converse beyond the stars."

And he says the "yellow peril" may destroy our entire plan. And he says he'll send to the yellow Chittans.

He's going 'round in sackcloth, for he says it hurts his pride. To hear the talk of a canal that isn't fortified. He weeps and says that Caesar's ghost is haunting him. And presently the president will wear an emperor's crown. And our "imperial" system, he declares with dark dismay.

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Oh, this man who borrows trouble—he is very, very rich about him in the papers. To take so many mighty obligations on his mind. And leave us to enjoy the passing season, with its cheer, And reveal in prosperity; so long as it is here. We'll rest him take these burdens he so gently invites: We will give him what he asks for as every time he comes. We will lend him all our troubles, and his own shall know no lack. And he'll be unwelcome only when he tries to pay them back.

THE TROUBLE BROWNER.

The man who borrows trouble—will he kindly step this way in the papers. That we'd like to see him and to greet him with a smile. For we're truly fascinated by his philanthropic style. He is worried most to death for fear the people up in Mars. Are making vain endeavors to converse beyond the stars.

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From now Until March 1st—

The advantages that we offer to our customers of low prices on fine suits for men and boys, are for those only who come in time.

On March 1st we announce our Spring Opening, and up to that time suits and overcoats that are worth every cent we asked for them can be had now, in most cases, at reduced prices.

This is simply a business method of reducing our stock of winter garments to reasonable limits, so as to better prepare for the Spring arrivals.

Don't overlook our Furnishing and Hat departments; you will find the best of seasonable goods in both—and with a saving of money too.

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Browning, King & Co.,

R. S. Wilcox, Manager.

Omaha's Only Exclusive Clothiers for Men and Boys.