

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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The superintendency of the school buildings has always been a bone of contention in school boards and will always continue to be.

J. Pierpont Morgan has not yet sprung his community of interest idea on the Episcopal convention, but it is liable to come at any minute.

If the county commissioners have any franchises to give away they had better put them up at auction sale at the east front door of the county court house.

No man who believes in maintaining a high standard for the judiciary will ever regret having voted for S. H. Seigwick for judge of the state supreme court.

The Shepard who heads the Tammany ticket in New York should have no difficulty in securing a crook—there are plenty of them belonging to the organization.

The yellow journal without a double-column sensational head, even when there is no sensation, would lose caste in the ranks of the admirers of the deep orange-tinted orange-outang press.

It is amazing that good business men will vote away the public money as members of the school board, while in their own private business they would not think of doing such a thing under like conditions.

Webster Davis has been sued for the price of a windmill which he is alleged to have purchased. The plaintiff will have some difficulty convincing the jury that Davis was ever in need of any wind apparatus.

Iowa democrats are bringing in a large number of political splinterballs to take part in the campaign. The visitors will find Iowa people good listeners, but irrevocably addicted to voting the republican ticket.

Another of the fine residences on Nob Hill, San Francisco, has been donated to charitable purposes. If this thing keeps up the Golden Gate aristocracy will be compelled to move to the water front in order to be exclusive.

Douglas county democrats and Douglas county populists are said to have gotten together again on a fusion proposition for their local ticket. This was to have been expected all along. Why not make fusion permanent and sail on the same boat under one flag all the time?

The question of tax reform is a question that will never be settled until it is settled right. And it will never be settled right until the great corporations and wealthy property owners pay their taxes without evasion on the same basis as the little shopkeeper and the small home owner.

Washington real estate boomers insist that the present White House is not suited for the residence of the president and that another mansion should be built elsewhere. While the facts are in dispute still there are plenty of men who would be willing to occupy the old one for eight years and who could possibly be persuaded to take a four years' lease.

The French revenue shows a deficit of 137,000,000 francs, with no extraordinary expenditure as an excuse. With taxation almost at the limit the prospect is not the most cheering. The strife for commanding position has well nigh ruined the great nations of Europe and unless relief is found for the excessive burdens the political structure is likely to collapse. The majority of the people in this country do not realize how fortunate they are not only in possessing great natural resources, but also in the absence of conditions which lay such a heavy burden upon Europe.

THE COMING CONGRESS.

The Fifty-seventh congress will meet December 2, a little more than seven weeks hence. It is not expected that there will be any very important change in the organization of the house from that of the last congress. It is, of course, a foregone conclusion that Speaker Henderson will be re-elected and it is presumed that the committees of the new house will be substantially the same as in the last house.

There are matters of great importance to be considered. The construction of an isthmian canal, the laying of a Pacific cable, the encouragement of an American merchant marine, commercial relations with Cuba, trade reciprocity, the tariff, further currency legislation, the regulation of industrial combinations and legislation regarding the new possessions, are subjects of commanding interest to which the Fifty-seventh congress will give attention.

There appears to be no doubt that there will be legislation for the construction of an interoceanic canal as now indicated, the new treaty which has been negotiated with Great Britain is likely to be acceptable to the senate and in that case there will be no delay in passing a canal bill. The imperative necessity of a Pacific cable is so obvious that congress will hardly put off its authorization, either as a government enterprise or that of a private corporation prepared to make conditions favorable to the government. The supporters of the shipping or subsidy bill are hopeful of its passage, but a great deal will depend upon the attitude toward it of the administration, which as yet has not been defined.

President Roosevelt is in favor of building up an American merchant marine for our foreign commerce, but it is not known what his views are regarding the subsidy plan. The question of trade relations with Cuba is not the least important of the subjects with which the coming congress will have to deal and it will probably receive more public discussion than any other, since there is involved in it not only the future welfare of the Cuban people, but also that of valuable home industries.

No less important is the question of trade reciprocity, in its relation to the problem of commercial expansion. The expressions of republican convention in regard to this policy are reasonably expected to exert an influence conducive to a change of attitude toward it in congress. As to proposed tariff changes, while undoubtedly an effort will be made to reduce or remove certain duties, it seems improbable that anything will be accomplished, since the republican leaders in both branches of congress are opposed to making any changes. Further currency legislation will be urged, having in view such reform in the banking system as will more nearly adapt it to the credit and currency needs of the people, and this may be secured.

GROWING TRADE WITH CHINA.

American trade with China is increasing. The exports to that empire during last August were in excess of those of the same month in 1900 and it is noted that during the first eight months of the current year there was a very considerable increase in the shipment of our cotton goods to China over the corresponding period of the preceding year.

This is reasonably to be regarded as indicating a steady future growth of our trade with that empire if the existing conditions, which give the United States an equal opportunity in the Chinese market, are maintained. This is a matter to which the present administration will need to give the most careful attention. It is pointed out that while Germany and France have gained something in China out of the late trouble, Japan and the United States have gained nothing, while this country is in danger of being barred out of Manchuria, where its interests have hitherto been greatest.

The Russian government has issued a prohibitive decree against American mining gold in Siberia. If Russia really wants to develop the mining industry in Siberia it has made a mistake, for American gold miners and methods are universally conceded to be the best in the world. It is due to Americans that the immense riches of the Transvaal have been uncovered. The experience of this country has also demonstrated that the best plan to pursue with undeveloped resources is to throw open the doors and invite everyone who wishes to help to come in. This policy here has made the west and in the making foreigners have played a large and honorable part.

Unless the school board has money to burn, the increase of the pay roll by \$200 a year for the benefit of the superintendent of school buildings is utterly inexcusable. With a salary of \$1,800 a year the superintendent of school buildings can well afford to hire a horse, if he needs one, or he can patronize the street car without losing time and without diminishing the dignity of the office.

British reports indicate that the new canal treaty now being prepared will recognize fully the American contentions emphasized by the action of the senate. If true, this is yielding considerable on the part of Great Britain. But it must be remembered that that country, with its immense shipping interests, is as much interested in having the canal built as the United States itself.

South Omaha is noted for its habit of straining at gnats and swallowing camels. Its taxpayers are now trying to convince one of the school board members that his resignation would be appreciated, in view of the fact that he is interested in contracts for the construction of school buildings and side-

fore interested in having existing conditions preserved and will look to the government to spare no effort to have continued the present commercial policy in China. Under this policy we shall be able in the near future to export a large amount of other manufactured products to China, for there is every reason to expect rapid development there.

There is in our increasing trade with China the promise that the predictions which have been made regarding it will be realized, to the immeasurable benefit of this country if it shall have a fair and equal opportunity.

WHERE THE BLAME LIES.

The lowest estimate of the valuation of real and personal property in the city of Omaha is \$100,000,000 and the moderate estimate of the valuation for Douglas county is \$125,000,000. The annual expenditures for city and school purposes in Omaha aggregate in the neighborhood of \$1,500,000, while the amount of public money expended for county government will reach close to \$500,000. Add to this the city and school district of South Omaha and we have an aggregate tax burden of more than \$2,000,000 a year.

Suppose a corporation were to be organized with \$125,000,000 of capital actually invested, with its business divided into five departments, spending each year more than \$2,000,000, would the stockholders of such a corporation be so reckless as to select for their board of directors men who have little or no interest in the corporation, no business experience and no executive ability? Would they risk their credit and capital in the hands of men whom they would not be willing to hire in ordinary clerical positions in their stores or warehouses?

Yet this is precisely what has been done from year to year by the taxpaying citizens of Omaha and Douglas county, who occupy the same relation to county, city and school district that men do who own stock in a great corporation. Worse than that, even a large proportion of taxpaying stockholders of this school district, city and county do not even attend the annual meetings where their directors and officers are selected. Instead of attending the primary elections of their respective parties, in order to protect their interests, they manifest a lamentable indifference and are heard from only with protests and complaints against mismanagement and waste after the contract for their hired men has been ratified for another year or two.

The blame for this state of affairs is invariably loaded onto the politicians and the machine, which is a convenient scapegoat for the sins of laggards, duty shirkers and tax evaders. Do dogs grow on thistles? What kind of management can we expect for the corporation so long as the stockholders exhibit no other concern in its welfare and financial condition except to growl, complain and object?

Why blame the politicians or the machine for foisting incompetents or misfits into the public service so long as the men of established reputation and proved capacity refuse to have anything to do with office? The sagacious politician and party leader aims above all things to put up a winning fight, he is always anxious to get the best material within reach for his ticket, and the best material under existing conditions are the men who can corral the largest number of voters. The practical politician keeps in view all the time the fact that the vote of the millionaire weighs no more in the ballot box than the vote of the pauper.

He knows that under existing conditions the great body of voters are broad winners and not coupon clippers. Inasmuch as the great majority of the taxpayers do not take an active interest in nominations, the practical politicians are restricted to a choice that leaves the county, school district and municipal corporation in the hands of men who for the most part have never conducted any extensive business or managed any large interest.

This deplorable state of affairs is bound to continue so long as the taxpaying class of voters keep aloof and shirk their full duty as citizens. The Russian government has issued a prohibitive decree against American mining gold in Siberia. If Russia really wants to develop the mining industry in Siberia it has made a mistake, for American gold miners and methods are universally conceded to be the best in the world.

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ways adjacent to school property, in violation of the statute. This is a mere technical triviality and we are astonished that such a fuss should be made about it. If the objectionable member had carried off one of the school houses or filled his back yard with school furniture, such a matter would probably have attracted but little attention.

Prison authorities at Auburn are taking a wise course in regard to Czolgosz. The manner in which the assassin of Garfield was permitted to make a spectacle of himself was an encouragement to the class he represents, which seeks notoriety above all else. If Czolgosz has an audience limited to the prison guards he will not indulge in much oratory.

HOPE'S LOSTY PERCH.

King Edward expects to visit the colonies when the Boer war is over. Perhaps King Edward expects to live as long as his mother did.

LIST TO THE PINES NURMUR.

Minneapolis Times. The good old bird that hit like a green hickory club in the hands of the bird man is going to be dear in the teetotal state of Maine this winter. There is less than half a crop of apples.

THE WAY TO GET IT.

Chicago Post. The manufacturers are preparing to talk reciprocity, which means that it doesn't matter a great deal what view the politicians may take on the question. If the manufacturers wish reciprocal trade they are likely to have it.

CHARACTER AS AN ASSET.

Buffalo Express. The president's action with reference to a United States district attorney for Kansas indicates that those who expect appointments from him must furnish a certificate of character from the last place.

ANTI-TRUST LAWS.

Minneapolis Times. Arkansas, Nebraska and Nevada have scored distinct and notable failures in anti-trust legislation and their laws do not differ materially from those of sister commonwealths on the same subject. When the great trade combines are made the servants and the masters are equal. The law is not to be applied by the state through their national government, not by the impossible enactments of state legislatures.

ASSURANCES OF MARKETS.

Hartford Courant. We want positive assurance of foreign markets—old and new—open to the products of American skill and toil on such favorable conditions as shall make certain not only the continuance but the swift and splendid increase of our already colossal export trade. To obtain this assurance is the object of the policy of reciprocity urged by William McKinley almost with his dying breath, and adopted so frankly and wholeheartedly by his successor.

A GREAT MIXUP.

Baltimore Herald. The Schley investigation is proving that the most talked of telegrams were never sent; that the most sensational remarks made are made; that memories are unreliable and that the faculty of hearing waxes at times curiously deadened or quickened as the case might demand. Moreover, it is significant that, since the actual inquiry has begun, the published views and opinions of many naval officers have varied greatly.

RECIPE, NOT FREE TRADE.

Indianapolis Journal. Those who talk of reciprocity as if it were free trade seem not to understand that they can have no relation. Great Britain, the only free trade country in that such time as she divides her trade except for some of its colonies which have protective tariffs. President Harrison negotiated reciprocal trade relations with France, Germany, Spain for Cuba, Brazil and other countries, but when the free trade demagogues began to yell for free trade in 1894 these advantages were thrown away.

TRUST MANAGEMENT.

Chicago Tribune. Holders of industrial securities have not found much to inspire confidence and respect in recent developments in some of these corporations. There has been a succession of unsatisfactory reports, indicating that the existence of these "trusts" is a weak point in the industrial system.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Cornelius Vanderbilt has, since last July, received three patents for inventions of his, all having to do with railway cars.

Signor Marconi has just been presented with the gold medal of the Italian Science society. The presentation speech was made by the Marquis Luigi Solari di Loreto, an officer of the Italian army.

Count Otto von Moltke, a nephew of the great German soldier, has set sail for this country, where he will make an exhaustive study of our system of transportation in the interests of the Prussian Diet.

One of the greatest reforms in the history of Kentucky has just been instituted. The Confederate Veterans' association of that state has passed a resolution to recognize no military titles not won in war.

The new governor of Porto Rico was a classmate of the governor general of the Philippines. Judge Taft and Judge Hunt were friends throughout their course at Yale and graduated together in 1878.

Senator Clark has purchased 5,000 acres of coal land in Wyoming. The senator has plenty of money, but in the face of these predictions of a serious winter he knows better than to leave himself in the hands of eastern barons.

John D. Rockefeller occasionally uses the long-distance telephone when away from his New York office, but not for important business. For such purposes he never uses the mails.

There is a private view of the office to his mansion at Forest Hill, O., and the Standard Oil interests business just as though he were in New York. He never writes a message, but talks to a trusted and reliable operator.

One way and another General Daniel E. Sickles has drawn about \$300,000 salary from the government. As colonel of the Seventeenth New York volunteers and the Forty-second regular infantry for seven years he received \$5,500 a year, or \$24,500. As major general, retired, for thirty-five years he has received \$5,525 a year, aggregating \$196,875.

The official appraisal of the estate of Isaac S. Rogers, the locomotive builder of Paterson, who left his millions to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, has been filed at the surrogate's office in Paterson. It shows that he was worth a little more than \$5,500,000.

An interesting thing is the smallness of the amount of jewelry he possessed, and that he was not capitalized on a basis that would enable them to meet bond interest and respectable dividend requirements. If plans are taken in for the principal motive of letting their owners out at the expense of a class of investors greedily for the profits promised by promoters the corporations are in peril. Management that is faithful to the interests of all the shareholders, without favoritism, is what is needed. There should be no more blind pool swindles.

Taxable Value of Railroads

Des Moines Leader. The Omaha Bee, in a thoughtful article, takes notice of the speech delivered by Governor Shaw at Boone on the railroad assessment question. The Bee after aptly saying that it is regrettable to have "the discussion of such vital issues as the question of equitable assessment and taxation, carried on under partisan auspices," goes on to speak of Governor Shaw as "indicating in simplicity that would not hold water before any impartial tribunal." Governor Shaw, as is well known to all who have followed his attempted defense of the present Iowa railroad assessment, contends that a railroad should not be assessed at its market value, but at the value currently declared by the market wherein railroads and parts of railroads are sold.

Quoting one of the squirming sentences of the governor, The Bee says: "In making such assessments the intelligence of the average Iowa. If the purchaser of the railroad is not to be governed by the volume of its bonded debt, or the market price of its stocks, its ordinary traffic and its prospect for an increased traffic, what other element of value can be taken into consideration to arrive at any reasonable estimate of its purchase price?"

"As a matter of fact, the equitable valuation of a railroad for taxation purposes can be more readily ascertained than the value of any other class of property, with the exception of money and mortgages. The value of a railroad is the sum total of the marketable price of its lands and stocks."

Is there anything getting away from the simple statement of The Bee? If an undivided half of a piece of encumbered real estate sells, say, for \$5,000, even a child knows that the value of the entire property is \$10,000, plus the encumbrance. Now a share of railroad stock represents an undivided fractional interest in the railroad, and the bonds of the railroad represent its mortgage or incumbrance. It is

practically axiomatic to say that the railroad, on a given day is veritably worth the sum of the current value of its stock, plus its bonds. The simple doctrine was never better expressed than in an opinion of the supreme court of the United States penned by the late Justice Samuel P. Miller, by many deemed the greatest intelligence that Iowa ever gave to the nation. Touching upon the question of how the value of a railroad was to be ascertained, Justice Miller, in the opinion, says:

"When you have ascertained the current cash value of the whole funded debt, and the current cash value of the entire number of shares of stock you have, by the action of those who above all others can best estimate it, ascertained the true value of the road; all its property, its capital stock and its franchises; for these are all represented by the value of its funded debt and the shares of its capital stock."

The value of a railroad is not what equipment and right of way have cost, for such things may have either increased or decreased in value; nor is it what it will cost to replace the same, for with lessening business a railroad may be worth less than replacement cost; the value of a railroad cannot be ascertained by considering either original cost or replacement cost, or gross earnings or net earnings, or any one item of influence; its value comes from the contribution of all elements, cost, as Justice Miller says, in the sum of the value of stocks and bonds, you have "by action of those who above all others can best estimate it," the true value of the road. Governor Shaw has seen fit to inject the railroad assessment question into the present campaign. It is certainly worth his while to consider the argument, not of the "independent" press, but of so respectable an authority as the supreme court of the land—a supreme court which, on another occasion, the governor has held up as a great repository of wisdom.

LOOPING THE LOOP.

Chicago Tribune: One effect of the Schley investigation has been to shatter a raft of naval logs. Minneapolis Journal: It was charged that Schley "failed to locate" the Spanish fleet. Then what is the meaning of the large dent so proudly displayed by Admiral Cervera?

Philadelphia Ledger: So far as the court has ascertained the newspaper account of the Santiago battle with the official records the balance of reliability appears to be with the former.

Pittsburg Dispatch: It seems to be shown that various gentlemen who have posed as authorities about that Santiago campaign conducted the unfortunate habit of taking things for granted.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: Whatever result the Schley inquiry may bring forth the public has been given a sight behind the naval curtain and it is a privilege that very few will appreciate.

Brooklyn Eagle: Hodgson swears that Schley swears at Santiago. He holds that on the seas the expression "if you please," is a particularly gentlemanly tone implants. It is hoped that swearing was the worst of it.

Baltimore American: Under oath Admiral Evans says that his strongest expression at the battle of Santiago was "Where the devil?" If this be true there is a marked difference between "fighting Bob" in a peace and in war.

Washington Post: Judging by the manner in which Admiral Schley was kept in ignorance of certain matters prior to the battle of Santiago it would seem that the fragments of testimony and honors awarded Schley is credited with an explosive sentiment that the Texas be damned and "fighting Bob" Evans with a heated announcement that the Texas might go to the devil. No theological acumen is required in deciding that the anathemas are synonymous.

Detroit Free Press: Accept the worst of the conflicting testimony and honors awarded Schley is credited with an explosive sentiment that the Texas be damned and "fighting Bob" Evans with a heated announcement that the Texas might go to the devil. No theological acumen is required in deciding that the anathemas are synonymous.

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"DRIVE" AT BEET SUGAR.

New York Mail and Express. The American Sugar Refining company has just announced that it will lay it open to the charge of abusing the law of "monopoly," though it is far from having an absolute monopoly in the sugar market. It has reduced the price of granulated sugar from 5 to 3 1/2 cents a pound, to take effect only in the districts supplied in part by the beet sugar factories. In this it is working in conjunction with the "Spreckels syndicate," which has been credited for some time with the design of "crushing the beet sugar industry."

According to recent reports this industry has been showing remarkable vigor for an "infant." Mr. Oxnard of the Beet Sugar association of Michigan, in a recent address, says that "we have under way twenty-eight (new) factories and expect to build at least ten more this year." In marketing their product the beet sugar makers have entered into contracts for the whole amount at prices ten cents—that is, one-tenth of a cent below the average price of the "raw" at the time of delivery, which puts them at the mercy of that powerful organization. They cannot meet this 2 1/2-cent rate without suffering severe loss, and they must meet it or violate their contracts.

A while ago Mr. Havemeyer maintained that granulated beet sugar could be produced for 2 1/2 cents a pound, but Mr. Oxnard says that is "nonsense," and quotes the "unbiased" statement of the expert of the Agricultural department that it costs 4 cents, without making any statement of his own. The sugar refiners enjoy a protection that enables them to maintain a price one cent above the cost of the "raw" sugar, which yields a good profit. This they do in the market at large and it is hardly fair for them to make this ruthless cut to less than cost only where they come in competition with the "infant industry," which has made such a promising start. The beet sugar scheme for getting "free sugar" from Cuba when congress meets.

GARFIELD STILLED THE TUMULT.

Washington Post. Perhaps few persons who on September 19 repeated the words, "God reigns and the government at Washington still lives," are familiar with the circumstances under which they were uttered. Mr. H. M. Dean, a venerable citizen of Niles, Mich., remembers the time and place distinctly. In the Detroit Free Press Mr. Dean says:

"The eloquent words of General James A. Garfield, so often quoted by speakers and in newspaper editorials during the last sad weeks have stirred the hearts of many, while few of this generation know anything of the exciting occasion which called them forth. They were uttered in New York City on the morning of April 15, 1865.

"The tidings of the shooting of President Lincoln, bulletined before the office of every prominent newspaper in the city, had drawn together citizens of every grade and complexion until the streets were jammed with people. A crowd of thousands thronged so that it was well nigh impossible for a vehicle to pass. Men suspected of harboring disloyal sentiments were hustled by the crowd and forced to hide themselves for safety. Gallows were carried through the streets with ropes dangling from the crossbeams and labeled 'For traitors.' Strong men trembled lest some overt act or unguarded utterance should precipitate a riot. Particularly was this the case when the telegraph flashed the terrible words, 'Mr. Lincoln is dead.'

"At this moment, when the tense of excitement had increased to the extreme danger point, a stranger not yet 34 years of age, but of commanding presence and a full and far-reaching voice, sprang upon a box standing near one of the bulletins in newspaper rows and raising his arm to command silence, said in a slow, measured voice: 'Clouds and darkness are round about him. Righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne. President Lincoln is dead, but God reigns and the government at Washington still lives.'

"As by magic all raising his arm ceased and the crowd melted away into silence and tears.

"This man was James A. Garfield, who sixteen years later was struck down by the bullet of an assassin and was mourned by the whole nation as our second martyr."

"And now, twenty years later, our hearts are breaking over the passing away of the dearly beloved President McKinley, mourned by the whole world as our third and, please God, our last martyr."

CHEERY CHAFF.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "I have a suggestion to offer for use in the Schley inquiry. 'Well, what is it?' 'Perhaps the admiral wasn't willing to put the coal on in order to get the Colton.'"

Philadelphia Press: "How did you like the fun to my first act?" Inquired the playwright. "I didn't see it," replied the first-nighter. "No; went away too soon."

Baltimore American: "Did you hear that drinking song of mine in the last act?" asked the dramatist. "Yes, I did," replied the low comedian, "because it was such a high note."

Somerville Journal: First Summer Girl—If you could see the girl who stole your shoes, where would you like to go? Second Summer Girl—To the Isle of Man, of course.

Detroit Free Press: "Mrs. Dash, what is your club doing to help beautify the city?" "Oh, we are working hard to get the clothing houses to use the word 'trousers' instead of 'pants' in their advertisements."

Catholic Standard: Hicks—He says Christian Science is a religion. "You should hear him swear about it." "Who?" "Hicks—He says it is." "Who?" "Hicks—He says it is. He's the coroner, you know."

Philadelphia Press: Tess—Did you notice how I wore that hat? "Yes, it was very nice." Tess—But why should he stare at me so? "He was probably watching your nose. He'd supposed to keep his eye on everything that turns up."

THE SPANKER BOOM.

Josh Wink in Baltimore American. (Reading) "You see this yachting" race, it seems how to win it." "To whom I was a cogger in the town of Hackensack?" "You see how you youngsters had to steer our course just so."

On the storm of the punishment would soon begin to blow. An' pa was the perished' boat that was in the water, but mother rigged her spanker boom—an' then look out for squalls!

Now, kids, you take 'em big or small—in most cases you'll get 'em. They're tricky in their movements, and they'll never let the scratch. They'll be the storm of the storm, or the 'em, they'll never leave. An' like a watch, the proper way to steer 'em is by the stern."