

THE OMAHA BEE.

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THE BEE PUBLISHING CO., PROPS. E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

The back of summer is not broken, but the thermometer still rules the roost.

The cyclone has been browsing around Dakota and Minnesota with the usual results.

JAY GOULD'S yachting tour has been indefinitely postponed. That is where the strike struck the great speculator.

Four thousand four hundred dollars in consequence money was received yesterday by the treasury department. The postmark was not "Rio Ranch."

If the railroad operators strike as rumored this morning, Mr. Gould will probably agree that it will make a sad difference to the general public.

Mr. HALL retires to-day from the post-office and Postmaster Coutant will take possession. Tom has found out that it is a long official lane which has no turning out at the end.

GENERAL ORD who died at Havana yesterday of yellow fever was stationed for several years at Omaha as commander of this department. He retired from active service three years ago.

Two Union Pacific attorneys have been retained to fight the injunction against the paving ring. In Omaha if you scratch a jobber a yell always comes from the U. P. headquarters building.

It cost only \$20,000 for the expenses of settling up Peter McGooch's \$4,000,000 failure, and the creditors received fifty cents on the dollar. Items like these are what make lawyers feel that they have lived in vain.

PRESIDENT ARTHUR will not stop over in Omaha on his way west. This will be a little disappointment to Mayor Chase, whose welcoming oration, entitled "What I Know About Paving Ordinances," will be indefinitely postponed.

Mr. BREWSTER has sent Mr. Evans, the district attorney at Galveston, to try the election cases at Jefferson, Texas, where the United States courts have been closed. The most interesting part of Mr. Evans' proceedings will be the bill for a new election law.

SPECIAL telegrams to Bradstreet's this week contain evidence of a distinct improvement in general trade. This is the more particularly noticeable at the east. While prices have not as yet experienced improvement, the demand for leading commercial staples has exhibited a noticeable increase, commercial travelers having started out from and fall buyers appearing in mercantile circles at Boston, New York and Philadelphia. No such gain has been made as to warrant comparison with preceding years. On the contrary the improvement is observed rather by contrast with the expected prolonged midsummer dullness. The excess of purchases has been chiefly noticeable in dry goods, wool, leather and iron.

It is the ring within the ring that now makes the money in all corporate enterprises. The report of the Oregon and Transcontinental company, which has just appeared shows how Mr. Villards' great financial enterprise is prospering. The capital of the company is \$40,000,000, invested mainly in 314,092 shares of the Northern Pacific railroad out of an aggregate of 909,091 shares common and preferred stock, and 128,536 shares of the Oregon railway and navigation company, the full issue by this company being 240,000 shares. The Transcontinental thus holds an absolute majority of the Navigation company's stock and about 35 per cent of the Northern Pacific railroad's and control by contract and lease the Oregon and California railroad extending from Portland, Oregon, to the California line. By the close of the present year it will have built 560 miles of branch roads all of which, it is intended, shall ultimately become a part of the Northern Pacific property as they are already a part of the system. The controlling company has made large advances of funds during the year to expedite the construction of the Northern Pacific main line, but has been able to divide 4 per cent profit among its shareholders and June 30th had a balance of \$2,880,895 undivided profits on hand. The gross earnings of the Northern Pacific for the year have been \$7,824,502, and the land sales \$3,382,750; and it is estimated that the gross earnings of the completed road will be \$15,000,000 per annum, while the land sales are expected to reach \$4,000,000. A great achievement of the year has been the successful development of plans for adequate terminal facilities at Portland, St. Paul and Minneapolis. The new transcontinental line will be open from Lake Superior to Portland in September.

LIGHTING THE CITY.

Early last winter a representative of the United Gas company of Philadelphia came to Omaha and made a proposition to our city council to light this city with better and cheaper gas. He declared that the rates were then paying, and which we are paying now, were simply exorbitant, and showed by facts and figures that our citizens and tax-payers were being robbed by outrageous prices, and that the city was poorly lighted even at the price paid. He offered on behalf of his company to furnish superior gas of 25 candle power to the public for \$1.25 a thousand feet, and for public buildings at not over \$1.00 per thousand. In addition he guaranteed, if an ordinance granting his company the right to lay pipes and erect works was passed by the council, that the rates for street lamps, lighted every night in the month, and from twilight to dawn, should not exceed \$25 per year for each post. These terms were accepted to and an ordinance was passed by the council in which they were incorporated, the condition being that the company should file a \$10,000 United States bond within sixty days after its approval. The sixty days expired but no bond was filed. Meantime, negotiations were opened with the old gas company for the purchase of their works. The terms were finally agreed upon, and a bargain for the sale of the property concluded, and half the purchase price of \$100,000 was placed in the hands of a trustee.

And now proposals are made by the changed management for lighting the city at rates that are very much higher than those that were to be charged by the new gas company. So far as the interests of the city are concerned, it is not material whether the gas works have entirely passed out of the hands of the old company. The question is why the company cannot furnish gas as cheaply as they offered to do it six months ago. We were then told by their representative that with their new process cheap gas was more profitable to them than gas manufactured by the old system could possibly be to the Omaha gas company. What excuse, then, is there in a raising of the rates to nearly double the figures which they themselves assert contain a heavy margin of profit? The charter of the old gas company has virtually been forfeited. Any claims to the old rates under it will not hold. If the new company expect to purchase to continue what they have denounced as highway robbery, they must be undeceived.

Omaha is entitled to better gas and cheaper, and the council can enforce the claims of the city if they honestly mean to do their duty. On the other hand, they can, of course, if they feel so disposed, give away the tax payers as they did in the sandstone job. But our city needs more light and it can be got at much lower rates than any of the figures yet offered. As to the scheme for electric lighting, it should be simply a question of dollars and cents. All things being equal it would be better to have an extension of the gas light area on the outside of the city limits. To run electric circuits throughout Bohemiantown and other suburbs would be extravagant and reckless. The people in those places are well enough satisfied with gas and would prefer even kerosene lamps rather than no light at all. What they need more than anything else is better streets and cross walks. The argument that they are paying taxes and are entitled to electric lights is all bosh. Electric lighting will only increase their taxes. The experience of every city has shown that the electric light is a luxury and an expensive one at that.

BULLDOZING THE COURTS.

The appeal to the courts of the outraged tax payers who are saddled with a five year mortgage on their property for worthless paving material is met by the infamous jobbers in the city council with an audacious attempt to bulldoze the courts. What other object can Hascall & Co. have in employing A. J. Poppleton and John M. Thurston to defend their lawless attempt to foist Colorado sandstone upon the tax payers against their earnest remonstrance? City Attorney Cornell is by usage required to defend the action of the council, and John C. Cowin has been retained by the sandstone contractor to assist him. Are not Cornell and Cowin fully competent to wrestle with Donnell and Simeral in the arena of the district court. Why are the Union Pacific gladiators called in, if it is not for the purpose of bulldozing and overruling the courts? Has it come to this, that the giant monopoly that has wrung millions out of our people by blackmail, extortion and fraud shall be allowed to paralyze justice after debauching and corrupting our public servants. Is it not monstrous enough that every Union Pacific employe in the city council must betray public confidence and prostitute himself to base uses at the beck of a soulless corporation. Must we now witness the humiliating spectacle of the invasion of our courts by the high salaried attorneys of the Union Pacific holding clubs over the heads of our judges? Are those outlaws and robbers to make justice a mockery and destroy the last bulwark that stands between the jobbers and their tax ridden victims?

GENERAL ORD'S DEATH.

News was received yesterday of the death of General Edward O. C. Ord, who fell a victim to the yellow fever at Vera Cruz, and died upon the arrival of the vessel on which he was a passenger, at Havana. General Ord was one of the most popular and well known of army officers. He had a record of forty-five years continuous service before his retirement, during which period he participated

in two great wars and commanded troops in nearly every military department in the country. For several years he was stationed in Omaha as General Crook's predecessor, and he is well remembered by many of our citizens as a genial gentleman and a dignified and efficient department commander. Leaving Omaha, General Ord's next station was at San Antonio, from which point he was retired with the rank of major general on the 6th of December, 1880.

General Ord entered the army as a second lieutenant of the Third artillery, in July 1839 graduating with honors from the Military Academy in that year. He was promoted to a first lieutenant in 1841 and became a captain on the 7th of September, 1850. He did efficient service in the war of the rebellion, being brevetted for gallant conduct in the battle of Drainsville, Va.; Iuka, Mississippi, and the assault on Fort Harrison. He was made a major-general in the volunteers on the 2nd of May, 1862, and at the close of the war accepted a lieutenant-colonel's commission, which he vacated in 1866 to accept a brigadier-general. After his retirement General Ord spent a large portion of his time in Mexico, where his daughter, the wife of General Trebino, resided.

If Messrs. Poppleton, Thurston, Connell and Cowin are not a strong enough legal battalion, Mr. Dillon may call upon Sidney Bartlett to volunteer his services in forcing Colorado sandstone on our citizens and browbeating the circuit court judges.

OUR government has taken the first precautionary step against the importation of cholera into this country. Alarmed by the report that cholera had appeared on the London docks, Secretary Folger yesterday telegraphed to our consular general at London to appoint at once a sanitary inspector whose duty it shall be to inspect all vessels leaving the United Kingdom for this country and to notify by the cable the health authorities of this country of all such vessels having disease on board.

This order is good enough as far as it goes. It does not, however, go far enough. Canada has proclaimed a guarantee against all vessels from Mediterranean ports. France and Spain and Italy and Turkey are using the most rigid precautions against the infection. With yellow fever on our southern boundary and the possibility of the arrival of cholera on our eastern coast, the government cannot be too watchful or too rigid in the regulation of vessels from the infested countries.

A WAY to utilize the vast Indian reservations of the Indian territory for the tribes has been discovered. It is by leases for terms of years to stock raising companies. The Cherokees have leased some millions of acres for \$100,000; the Cheyennes and the Arapahoes have leased 600,000 acres for ten years at a rental of \$62,357, half in money and half in stock. The last two of these tribes had their first money payment the other day, \$31,000 in silver dollars, weighing about 2,000 pounds, and drawn from Caldwell by a mule team. The money was taken into the agency, counted out in \$10 piles, and distributed, \$5 to each man, woman and child. The tribe already has 750 cows of its own, and at the end of the ten years will have a herd worth \$3,000,000. The government interests itself to look after the welfare of the tribe in its cattle management, and a portion of its cash will be spent in improving the stock. Even moderate success will make the tribes self-supporting.

STATE JOTTINGS.

Franklin county has \$1,886.65 in her school fund. Nuliga wants a carload of good buxton domestics. The treasury of Washington county contains \$37,715.88. The assessed valuation of Clay county is \$2,234,573.90. De Witt is battling with a roseted dose of the social evil. The Gage county fair will be held September 25th to 28th. Johnson county corn was considerably damaged by the late hail storm. York claims to have improved \$175,000 worth during the present year. Nebraska City had a panic on two mad dogs the other day. They were frothing. Oakland is trying to boom the proposed Fremont and Central Nebraska railroad. George Wilnot of Franklin county, has sold three quarter sections for \$4,500. Three thousand dollars have been expended in fittings for the grand island post office. Harlan county agricultural society is now paying off the premiums of last fall's fair. Buffalo county has a total indebtedness of \$117,137.11, a decrease of \$2,300 during the year. A stupendous consolidated slide show is harvesting a large crop of dollars in the interior of the state. The contract to build the Kearney city hall 26x40 for \$130,000, of brick has been let. It is to be two stories high. The total assessed valuation of Dodge county is \$2,561,125.32. On a levy of 7-8 mills this will realize \$20,168.85. There are six banks and six newspapers in Taylor county. A bank to every newspaper is a very good thing to have. The overprinting question in Franklin is "To Beer or not to Beer." A saloon has been completely destroyed by the extent of the Nemaha in Adams precinct, Gage county. The county seat contest in Gosper will have to be repeated. Too many candidates being in the field, neither received a majority. Miss Ella Zimmerman, of Plum Creek, was thrown from her horse, last week, sustaining serious though not fatal injuries to her spine. The grounds of Camp Sheridan for the reunion at Hastings are already laid out on the Republican Valley road about 1 1/2 south of Hastings. The Fremont creamery is doing a rushing business just now. During the past week they have made on an average 1,500 pounds of butter per day. County Commissioner S. S. Shultz, of Hall County, lost about \$100 worth of corn by hail. He will still have a partial crop of corn, potatoes, etc. The assessors of Saunders county return a

population of 18,094, an increase over last year of 1,410. Divided by sexes, there are 1,272 more males than females. It is estimated that 170 sections, or about five townships, were swept clean in Cass county alone by the storm of the 14th. The loss in that county is reckoned at \$1,500,000. Senator Van Wyck was present at the laying of the corner stone at the Hastings college last week and delivered a neat speech in response to the toast "the scholar and the statesman."

The Gage county railroad bonds voted to the B. & M. R. R. from DeWitt's Cretes in 1871 have been refunded at six per cent and a premium of \$300 paid at this rate, the old bonds drew eight per cent. The marriage of Ed Wilson and Miss Son Davenport on the 17th was the social event of the hot season in Culbertson. Three checks amounting to \$11,000 presented to the happy pair, will doubtless prolong the honeymoon.

The abstract of assessments of Clay county shows that the county has one steamboat, valued at the market price at three dollars. Between what points it plies and what the nature of the traffic it carries on does not appear. A young man named Mart VanBibber, charged with stealing an express package containing \$300, at Breckenridge, Mo., on the 10th of last month, was arrested at Fairbury. He shook the officer in charge by jumping the train and escaped.

Wilber is brushing up on the manly art. Two heavy weights of the town recently pulled on the gloves in the Opera house, determined to "chaw up" each other. Twelve rounds were fought without a knock down when the fight was declared a draw. Several loud girls of Siders, escorted by some soldiers, raided the Capital assemblage, last week, and started a row. The bar-keeper pulled his persader and blazed away, splashing the faces of one of the soldiers. The manipulator of "medicine" was held in \$2,000.

A man recently presented a railroad agent at Pines, for "harruping" his boy who was in the habit of stealing rides upon moving cars and otherwise imperiling his life or limbs. The jur returned a verdict of "servant the little rascal right" and honorably acquitted the agent. The latest railroad project toward Nebraska is the Fort Scott, Topeka and Lincoln line. The citizens of Fort Scott held a spirited meeting on the 20th inst., and requested the city to submit a proposition to vote \$25,000 in bonds to the capital stock of the railroad. Work is to be commenced at Fort Scott within sixty days after the same is voted.

Don Cameron Tired.

Special to the Commercial Gazette. Mr. James R. Young, chief clerk of the attorney-general's office, writes as follows of Don Cameron in Europe: "A friend of his living here received a letter from him, recently, in which Don says that he is not having such a royally good time as some people said he would. The English country, he says, is very pretty, but not so interesting as the country about Harriaburg. The old church architecture business is a good deal of a bore, he says. London he likes, and he could content himself there for an indefinite period if he only had some of the 'boys' with him to talk some good United States language to him, and thus relieve him from the monotony of the English pronunciation, which becomes very tiresome to an American. He has across Tom Ochiltree at the Acad' notes, and," he writes, "a mother with a new baby could not be more pleased than I at seeing Tom's red head, and hearing him talk in his good old Texas-American style." He had met Senator Jones, from Florida, who was being made much of by the Irish members of parliament. He is anxious to get on the continent, especially to Dresden, where a college chum named Mason is the United States consul. Mason is from Virginia, and was a Confederate soldier. After the war, as a matter of course, he was all broken up. Luckily, he ran across Don, who had Grant make him a consul. Don gives no intimations of when he thinks of returning. He says that he had a letter from Philadelphia, intimating that a party of Pennsylvania statesmen were soon to join him."

of railroads is true to a more alarming extent of the telegraph. In the latter competition means something worse than combination; it means the absorption of the lesser by the greater, and the public is required to pay double for every effort in competition as soon as it has been gobbled up by the giant company. If, in addition to this system of extortion, there is so be a periodic menace of a complete suspension of telegraphic facilities pending the settlement of every dispute about wages between the company and its employes, then the popular telegraph will be nearly universal.

The main objections urged to government telegraph are: (1) The extension of the civil service list and temptation to make a vast political machine thereof; and (2) the assumed purchase by the government of the Western Union telegraph system on the basis of its present capital stock, which represents more than double the actual investment of capital. The first objection had more force a few years ago than it has to-day. Civil service reform has made considerable headway since the first effort put forth under General Grant's administration. To begin with, public sentiment is well organized in its favor, and that indicates an ultimate realization of the scheme. In the next place, the system of examination, appointment on merit, and promotion in service will be improved steadily, and there will never again be a return to the spoils system—pure and simple. A weak president surrounded by an unscrupulous clique of office-brokers, or a greedy party coming in to possession of the government patronage for the first time in a long term of years, might retard the progress of the reform, but such a combination would be rebuked by the people at the first opportunity, and the work of reform would be resumed more earnestly than ever. With a civil service established on a business basis, the government employes operating the telegraph would be more independent of political change and influence than any other class in the government employ, because they would need to be possessed of special skill for the discharge of their duties. On the other hand, they could never organize a strike against the government for any cause, as such a proceeding would then be in the nature of a conspiracy, which could be punished and suppressed. The government would always pay fair wages and fix reasonable hours of labor, and its telegraph employes would be as content and secure as the employes in the other branches of government service would be.

The second objection urged against a government telegraph—the purchase of existing telegraph lines at a compensation equal to the watered capital stock of the companies controlling them—could be readily removed by not purchasing them at any price. Whenever the government shall decide to make the telegraph a part of the regular postal system, to which it belongs properly, then the way to proceed is to construct new lines in the most durable style and with the latest improvements along the existing postal routes, and extend them gradually to every point on the continent, which is entitled to such facilities. The government monopolized the mail system for the benefit of the people, and it has the same legal and moral right to avail itself of telegraphs as the quickest means for conveying intelligence. It is under no obligation to buy out existing companies; and certainly no theory of justice requires that it shall pay an exorbitant price for telegraph poles and instruments which can be had at a low price. There is no reason why the government should own a stock of stock-jobbers which would represent a vast investment.

A guarantee of the government ownership of a telegraph system would give the public against strikes and combinations, there would be a constant assurance of providing the most efficient service at the lowest rates, for the government would be inclined to pay on either real or fictitious stock. The aim would be to make the government telegraph self-sustaining and the dividends would be distributed among the people in the shape of reduced rates. In one word, the telegraph would become an integral part of the postal system, and the interchange of domestic, social, commercial and public news would be accelerated and enlarged by being served out to the public at actual cost of maintenance and operation. Congress will disappoint the people if it shall fail to take hold of this subject in earnest at the next session.

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