

THE OMAHA BEE.

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Thanksgiving Proclamation.

In furtherance of the custom of this people at the closing of each year, to engage upon a day set apart for that purpose in special festival of praise to the Giver of all Good, therefore, I, Chester A. Arthur, President of the United States, do hereby designate Thursday, the 29th day of November next, as a day of national Thanksgiving...

It might be of interest to inquire what has become of Webster Snyder's great market house.

There will be two necktie societies in Nebraska next month. The supreme court has concluded, for once, to let the murderers have a swing.

The New York World has made great strides since it passed into the hands of Joseph Pulitzer. Colonel Cockerill, formerly of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, is the editor-in-chief, and his assistant is C. A. Snowden, formerly managing editor of the Chicago Times, and more recently of the Washington Republican.

An ingenious Yankee has made proposals to the authorities of Buenos Ayres to protect their city from incessant rain and excessive sunshine by the erection of an immense iron umbrella. We would suggest to the citizens of Buenos Ayres that they could save money by purchasing and transferring to their city the mammoth Union Pacific cow-shed which is misnamed the Omaha depot.

The new standard time has already got into the courts. A poor debtor of Boston, who was summoned to appear before the insolvency commissioner between 9 and 10 a. m., put in an appearance at 9:48, new time, but the commissioner refused to examine him on the ground that he was governed by the old time, ruling that it was after 10 o'clock. The case will probably be appealed to the supreme court. Times have changed.

Pistols and coffee for two? Gen. Jubal A. Early has not a very exalted opinion of Mahone's recent address. He says that the English language is not sufficiently strong to properly characterize the infamous nature of the production and the infinite baseness of its falsehood, and that Mahone has sounded the depths of infamy and reached a solid bottom, below which it is impossible even for him to penetrate. Gen. Beauregard now stands ready to act as Gen. Jubal A. Early's second in case of an old Virginia duel.

The Washington Post makes the announcement that C. P. Huntington, of the Central Pacific railroad, and D. O. Mills, ex-Governor Stanford, and D. P. Morgan, all more or less interested in the same organization, are about to make Washington their winter headquarters. They will interview congressmen and take a general interest in legislation relating to the Pacific railroads, and will not be over-solicitous for the interest of the taxpayers. Several influential gentlemen, who hail from this side of the slope, will probably join this railroad lobby when the time comes to put in their work, where it will do the most good.

Just as we are about to enter upon the winter season the managers of the Missouri Pacific and B. & M. railways have made an agreement that they will restore the old coal rates in Nebraska. That means that the roads intend to take advantage of the necessities of our people in mid-winter, when they are helpless. If they could afford to deliver coal at the present rates during the season when coal was not in demand, they could afford to carry it at the same rates when the quantity is so much larger. This rise in the price of fuel will affect every family in the state, and is not much better than downright robbery.

Young men, who are just entering upon the arena of active life, often find themselves in a quandary as to the choice of a profession or occupation. The tendency of the age is to choose that occupation in life which is the most profitable. After a careful survey of the field we would advise young men, if they possess the required qualifications, to become professional base ball players. The expert base ball player now receives a larger salary than any experienced accountant, and his income will surpass that of three-quarters of the young professional men during the first ten years of their practice. Next to pugilism, base ball is now the most profitable occupation for young men, and the probability is that it will soon become a recognized branch of collegiate education.

THE SPEAKERSHIP.

The contest over the Speakership excites unusual interest. In point of influence the speakership is second only to the Presidency. Under time honored rules the speaker is an autocrat, clothed with despotic powers. He shapes legislation from the outset by organizing the committees. He may forward a bill or retard any and has it within his power to block any measure that seems to him objectionable. It is within his power to make small men great by giving them preference and precedence and he can blast the career of the most gifted statesman on the floor by simply failing to see or hear him when he rises to make his mark in debate.

At this juncture the speakership is destined to play a most important part in shaping the national policy on the vital problems with which the present congress is expected to grapple. Being nearly two-thirds democratic the selection of speaker will be made in caucus by the majority party. That party must not merely assume the responsibility of organizing the house but its future in the impending presidential struggle will depend upon its choice of the next speaker.

Henry Watterson, of the Louisville Courier-Journal, who speaks for the progressive wing of the democracy, is quoted as predicting the defeat of Sam Randall, who represents the protectionist element. When asked what would happen should Carlisle be elected, Watterson said:

"The ways and means committee will be organized in a way that will make it certain that a revenue reform bill will be brought in early in the session. Such a bill is indispensable to the democratic campaign next year. The questions are whether the democrats will stand and fight or run and later on have to contest with the republican party on ground of their own choosing; whether the democratic party will assemble in national convention without doing something in the way of discussing leading questions, crystallizing a policy and formulating a platform. Mr. Randall is in favor of shunting the tariff, sending it to the rear. No man can do that; the tariff question is at the front, and is there to stay. It will down at no man's bidding. The point for democrats now is to consider whether they will meet it or run away from it."

On the other hand, the republicans, although in the minority, appear also perplexed over the speakership struggle. The nomination of a minority candidate has always been a mere compliment, and has been given to an ex-speaker when such an ex-officer was on the roll. There seems, however, to be a decided opposition to complementing ex-speaker Keifer in this matter, and a movement has been started to confer the nomination on Judge Kelley. It is urged that it would be a graceful compliment to the father of the house to dignify him in this manner, after twenty-two years of continuous service, and that in view of the threatened agitation of the tariff question it would be a politic act for the republicans to select for their representative the one man whose position on the tariff is so thoroughly known that his nomination would be an emphatic protest against propositions to tinker with the tariff laws at the approaching session.

This would all be very politic if republicans were a unit on the tariff question; but quite apart from the wide divergence of opinion on the tariff among republicans the proposed compliment to Judge Kelley might be construed as committing the party to extreme protectionist views, which it could not afford to maintain.

THE GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

A concerted effort is being made by the Grand Army of the Republic to have congress revive the grade of general of the army, which expired with the retirement of General Sherman. It is proposed that Lieutenant-General Sheridan be promoted to the rank of general, and Major-General Hancock promoted to the rank of lieutenant-general. The movement started with Garfield Post, G. A. R., at Covington, Ky. The general officers of the department of Kansas have endorsed this movement, and the departments of Colorado and New Jersey have concurred. The grade of general was originally created by congress, and conferred upon George Washington. It was never again conferred on any man until after the war of the rebellion, when it was revived by a special act of congress and given to General Grant. When Grant became president it was conferred upon General Sherman with the proviso that it should expire with his retirement. It is a grave question whether this rank, which was intended only as a recognition of extraordinary services, should be conferred upon every commander of the United States army.

General Sheridan ranks high as one of the corps commanders during the rebellion. He was a dashing cavalry commander, but when it comes to comparison with Grant and Sherman, who planned successful campaigns and executed difficult maneuvers with great armies, he would fall short of the ideal of a great general. By the side of Phil Sheridan, General Hancock would cut a much smaller figure, and after Hancock comes Schofield, and then Pope, and so on down the list to the junior brigadier general, who finally reaches the rank now held by Sheridan, and with which so great a soldier as Winfield Scott was satisfied.

If the rank of general is to be given to every commander-in-chief of the army of the United States, it would soon degenerate and be no more honorable than the rank of lieutenant-general has been, or a major-generalship would be, if that was accessible to every officer in the line of promotion.

Now that we have continuous pavement from the Union Pacific depot to

to the North Omaha sewer on Sixteenth street, the matter of street cleaning should be provided for at an early day by the city council. It is important that our paved streets should be kept clean, and there is a fund already provided for that purpose. It should, however, be properly expended, and it seems to us that a street cleaning contract should be let to the lowest responsible bidder for a period of years—long enough at least to warrant the contractor in expending sufficient money to obtain the necessary machinery, which is quite costly.

The mud and dust nuisances on the paved streets should be abated as soon as possible. The streets were paved with that object in view, but if a system of street cleaning is not adopted and put into practice the nuisances remain all the same. If put into the hands of a responsible contractor the work would be done regularly and properly, and the matter should no longer be delayed. Under the present loose way of attending to the paved streets the mud accumulates to the depth of several inches before any attempt is made to remove it. The asphalt streets at any rate should be kept clean for it is a very easy job to keep it in that condition. All that is necessary is regularity in the work, and the oftener it is done the easier it is.

Baltimore is fast growing in importance as a great grain growing market, and is rapidly encroaching upon the field which was almost exclusively monopolized by New York. The exports of grain from New York from January 1st to November 1st of the present year are stated at 18,055,073 bushels of wheat and 23,048,843 bushels of corn, and from Baltimore 14,443,780 bushels of wheat and 9,505,464 bushels of corn. New Yorkers claim that the rapid strides made by Baltimore are explained by the fact that it has superior terminal facilities, and that grain delivered in that city is exempt from charges which are levied upon it in New York, and further that grain is delivered by the railroads directly on board ships. The Baltimoreans, however, offer a different explanation, namely, that their inspection system is superior, and they say that this alone accounts for the gradual increase of its grain receipts. A prominent grain exporter at Baltimore says: "Baltimore holds her own in the grain trade because she adheres to honest inspection. The same grade of grain that is made in the elevators here is assured when it is taken out, and European buyers have found this out; and Baltimore graded grain stands the best in the market." In New York wheat is so manipulated in the elevators and between them and the vessels that the grades cannot be depended on, and the foreign buyer almost invariably finds that what he bought for No. 2 is an inferior stuff. If this be the correct explanation, it is of some importance as showing the value to a city of an honest and reliable system of inspection.

According to latest cable advices, pirates are displaying great activity along the water-courses of China. Those Chinese pirates can't hold a candle to the literary pirates who steer the junk known as the Omaha Republican.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

The World's attention has again been attracted towards Egypt during the past week. The crisis between the contending armies of El Mahdi, the false prophet, and Hicks Pasha, occurred in a great battle fought near Elobah. El Mahdi's forces, numbering 300,000 men, had surrounded Hicks Pasha, and cut off their supplies. The fighting finally began on the 3d and continued until the 5th of November, and the news of the result was received in London on Thursday last. It is reported that Hicks Pasha's army, numbering 25,000 Egyptian troops, has been cut to pieces and almost annihilated. When Gladstone announced a week ago Friday, at the lord mayor's dinner, that British troops were to be withdrawn from Egypt and Cairo, and certain other places were to be evacuated, there was such loud clamor and protest the next day throughout London that the premier was compelled to modify his statement by explaining that 2,000 troops and one powerful man-of-war were to be kept at Alexandria, and that this force would be strengthened as occasion may require. The occasion seems to have come much sooner than Mr. Gladstone expected. Instead of withdrawing troops from Egypt heavy reinforcements will have to be sent forward to put down a foe more dangerous than the rebellious Arabi Bey had been.

The visit of the crown prince of Germany to the Spanish capital is one of the all-absorbing topics in the diplomatic circles of Europe. Marshal Serrano, who has been reputed as the father of the present King of Spain, and ought to be some authority, says, in the most positive terms, that neither King Alfonso nor any Spanish party entertains the slightest idea of an alliance with Germany, and, while the crown prince has been given a cordial reception, his visit will have no political consequences.

This recalls an interesting chapter of modern history. One day in July, some 13 years ago, the representatives of the Spanish people chose a Hohenzollern to come and be their king. France rose in great anger and bade Prussia not only to refuse the proffered crown for her prince, but to promise never to permit such an offer again. Prussia refused the crown, but declined to give pledges. War was declared by France, within a week great armies concentrated on the Rhine forelands, within a few weeks the emperor of the French was a prisoner, and within a few months his capital was

taken and two fair provinces were lopped off to the victor. This is the brief but humiliating story recalled by the visit to Spain of Frederick William, a Hohenzollern imperial crown prince of Germany, in return for the recent visit of King Alfonso to that country.

Lord Salisbury, the leader of the Tory Peers, until recently regarded as one of the coldest and least magnetic of public men, has suddenly blossomed into a leader of the London workingmen. His article on the London poor, which was written for the purpose of damning the present liberal Government by contrasting its waste of the Irish remedial legislation which they don't want, while entirely neglecting the more numerous, more deserving, and more wretched poor of London, has become the great political document of the workingmen of the metropolis. The publication is practically the first really serious and successful attempt on the part of a pronounced Tory Peer to direct public attention to the needs of the English poor. The workmen, failing to see the political motive, have accepted the article at its face value, and are fast abandoning loyalty to the liberal leaders. The conservatives are fully alive to the situation, and are busily organizing the disaffected. Already the committees of several of the workingmen's societies have held conferences with a view of forming a new labor party in London. Last Tuesday at a congress of these conference committees it was resolved to organize a great labor demonstration on the plan of the liberal convention at Leeds, to formulate the demands of the London poor, to organize the poor of the city into a political party by themselves, and to ask Lord Salisbury to preside over the demonstration and to shape the new movement.

China continues in her preparations for an aggressive and vigorous war against the large army for defensive and offensive operations is now stationed on the Annam border. Exaggerated reports have reached England to the effect that China seems to be gathering an army large enough to overrun Europe. The navy journal of London discusses the situation as one of the most grave, and argues that a process of starvation so weakened the British navy that if war between France and China breaks out England will be actually unable to find either the ships or the marines necessary to properly re-secure the British squadron in Chinese waters. Latest cable advices announce that China has instructed her ambassador to declare war against France.

The leading French papers are all discussing the question of war with China from a very serious standpoint. One of them, the *Gazette*, writes as follows:

"The question is, will France go as far as to declare war against China? According to the best information, notwithstanding the above mentioned alarmist rumors, the probabilities are that China has no intention to declare war officially. Neither will France, if she can help it—at least not at present. Both countries are playing bluff, much to the disgust of Europe, which would like to see the matter settled one way or the other. She is weary of the everlasting interviews with the Marquis Tseng and the bombast of French journalists about a question of which they know so little. We all know what the end will be—that Annam will be peacefully divided up, and the Red river from the boundary between the French possessions and the Chinese empire. Everything further depends upon whether Admiral Courbet will venture to cross the Red river and attack Bac Ninh, as threatened. In this case the Red river becomes the Rubicon of the Chinese question."

Dispatches from St. Petersburg announce that the czar has invited two or three trusted advisors to form a constitution suitable to the Russian empire. It is well known, that the late czar preferred the chance of assassination to the surrender of his right of absolute rule, but the son may take a different view of the matter. The fundamental objection made by the Russian czar and the French Bourbons to a constitutional government is that they are rulers by divine right. What powers the Divine Ruler has given them they say they may not delegate to others. If the Russian emperor has emancipated himself from his belief he can do his country a great service. A constitution will restore domestic tranquility. The nihilist will disappear from politics to reappear perhaps in the form of a radical seeking by constitutional methods to liberize the government. The emperor will then be judged according to his acts, and will at least have in his power to attach his people to him. The discussions, which are a natural result of diverse views of a legislative body, will enlighten the emperor both as to the needs of the people and as to their desires. He will see how to shape legislation so as to consult the well-being and wishes of the people. The emperor should understand by this time that the day of absolute rulers is passed.

The Russian government continues to appraise the world of the existence of nihilism by arrests, hangings and deportations. A Russian minister has very oddly confessed to an interviewer, after a boast that nihilism was moribund at last, that one woman had recently enrolled as nihilist 40 officers in one garrison town. The present quiet of the revolution is significant only of the extreme patience and power of the leaders. Every phase of the movement met in council at St. Petersburg, shortly after the czar's late change of ministry and promise of reform, and the discussion was stormy, but the views of the moderates prevailed; and it is understood that the czar is re-prieved until the Russian Christmas, which is 12 days later than ours. This will give him time to show his honesty of purpose toward the people, if he has any.

The resignation of Lord Ripon, viceroy of India, is at the disposal of the government, and it has been understood that, in case of a vacancy, the Marquis of Lorne would be selected to fill it. A London dispatch says that the marquis has no chance of the semi-royal post, and that his resignation in the cabinet, being so strong as to render his appointment undesirable. It had previously been intimated in London correspondence that Lord Lorne would be appointed as viceroy of Ireland if the queen would give her consent. The queen, it is said, does not regard Ireland as a safe place of residence for her daughter Louise, who only made a partial success of playing queen in Canada. Lord Lorne seems likely, therefore, to have to continue his contributions to English magazines.

In Germany there is still considerable belief that sooner or later another war with France is bound to come. According to

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cable advices the tone of the German journals has become absolutely savage. The Kolnische Zeitung shouts out that since a bloody struggle is inevitable the sooner it takes place the better, and another newspaper declares that any influx in Spain to the crown prince under French instigation would popularize the idea of a war. At the same time military newspapers inform Italy that she will have to take the offensive in a defense of her German ally, and lecture her on the backward state of her artillery. Prince Bismarck's conference at Friedrichsruhe with M. de Giers, the Russian foreign minister, resulted in an understanding on the future policy in regard to Bulgaria, securing Prince Alexander in possession of the throne. It is reported that M. de Giers offered to discuss terms on which Russia might join the European peace league, securing Prince Bismarck that in the meantime he could regard Russia as a virtual member of the concert of the powers. The tone of the Cologne Gazette and other leading German papers in advocating immediate war with France as the only means of clearing up the present situation is attributed to instructions from Prince Bismarck, introductory to proposals for a reduction of the French and the other continental armaments.

M. De Lesseps has given one very strong, practical reason why the second Suez canal should be under the same management as the one, namely, we are going toward the Red sea would use one, and those owning this way would use the other. There would be a great saving in time, and there would also be a considerable reduction in the first cost of the new canal, since both could use the same harbor at each end, and the "turnout" cuts would be very few.

Pope Leo has pronounced in favor of the Comte de Paris, and thinks that the way to save France is for the conservatives to group themselves about him. Time was when such an expression from the pope would shake Europe to its center, but alas for the Vatican! that time has long since passed away.

Charles William Siemens, scientist, engineer, and electrician, died on Tuesday of rupture of the heart, caused by a fall. He was born at Leuthe, in Hannover, April 4, 1823. He was a graduate of the art school of Magdeburg and the university of Gottingen. He took up his abode in England in 1854, and in 1859 became a naturalized subject of that country. Dr. Siemens' first invention was a differential governor for steam engines, which was patented in 1845. Among other improvements brought out by Dr. Siemens were the process of "anastatic printing," the chromic governor, the double cylinder air pump, the regenerative gas furnace. In 1848 Dr. Siemens took up the study of telegraphic engineering, and in 1858 the large telegraph works of Siemens, Halske & Co. were established. He was a Fellow of the Royal society, the president of the society of Mechanical engineers, a member of the Philosophical and Royal society clubs and an honorary member of the American philosophical society and Gowerverein of Berlin.

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