THE OMAHA BEE

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

WE DO NOT desire any contributions whatever of a literary or poetical character; and we will not undertake to preserve, or to return the same, in any case whatever. Our Staff is sufficiently large to more than supply our limited space in that direction.

REAL NAME OF WRITER, in full, must in each and every case accompany any communication of what nature soever. This is not intended for publication, but for our own satisfaction and as proof of good faith.

OUR COUNTRY FRIENDS we will always be pleased to hear from, on all matters connected with crops, country politics, and on any subject whatever of general interest to the people of our State. Any information connected with the election, and relating to floods, accidents, etc., will be gladly received. All such communications, however, must be brief as possible; and they must, in all cases, be written upon one side of the sheet only.

POLITICAL.

ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS of candidates for office—whether made by self or friends, and whether as notices or communications to the Editor, are (until nominations are made) simply personal, and will be charged as advertisements.

All communications should be addressed to E. ROSEWATER, Editor and Publisher, Draw'r 271.

NOTICE.

On and after October twenty-first, 1872, the city circulation of the DAILY BEE is assumed by Mr. Edwin Davis, to whose order all subscriptions not paid at the office will be payable, and by whom all receipts for subscriptions will be countersigned.

E. ROSEWATER, Publisher

CASTELLAR has been heard and his voice is still for the Spanish Republic.

THE first chapter of Bret Harte's new story, "The Rose of the Toulomne," appears on the third page of this issue. It is conceded on all hands to be one of the very best efforts of the gifted Californian, and netted him six hundred dollars.

OLD man Bender, whose atrocious crimes had caused such profound excitement throughout Kansas, has at last reached the place where his bloody deeds had been committed. His identify is now established and we aprehend that his career will be very brief.

MAYOR CHASE very properly declines to abuse the pardoning power by ordering the release of a high toned gambler now confined in the city jail. What would be the object of arresting, trying and convicting such gentry, if the Mayor could step in and annul the verdict of the court?

THE managers of Mr. John Baumer's case are becoming greatly fatigued in trying to cheat Mr. Johnston out of his just majority for treasurer as clearly and unequivocally shown by Mr. Baumer's own recount. We are still of the opinion that Mr. Swobe will be compelled to vote that Johnston has a majority, and we are not without hope for Mr. Marsh, although he is a hard case as a partizan.—*Herald.*

We are still of the opinion that the Democracy under the lead of the *Herald* are trying to perpetrate a most outrageous fraud upon a man who was duly elected by the people to the office of city treasurer.

We don't charge ballot box stuffing upon anybody, but there is a very grave suspicion among disinterested citizens, Democratic as well as Republican, that those ballot boxes have been tampered with.

TAX EXEMPTION.

ONE of the strongest arguments against the Constitution presented to the people of Nebraska, was that it contained a provision for taxing all the Church property of the State.—*Republican.*

We are aware that the Church taxation bugaboo was very effectually handled by the *Republican* in its efforts to defeat the new Constitution. It was mainly used to cover the tracks of the monopolists who had bought up the *Republican* for the purpose of defeating a measure that threatened to deprive them of their supremacy in this State.

It was this howl about taxing graveyards and churches, that enabled demagogues like the clerical editor of the Republican, to play upon popular prejudices, bred of ignorance and stupidity. The facts are patent that taxation to be just must be universal.

Why prate about the injustice of taxing cemeteries, when we can point to one cemetery near this city that yields a greater income to its owner than any property of similar valuation within the city limits? Why should wealthy men who seek to glorify themselves by building costly churches be exempted when the cottage of the poorest workingman is taxed?

It is proper enough to compel people to pay a school tax, but why do you seek to compel them to pay a church tax? A case in point has just reached us through the Beatice *Express.* From that journal we learn that "a petition was presented to the Commissioners of Gage county, last Tuesday, by Capt. Ashby, asking that the property belonging to the different churches in the city be placed on the assessment books. The petition sets forth, in general, that the Constitution forbids the exemption from taxation of the property of corporations; and in particular that the Presbyterian church building is leased for profit, which excludes it from the benefit of the exemption provided by the statutes.

The commissioners have taken the case under advisement.

The Beatrice *Express* admits that our constitution is in direct conflict with the statute concerning exemptions. The case quoted above involves the exemption of property owned by the Presbyterian Church, and leased by them to parties. Now we would be pleased to know whether in case of an appeal to the courts, they would not be compelled to decide that under our present Constitution, the property of corporations cannot be exempted from taxation, whether used for churches, cemeteries, or any other purpose.

IT frequently happens that the sentiments expressed by newspaper correspondents, are not in accord with the views entertained by the editors of the journal that publishes their contributions.

A case in point occurs in this issue of the BEE. Our Washington correspondent, alluding to the investigation of the management of the affairs of the District of Columbia, declares that nothing derogative to the Board of Public Works has so far been elicited by the investigation. Governor Shepard, the chief of the so-called District ring, is lauded to the skies as a man of indomitable energy and spotless integrity.

We imagine our correspondent, in common with other Bohemians who have partaken of the sumptuous hospitality of the Board, has not paid very close attention to the evidence drawn out by the investigating committee. He has probably looked to the subsidized ring papers, whose editors have held fat paving contracts, for the source of his information.

We regret that the BEE does not share his conclusions in the premises.

As far as we have been able to judge, the testimony before the committee has been of the most damaging character. With this testimony before us, we incline to the opinion that the Washington ring has just claims for being classed on a par with Tweed's Tammany cohorts. Their failure to equal the Tammany chief in the amounts appropriated can only be accounted for on the presumption that they did not have as good an opportunity.

BAXTER, the Arkansas usurper, is a very cute individual. Like our now somewhat notorious City Treasurer, he did not poll as many votes as his antagonist, but he managed to count him out by unfriendly legislation. Now that the courts have finally ousted him, he again seeks to resume his sway by appealing to the Legislature.

His assurance to President Grant of his willingness to submit peaceably to the decision made by the Legislature is very characteristic. He knows the Legislature will decide in his favor and he can afford to rest easy.

HONEY FOR THE LADIES.

Straining sweetness—Kissing through a veil.

Black will continue in favor for the day costumes, but it will be less worn at night than heretofore.

Invisible purple gloves are worn by ladies in mourning, in preference to the dead black gloves that are apt to crack.

Bibs of Valenciennes lace, forming a pompadour square, with a ruff, are the newest fancy for completing ladies' dressy toilets.

The size of parasols is much increased and far more decided than heretofore. Very handsome, changeable serge silk ones, with fancy pearl handles, sell for $6, $7 and $8.

If ever there is a time when a man is justified in changing the subject suddenly, it is when his wife asks if he posted that letter to mother promptly.

Black alpacas of the buffalo, beaver, otter and sable brands are more popular this season than for several years past. One dollar and a half is charged.

Anxious mother: "You say your darling boy is three years old. Then there is not a moment to be lost. No man ever became truly great who hadn't tumbled down stairs, or been badly scalded when a child.

Ann Eliza Young is playfully stated by a Washington reporter, to wear a large locket suspended from her neck containing scraps of hair cut from Bigham's scalp.

Floral ornaments were never more varied. Whole nosegays are worn on the head; beetles, flies, butterflies, and birds are less fashionable than tufts of daffodils, primroses, wall flowers, and Parma violets.

Chatelaines for parasols, fans, etc. are become articles of expensive luxury. They consist, usually, of short chain of ivory, mother of pearl, or oxydized silver, furnished on the lower rings with hooks which serve for holding the articles to be carried. Generally a medallion pin or rosette of the same material as the chain is caught in the belt, while a clasp or hook secures it there.

The skirts of all dresses, whether short or trained, have the fulness thrown entirely to the back; strings being sewn to the side seams for this purpose. The front and side breadths are gored; the slope of each toward the back, and hollowed out at the top, so as to fit the waist and set closely on the hips. This is difficult to fit, and a well cut pattern is a great desideratum, as all skirts are cut in the same manner, whatever may be the trimmings arranged afterward.

A Buffalo street car conductor refused to permit a female in "bloomer costume" to ride on his car, believing her to be a woman dressed in man's clothes. The case was carried to court, when the conductor's counsel stated that there was an ordinance against a female wearing a man's dress, and thought that worn by the woman came very near to it. The justice, however, held that the "bloomer" was a female costume.

A huge Napoleon blue sunshade with gilt or ivory tips and handle, will be the correct thing this season for the belle of the period. It is not lined, and the reflection upon the face is, we presume, a part of the fashion.

The latest fancy for young ladies' wraps is the pelerine, or small round cape, of black Sicilienne or drap d'ete, almost covered with jet embroidery, edged with jet fringe, and finished around the neck with a lacke fraise.

"Ma, has aunty got bees in her mouth?" "No; why do you ask such a question?" "'Cause that leetle man with a heap o' hair on his face cotched hold of her and said he was going to take the honey from her lips, and she said, 'Well, make haste!'"

The newest neck ties are blocks, checks, and bars of white with a color; black and white blocks of twilled silk are especially stylish. Solid colored ties have a block work of Valenciennes insertion in each pointed end, and a lace frill on the edge.

THE PLATTE VALLEY.

The Garden Spot of the Continent.

What Nature has Done, and What Men are Doing.

A Birds Eye View.

(Special Correspondence of the BEE.)

A few years ago, when the great trans-continental railway scheme, now a thing of the past, was struggling toward the light, Nebraska was comparatively unknown, and the few who were sufficiently informed of the rare fertility of its soil to speak boldly in its favor were regarded as mercenary speculators, who hoped to reap fortunes by making dupes of those who were foolish enough to emigrate thither. Slow-paced truth seemed to have forgotten her walk as the territory of Nebraska drew slowly toward public recognition. American youth and middle age, educated that this whole country was a desert devoid of soil, too barren to produce even a stunted timber growth; a sun-parched plateau above the region of rain, uninhabited and uninhabitable, were slow to believe that their books and teachers erred, and that in reality this elevated plain, overscored with numberless water courses was the most fertile, bounteous and healthy of all nature's dominion.

A rival to the southward, made prominent by the force of circumstances, advertised over the whole world by the struggle then enacting within her borders between the clashing interests of freedom and slavery, secured the attention of lovers of freedom everywhere (all emigrants are such) and for the time overshadowed this territory already free, and drew toward herself the strongest current of immigration. But there came a time; it was when the U. P. R. R. took definite shape and started from Omaha on a long, and by many considered, doubtful journey toward the setting sun, when the world looked again upon our wide prairies and broad valleys and saw that they were exceedingly fair. Whoever looks upon it acknowledges that the Platte Valley is the finest agricultural spot on the face of the earth.

Varying from twenty to fifty miles in width, it has no marshes as it is everywhere from ten to forty feet above the rapidly flowing river, decending toward the Missouri with an even fall of about six feet to the mile, for the whole distance from North Platte, where the two main sources unite to its mouth, three hundred and seventy-five miles, and nearly two thousand feet below.

Every foot of land in this valley, nearly ten million acres in one body, is rich as the oldest garden in the world, and before broken by the settlers' plow, was clothed with a strong thick growth of grass from one to four feet in heighth, which billowed under the breeze like an immense field of waving grain.

There is not an acre in the whole area—larger than some of the Eastern States—but that is succeptible of easy cultivation, and its entire surface is so smooth that a mowing machine may be run over every square foot as easily, and cutting as closely as on the best rolled meadow of the Gennesee or Connecticut Valleys, where generation succeeding generation, has exhausted its strength in making an artificial farm. The U. P. Railroad runs through its entire length, bringing to the settler's door, all requisites for building the cottar's home, or furnishing the wealthy planter's mansion; carrying to the east or west—whichever pays the highest price—the productions of soil and labor. The Government granted this road each alternate section of the land within twenty miles each way along its line through this valley, and reserved the other sections for actual settlers. The government sections have nearly all been taken up, and cultivated more or less fully by homesteaders, as far west as Grand Island, one hundred and fifty miles from Omaha and also a large portion of it for a hundred miles beyond that point. But all along the line fully three-fourths of the railroad lands are yet unsold and unoccupied, situated too, in the midst of a thickly peopled, and a well organized country.

These lands can be bought so low that the price is hardly worth mentioning—from $3 to $8 per acre on ten years time according to location near or remote from the road. The original grant was about 4,800,000 acres, of which but one million have been sold, and though there is yet so much land unsold, the country is actually more thickly settled than many portions of the very oldest States.

The Government sections which have settlers on them comprise more of the country and embrace more cultivated farms than it is possible to find in any equal area in the agricultural districts of the New England States, New York or Pennsylvania. And at the same time the millions of acres given to the railroad do not cover so large an area in this country as is wasted in the useless mountains, rocky ridges, vast marshes, and immense forests in the States mentioned. So rapid has been the developement of this country that along the line of this road already are towns and cities of considerable importance and size, varying from the station hamlet of half a dozen houses to the city of two or three thousand inhabitants carrying on and living by the various industries incident to all countries. The little labor required to build roads in all directions across the country has been done, and bridges built over all the water courses. School houses have been built in every township, so that when the settler moves his family into even the most thinly settled portion of this valley, as good facilities for the education of his children are already provided, as those left behind in the east.

After visiting all portions of the Canadas, Eastern, Southern, Middle and some of the Western States, we can boast with pride that no region of country on this continent has better school buildings, more complete appointments in any respect, a greater number of schools in proportion to the inhabitants, or better teachers than this valley. It is a fact that the school buildings of this country from the elegant and costly structure standing a two hundred thousand dollar crown upon the highest hill in Omaha, towering above the central city, at once her glory and a landmark on the national highway to the neatly painted twelve hundred dollar school house, away out on the plains beyond North Platte, where to the eye unpracticed in prairie life it seems to stand alone, to the wonder and admiration of all who cross the state. Churches too, are plenty, as in all the American states. Though there are many people of foreign birth, the predominent number and sentiment is American, and bears, though far away from Plymouth Rock, the indelible stamp of religious veneration engraved upon American character by the Pilgrim Fathers.

Following the rapid settlement of this valley its exports have increased in a sort of geometric ratio. Take, for instance, the shipments of wheat from two of the most prominent points. Fremont, a city of about 3,000 inhabitants, 40 miles from Omaha; and Columbus, 80 miles west, with a population of about 1,200. The former city shipped about 70 car loads of wheat three years ago; two years ago 400, and the last year nearly 1,700 car loads, or over half a million bushels. Columbus shipped but 17 car loads the first year, 171 the second and last fall and winter over 900 car loads. Other products have increased in the same proportion, and all will continue to increase in nearly the same ratio for several years to come. It is safe to estimate the annual wheat crop of this valley at ten million bushels, when each quarter section has an inhabitant, which cannot be far away.

From Omaha to Fremont the U. P. lands have all been sold, but near the latter place a few locations may be secured; and the quantity of unsold land gradually increases as you go west by North Bend, a delightful little village, where an example can be seen of how great a grove may be grown in this country in ten years. A grove of cottonwoods planted here about ten years ago, now stand sixty feet in height, and twenty to thirty inches in diameter at the ground. Near Schuyler, a beautiful village adorned with numerous young trees, the growth of only three or four years, the quantity of railroad land unsold begins to increase sensibly, and there may be a few quarter sections of government land twenty or twenty-five miles from the railroad. Near Columbus there are large tracts of the grandest land, but it is now being rapidly sold. Farther west, one hundred and fifty miles from Omaha, near Grand Island, a city of 1,200 inhabitants and rapidly increasing, whose people are just now exerting themselves strongly, and with flattering prospects of success, to build a railroad southward to connect with the St. Joe & Denver and give them access to St. Louis and southern markets, there is a greater increase in the quantity of land for sale, as also of government land not taken up; and as you go west from here, the quantity increases as the country is more and more recently settled.

Forty-five miles from Grand Island you come to the new city of Kearney, the meeting place of two great railroads that stretch away from the Missouri River on a race for the West.

Land, more land, and room for thousands, as you go Westward beyond Plum Creek, a town of a hundred houses, built in a month last summer, to Cozad in swaddling clothes, platted and named this spring. You can count here eight or ten dwellings on the plat and forty or fifty new farm houses on the prairie around, where, on the first day of February you might have looked in vain over the broad rolling expanse as far as the eye could reach, till land sank away beneath the concave sky for other evidence of human existance, than the circling band of railway and its double row of telegraph poles, dwindling down in the distance till mingled and blended it takes the appearance of a closely boarded fence.

West of here you are out of the great waves and in the surf of immigration,

North Platte, 391 miles from Omaha, at the junction of the two principal branches of the great Platte River, which here spreads to 400 yards in width, is a flourishing city of about 1000 inhabitants and the center of a large community of grazers and cattle herders. Here, instead of bushels of grain, we hear the number of head of cattle spoken of.

We have ascended an inclined plane 300 miles long till we are 2,700 feet above the sea and nearly 1,900 above Omaha. But, contrary to the assumed natural laws of temperature, have come up into a warmer climate and arrived in a region rarely visited by snow; where cattle graze the year round and come out in the spring in good order with no other feed than the rich buffalo grass which covers the land.

Here there is land, whole counties of it north, west and south without holders, untilled, yet tillable and rich. Oh, you laborers upon hillsides, you delvers among stones, and you wood-chopping, root-pulling dwellers among swamps and rocks, and on the mountains of the eastern States and Canadas why will you work and wait year after year with no results, building stump fences, stone walls and log piles, and burning brush to clear a little poor land, starving ten or twenty years, dependent upon your more fortunate neighbor for days' work wherewith to make the year ends meet, before the land will support you, when the fairest face of God's great creation smiles toward you saying, "kiss me once with a plow, and I will reward you with an hundred fold in the fairest crops?" Why will you spend a whole lifetime in the vain endeavor to make that cold sterile hillside one-half as smooth or productive as nature made the land which the Government will give you here, and fail at last? DON.

PONCA COAL.

A Vein Two Feet in Thickness at Present—Good Coal and Better Prospects.

From Charles Schroeder, one of the four men who compose the company that is operating the Ponca coal mine, and who has just returned from there, we learn that the prospects of finding coal in paying quantities grow better as the work progresses. The miners have drifted into the hill a distance of about sixty feet, and the strata of coal which they are following grows thicker the further in they work. The vein is at present about two feet thick, and even if they should find it no thicker it would pay to work it. Samples were brought in by Mr. Schroeder which are pronounced of a good quality, containing but very little sulphur or slate. It is altogether probable that after tunneling into the hill a little further a strata of coal will be found of uniform thickness. The vein so far followed has varied somewhat in thickness, according to the depth or shallowness of the earth above. Further into the hill, where there has been no exterior action of the earth to interfere with the natural formation, a rich, uniformly thick strata of coal undoubtedly lies. And if this be the case it will surely be developed, for the company operating the mine is sanguine of success, and is working accordingly.

The farmers round about Ponca are highly elated over the success of the coal enterprise, and flock to the mine in large numbers to witness the work as it progresses. Coal from the mine is daily used in Ponca by business men, who are ready to add their testimony in favor of its quality. The specimens brought to this city by Mr. Schroeder were left at the office of Mr. Meckling, Superintendent of the Dakota Southern road, where they may be seen.—*Sioux City Journal, April 26th.*

Siamese Twins in Nature.

Mr. H. G. Cardwell has a double tree on his farm which presents the same anomaly in vegetable that the Siamese Twins did in animal nature. There are two distinct stems standing ten feet apart and joined together at a point twenty feet from the ground by a ligament, if we may so call it, passing from the body of one into that of the other. The ligament is uniform in size, and it is impossible to tell of which tree it is a branch. This *lusus natura* is a strong argument in favor of capital punishment, forming a natural gallows, perfect in construction and beautiful in design.—*Shelby (Ky.) Courant.*

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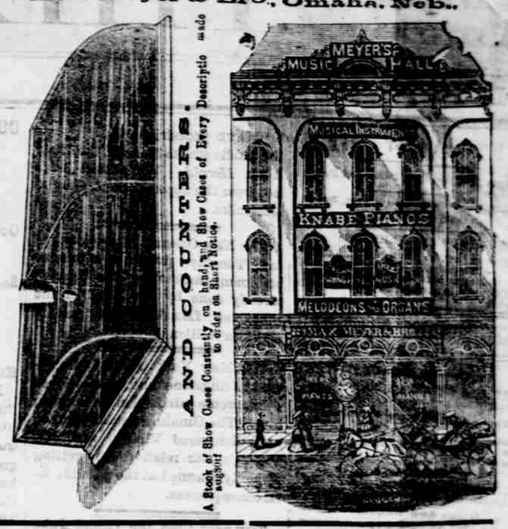

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