

The Omaha Bee.

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CORRESPONDENCE—All Communications relating to News and Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor of THE BEE.

OMAHA PUBLISHING CO., Prop'rs E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

ENFORCEMENT of existing laws is the surest safeguard against the enactment of unwise legislation.

THOUSANDS of people, now that four days have passed, are laughing at the venerable joke of swearing off on New Year's.

BALTIMORE has a new daily paper, the Times, which, as an independent paper, will endeavor to stir up the muddy waters of Maryland politics.

BOSTON has passed a resolution enabling the telegraph companies to lay their wires underground. The days of the poles nuisance are numbered.

TALK continues of raising the commissioner of agriculture to a cabinet position. There are enough old seeds in the cabinet without any further additions.

EX-POSTMASTER GENERAL JAMES leaves to his successor the legacy of a postoffice department which he prophesies will be self-sustaining before another year.

THE national debt was decreased nearly \$13,000,000 in December. Such a remarkable record is only possible in times when unusual prosperity renders heavy taxation possible.

TEN railroad corporations practically control the commerce of the country. Such a vast aggregation of irresponsible power is a standing menace to the interests of the producing classes of the nation.

MR GODLOVE ORTH is kicking against Keifer and refuses to be comforted. Godlove is evidently not among those meek and lowly Christian statesmen that present the left cheek after they have been smitten on the right jaw. There is only one such in Inganuary, and his name is Smiler Colfax.

It is not to be expected that our contemporaries will credit THE BEE with any good intention in its efforts to rid the town of vile dens. But the community at large cannot fail to understand that the board of license was aided very materially in coming to an understanding of their duty by THE BEE and its editor.

ACTION should at once be taken by the board of trade on the paving question in order that our delegation to the legislature may be prepared to act in case of a session of that body is convened by the governor. If it is decided to raise the funds for paving, by the issuing of bonds, the statement of this object must be incorporated in the governor's proclamation calling together the legislature.

OFFICIAL IGNORANCE.

One of the most singular facts brought out by the license investigation was the sudden loss of memory which the witness stand produced in a number of public officials. Officers of the law, whose business it is to know the moral condition of the city and acquaint themselves with the manner in which the ordinances are obeyed in various portions of this city, suddenly lose all recollection of men, times and places, and were forced to fall back upon the plea of ignorance when questions were put them which referred to notorious law breaking and law breakers in Omaha. This is all the more remarkable from the fact that these very men had vivid recollections of occurrences and decided opinions upon the subject a few hours before being called upon the stand. The same curious condition of things was remarked a few years ago when the smuggling frauds of the Omaha postoffice and criminal mismanagement of the railway postal service was under investigation.

Postal clerks who had made the most damaging disclosures to the editor of THE BEE, regarding the conduct of the postal officials, forgot the occurrence when placed on the stand in the presence of their superiors, and lost their memories completely as soon as they understood that the department was not anxious to push matters against the delinquents. The same cause operated in the case of witnesses at the license investigation. If it had been understood for a moment that the board of license was anxious to root out of existence the low dives and dens in

this city, no one doubts that the officers who were placed on the stand would have found their memories very quickly. We believe that the police force in Omaha intend to perform their duty, but they look to the mayor and marshal for the interpretation of what that duty is. They are interested in having the dives closed, where they risk their persons and lives in making arrests, and in endeavoring to quiet disturbances. If they once fully understand that the government of this city was determined that not only the letter but also the spirit of the laws should be enforced, and that such enforcement would meet with encouragement at headquarters, matters would be very different to-day in Omaha. It is because they knew that such is not the case, and felt that crime was being winked at and apologized for by the city authorities, that official ignorance was so strongly manifested before the licensing board. Official ignorance in investigations is too often the result of a species of official intimidation which frowns upon too much knowledge of a kind which may throw discredit upon superiors. And this was largely the cause of the sudden loss of memory which a number of witnesses experienced during the late license investigation.

VALENTINE AND "DISTRICT REPRESENTATION."

Under the head of "District Representation," THE BEE of Tuesday evening has a long article opposing a congressional convention and ticket at large. We do not concern ourselves with THE BEE argument, nor with its facts further than they are alleged to be contained in the following from its article:

Under the pretext that an extra session of the legislature to district and at-large would involve extra expense, Valentine introduced a bill in congress two weeks ago to enable Nebraska to elect her three congressmen from the state at large instead of electing them from three congressional districts. This bill ought not to pass for many reasons.

If our voters desire to heed the wish of their constituents, they will never concur in Valentine's bill. We know whereof we speak, when we assert that the great mass of our people are adverse to Valentine's scheme and in favor of district representation.

Perhaps the following, which we received from Mr. Valentine yesterday, will soothe the disturbed fancy of the gentleman of THE BEE in this last outbreak of its Valphobia.

BLAIR, Neb., January 3.

MY DEAR SIR: I am enroute for Washington, and the following from THE BEE has met my attention: "Under the pretext that an extra session of the legislature to district and at-large would involve extra expense, Valentine introduced a bill in congress two weeks ago to enable Nebraska to elect her three congressmen from the state at large, instead of electing three from districts. This is a misstatement out of whole cloth. No bill on this subject has been introduced by me. I do not see the reason for this misstatement unless it be to create a sentiment against me in the western portion of the state. I am not and have at all times been in favor of districting. I believe it the only right method."

Very truly yours,

E. K. VALENTINE.

Mr. Valentine adds that he is unable to perceive any just motive which THE BEE could have had for making this statement. THE BEE's motive is readily explainable in the light of a remark which Rosewater made, when a prominent republican who had read his lie supposing it to be the truth, said that Mr. Valentine should be informed concerning public sentiment in the state on this question and induced if possible to change his views. "O, no," responded Rosewater, "let him go on with it; it is just what 'we' want—it will kill him dead as a door nail!" It is not surprising that Rosewater should have developed this last lie out of his interior consciousness, and followed it up with drawing on his imagination for the "facts."—[Republican.]

This is not the first time Valentine has sought to retrieve a political blunder by a brazen denial of notorious facts. We remember how Mr. Valentine called at THE BEE office three years ago, just previously to his nomination to congress to express his grave fears to the editor that he would fail to secure the nomination owing to the pronounced hostility to him of the Union Pacific, when as a matter of fact Valentine's chief supporters were the managers of that road. Valentine imagined that he was playing a very deep game by such deception, but the editor of THE BEE who was in possession of indisputable proof that General Manager Clark of the Union Pacific was arranging for Valentine's nomination, was not taken in.

It is just as notorious now that Valentine, up to within a few days, has favored the scheme of electing three congressmen at large, as it was three years ago, that he was the mere cat's paw of the Union Pacific. His denials, verbal or written, are mere subterfuge. Valentine declares with bravado that he has introduced no bill on the subject of Nebraska's congressional apportionment. The Congressional Record of December 17, 1881, page 20, contains the following entry:

"Apportionment of Representatives." Mr. Valentine introduced a bill (H. R. No. 992), supplemental to an act entitled "An act for the apportionment of representatives to congress among the several states according to the ninth census," which was read the first and second time. Referred to the committee on judiciary and ordered printed.

The natural inference to be drawn from this entry in the Congressional Record is that Valentine is endeavoring to exempt Nebraska from the general provisions of the apportionment bill that requires each state to select its representatives by congressional districts. We have a right to infer this from the fact that Governor

Nance, who is known to be intimate with Mr. Valentine's political schemes, had, up to recently, given out that no extra session of the legislature would be called. If Valentine and his political co-partners desired district representation, the governor would have been absolutely certain that an extra session would be called to district the state.

The truth is Valentine has discovered on his recent return from Washington that his scheme to elect three congressmen at large had stirred up a breeze that was liable to become a cyclone, and he has promptly crawled.

The story about Rosewater's wanting Valentine to carry out his scheme is all both. The only foundation for this is that State Senator Morse of Merrick and Representative Root of Cass called at the BEE office Tuesday morning to ascertain the editor's views on congressional apportionment. The editor informed them that he had published an article in favor of district representation and against Valentine's scheme, that morning. Mr. Morse was very emphatic against electing congressmen at large, and both he and Mr. Root stated that the sentiment among their constituents were decidedly in favor of district representation.

The editor incidentally, during the conversation, remarked that the enemies of Valentine could hardly wish for anything better than his success in pulling through his scheme for representation at large because it would array all of the people in central and western Nebraska against him. If Mr. Valentine and his organ take exception to this conversation let them make the most of it.

STAR ROUTE SUMMARY.

The complaint made against the Department of Justice that it is hastening slowly in the prosecution of the star route theives well grounded. There has been no excuse for the delays which have marked the progress of the postal fraud cases and it is sincerely to be hoped that Mr. Brewster and Postmaster General Howe will unite in pushing the trials on indictment to a speedy conclusion.

If they fail in doing so it will certainly not be for lack of evidence under which to convict. For a large amount of that material the department is indebted to the researches of the press, notably the New York Times, whose latest summary of the operations of the star route rings is worthy of close study. From this interesting contribution to the literature of frauds the following facts have been condensed which have reference to only 415 out of a total of 6,000 routes. The Dorsey ring controlled 134 routes, with an original length of 9,687 miles, and at an original contract of \$143,169.42 per annum. Mr. Brady reduced the number of miles to 8,860, and increased the pay to \$622,808.21.

The Price ring controlled thirty-six routes, with an original length of 2,248 miles, and at a contract of \$77,440 per annum. Mr. Brady reduced these routes to 1,941 miles, and increased the pay to \$199,920.26. The Parker ring controlled fifty-four routes, with a mileage of 5,088, and annual pay amounting to \$143,398. Brady reduced the mileage to 4,660, and increased the pay to \$377,395.09. The Salisbury and Gilmer ring controlled eighty routes, containing 9,132 miles, and entitled to \$495,001.69 under the original contract. Brady reduced the number of miles to 8,796, and increased the annual pay to \$1,109,013.08.

The "Barlow" ring, represented now by his son-in-law, had ten routes with 1,604 miles. Brady cut down the service to 1,589 miles, but increased the annual pay from \$152,920 to \$276,764.64.

The Kerens ring had fifteen routes, for which it was to receive an aggregate annual compensation of \$158,896.10, but Brady increased the pay to \$462,395.22 per annum. Another group, embracing eighty-six routes and 4,991 miles, had contracted to do the work for \$91,380.39, but Brady cut down the service to 4,738 miles, and increased the pay to \$209,467.61.

These several rings obtained from the government, in all, the sum of \$3,357,774.11 for a service embracing 33,507 miles, when they had contracted to carry the mails 38,863 miles for \$1,262,365. In addition to those regular routes, there was a "temporary" service, which was let by Brady without competition at ring rates, and at a total cost of \$1,121,323.81.

In concluding the editorial on the subject the Times says: "No person with business capacity enough to run a retail grocery can fail to see the utter impossibility of any such set of transactions having been carried out in good faith or for any other than a swindling purpose." This is the view that every honest citizen of the country will take of the transactions, and Attorney General Brewster and Postmaster General Howe cannot begin too soon or prosecute too warmly the trials of the postal conspirators.

Boyd to Rosewater in the Curry case: "That may be your opinion, but there is no man in Omaha whose opinion is worth less than yours."

Judging from former experience, Rosewater's opinions must have fallen very considerably in respect to what they are "worth." Their price has hitherto ranged all the way from a thousand dollar check to a five dollar note.—Republican.

This is good as coming from the pay roll editor of the Republican. It is a notorious fact which even that brass-collared crank that turns the monopoly organ will not deny that the opinions of the Republican are bought monthly in advance for the small sum of eighty dollars checked on the pay roll of the Union Pacific company in Omaha. In other words the opinions of the editor of THE BEE are wholesaled at the surprising small sum of two dollars and sixty cents a day invariably in advance. As to the value of Rosewater's opinions, opinions vary. To the editor of THE BEE they are worth very little except as affording him an opportunity to earn his Union Pacific salary by combatting them.

If the editor of the Republican is very anxious to know whether they are on sale or not he can find out by inquiring at the Union Pacific headquarters, whose inmates have tried to alternately to crush and buy Rosewater with about equal success. If money could have purchased THE BEE or its editor it would not have been permitted for ten years to uphold the anti-monopoly cause in Omaha and throughout the state, and no one knows this better than the editor of the Republican, whose ammunition must be very low when he is compelled to fall back on the stale slander of that \$1,000 check, which he has repeated so often that he, no doubt, has come to believe the lie. We can easily understand how independence and a fearless outspoken tone in journalism cannot be accounted for by the Republican from any other than its own venal standpoint.

But the community in which THE BEE has struggled and triumphed through long years of persecution, and in which it has never feared to raise its voice against every class of abuse and crime, know the reason of its success and the motives which have inspired it in its fearless course. For this reason they have given it a support which they refuse to the editorial mongers of THE BEE local contemporaries, and that is where the shoe pinches THE BEE and other paid monopoly advocates of the class to which it belongs. Newspapers are not generally bought for speaking the truth about crying abuses, and the sole price of the opinions of the editor of THE BEE has been found in the approbation which they have evoked from the law loving and law-abiding people of this city and state.

The only reliable and official report of the testimony taken in the contested license cases has been given to the public by THE BEE. This testimony was so conclusive that even a board with the most active sympathies in favor of unrestricted license could not close its eyes to its force. We have devoted so much space to this testimony that we cannot afford to incur an extended review of the points made and the facts brought out incidentally which throw upon the methods pursued here in expounding and enforcing the law. Of course it is gratifying that the board under any circumstances has been convinced that it was not expedient to grant licenses where the proof shows clear violations of law or where, as in the Curry case, the house of the applicant is shown to be a resort of gamblers, prostitutes and ruffians.

PERSONALITIES.

Boutwell is a good listener. Don Cameron Keifer is a name invented by a sarcastic paper.

Fatti does not drink water. She adheres strictly to milk as a steady quencher of thirst.

Congressman Hiseock's dress suit was stolen from his room in Washington hotel the other night, and he had to pay \$25 to get it out of a pawnshop.

General Tom Thurlbelle's measure at a clothing store yesterday for twelve suits of wool underwear, to be made by the American Hosiery company. He takes the same size as a child six years old.—[Hastford Courant.]

It must make Denis Kearney green with envy to read of the freedom with which Charles Julius Gilman "fires off his mouth"—a privilege which Denis used to make use of, but in an inferior style.—[Boston Herald.]

Jim Keene's head is as lopsided as Gulliver's. He has a swelling over one ear and an indentation over the other just as though he had been struck with a club. Nobody, however, has pleaded this as a reason why he shouldn't know the right side of the market from the wrong.

CHRISTMAS GIFT OF A SMALL COIN. It is said of Senator Davis that he "is constantly doing that sort of a thing."

OCCIDENTAL JOTTINGS.

CALIFORNIA.

A hot blast from the Mojave desert is fast scouring up the feed in Ventura county, and sheep are dying.

The Fresno Exposition says that fruit trees and grape vines by the thousand are being transported through town to the new orchards and vineyards that are being planted out in that section.

An artesian well, 184 feet deep, and emitting from 15,000 to 175,000 gallons of water per day, has just been sunk on L. J. R. S. Sunny Slope ranch, near Los Angeles, being the sixteenth flowing well on the ranch.

About 2,500 hogs are pastured near Kaweah river, Tulare county, and numbers of California lions are coming down from the mountains to pasture upon the hogs. Many of the latter will be killed unless hunters and trappers start in after the lions.

In pursuance of their resolutions to discourage the use of glasses in making wines and brandies, the St. Helena Viticultural association advises in the paper the name of a grape-grower in that district who used eighty barrels of that material in the manufacture of wine from the last vintage.

The engineers engaged in locating the line of the Oakland and Utah railway, are now camping near San Joaquin City. They are engaged in selecting a site for a bridge between that place and Grayson. The line has been located through Corral H. How Pass. A tunnel of 6,000 feet in length will be required to escape very heavy grades.

OREGON.

There is great excitement in real estate circles in Portland, owing to a recent sale of land amounting to \$1,050,000, to the Oregon railway and navigation company. Up to the 20th of December there has been shipped from Portland to Europe 104,000 tons, and to San Francisco by steamer 15,000 tons of wheat. The amount of shipping in port and at Astoria is 32,000 tons capacity.

Portland seems to be so fully afflicted with young hoodlums. Many of these boys are in the red-necked habit, but looking about the streets at night, smoking, drinking, and smoking cheap cigarettes, is a fine way to prepare them for the penitentiary. The Oregonian gives an instance of a boy of 11 years, the son of respectable parents, who reeled home drunk early in the afternoon.

WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

Small pox is raging in several Indian camps in the territory.

Pullman is the name of a new railroad town near Walla Walla.

Walla Walla is the prospective capital of the new territory to be carved out of northern Idaho and western Montana and portion of Washington.

In the legislature just adjourned there were 221 bills introduced in the house of representatives and 196 in the council during the regular session. Just 50 bills were approved during the extra session.

MONTANA.

The Baptists of Helena are going to build a church.

Custer county has a cash balance of \$19,000 on hand.

The fare from Ogden to Butte over the Utah & Northern is \$30.

It is said that 1,200 immigrants have arrived at Glendive, within three weeks.

The Northern Pacific has 1,236 miles of track in operation, 150 miles of which are in Montana.

Small pox is said to be raging among the Indians in the belt of country extending from Montana to Idaho.

The Chinese of Butte seem to have a private court of their own, at which offenders against Chinese customs are fined and otherwise punished.

An east-rn firm intends to begin the manufacture of buttons from buffalo horns and has ordered several car loads of horns from Miles City.

WYOMING.

Cheyenne expended \$36,000 in private residences last year.

The cost to Wyoming for transporting and keeping insane during the past two years was \$10,000, of which amount there remains up-ld \$5,000.

Cattle on the Bannock range in the northern part of Carbon county, this territory, look better now in mid-winter, than corn-fed beef in Iowa.—[Cheyenne Sun.]

James Daley, an employe of the Union Pacific railroad company at Rawlins, was run over by the start of engine switching cars near the railroad shops and instantly killed.

DAKOTA.

Rapid City is agitating a \$20,000 public school.

Over \$700 has been subscribed for a Catholic church building at Rapid City.

The coal beds on the line of the Northern Pacific come near the surface about forty miles west of the Bismarck river, and extend to the Rocky Mountains. The veins are six to fourteen feet in thickness.

COLORADO.

Gilpin county's production of precious metals during 1881 amounted to \$2,158,930. The total transfer of real estate in Denver during the year was 3,706 pieces; on 187,000 acres, \$6,720,000.

A pit of hyposulfite was ridden out of Dudley on a rail by the exasperated miners, for beating his wife.

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My Motto has always been and always will be: "First to gain superior title and then advertise the fact—not before—no wild advertisements. Some unprincipled dealers being in the habit of copying my announcements, I would beg you, the reader of this, to draw a line between such copied advertisements and those of Yours very truly,

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