

The Omaha Bee

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

Every star route organ in the country is giving Thomas L. James a parting kick. No one can afford to stand it with better grace.

The constitution provides that the right of petition shall not be abridged, but it doesn't enforce signatures from respectable men on behalf of disreputable resorts.

The board of trade met on Tuesday and will listen to the report of their select committee on the paving question. It is to be hoped that the committee will be able to offer practical suggestions in answer to the questions "How to pave" and with what materials.

JAV GOULD is addressing to blackmail the Chicago stock yards into giving him an interest in their concern, under threats of erecting rival yards in case of refusal. This is the old dodge in a new form.

REPRESENTATIVE HAWK, of Illinois, has introduced a bill in the house providing that an attempt on the president's life shall constitute a capital crime, punishable by death. Such a law is imperatively demanded and will meet general approval. The man who attempts the assassination of the chief magistrate of the nation aims a murderous blow at our entire fabric of self-government. With such a law on our statute books cranks inspired by Deity to murder our presidents will be very scarce in this country.

Every resident of our city who has not been vaccinated within the last seven years should at once submit to the operation. It is stated that systematic vaccination reduced the deaths from small pox in Austria, Germany, Sweden and Copenhagen from 62,861 during the last fourth of the last century to 7,403 in the first third of this, the longer period and the larger population returning one-ninth as many deaths as the shorter time and the smaller population at the same period. The same thing would follow compulsory systematic vaccination here; and the present existence and spread of small pox is due to a disregard, little less than scandalous, of the known laws and needs of public health.

MR. C. F. ADAMS, who has conducted the editorial department of the Council Bluffs branch of THE BEE during the past six months, retires from that position to-day and proposes to devote himself henceforth entirely to his law practice. Mr. Adams has discharged the arduous duties devolving on him with signal ability, and the success that has attended the effort of THE BEE to establish a permanent and extensive circulation in Council Bluffs is largely due to his indefatigable industry as a news gatherer, and his zeal on behalf of the principles championed by this paper. In parting with Mr. Adams the editor of THE BEE takes pleasure in commending his past efforts and expressing the hope that he may meet with marked success in his chosen profession.

Although the Otse reservation is not yet offered for sale and therefore still remains the property of the Indians no harm could have come from the temporary squatting of parties on the reservation, which is to be opened to settlement next spring—to purchasers of the lands.—Omaha Bee.

We would like to know what the Bee knows about it. It may not be aware that "squatting" on these lands was a part of a scheme (that has been nipped in the bud) to line the pockets of certain parties in southern Nebraska. Further particulars given on application.—Beatrice Express.

THE BEE knows nothing about the alleged scheme of the parties that were driven from the reservation by the military to line their own pockets or the pockets of any land ring. Our comment was based on the natural assumption that the squatters were parties who had come to establish homes on the reservation and were prepared to pay for these lands just as soon as they were appraised and thrown on the market. If these squatters had any design to defraud the government or the Indians we shall be pleased to publish the fact and call upon the Express to furnish the particulars.

JAY GOULD has forced the Wabash into the Iowa pool. It will be in order now for The Omaha Herald to sustain this iniquity and apologize to Gould for predicting that he was going to break up the pool.

OUR CONTINGENT CONGRESSMAN.

WASHINGTON, January 12.—Thos. J. Majors, of Nebraska, is here for the purpose of claiming his right to a seat in the house of representatives from that state. Last year he was elected as a contingent member from Nebraska, the population having increased to figures entitling it to two members. This was the second time Majors had been elected, but two years ago he had to appeal to a democratic house and was refused admission. Now that the house is republican, he believes he can get his seat. He maintains it is unjust to keep that portion of Nebraska's population which is practically without representation in the house unrepresented until after the passage of the apportionment act. He is backed by the Nebraska delegation and other western representatives.—Associated Press Dispatch.

The people of Nebraska take no stock in the claim of Mr. Majors to represent this state in the lower house of congress. THE BEE voiced their sentiment in refusing to endorse the illegal claim of Mr. Majors to a seat in the house as contingent congressman from Nebraska two years ago, and there is no excuse whatever for continuing the farce. True, the republicans of Nebraska have voted for a contingent congressman every year since 1872, but this was done merely to give notoriety to political adventurers and disappointed candidates who failed to secure congressional nominations.

The people of Nebraska know their rights under the federal constitution. They know that representation in congress is apportioned among the states every ten years on the basis of the national census returns. Congress has no right to enact a law in violation of this provision of the constitution and the president is in duty bound to veto any bill enacted by congress that would attempt to apportion congressional representation for any state on any basis except the decennial census.

But if Nebraska had valid claims for a contingent congressman, which were repeatedly rejected by congress during the past eight years, what excuse is there for pressing such a claim at this late day, when congress is engaged in making the apportionment, by which Nebraska will receive the representation she is entitled to under the census of 1880? Mr. Valentine sets forth his reasons for Tom Majors' claim in the following bill, which has just reached this office:

A bill supplemental to an act entitled "An act for the apportionment of representatives to congress among the several states according to the ninth census."

WHEREAS, It is alleged that the ninth federal census of Nebraska was incorrect and imperfect, showing much less than the actual population of the state at that time; and

WHEREAS, By the state census since taken, by the number of votes polled at every election since that time, and by other decisive evidence, it is shown that said state has sufficient population to entitle it to an additional representative in congress; and

WHEREAS, The people of said state, at the last regular election, elected, by the state at large, such representative, therefore

Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the third of March, eighteen hundred and seventy-nine, said state shall be entitled to and shall be allowed such representative in addition to the one now allowed by law.

The milk in this cocoanut is a trifle of \$10,000 back pay, which if this bill passes would be claimed by Mr. Majors as his salary from March 3d, 1879, for services which he never performed. We know that back pay grabbers have been at a premium in Nebraska, the last back pay grab being \$1,860 voted by the legislature of 1879 to E. K. Valentine for salary as judge for the time during which Mr. Griffith had filled the office, and for which Griffith had already drawn a like sum. But we don't believe the people of Nebraska desire to tax the people of the United States \$10,000 for the benefit of Mr. Majors for services that have not been rendered.

If Mr. Majors is really anxious to represent Nebraska on the floor of the house, why don't he contest the seat which Valentine occupies? The office of contingent congressman is not recognized by the constitution or the laws of the United States. The state of Nebraska is entitled, under the last apportionment, to one congressman, and the person who received a plurality of the votes cast for congressman at the election held in 1880 is the legal representative of the state of Nebraska in congress. There were three candidates for congress voted for at that election. E. K. Valentine, Thomas Majors and J. E. North. If all the votes cast for Thomas Majors had been returned and counted, there is not a shadow of doubt that the total would show a plurality of all the votes cast for him. But the fact is, the canvassers in the various counties did not credit Majors with the votes cast for him as congressman, because it was known that Valentine lost several thousand votes by republicans who scratched his name, many of whom voted for Majors or voted blanks. Fearing a possible contest on the score that Majors was legally elected congressman the returns were falsified in many counties and a grand total was shown to give Valentine a plurality. Having failed to contest his right to the seat of Valentine,

Mr. Majors is only wasting the time of congress at the expense of the country in a repetition of the contingent congressman farce. In this he confers no benefit on Nebraska. The people of this state are content to wait another year, when they will elect their congressmen under the new apportionment. The republicans in congress will not be justified in violating the plain provisions of the constitution—even if the admission of Majors was indispensable to the parties success. They could not consistently give Nebraska an additional congressman, when other states, notably Texas, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota and Arkansas are equally entitled to an increase, and they would hardly be justified in voting Mr. Majors \$10,000 back pay for services he has not rendered.

ANOTHER terrible railway disaster. This time on Vanderbilt's crack road, and one of the victims a state senator and palace car king.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS

German constitutionalism has received a severe shock in the imperial receipt of the emperor, which is likely to precipitate the conflict between the monarchial and popular powers in the country. A more emphatic assertion of despotic power has never been issued.

It claims that the right of the king to direct the government and policy of Prussia in accordance with his own judgment still remains intact, that the ministers in their acts do but give expression to his will. The king says: "It is therefore my will in Prussia, and also in the legislative bodies of the empire. no doubt will be allowed to attach to my constitutional right, or that of my successors, to personally direct the policy of the government." This calls a halt upon the efforts of the liberals, and gives notice that the imperial policy will be carried out irrespective of the opposition to it. The ministers are responsible to him, and to no one else. Their acts originate in his resolve. Germany is the only really civilized country which possesses a ruler that could publish such an edict.

It is veritable Bourbonism. The liberal spirit has been rising in Germany in sympathy with the general movement among the enlightened peoples. Neither Bismarck nor the emperor seems to recognize the irretrievable of its advance, or the futility of attempting to check it. With the lesson of France, of the United States, of England, of Spain and Italy all before them they endeavor to stop what they ought to know to be human evolution. They may erect a temporary barrier, but the stronger they make it the more tremendous will be the flood that gathers behind it, and then when it breaks, as break it must, the consequences will be proportionately disastrous to irresponsible imperialism. The rulers who have grown wise in the philosophy of events, as they have in England, find it well to let the stream flow naturally.

Gladstone's ministry has been strongly reinforced by the avowed adhesion of Lord Derby to the liberal party, an event which has caused great discussion and some excitement in British political circles. Lord Derby's father was one of the conservative bulwarks who, starting in life as a liberal ended as a Tory. The present Lord Derby has been known in the upper house of parliament as a conservative of moderate views, who during the last three years has been tending towards liberalism. His conversion at the present time to Mr. Gladstone's support is of the highest importance, when it is considered that Lord Derby is one of the largest land owners in England and the liberal policy is violently assailed as hostile to property and social order.

Signs of cordial "understanding" between Germany and Turkey excite some alarm among the other nations, especially Great Britain. The sultan is said to have remarked quite recently that for Turkey the days of tribulation and suffering are at an end, and brighter days are about to open. Bismarck, even if he does not encourage the belief that his nation and the sultan are on the best of terms, certainly does not discourage it. A Constantinople correspondent writes that it is the general expectation of official circles that an offensive and defensive alliance will shortly be concluded with Germany. Then, these gossip-mongers have it, France will be attacked on the Rhine, while the Turkish troops and the Arab tribes will unite to drive the French out of Tunis, and to extend the dominions of the sultan from the Nile to the Atlantic. Whether there is anything in this or not, it can hardly be gained that England is not so strong in Turkey as she was a few years ago.

It is officially stated that there is an amount of reasonableness in this assertion which goes far to warrant its truth. The condition of Leo XIII. at the vatican has of late sensibly improved, while circumstances have rendered it more difficult for him to find a suitable resting place elsewhere, in the event of his desiring to leave Rome. There is not much reason to suppose that the Ger-

man government would interest itself for the protection of the papacy, in a way that would imply a restoration of temporal power. Such a proceeding would be a piece of political tergiversation unparalleled even in the erratic history of Prince Bismarck, but it is evident that the German chancellor has given Pope Leo to understand that he, too, is doubtful about the worth of the guarantees given by the Italian government, and that in case of need he will be prepared to see that they are enforced. These are serious words, and yet it is hard to construe the assertions and acts of Prince Bismarck, and the New Year's speech of King Humbert, of Italy, in any other way.

Italy seems to be afraid of her shadow, or something more substantial. Ever since the French undertook their scheme of aggression in Africa, the kingdom washed by the Mediterranean has been uneasy. Italy, remembering the days when she was Rome, and Africa was Carthage, looks upon the region about Tunis as of right belonging to her rather than to any other European power. Not the best feeling, for this and other reasons, now exists between the Italians and the French. On the French side, the tone of the ministers has for a long time been rather hostile to Italy. The menaced country is reaching out in every direction for succor. No alliance would be despised, Austria, Prussia, Russia—anything, anybody—would be accepted. But Italy is by no means a puny infant, or an insignificant nation. She can hold her head well up among her neighbors without being justly accused of undue pretentiousness. Her navy is very strong. Her finances are in tolerable shape. Her army is nearly as large as that of France. But, even so, an increased vote has been asked for the army, more ironclads, of fabulous strength and power, like the Duito, are to be constructed, and new fortifications are to be built on the mountains of the frontier.

The French are not so fond of becoming soldiers as the government could desire. Out of 118,000 men of the first contingent of the class of 1880, recently called out, only 33,000 have put in an appearance. Of the second contingent of 38,000, only 32,000 have answered the appeal. Thus, no less than 29,000 men have not joined their corps for various reasons which the military justice will have to examine. This proportion is elevated beyond all precedent. Four-fifths of these insubordinate citizens will, in the natural course of things, be caught by the gendarmes. The rest will have either to live as malefactors, or else to emigrate. Such are some of the blessings of standing armies.

PEPPERMINT DROFS.

Half a dozen young scapegraces have been caught going about in Minnesota, vaccinating the inhabitants of that enlightened state with maulage.

A Tennessee man told a neighbor that he had hidden in a corn crib and that very neighbor was the chap found in a bear trap at the corn crib the next morning.

A Buffalo man rode three blocks in a street car with a small pox patient and did not catch the disease. Buffalo papers are careful not to say whether he was an old-man or not.

It may, perhaps, scare the brewers a little, but that will be the end of it. If brewers could double their profits by using worse things than glucose, rice, etc., instead of malt they would do it.

A New York fireman threw a stichel containing \$46,000 in bonds out of a window, and it kicked around for six hours before it overtook him. Some fellows don't know when they have a good thing.

They searched the school children at Defiance, Ohio, the other day to find a dirk, and the result was the finding of twenty-six pistols and revolvers and six dirks and stabbars. Education reveals some strange traits.

This has been a hard season for Florida alligators, and the stomach of some of those killed have been found full of pine splinters, stones and other things. Why doesn't some philanthropist turn his attention to this matter.

Railway trains now hurry through Newark, N. J., without stopping. Though nobody there has yet robbed a train, there is no telling what the bank cashiers and city officials will turn their hands to in order to make money when the banks are all broke and the city funds gone.—(St. Louis Post-Dispatch.)

A young man living in Leadville shipped to his little brother in St. Louis as a Christmas present a choice donkey of the of the diminutive species known as the Mexican burro. The agent, in making out his manifest, concluded that "burro" meant "bureau," and reported accordingly to his superior "bureau missing, and one jack-a-over."—(New Haven Fall-Advertiser.)

Do you believe the story that Minister Hamlin, having somehow strayed to a bull fight at Madrid, and after watching the proceedings while, said: "Those fellows don't know how to handle a bull. Why, any farmer boy down round Bangor would know enough to put a ring in the critter's nose and hitch a stick to it. Then they could lead the beast round as handy as could be."—(Boston Post.)

Upon the trial of a man in San Francisco a few days ago the proofs were clear against him; and, in fact, he admitted the offense charged while on the witness stand. To the astonishment of all in the court room, the jury returned a verdict of "Not guilty." The judge before whom the case was tried immediately arose and addressed the jury in the following language: "Gentlemen of the jury, the mental process by which you have arrived at this conclusion I am totally unable to comprehend; and, gentlemen of the jury, it is not amiss for me to say to you now that the man in power, the man of position of the United States voted in the president, and it is not exactly proper that a petit jury should usurp that power's adding in the same breath: 'Mr. District Attorney, call your next case.'"

demonstrated that an insignificant minority could bring on a deadlock under the present rules of the house, and no manner of doubt exists but that the much larger conservative minority can block any measure it chooses to oppose by the deadweight of obstruction. A change in the procedure of the house becomes, therefore, a necessary preliminary to legislation; but on this issue, which puts the liberal party distinctly in the attitude of advocating the tyranny of the majority, it will be difficult for Mr. Gladstone to keep his majority together.

The queen of England is generally supposed to be very saving, and to have accumulated a great deal of money. It has, therefore, been thought strange that she fails to keep her numerous children, notably the Prince of Wales, out of debt. The London Truth asserts, however, that while she does save, she has not been able to lay any great sum by. When Prince Albert died many of the state departments were in debt; these debts have been paid off. Some of them—such as that of the master of the house—for which \$50,000 per annum is allowed—always have to borrow from the other departments or from the privy purse. Although the court does not entertain largely, the mis-en-scene is pretty much the same as if it did. The queen really does not put as much as \$100,000 per annum on an average year. She has always given \$500,000 to each of her daughters who has married, and this has drained her savings.

The morals of the people in Italy show a marked improvement during the last two years. Thus, in the first half of 1879 there were 1,964 cases of homicide and infanticide, while in 1880 there were 1,717, and in 1881 only 1,542. In 1879 there were 1,334 cases of highway and other robberies and of extortion, increasing in 1880 to 1,564 cases, but decreasing in 1881 to 967. Thefts in 1879 were 13,172, increasing in 1880 to 11,577, but decreasing this year to 11,567. During the first nine months of 1881 it is notable that there have been 210 cases less of homicide and 569 cases less of highway robbery; also, 20,000 cases less of theft and 1,000,123 francs less damage to property. This improvement is supposed to be largely due to the new police regulations, and with so much to encourage him, the minister of the interior has determined to increase the efficiency of the police on foot, which at present does not bear a right proportion to the mounted force.

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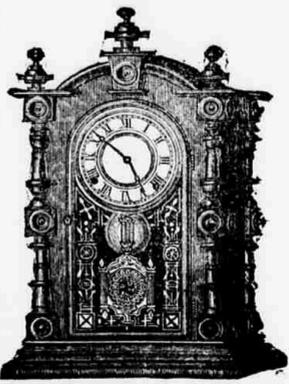
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