

The Omaha Bee

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OMAHAPUBLISHING CO., Prop'rs E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

The Russian bear is at present the European bugbear.

STRANGERS are again beginning to voice their prejudice against Omaha's mud.

OMAHA'S school population is increasing in a greater proportion than her school attendance.

COMMITTEE work at Washington is said to be overwhelming. It is gratifying to know that a congressman can be overwhelmed with work.

WINTER and spring wheat throughout the west give promise of an abundant crop and reports from the east indicate that the fruit yield will be enormous during the coming season.

MR. McVEIGH is opposed to railroad regulation, first because it will interfere with legitimate competition, and second because it will prevent pooling. Mr. McVeigh's third reason is because it might cut down the salary of \$10,000 a year which he receives from the Pennsylvania railroad company.

The everlasting discussion over the retirement of General Grant has been ended by the passage of Logan's bill placing him on the retired list with the rank of general and the pay appertaining to that rank. We shall now be relieved from the constant dinging about the ingratitude of republicans.

IOWA is to have an additional judge in the Fifth judicial district, which is composed of the counties of Polk and Warren. The Third judicial district of Nebraska, over which Judge Savage presides, might be profitably dealt with in the same way. Its business is the heaviest and most burdensome of any in the state.

ROSCOE CONKLING has been nominated by President Arthur to the vacancy on the supreme bench left by the retirement of Justice Hunt. It will be remembered that a like position was offered Mr. Conkling by President Grant and declined. In making the nomination Mr. Arthur has recognized past services and overlooked past faults. In point of ability Mr. Conkling is inferior to four of the justices of the supreme court.

The drop in grain and provisions has at once influenced the export trade, and cargoes are clearing from New Orleans for European ports composed entirely of grain which has been transported down the Mississippi. During January the decrease in our breadstuffs exports was \$3,060,000 as compared with the same period last year. This was largely due to the Chicago combinations which locked up grain in the warehouses and elevators, and prevented its movement to the coast.

The nomination of ex-Senator Sargent to the Berlin mission will be in one sense a relief to the public. It effectually disposes of his claims to the interior department, and seems to assure the permanency of Governor Kirkwood's tenure of office. Mr. Sargent was too deeply interested in the desert land steal to make an impartial and efficient secretary of the interior. He probably will do no harm in Berlin, and may develop diplomatic abilities which, up to the present time have only shown themselves in working elections at the Mare Island navy yard.

The Republican questions the statement of THE BEE that several vacancies exist in the legislature which ought to be filled before the extra session this spring. It calls attention to vacancies filled at the November election and asks for a bill of particulars regarding any further seats which have no occupants. If THE BEE is not misinformed there are several such vacancies which have been created since the fall elections by death and the acceptance of federal office. Governor Nance can probably furnish the Republican the desired information in detail.

BLAINE AND SHIPPERD. The publication of the Shipperd correspondence relating to the Peruvian guano claims and the connection of prominent Americans with the company organized to prosecute them, entirely clears the skirts of James G. Blaine from any complicity in the affair which would be improper for a public official or prejudicial to the good name of our government.

Shipperd in his circulars issued for the purpose of advertising his scheme, seems to have used without the slightest sanction on their part, the names of hundreds of prominent men, including General Grant, Mr. Evans, Governor Morgan and General Logan. All of these deny most emphatically that they ever gave Shipperd any authority for connecting them with his project, or that they had entertained for a moment any thoughts of investing their capital in a scheme embarrassed by so many diplomatic and financial difficulties. Mr. Blaine, however, as is shown by the publication of the state department correspondence, set his foot upon the speculation from the start. He not only declined to permit his own name to be used by Shipperd but refused to permit the name or influence of the government to be brought into connection with the project. And when he learned that Shipperd had paid no attention to his remonstrances he wrote him in terms which left no doubt of his meaning and which prevented any further operations in that direction.

The opponents of Mr. Blaine who are forever attempting to furnish him material upon which to base a presidential canvass have failed as signally to smirch his character in this Peruvian claim matter as they have in a score of other instances. In the fragment of the Chicago Times "His enemies probably expected to so pile dirt upon Blaine's presidential pasture as entirely to destroy its bloom and promise. They have succeeded, as the case now stands, in enriching it sufficiently with their Peruvian guano to give it perennial freshness. As the Peruvian claim business is unraveled, the perfect straightforwardness of Mr. Blaine in treating it becomes apparent."

CLOSE upon the report of Congressman Anderson's bill lately introduced in the house comes a dispatch announcing that Senator Van Wyck has brought before the senate a bill to compel the land grant railroads to take out patents on their unpatented lands and place them on a par so far as taxation is concerned with other owners of real estate in this state and the territories. Full details of the measure have not yet reached us. Its purport is probably much the same as that of Mr. Anderson, which was commented upon in our last issue. In drafting and introducing this measure Senator Van Wyck has shown a proper appreciation of the needs of this state and the wishes of its constituents. The evasion of taxes by railroads in Nebraska amounts to nearly \$200,000 annually, a large portion of which ought to be borne by the unsold lands held by the Union Pacific for speculative purposes. It is to be hoped that the bill will receive the attention of the senate and become a law.

THE North American Review for March is filled with interesting matter by the best contributors. Senator Edmunds, in reviewing the conduct of the Guiteau trial, exonerates Judge Cox, but makes some good suggestions about enforcing order upon the audience in criminal trials. Ex-Minister Noyes sketches the progress of the French republic. Judge Thomas gives new interest to the old subject of trial by jury; and John Fiske traces the true lesson of Protestantism in the conclusion that "religious belief is something which in no way concerns society, but which concerns only the individual." William Justin Harsh advocates a uniform and just law for the Indiana. Professor Palmer and Neal Dow contribute papers of a nature to stir up the liveliest discussion; the former pointing out what he considers to be the fallacies of homopathy, and the latter summing up from his standpoint the results of prohibitory legislation. This is a number of this standard periodical which no well-informed man can afford to be without. No. 30 Lafayette place, New York.

GENERAL RUCKER, who was appointed quartermaster general a few weeks ago in place of General Meigs, has been placed on the retired list and General Rufus Ingalls nominated for the position. This sort of juggling is rendered necessary by the failure of congress to pass a law retiring army officers when they reach a proper age for such action.

ONLY five days remain before our premium offer closes. All parties who intend to continue their subscription ought to take advantage of our offer, as the premiums we give are just as we represent them. Every subscriber who prepays for six months will receive a premium worth at least one dollar, and every subscriber has an equal chance at our best premiums some of which are very valuable.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS. Russia is again monopolizing the attention of Europe. The speech of General Skobelev to the students of Paris undoubtedly voiced the real sentiments of the home government in its intention to secure at some future time a Pan Slavic union even at the expense of open warfare with the German element in Austria, and further east. There are ugly rumors that Russia has been at the bottom of the insurrection in Herzegovina and Bosnia and that it is quietly doing all she can to aid the insurgents and stimulate the revolution. Russian officers of rank are constantly receiving indefinite leaves of absence and departing southward and their errand is patent to every observer. General Skobelev is the most popular Russian commander and represents the national element of St. Petersburg. His statement that his sympathies are strongly with the Slavs and that if a war of races should break out that Russia would not hesitate which side to take is especially significant at the present time. All the continental journals denounce the speech as indiscreet and likely to disturb the existing peaceful relations. Germany has gone so far as to make an official protest against its tenor, and to demand a reprimand from the Czar against its author.

It is a serious question whether Russia is prepared for war. Although boasting of its vast territorial empire and its hundred millions of population the Czar's empire can in reality count on only about half of its people and but a small fraction of its territory for anything like a loyal and devoted support. Finland is as foreign to Russia as when it was forcibly annexed hereto. It has its own senate, its own money, postal and customs stamps, and official documents. Poland is a perpetual sorecrow for the czar's government. "White Russia" is Russia only in name, its people being of a different race, and having their own religion and language. "Little Russia" is inhabited largely by Cossacks of the Don, who maintain their separate identity, though now strictly forbidden by the government to use their own language in schools, in public offices, or in literature. The three Baltic provinces are German in name and fact, and scorn anything Russian. The lands of the Don Cossacks, the Ural Cossacks, and the Kuban Cossacks are in fact self-governed, and every attempt to put them on the same footing with the rest of the empire has been met with bloody opposition. The Caucasus is only a conquered country, and a large army is maintained there at great expense to keep it quiet; and Turkestan and other Asiatic provinces recently acquired are looked upon as temporary possessions, which can only be kept under subjection to the czar by a great and continual loss of men and money. Siberia is full of men who hold the Russian government in thorough abhorrence, and would be ready to revolt against it if they believed success possible. This central part of the empire, loyal to the government and the czar.

Parliament has been occupied during the past week in discussing and voting upon the Bradlaugh case, in arguing the coercion question, and in alternately opposing and postponing the settlement of Mr. Gladstone's "cloture." By a close vote, after having been permitted to take the oath, Bradlaugh was expelled from the house of commons and a new writ of election issued for the borough of Northampton. At the new election Bradlaugh will again be a candidate. The efforts to embarrass the ministry in the disposition of the case failed, and in the final vote party lines did not figure largely. Indications are that the measure for "cloture," or closing debate, will receive a strong enough party support to secure its passage. In case it does not, Mr. Gladstone announces his intention of dissolving parliament and calling for a new election. This threat is said to have proved effective in holding together the majority, as elections are expensive luxuries in England, and many of the members do not care to risk a return in the present uneasy state of political feeling.

The British and French governments are yet far from concluding a commercial treaty on the old basis, or anything like it. The London Economist says that the government has received from France her final proposals, and that they are such as cannot be accepted. The fact is that France has her own industries to protect, and cannot afford to have those of England put into competition with them. It is just here where the hitch comes in between the two countries.

Ireland has 576,000 land holdings, of which 50,000 are less than one acre—mere town lots. Of the remaining 526,000, about 150,000 tenants are excluded from the benefits of the land act by the size of their holdings; leaving 376,000 privileged to apply to the Land Court for a reduction of rents. Of these, 62,331 have already been applied, and 970 cases have been decided—the average reduction of rents being about 25 per cent.

Emigration to Cape Colony from Great Britain is fast increasing. For 1879 the returns show only 1,332 emigrants; for 1880 the number was 2,607; for 1881 it was 4,163. These 4,163 consisted of 324 men for the Government railways, 2,613 artisans and domestic servants, 758 agriculturists, and 468 recruits for the Cape Mounted Riflemen. The agriculturists took out with them in money alone an aggregate of \$77,325, or a little over \$100 for each man, woman, or child.

The recent anti-Jewish riots in Warsaw were very disastrous in their results. During the disturbances 292 Jewish taverns were destroyed, 603 stores, restaurants, medical establishments and places of worship, and 493 lodgings. The riots extended beyond the limits of the city, and there were outbreaks in several neighboring villages. The number of ruined families has been officially stated at over 5,000, comprising about 20,000 individuals. It is claimed that only one person, a woman, was murdered, but a great number were wounded. Thirty-one hundred rioters were arrested, all of whom were confined in the citadel and held for trial.

Egypt's new departure in government places the powers by an astonishing concession. Slavery is abolished through the length and breadth of the kingdom. This reform, with all the power of England, backed by the moral support and overt exertions of France, has not been able to secure an event which will command the attention of the world. But few strokes of policy in the history of the world can be brought in parallel with it—the manumission of the south, the freedom of the serf, and the edict of Nantes. Beginning with such a statesman-like demonstration as this, the home rulers will be apt to win the support of France.

The average number of persons who inhabit a house in the various cities of Europe give an excellent notion of the distribution of wealth. Among the larger cities of Western Europe, where the system of family houses is dominant, the average is of course small. Thus, the average for Bremen is 6 1/2, for London 8, for Amsterdam 9, for Rome 12, for Cologne 13, and for Frankfurt-on-the-Main 16. In other well-known cities the averages are these: Paris 35, Trieste 32, Budapesth 33, Konigsberg 25, Breslau 27, Leipzig 36, Berlin 58, and Vienna 57.

The Utter Young Man. The youth bore a cane in his nimble right hand. As down the broad street he did strut, In style superbly and awfully grand, That made folks ejaculate wildly, "My God! That fellow's too utterly utt!" Approaching the bar he remarked there aloud, "Some whisky and claret—tut, tut!" Then smiling polite, left and right to the crowd, He laughed out an opera and giggled and bowed— For he was too utterly utt!

HONEY FOR THE LADIES. Scotch gingham comes in handsome solid colors. Many new spring basques are cut double-breasted. Women are not cruel by nature. We need not heed of one thoughtless enough to step on a mouse. A girl at St. Joe who went crazy when her lover died was off to a dance on the fourth night after.

RELIGIOUS. There are in Kansas 299 Presbyterian churches, with 12,044 members. The Baptist churches of Massachusetts raised for all purposes last year \$624,594. It is to be expected that the new Congregational Church, at \$20,000 toward the project has already been subscribed.

CONNUBIALITIES. When a couple make up their minds to get married it may be called a vote. Senator Davis is again to be married, according to Washington gossip, this time to a rich widow in Maryland. A Minnesota man, aged fifty-seven, recently married the seventeen-year-old daughter of his second wife. A New York restaurant advertises a square meal for five cents, and now why can't a married couple live on \$300 a year.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC. Miss Henrietta Beebe has been remarkably successful in concert in England. Susan B. Anthony is sixty-one years of age. About time she was tackling "Hamlet." Miss Gerster has already signed a contract to sing in opera in this country next season. It is positive that Barlow, Will on, Nougay and West dissolve partnership after this season.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES. There are 246 public school teachers in Indianapolis, of 227 of whom were women. Rochester university has now 162 students, 49 of the number being freshmen. General E. W. Leavenworth, of Syracuse, has just given \$10,000 to Hamilton college for the foundation of a scholarship. In Connecticut last year 1,334 public schools were in operation under the charge of 2,802 teachers in winter, and 2,783 in summer. The number of pupils receiving instruction was 119,499.

PEPPERMINT DROPS. The honest always carries his point. The ice dealers little venture; "You may talk about the ice, but it's the ice house that takes the cake." They have a brand of whisky in Kentucky known as the "Horn of Plenty," because it will corn you copiously. Bacon says, "Heating makes a full man. That must be the reason in Pennsylvania where the brewery is located." New Orleans floozy.

IMPIETIES. The question of the day is not only "Are your windows open toward Jerusalem?" but, are they provided with fire escapes? An eastern revivalist says "that young ladies who dance will, sooner or later, dance in hell." We have heard that before; but what place will the revival nuisance fill in this sultry climate? At a young ladies' seminary recently, an examination in history, one of the pupils was interrogated thus: "Mary, did Martin Luther die a natural death?" "No," was the reply; "he was excommunicated by a bull."

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