

The Omaha Bee

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

It wouldn't be surprising if Mr. Conkling should refuse the associate justiceship on the ground that he "wasn't consulted."

The governor of Kansas has announced that he will not call an extra session and three congressmen will be chosen at large at the fall elections.

The Denver Tribune asks: "Is Oscar Wilde a crank?" Perhaps not. But at the same time it must be admitted that he is turning his aesthetic tunes into money.

John M. Palmer won't be Mr. Tilden's running mate in the next campaign but he has achieved his end in getting a good deal of cheap notoriety as the tail of the Gramercy Park kite.

Under a special statute the plumbers of New York City were required to register as plumbers with the county clerk on the first day of March. It is evident that New York is determined to have a census of her millionaires.

Val's northern Nebraska constituents will read with interest the accounts of the Norfolk land office recently published in yesterday's Bee. Val's good man Friday, Schwenck, wasn't the only party who had a finger in the dirty pie.

St. Louis complains of the increase in the assessed valuation of her property. There could be a very considerable increase in Omaha before her citizens would be furnished with any good grounds for complaint.

It will now be in order for the press of the United States to get in a back handed slap at English journals by remarking that assassination is the legitimate outgrowth of a monarchical form of government.

Iowa's legislature is constituted on a solid basis. The average weight of the senators is one hundred and ninety-eight pounds, and the heaviest senator tips the beam at two hundred and fifty. The average weight of the representatives is one hundred and seventy pounds. No wonder Iowans look for heavy-weight legislation.

Who has been telling tales out of school? The Philadelphia Press says that Omaha has a bad detective force, like Philadelphia; only in Omaha the rogues who wear detective badges are fighting it out among themselves and the mayor is spared either the trouble of causing an investigation or the reproach of avoiding one.

OMAHA cannot afford to shut her eyes to the experience of other cities in paving. Every experiment has proved that macadam and wood block pavements are far more expensive in the long run than pavements of durable materials. Seven years is the average life of a wooden block pavement, after which time it must be replaced at an expense fully equal to the original cost.

MONEY ought to be very easy during the present month. The government will disburse \$32,800,000 on account of pensions, bond redemption, and interest on the public debt. About five millions of the foregoing sum will be disbursed from the New York sub-treasury. In addition to the government payments, an aggregate of \$15,000,000 will find its way to the public in the shape of interest and dividends from banks and other corporate institutions.

ARTISTS who believe that in these days of consolidations and poolings such a thing as competition in rail, road or telegraphing is possible, will be interested in the fact that the wires of the Mutual Union telegraph company have been extended as far as Kansas City, and construction work is now being pushed westward. The route to San Francisco will be from Kansas City to Denver direct, thence via the Denver & Rio Grande railroad to Salt Lake, thence via Ogden and Virginia City to San Francisco. If there be no failure in present arrangements, the line will be completed through during the present year.

IS THE AGE DEGENERATE?

A writer in one of our leading magazines bemoans the degeneracy of the present age when compared with the early days of the republic. Politically, socially and morally, if we are to believe this latter day Jeremiah, our people are worse than their predecessors and the tendencies of the times give no encouragement for a future which will be more promising than the present. A comparison is drawn between the character of the national legislature and that of the assemblies of former years and the question is asked "Where are our Websters and Sumners and our Sewards, our Clays and Calhouns and Bentons?" The same line of enquiry is carried out in the social and moral world and what is termed the "stern simplicity" of the Puritans is contrasted with the "luxurious ease" of their descendants.

The writer referred to furnishes a very apt illustration of the tendency of a certain class in every community to groan over the degeneracy of the age in which they live and to sigh for the "good old days of the past." Such persons have existed since creation and will probably last until the Millennium puts an end to their croaking. We do not believe that the people of to-day are possessed of less ability or intelligence or are worse politically or morally than their predecessors. The world knows more about itself and about the people who live in it than it used to. A thousand circumstances combine to impress mankind with a vivid sense of the follies of humanity and of the evils which prevail. The press, with its myriad eyes searches every nook and corner of the earth and lays before us every day a faithful picture of the good and evil which has transpired in the world during every twenty-four hours. We are daily brought face to face with humanity at its worst and its best. The proceedings of parliament, the speeches of statesmen, the pretenses of demagogues, the rascality of knaves and criminals, are made known to us with impartial fidelity. Fifty years ago limited facilities for learning of current events concealed them from the general view, and only great crimes and scandals escaped the seclusion of the localities where they were produced. The proceedings of congress were not telegraphed daily in detail to a thousand papers, and though the debates were as bitter and boisterous, and the speeches as long-winded and empty as any of the present day, knowledge of them, so far as the outside world was concerned, expired with their echoes in the senate chamber and hall of the house of representatives. In the days of Webster and Clay and Calhoun and Douglas croakers pointed to the palmy times when Hamilton and Jefferson and Adams were heard on the floors of congress, and doubtless as far back as the beginning of the century the times were denounced as degenerate as compared with the days of the old Continental congress, when Franklin and Hancock and Witherspoon debated on the prerogatives of his majesty, George the Third. It is safe to say that politicians in the past were as unscrupulous as those of the present. There were fewer offices of public trust then and consequently fewer opportunities for public plunder and it was easier to conceal official dishonesty. To-day every man in public position is the center to which a thousand newspaper microscopes are directed, quick to detect and eager to herald every defect. Our public men are as brainy and as able of those of the last generation. Their increasing numbers is responsible for the fact that two or three do not stand out alone as representatives of all the excellences of public orators against the backgrounds of respectable mediocrity. Twenty years hence we shall hear the inevitable croaker complaining that we have no more Blaines or Edmunds or Sherburnes or Bayards or Stephens or Lamars, and the next generation will just as certainly lament its political degeneracy.

The same holds true of our intellectual and moral condition. People on the whole are much better in the present age than ever before. The standard of excellence in every line of intellectual activity has increased with increasing knowledge. The general state of society will compare favorably with what it has been. If the vices of society seem greater it is because society is much larger and knowledge of its condition much more widely diffused. But we must not forget that if increasing wealth has brought an increase of vice it has also brought a more liberal knowledge, a better system of education, a more thorough acquaintance with and practice of sanitary laws and a great development of the resources of the world, all tending to a bettering of the social and moral condition of our people. The "good old times" doubtless seem better to us than they did to our ancestors who lived in them.

Tennessee bonds have fallen fifty per cent since the repudiation of a portion of the state debt. This means that it will cost the state twice as much to borrow money to-day as it did two months ago.

CARL SCHURZ is out in The Evening Post favoring Sargent's appointment to the Berlin mission. He claims that Mr. Sargent will make a capable and efficient minister.

THE decrease in the public debt for February amounted to \$9,783,511, which, with the preceding eleven months, makes a total reduction for the year of \$37,227,043.

THE HARVEST OF CRIMINALS. Red-Handed Villains of Every Grade Gathered at the Capitol. A Score of Scoundrels in Safe Houses.

LINCOLN, Neb., March 2.—Lincoln is now establishing a very fair reputation as a place for crime and a resort for criminals. The sheriff informs your correspondent that crime of all kinds is increasing very rapidly. The offenses are the grossest known to the law, as well as the most trivial. At present there are twenty prisoners confined in the county jail, each of whom has killed his man. Quin Bohanan, of whom so much has been said in the papers, is confined for the murder of Cook at Waverly, and the jury has just found a true bill against him charging murder in the first degree.

ARMY RETIREMENT AND PROMOTION.

The bill for the compulsory retirement of all officers of the army who have reached the age of 62 years or who have served forty years, still hangs fire with the immediate prospect of going off. In the meantime the house committee on military affairs have decided to favorably report the Maginnis bill increasing the pay of officers below the rank of major who have served for fifteen years in one grade. This measure while just is entirely inadequate to deal with the state of affairs now existing in the army which, unless some remedy is furnished, will continue to do grave injustice to the younger officers, and greatly impair the efficiency of the service.

One of the strongest objections to the retirement bill is that pay on the retired list is small as compared with that on the active list. The highest rank that most of the officers in the service can hope to obtain after forty years of active duty is that of colonel and a large portion will be in even lower grades. The system of retirement ought to be generous to the officers retired. In the navy, where there is a compulsory retirement system, promotions are much more rapid than in the army, and officers, after passing through all grades, retire on the rank and pay of rear admiral. In the army there are now five major generals on the retired list, while the navy retired list has forty-three rear admirals. There have been only three promotions since the close of the war to the rank of major general, while there have been forty-five promotions to the rank of rear admiral. When it is considered that there are now nearly one hundred first lieutenants in the army who have served over twenty years, more than fourteen of which have been in their present grade, it can readily be seen how absolute the stagnation is and how great is the need of some remedy to start the ball of promotion by lopping off some of the aged branches at the top of the service.

Promotion, or the hope of promotion, in the army, as elsewhere, is a strong incentive to action and efficiency. It is a gross wrong on the part of the government to take away this spur to an honorable ambition, especially when it is offered to another branch of the service no more arduous or important.

The Chicago Times says that the immediate effect of retiring all officers at the age of 62 would be to create two vacancies in the list of generals: General Sherman was 62 last month and General McDowell was 63 last fall. As the law now stands, the retirement of General Sherman would not open the way to any promotions, as the rank of general terminates with the service of the present incumbent. It is believed by many, however, that the desire to do something for two such distinguished and popular officers as Generals Sherman and Hancock would induce congress to renew the rank of general. In that case Lieutenant General Sheridan would succeed him and Major General Hancock would be promoted to be lieutenant general, and there would be two vacant major generalships to be filled. The senior major general would then be Schofield, who was 50 last fall, and as General Sheridan has eleven years yet between him and the fatal 62, there would be no more promotions at the head of the list for some time, in all probability. The two brigadier generals who would succeed Hancock and McDowell would be Pope and Howard, if the promotions should be made in regular order. General Pope, however, would have but little time to serve, as he will be 69 in a few days. General Howard is only 51. Two colonels would be promoted to succeed Generals Pope and Howard, and three colonels would be retired at once, making room for the promotion of five lieutenant colonels. The three who would be retired are Getty, Branaman, and Hunt, of the 3d, 4th and 5th artillery respectively, each of whom was 62 last year. Besides Col. Getty, there are eight colonels whose commissions date from July 28, 1866. These are Edward Hatch and Grierson, of the cavalry, and Gibbon, Wilcox, Stanley, Ruger, Pennybacker and C. H. Smith, of the infantry. Col. Stanley is 59, Col. Gibbon 56, Col. Stanley 54, Col. Ruger 49, and Col. Grierson 45. Gibbon and Wilcox have each served thirty-five years in the army. If they should succeed the two promoted brigadier generals, General Wilcox would have to retire in April, 1885, and General Gibbon could serve till 1888. Among the other officers, Colonel J. H. Potter, of the 24th infantry; J. P. Hatch, of the 2d cavalry, and S. D. Starke, of the 7th cavalry, would have 10 years more to serve. Colonel Neill, of the 8th cavalry, and Ayres, of the 2d artillery, would have five years more of service before them, and Colonel Andrews, of the 25th infantry, seven years; Colonel Grover and Brackett, of the 1st and 3d cavalry, nine years; Colonel Carr, of the 6th cavalry, ten years; Colonel Merritt, of the 5th cavalry, is much younger than these, and would have sixteen years of service remaining to him.

It is considered very doubtful at Washington whether any measure will be passed by congress at the present session looking to national railway regulation. The lobby is unusually strong and amply provided with means and members are about as easily influenced as ever by monopoly money. Still the hundreds of thousands of names signed to petitions praying for relief from railway oppressions may make it necessary for the national law makers to hide themselves behind some law like Mr. Adams railway commission bill which will be entirely worthless as a remedy for the abuses and evils which hang like barnacles on our railway system, but at the same time will be apparently a concession to the popular demand. The Chicago Tribune thinks that the railroads are wasting a good deal of effort and their attorneys are straining their ingenuity needlessly, in the movement to defeat national legislation for the regulation of railroad common carriers. There is good reason to believe that congress will avail itself of the thinnest pretext for avoiding its responsibility to the people in this matter. The best evidence of this disposition is to be found in the utter neglect of the outrageous extortion which has been practiced for years by the Pacific railroads, which were built with public money and are operated under the immediate authority of congress. The acts of congress chartering these companies expressly reserve the right to alter, amend, or repeal, and place the right of congress to regulate tolls and fares beyond all dispute; yet a persistent and defiant system of extortion has been maintained without so much as a protest on the part of congress. The government furnished the money and lands to construct the roads, and the stock does not represent the investment of scarcely a dollar. The people have, consequently, the highest claim to protection. Yet these Pacific railroads have maintained passenger rates at the exorbitant figure of five to eight cents a mile, and made freight rates so high that it has been found cheaper to ship goods from the west by way of New York and around Cape Horn and thus into the interior of California and Nevada than to submit to the practical confiscation by the trans-continental railroads. Nevertheless, congress, with full authority to act, has never interfered to protect from this robbery the people who furnished the money to build the roads. Looking at the railroad question from this point of view, it must be admitted that there is small prospect for congressional regulation of railroads which were not constructed with public funds.

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POLITICAL NOTES.

It is Tilden's hand, but Palmer declines with thanks.—Atlanta Constitution. The Rev. Thos. K. Beecher was nominated for mayor of Elmira on the green-back ticket.

Senator Hawley has accepted the invitation to deliver the appropriation of 1882, the rapidly growing western states have called for fifty-five.

The Mississippi senate has passed a bill imposing a privilege tax on railroads that discriminate in freight rates. The house of representatives has passed a bill making the judiciary elected by the legislature.

The Texas republicans are showing unexpected energy and there is a disposition to see what strength the party can develop. They hope to elect at least one member of congress under the new arrangement.

The Georgia papers give a large amount of space and time to circulating the rumor of a movement in that state. Letters from the north say that it troubles the democratic leaders more than they care to admit.

A correspondent of the Augusta (Ga.) Herald, says that when Senator Dawes is speaking in a meeting, he is "excavated" for truth, and spading away rapidly.

The democratic members of the Ohio legislature are endeavoring to secure nine of the twenty-one congressional districts into which the state will be divided. They can accomplish it, however, only by the aid of disaffected republican members.

George Alfred Townsend, once the partner of Colonel Dunn Platt, gives in the Cincinnati Enquirer a rumor that "Platt, when in New York some time ago, was struck by a banker with a \$1,200, and meekly gave his check on the West Liberty bank." Platt's bills made in Paris, where he was secretary of legation a great many years ago, are still in a bad, and the press at attaches are occasionally dunned for them.

The centennial anniversary of the birth of Thomas Hart Benton will fall on the 14th inst. "Old Bullion" served Missouri in the United States senate for thirty consecutive years, but in 1857, he was elected to the St. Louis Republican, "ignited by the state that he honored a man who in his old age was dictatorial and tyrannical and quarrelsome with the good citizens as they do—as we undoubtedly will very soon. Heavy immigration is raising wages there, and increase of population will bring ours nearer theirs. Money is accumulating here which will give us as cheap capital when we want it as they have. \$7,500 to stock a 200 acre farm shows us that we are understocked for want of plenty of means. They do not feed maize to their milch cows, they feed turnips and oats. Our dairymen will learn in time that we need not so much corn to cows for the good as breeders or for the highest profit in milk. They make close calculations over there. Mr. Cowan thinks if they do their best and we do our best in cheese making, their climate will enable them to sell in their own markets for two cents a pound more than we can sell for, but our strong soil will far more than counterbalance both that margin and freight. The power of our soil to raise grass and grain has never been suspected as a controlling factor; foreigners only estimate the expense of our land, not its excellence.

When we begin to economize closely we will use our straw for fodder as they do, instead of burning it or rotting it. Iowa wastes fearfully in the line of fodder. Those rent paying farmers must utilize everything that will turn a penny profit. We need not a fair management will give profits, but the tendency here is toward closer economy, and soon every farmer will fully make his place, utilizing everything that grows, and growing nothing of no utility. They find it most profitable to keep half the land in grass, but buy manure to keep it up; we must keep more than one-half in grass, as buying fertilizers is not practicable. They know from experience that ruin would follow any more exhaustive system, and we will learn that, too, by experience. There is a marked difference here now between the farms that have been in grass since the settlement of the prairie, and those that have been rotated in grass.

PERSONALITIES. Sargen has one redeeming quality—he began life as a printer. Of Secretary Frelinghuysen it is charged that he is socially very cool. The Prince of Wales, it is said, has recently taken to American whiskey, and is now addicted to "Your Ryesens."

AGED GRATITUDE. FLINT, Mich., June 22, 1881. H. W. WARNER & Co. Sirs.—I am 72 years old, and have not been so well in 20 years as I am to-day, thanks to your Sarsaparilla and Liver Cure, the best remedy in the world. mch7-dlw IRWIN WILDER.

DYING BY INCHES. Very often we see a person suffering from some form of kidney complaint, and is gradually dying by inches. This no longer need be so, for Electric Bitters will positively cure Bright's disease, or any diseases of the kidneys or urinary organs. They are especially adapted to this class of diseases, acting directly on the stomach and liver at the same time, and will speedily cure where every other remedy has failed. Sold at fifty cents a bottle by Ish & McMahon.

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NOTICE. Ezekiel Durnall, of Utah Territory, and Frank Durnall, of the state of Iowa, will take notice that Jose W. Starnes did, on the 17th day of January, 1882, file in the County Court of Douglas County, a petition to revise the judgment rendered by him in said court against the said Ezekiel and Frank Durnall, on the 22nd day of January, 1876, for the sum of \$100.45, damages and costs, and praying that execution be awarded for the same on the 15th day of January, 1882, and that the said Jose W. Starnes be thereupon ordered that the said Ezekiel Durnall and Frank Durnall show cause on or before the 15th day of March, 1882, why the said judgment should not be revived.

True Enough. Philadelphia Times. Conkling should take the place offered him by the president. The next president may not be willing to offer him anything.

Co-operative Cost of Producing in British and American Soil.

Mr. George Cowan, a Scotch farmer, testifies before the Parliamentary commission to many facts of interest to Iowa farmers. I glean from The Callaway Gazette. He says the average rents per acre in the southwest of Scotland are \$6. They keep half their land in grass and pasture, it rarely taking a crop of hay, using straw for fodder. One-third of the land in crop, being one-sixth of the farm, is mowed every year. Six cwt. of crushed bones per acre are used to clothe the barn yard manure. It is a dairy district; they make Cheddar cheese. The cheese from a cow brings \$57. The whey from three cows feeds one swine. The cows go from 8 to 10 weeks dry.

Two acres are required to pasture a cow. Five per cent. of the cows have to be renewed from old age and other causes. Ayrshire cows are used altogether. Seven thousand five hundred dollars are required as capital on a 200 acre farm. He believes wheat growing with profit not possible owing to American competition and thinks American mules, live and dead will increase very greatly. He thinks cheese making the safest department of farming, as the climate is more favorable to success making than the American climate, yet admits that we send some brands of cheese about equal to their best. They pay a cotman, who boards himself, the equivalent of \$200 a year. Single men boarded by the farmer get \$100 to \$120 a year. The farmer pays 5 to 6 per cent. for the use of money from the banks. He thinks if our railroads do not keep rates too high that they may look for lower scales of prices regarding all our exports in abundant years.

There are many suggestive things in the testimony of this farmer. They present what we make a good chance as they do—as we undoubtedly will very soon. Heavy immigration is raising wages there, and increase of population will bring ours nearer theirs. Money is accumulating here which will give us as cheap capital when we want it as they have. \$7,500 to stock a 200 acre farm shows us that we are understocked for want of plenty of means. They do not feed maize to their milch cows, they feed turnips and oats. Our dairymen will learn in time that we need not so much corn to cows for the good as breeders or for the highest profit in milk. They make close calculations over there. Mr. Cowan thinks if they do their best and we do our best in cheese making, their climate will enable them to sell in their own markets for two cents a pound more than we can sell for, but our strong soil will far more than counterbalance both that margin and freight. The power of our soil to raise grass and grain has never been suspected as a controlling factor; foreigners only estimate the expense of our land, not its excellence.

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FRUITES!

For Sale By BEEMIS, FIFTEENTH AND DOUGLAS STS., 178, House 3 rooms, full lot on Pierce near 20th street, \$1,000.

177, House 2 rooms, full lot on Douglas near 20th street, \$700.

176, Beautiful residence, full lot on Cass near 19th street, \$2,000.

174, Two houses and 1 lot on Dodge near 9th street, \$1,500.

173, House three rooms, two closets, e. c., half lot on 21st car Grace street, \$200.

172, One and one-half story brick house on two lots on Douglas near 20th street, \$1,700.

171, House two rooms, well-lighted, stable, e. c., full lot near Pierce and 13th street, \$1,000.

170, One and one-half story house six rooms and well, half lot on Convent street near St. Mary's avenue, \$1,800.

169, House three rooms on Clifton street near shot tower, \$325.

168, House and 1/2 lot on 21st and 22nd feet on street near Webster street, \$3,500.

167, House of 11 rooms, e. c., 2x12 1/2 feet on 19th near Hart street, \$5,000.

166, Two story house 9 rooms 4 closets, good cellar, on 18th street near Poppleton's, \$4,000.

165, New house of 6 rooms, half lot on Izard near 13th street, \$1,500.

164, One and one-half story house 8 rooms on 18th street, \$1,500.

163, One and one-half story house of 5 rooms near Hancock Park, \$1,500.

162, Two houses 2 rooms each, closets, etc. on Burt street near 25th, \$1,000.

161, Two story house, full lot on 19th street near Leavenworth, \$2,400.

160, House 4 large rooms, 2 closets, hall, e. c., full lot near Duken, \$1,200.

159, Two story house, one of 5 and one of 4 rooms, on 17th street near Mary, \$3,000.

158, Two story house, one of 5 and two of 5 rooms each, and corner lot, on Cass near 14th street, \$2,000.

157, Small house and full lot on Pacific near 12th street, \$2,500.

156, One story house 6 rooms, on Leavenworth near 16th, \$1,500.

155, House three rooms and lot 9x12 1/2 feet near 26th and Farham, \$2,500.

154, House three rooms, 2 closets, on 18th street near Leavenworth, \$3,100.

153, House of 13 rooms on 18th street near Mary, \$4,000.

152, House of 10 rooms and 1/2 lot on 18th street near Mary, \$4,000.

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166, Two story house 9 rooms 4 closets, good cellar, on 18th street near Poppleton's, \$4,000.

165, New house of 6 rooms, half lot on Izard near 13th street, \$1,500.

164, One and one-half story house 8 rooms on 18th street, \$1,500.

163, One and one-half story house of 5 rooms near Hancock Park, \$1,500.

162, Two houses 2 rooms each, closets, etc. on Burt street near 25th, \$1,000.