

The Omaha Bee

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

STANLEY MATHEWS feels more comfortable now that Roscoe Conkling has declined to join him on the supreme bench.

VALBENTINE at Washington is on the senatorial race track, but at home among his constituents he is willing to serve a third term in the lower house.

In less than four weeks we shall be called on to elect Six ward councilmen. Who are the candidates? Don't all speak at once.

COUNCIL BLUEBS has elected a democratic mayor after a triangular fight in which the redoubtable Vaughan was running for re-election independent.

NEARLY five millions of dollars are expended annually under the supervision of the Indian bureau. The appropriation this year is \$350,000 greater than that of last.

DURING the short month of February the national debt decreased a trifle below ten millions. The policy of taxing this generation to pay the whole national debt at the rate of ten millions a month is very questionable.

POLITICAL grasshoppers up in Dakota are on the anxious seat just now undecided which side of the fence they are to jump after congress has passed the pending bill to subdivide and reconstruct that territory.

GEORGE WASHINGTON FROST, missionary among the Indians during more than fifteen years, and more recently government director of the Union Pacific railroad, has reached the national capital to file his pre-emption for another year.

THE cabinet makers are still hard at work in reconstructing President Arthur's cabinet. The latest latest transfers Postmaster General Howe to the interior department to open the way for some young and active stalwart partisan.

THAT long-promised branch mine at Omaha doesn't meet with much encouragement in the senate and it now looks as if we should have to get our silver dollars coined in Philadelphia a few years longer. It is sad, but we presume Omaha will survive.

THREE hundred and eighty-six farmers' alliances are now working in this state, and scarcely a week passes without additions to the number. The railroads have been given due notice, and will probably govern themselves accordingly.

SENATOR SAUNDERS has introduced a bill into the senate making Omaha a port of delivery. The Union Pacific bridge monopoly has been forcing Omaha to stand and deliver for the last nine years.

If we are to believe the San Francisco Call, ex-Senator Sargent was beaten for the interior department by the Indian rings and land grabbers. No one who knows Mr. Sargent's old-time leanings toward land grabs will credit this statement for a moment.

BISMARCK'S raid on the American hog having failed he has now attacked the American ham and classes it as cotton goods on account of the wrapper which encloses it. On the same principle our government ought at once to retaliate by classing German sausages as old skins.

CONGRESSMAN MARK DUNNELL, of Minnesota, seems to have been made the victim of a clever forgery. Some weeks ago a letter was given to the press which announced Mr. Dunnell as actively canvassing for the succession of Senator Windom. The letter was signed with Mr. Dunnell's name and purported to be a confidential communication to a personal friend. It created a genuine sensation in Minnesota political circles, especially among Mr. Dunnell's constituents.

CAPTAIN EADS and his trained corps of lobbyists are jubilant over their prospect of another successful raid on Uncle Sam's treasury. The senate committee on commerce has decided to report favorably on Ead's gigantic subsidy scheme for the Tebanupec ship railway for which the government is to advance its credit to the tune of fifty millions. Eads and his strikers confidently expect favorable action for this scheme by the senate and house, and the prevailing opinion is that their confidence is well founded. Captain Eads has already pocketed several millions for his jettty work at the mouth of the Mississippi, and his experience in lobbying that lucrative job through congress has enabled him to manipulate the congressional committees in favor of the ship railway scheme. Without disparaging the labors of Captain Eads on the Mississippi jetties, or endorsing current reports that Eads perpetrated a monstrous fraud on the government in settling for the jettty job, we may safely pronounce the ship railway scheme a more brazen subsidy steal than the credit mobilizer grant.

It is simply an insult to the intelligence of the American people for congress to vote fifty millions of bonds to such a scheme when the proposed improvement of the great water ways of the Mississippi valley cannot secure one-tenth of that sum.

The fact that Eads maintains subsidized organs at the national capital to advocate his ship railway job, that Eads gives costly public dinners to congressmen and journalists, that a trained and well organized lobby are working night and day making converts among congressmen who want to be converted affords proof that this ship railway scheme is a speculative enterprise wholly in the interest of a gang of jobbers. If this steal passes congress in spite of the known popular aversion to subsidies, of every class, President Arthur could not better the country greater service than by vetoing the bill.

The disastrous overflow of the Mississippi river should impress congress with the pressing necessity of immediate attention to the improvement of the great river and its principal tributaries. An unobstructed channel from the head of navigation to the gulf is what the interests of the country demand. Less than that is not so much of an injury to the part neglected as it is to the people at large. It is now understood by all, as well as publicly admitted by railroad corporations, that river transportation is the one great check upon monopoly. The testimony of Wayne MacVough, an attorney for the Pennsylvania railroad, was all of one tenor. It complained throughout that, even without any legal restrictions, the railroads are scarcely able to compete with the water routes. Hence there is the greatest economy in establishing, once for all, a navigable route from the great bread-producing expanses of the continent to the seaboard. No legislation can do so much toward moderating and equalizing freight charges. It is the duty of all representatives from the Mississippi valley to unite on this ground. Combined they can exert a moral, as well as a numerical influence, which senseless jealousy will weaken and dissipate.

It is stated that when President Arthur decided to nominate Mr. Conkling he wrote to him at the Fifth Avenue hotel where he supposed he was, and informed him of his intention. Mr. Conkling had gone to Utica in the mean time to visit his family and was consequently there when the nomination was made. Not hearing from Mr. Conkling the president decided that the nomination would be agreeable and made it. This statement, if correct, explains why the nomination was made, but fails to show why Mr. Conkling did not refuse the proffer as soon as he became aware that his name was being used without his sanction.

The real estate craze is liable to give Omaha a backset. Thousands of people who came here years ago to invest and settle down turned their backs on Omaha because they were dazzled by extravagant real estate prices. Other thousands are liable to stay away because reckless real estate speculators are putting property out of the reach of men of moderate means.

The latest conundrum put in circulation by sensational reporters of the press is does Brigham Young still live? We presume he does, and we should not be surprised to hear that he was seen hobnobbing with Pionono, Louis Napoleon, Wilkes, Booth and other persons of note whose survival has from time to time been a matter of speculation.

UNDER the new apportionment Kansas will have seven congressmen. The Kansas City Journal mentions twenty names of eminent Kansans who are prominent candidates for the seven seats, with the back counties yet to hear from. The crop of congressional candidates in this state is fully as promising.

THE announcement is made by the Burlington & Missouri railroad company that from date freight will be received at Omaha for Chicago, direct by way of Plattsmouth. This move on the part of the Burlington road is significant as indicating trouble in the Iowa pool. It was hardly to be expected that the Burlington company, with a through line from Omaha to the lakes, would long remain content with an arrangement which gave a large portion of the profits to the Union Pacific bridge monopoly on each carload of freight transported over the lines. This action, we believe, will force a disruption of the pool, or else compel the building of another bridge over the river at this point. The Union Pacific has for a long time been anxious to throw all the traffic possible into the hands of the Wabash, and has used every inducement in the way of cut rates to incline shippers to this end. Now that the Burlington road is independent of the Union Pacific, the Rock Island, Northwestern, and St. Paul companies are likely to see the advantages of securing a connection with our city by means of an independent bridge. It is a well known fact that this subject has been discussed for some months past, and that steps have been taken to ascertain the costs and the most advantageous location for such a structure. Omaha's trade has developed so largely within the past five years, and the receipts and shipments from the city have increased so greatly that a new bridge has become almost a necessity from a commercial point of view. The Union Pacific bridge is over crowded with business, and at times is entirely inadequate to deal with the traffic. As a result the transfer is crowded with undelivered freight, and our merchants are correspondingly inconvenienced. There is no doubt that another railroad bridge across the Missouri at this point must be built within the next five years, and it is a question whether the action of the Burlington roads will not hasten a day which will be hailed with pleasure by all of our citizens.

INDEPENDENT movements in the south are springing up as thickly as leaves in the spring. The back-bone of Bourbon rule is seriously strained and a few more straws will break it as effectually in Georgia as it has been broken in Virginia under Mahone. Following Mr. Felton's example, General L. J. Gartrell, formerly an active and influential democrat of Georgia, announces his intention to run as an independent candidate for governor next fall on a platform of a "free education of all children, opposition to railroad and other monopolies, opposition to the present system of leasing the state convicts, a recognition of the unity of our common federal government, and equality of all men before the law." The Vicksburg Herald is calling for immigration into Mississippi, and urging as inducements 500,000 acres of fine plantation land, "perfect freedom in all matters, political, social and religious," and constantly growing educational advantages. These are signs of the times which foreshadow the future material advancement of the south. Prosperity and personal and political security go hand in hand. It is the growing recognition of this fact which is causing such a stampede from the Bourbon ranks in Dixie.

THE chief element in the prosperity of every state or nation in the economy of transportation of persons and property. It is the most marked fact in the difference between civilization and barbarism.—Horatio Seymour.

Every dollar saved in the transportation of goods is a dollar in the pocket of the producer. And every dollar charged by the monopolies above a rate which affords them a fair return for cost and risk of service is a theft from the public pocket.

OMAHA'S mud is even more famous than her rapid growth as the metropolis of the Missouri. The Chicago Herald says: "There is one other city in the world where mud is a regular feature. According to the Atlanta Constitution, 'the cars get stuck' in the streets of that city, 'and off the street car lines a horse can scarcely pull an empty car.' Misery loves company, and Chicago is glad in her abject muddiness to hear of something more recent in the mud line than the Omaha of 1865, whose condition was described in the quatrain: 'Has't ever been in Omaha, Where rolls the dark Missouri down—Where six strong horses scarce can draw An empty wagon through the town'"

The sale of 55,000 acres of lands in Northern Kansas belonging to the Central branch of the Union Pacific railroad company has been referred to in our dispatches. This immense tract has been held for years by the land department of the Central Branch unsubjected to state taxation and reaping all the benefits and protection of a government supported by the contributions of citizens who didn't happen to belong to a railroad company. By its transfer to a resident of New Jersey it will now be forced to bear its share of the taxes and Kansas will be correspondingly benefited thereby.

SURVEYING FRAUDS;

Senator Van Wyck on the Trail of a Loud Beast.

A Few Facts and Figures on the Subject.

Congressional Record, Feb. 25.

The senate proceeded to consider the following resolution, submitted by Mr. Van Wyck on the 26th of January:

Whereas, The records in the general land office show great abuse and frauds in the surveys allowed by deposits under sections 2401, 2402 and 2403 of the revised statutes; Resolved, That the secretary of the interior be directed through the commissioner of the general land office to instruct the surveyor general to improve no more applications for surveys under the deposit system, and that all proceedings be suspended under applications already approved until further action by congress, so that contracts unlawfully procured may not be recognized as valid. Resolved That the committee on public lands make investigation as to the nature and extent of such alleged abuse and frauds; what redress may be had for any loss sustained by the government and what legislation is necessary to prevent a recurrence in the future.

Mr. Van Wyck—Mr. President, by the courtesy of the senator from Iowa, and with the permission of the senate, I propose to submit a few remarks relative to the resolution which I proposed in this body a few weeks since in regard to improprieties, abuses and frauds in the surveys of the public lands.

The act of 1871 allowing settlers on the public domain to have the townships surveyed in which they lived so that their boundaries could be definitely fixed, by depositing with a United States depository the estimated cost of such survey, usually \$600 for a township, receiving therefor certificates of deposit which could be used to pay for land pre-empted in the township so surveyed, was intended as a beneficial measure, but grew into great abuse and greater frauds when, in 1879, the law was amended so that such certificates could be assigned by endorsement and used in payment for the pre-emption and homestead of any government lands.

Before 1879 the enterprising raiders were restricted by the clause "making certificates good only in the township surveyed, so they contrived a scheme to widen the field of operations. Under the guise of regard for the settlers who appeared in congress and imposed upon its credulity, and by the miracle which generally secures the passage of any measure under which is concealed plunder, the bill was scarcely challenged. One feature in the record of its passage from the present stand point appears significant.

The original bill 801 was introduced in the senate March 25, 1878; reported from committee on public lands April 24; passed May 1; sent to the house and referred to committee on the public lands May 1. The committee reported the bill May 11, amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting the timber-culture bill, believing that would be more for the benefit of settlers. This amendment it passed the house the same day. A proper inquiry then and now—why was not the bill amended returned to the senate for its action?

The defeat made the schemers more shrewd, and waiting until the next, third and last, session of that congress and near its close, on the 27th of February, at the session closed on the 4th of March, they reappeared in the house and the speaker announced that senate bill 801 had been lost, and an order was entered that a copy should be requested from the senate. So much engrossed with other matters was every member that no one of the public land committee corrected the speaker with the information that, although effectually buried by the house, the bill certainly was not lost. A copy of the senate bill was obtained and on February 27 promptly passed. Already organized, the plotters at once extended their plan of operations with dummies, straw men and collusion with some of the surveyors-general.

These surveys are confined to lands "not mineral or reserved," intending to benefit settlers, and would be most used in agricultural states and territories. Before this amendment the deposits were small, especially in agricultural states.

With money at command these ardent friends of the settlers increased the deposits, particularly where accommodating surveyors-general were found, and the records show some, like Barkis "were willing." They sold the certificates at 90 and 95. They the surveying contracts made to themselves or in their interest, got the work done for 50 per cent of contract price. Adding 10 per cent discount on certificates, the profit is 50 per cent, while the loss to the government is nearly the whole amount, for many of the surveys are of no value where the lands are inaccessible and worthless, and sometimes no surveys in fact are made.

These deposits, in previous years of small amount, swelled during the last year to about two million dollars, and every day increasing. Is every department of this government honey-combed with kindred corruption? The postoffice was raided, and one equally outrageous appears in the land department. Like the postoffice, the land department produced this monstrousy of villany under a remarkably pure administration. If more time had been spent in detecting thefts and robberies and in deterring the thieves, the different calculations, and the orbits of the heavenly bodies, the treasury would not have suffered so much detriment.

These frauds in the interior department are particularly painful, for at that time it was enjoying the distinction of possessing all there was aesthetically in the paradise of civil service. There the lily and sunflower of American politics were scattering their brightest hues and most fragrant perfumes. Daily and monthly reports were regularly made, the annual expenditure of a few thousands was swelling into millions, still the aesthetic chief and his pinks of civil service reform must not be disturbed in their

consideration of abstractions and theories.

The present commissioner, Judge McFarland, having some knowledge of the value of money and the aptness of crime, soon after his introduction into office began to have glimpses of the "ways that are dark," and September 5, 1881, issued to the surveyors general a circular warning them of the great frauds being perpetrated, and directing the manner of detecting, so as to "annul fraudulent contracts." The commissioner in his report says:

It is believed the practical results of said act of March 3, 1879, have been to cause the survey of vast areas of land of no present and perhaps of no prospective value, and the surrender of valuable lands in payment for such surveys.

The records also conclusively show where the surveyors general must have been criminally negligent or ignorant, or in collusion with this band of plunderers. They had operated with much success in states and territories where townships of good land could be surveyed, but the great object was to survey worthless lands, and then have the opportunity to use the certificate where the lands are good.

There would be no profit to survey largely in New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada, and Wyoming, unless the certificates could be used in other states and territories. Notwithstanding the circular of Commissioner McFarland, many of the surveyors general have continued making contracts. Colorado has added \$180,000 since the close of the fiscal year, making for the state about \$900,000 for eighteen months. To show how recklessly these frauds are perpetrated, the same men appear as contractors in Arizona, California, Nebraska and Nevada. A California chief reaches from the Missouri to the Pacific. Late in the year they invaded Nebraska from the west, well knowing its settlers did not invoke their presence to obtain additional facilities for surveying, and also knowing that accuracy was important to prevent suspicion.

The statute allows deposits in this United States depository. There is one in Omaha, but better to conceal their operations they send 500 miles east and make all the deposits at Chicago; then the contracts are made to this wandering band who are so zealous to protect the interests of the settlers on the public domain. The surveyor general of Colorado realized that some explanation was necessary for the absorption of half a million. He says: "This increase is due mainly to the extensions of the different lines of railway into regions heretofore almost inaccessible by pack-trains, rendering every acre of arable land valuable." If all the surveys were actually made for which he approved contracts, it is also true that the provisions and equipments for surveying parties were transported by pack-trains over the mountains. As by packing. The following table of figures taken from the reports of the several surveyors-general will illustrate and sustain these charges:

SPECIAL DEPOSITS FOR SURVEYS. Table with columns for State or Territory and years 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881. Rows include California, Colorado, Dakota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Wyoming.

While the general appropriations for surveys of late have been small, yet congress did not intend nor will it sanction the delegation of its power to an irresponsible syndicate for the expenditure of millions, which is the practical result.

The present system is sadly deficient—the appointment of a surveyor general without any regard to his knowledge of the rudiments of the position, with no idea of the mode or correctness of surveys. Often the appropriations are paid out to deputies who are not surveyors, to a few favorites who expect to retain office, making the whole system a sort of political hospital, without any regard to efficient and economical expenditure.

One object of the resolution was to effect a remodeling of the entire plan; also to have annulled contracts that might be illegal, not of course to impair those made in good faith. In having these subjects may be more easily reached and no injustice done any one, I move that the resolution be referred to the committee on public lands, with power to make full investigation.

Mr. Tuller.—The complaint made by the honorable senator from Nebraska, so far as it alludes to Colorado, is not well taken. No complaint can be made in regard to that state, although a very large amount of the country has been surveyed. The appropriations have been so utterly below what they ought to have been for the purpose of surveying, that state having an area of 105,500 square miles, that the settlers and parties interested in having the public lands surveyed have taken advantage of the statute referred to.

To show that in Colorado there has been an abuse of the statute, the honorable senator calls attention to the limited number of acres of land that have been entered and paid for. If he had been as familiar with the wants of the people of that state as he would not have cited that as an illustration. Two-thirds of the state of Colorado, at least, is a mineral region. Very little of that can be entered either as homesteads or under the pre-emption act. In every section of it, pretty much, parties are making applications under the mineral law for the entry of mineral claims, both of gold and silver. It is as essential to the complete description of these claims that the country should be surveyed as it is that it should be surveyed where they enter agricultural land, and therefore there has been a necessity for the survey of all that region of the state in which this money has been expended.

THE GRAND JURY.

It Concludes Its Labors by Indicting Siert, Kane and Chief Galligan.

The grand jury reported yesterday afternoon, after nearly a week's session, and handed in the names of three parties against whom indictments had been found. These are: Henry Siert, charged with selling liquor without license. Patrick Kane, charged with selling liquor without license. John J. Galligan, charged with obtaining money under false pretenses.

The public are well acquainted with the first two cases, as both have been up before and come under the action of the Slocumb law. Four counts are found against Siert and two against Kane.

The indictment of Galligan, chief of the fire department, includes three counts, or, more properly, three indictments. One charges that on July 23d, 1881, Galligan sold his salary as chief engineer of the fire department for August and September, amounting to \$250, to Julius Treitschke; and that he had previously sold the same salary to Felix J. McShane. The second charges that on November 28, 1881, he sold his salary for January, 1882, to Treitschke, and that he had previously sold the same to William Hagedorn. The third charges that on July 10, 1882, he sold his salary for February to Dennis Cunningham; and that he had previously sold the same claim to Treitschke.

It is understood that since conducting these rather perilous business operations Galligan has paid in great part the indebtedness that he thereby incurred. However this may be, the indictments were found, and it is probable that Galligan will be tried this term of court.

It was generally understood last evening that Koster's case will be commenced to-day.

Mexican News. National Associated Press. CITY OF MEXICO, March 7.—A branch of the French-Mexican National bank have been established at Vera Cruz with a capital of \$200,000 and the privilege of increasing the capital to any amount the directors may think proper.

A diligence, with a full complement of inside and outside passengers, while on its way to Guadalupe, was attacked by a band of robbers. Most of the passengers being armed they resisted the attack, and in the fight that ensued eleven of the robbers were killed, while the remainder were put to flight. Strange as it may seem not one of the passengers were injured.

Wife Murderer. National Associated Press. LANCASTER, Pa., March 7.—James Shaw, aged 55 years, shot and killed his wife this morning in Coleraine township, Lancaster county. They had not lived together for some time past, and he had more or less domestic difficulties. The murderer escaped and up to this evening had not been captured.

Explosion of a Powder Mill. National Associated Press. BOSTON, March 7.—The Acton powder works blew up this morning.

ACTON, Mass., March 7.—Four hundred pounds of powder caught fire by some unknown means and blew the factory to atoms. The noise of the explosion was heard twenty miles. No one was killed, but Frank Wilson, an employe, was thrown 150 feet, alighting uninjured in the canal. This is the fourteenth explosion in the same mill and the only one in which lives were not lost.

United States Depository. FIRST NATIONAL BANK. Cor. 13th and Farnam Sts.

OLDEST BANKING ESTABLISHMENT IN OMAHA. (SUCCESSORS TO KOUNTZE BROTHERS.) Organized as a National Bank August 10, 1858. CAPITAL AND PROFITS OVER \$300,000.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS: HENRY KOUNTZE, President. ADAMUS KOUNTZE, Vice President. H. W. YATES, Cashier. A. J. FORTMANN, Attorney. JOHN A. CHANDLER.

F. H. DAVIS, Asst. Cashier. This bank receives deposits without regard to amount. Issues time certificates bearing interest. Draws drafts on San Francisco and principal cities of the United States, also London, Dublin, Edinburgh and the principal cities of the continent of Europe.

OLD PRINCE POISONED. Some wretch poisoned old Prince, the depot dog, yesterday. Old Prince was a fine blooded pointer, and the property of Councilman McGavock. For years he has been in the habit of watching the trains and being on the depot platform, when they came in, as regular as if he were an employe of the road.

Everybody knew him and his fine good natured appearance was always the signal for fun among the boys. Prince never did a mean thing in his life, and his honest eyes would look in the faces of those whom he knew with all the intelligence of a human. His owner and George Hall are both inconsolable.

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 I. & M. Mahon. (5)

Aged Gratitudes. FIRST MICH., June 28, 1881. H. W. WARNER & Co., Sig. I am 72 years old, and have not been so well in 26 years as I am to-day, thanks to your Safe Kidney and Liver Cure, the best remedy in the world. mch7-d1w

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