

The Omaha Bee

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

With store and house rents up to the top notch, employers and employees both appear to be "working for the landlord."

St. Louis is still loudly cursing her macadam pavements. The Post-Dispatch says that the city is nothing but a big overgrown village, which wallows in the mud one half of the year and gasps in dust the other half.

ALEXANDER FALCONER, a member of Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, has been arrested on the charge of persistently annoying the daughter of a resident on Columbus Heights with love letters. This sort of thing seems to run in the Plymouth family.

The state department is about to discontinue the publication of the consular reports. The problem of how to furnish employment for our foreign consuls in order to keep them out of mischief again appears in the foreground.

DURING thirteen years the various Pacific railroads cleared net earnings amounting to over one hundred and fifty-seven millions of dollars. This vast sum of money is the result of systematic extortion and heartless plundering of the producers of the country which would put to shame a Turkish tax gatherer.

A MOVEMENT is on foot to erect a monument to Alexander Hamilton, at Westham, the spot where he fell in a duel with Aaron Burr. The movement ought to fail. A great deal of sentiment has been wasted over what was called the untimely death of Hamilton, who died while engaged in a violation of the laws for which he was equally responsible with his challenger. As the truth becomes known there is more and more a disposition to admit that while Burr was no angel, Hamilton was far from being a saint, either in his private or public life.

JOHN DOE AND THE GRAND JURY.

The special grand jury convened de la instance of Attorney General Dillworth to indict parties that were believed to have directly or indirectly taken part in the so-called Omaha labor riots is still in session.

It is a notorious fact well known to this grand jury that Geo. P. Armstrong a citizen of Omaha and Douglas county was unlawfully killed by a soldier in this city on the twelfth day of March. It is not lawful for any soldier of the regular or volunteer army to use deadly weapons where martial law has not been proclaimed, except when the killing is done to save his own life. The unlawful killing of any citizen by a soldier is murder under our laws, just as the unlawful killing of a soldier by any citizen would be murder. It is the manifest duty of the grand jury now in session to investigate the unlawful killing of Geo. P. Armstrong, and present an indictment against his murderer. The officers of the militia and Adjutant General Alexander have sought to shield the murderer of Armstrong by giving out that they did not know and could not discover who did the killing. When application was made to them for the name of the soldier that killed Armstrong they reported that his name was John Doe. They might as well have said his name was Richard Roe or Jim Crow.

There are those who justify the conduct of these officers on the ground that it would have been unadvisable for them to betray a comrade and surrender him to be punished for a crime which they condoned. Let these deluded people read the following extract from the congressional statutes:

When any officer or soldier is accused of a capital crime or of any offense against the person or property of any citizen of any of the United States which is punishable by the laws of the land, the commanding officer and the officers of the regiment, troop, battery, company, or detachment to which the person so accused belongs, are required, except in time of war, upon application duly made by or in behalf of the party injured, to use their utmost endeavors to deliver him over to the civil magistrate, and handing him in order to bring him to trial. If upon such application any officer refuses or wilfully neglects except in time of war, to deliver over such person to the civil magistrates or to aid the officers of justice in apprehending him, he shall be dismissed from the service.

How did our militia officers, how did Adjutant-General Alexander and his commander-in-chief, Governor Nance, carry out the spirit and letter of this law? Did they render any assistance to the civil authorities in the effort to bring the soldier that murdered Armstrong to trial? Did they not act as accessories after the fact in shielding the criminal by professed ignorance of his name and whereabouts? Was not their conduct in thus aiding and abetting the escape of a soldier that committed a capital crime a shameful violation of the laws that govern officers of the regular army in times of peace? Nobody pretends that this city was under martial law when Armstrong was killed. The courts were open the civil magistrates were exercising their functions without resistance. What possible excuse was there for the criminal collusion between the so-called John Doe and the officers that were in command of the militia at the B. & M. dump.

This is not a matter to be lightly passed over as a mere incident of the so-called Omaha riot. There was no riotous disturbance in Omaha during the time the troops were stationed here. At no time during their stay here were the troops called in to assist the police or sheriff in quelling disturbances. It would be a dangerous precedent to allow this unlawful killing of Armstrong to go unpunished. But even if the killing of Armstrong had been justified, under civil or military law the man that did the killing should be brought before some tribunal and acquitted. Attorney General Dillworth may consider it no part of his duty to ask the court to instruct the grand jury to investigate the unlawful killing of defenseless citizens by armed soldiers—but we believe it to be the duty of the grand jury to ascertain the real name of "John Doe" and present an indictment against him—if not against officers that have become abettors of murder on refusing to give John Doe's real name.

MONOPOLY CORRUPTION IN THREE STATES.

The corrupting influence of corporate monopolies is one of the greatest dangers which threaten the vitality of American free institutions. No nation can long preserve its existence when the fountain of justice and the halls of the law-makers are invaded by bribe-givers and occupied by men who will sell their opinions and their votes for money consideration. All history shows that venality and corruption have been the chief cause of the decline of nations and the fall of governments in which popular representation was the basis. Within the past twenty-five years a power greater than the power of the people has been slowly but steadily gaining ground in this country. It has drawn its strength from the toil of ten millions of producers, and fattened on an immunity from popular interposition, obtained by the use of boundless wealth in the hands of unscrupulous men. Controlling to-day an accumulated capital greater than the entire national debt, and manipulating on the stock exchange of the world sums of money greater than Croesus, it is bidding defiance to our laws, laughing at popular sovereignty, and erecting in the country a monarchy of wealth, in which corruption is the minister of state, and fraud, robbery and venality the cabinet council.

Our courts are daily attacked by monopoly influences, our legislatures manipulated by creatures of the corporations, and even the national congress is not free from the taint of suspicion. No stronger commentary upon the alarming condition of affairs, the powers of the corporations and their reckless defiance of popular will and popular sentiment, is needed than the fact that three state legislatures are to-day publicly charged with being influenced by monopoly bribes and that they make no attempt to justify or deny the charge.

In Ohio the state capital has been besieged all winter by a powerful monopoly lobby intent upon getting possession of the state canals. The object of the railroads was first to remove the competition in the carrying business offered by the canals and second to obtain possession of the canal beds for speculative purposes. Over one hundred thousand dollars was spent for corruption purposes when a bold attempt to bribe a member of the senate resulted in the disclosure of the plot. A committee of investigation is now in session and the state press is calling upon its members to probe the transaction to the bottom and to make the guilty parties suffer without fear or favor. Ohio is thoroughly aroused over the danger to her artificial waterways which have acted as strong checks to the monopoly plunderers and as regulators of tariff charges and as producers of the state.

The railroad managers in New York have been equally active. The growth of anti-monopoly sentiment in the state has been greatly assisted by the work of the Anti-monopoly League, and at the beginning of the present session of the legislature prospects seemed especially favorable for the passage of greatly needed bills for

ending him, he shall be dismissed from the service. How did our militia officers, how did Adjutant-General Alexander and his commander-in-chief, Governor Nance, carry out the spirit and letter of this law? Did they render any assistance to the civil authorities in the effort to bring the soldier that murdered Armstrong to trial? Did they not act as accessories after the fact in shielding the criminal by professed ignorance of his name and whereabouts? Was not their conduct in thus aiding and abetting the escape of a soldier that committed a capital crime a shameful violation of the laws that govern officers of the regular army in times of peace? Nobody pretends that this city was under martial law when Armstrong was killed. The courts were open the civil magistrates were exercising their functions without resistance. What possible excuse was there for the criminal collusion between the so-called John Doe and the officers that were in command of the militia at the B. & M. dump.

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PERSONALITIES.

Anna Dickinson is not one of your conventional strong-minded women in the matter of dress. She wears fashionable and costly clothing.

The two eldest ex-Senators of the United States now living are Mr. Yule of Florida, and Mr. Cilley, of New Hampshire. The latter, who is ninety-one years old, is lying dangerously ill.

More ex-Senators of remote service are constantly appearing in the newspapers. John P. King, who is now living near Augusta, Ga., is said to have been his duty as Senator earlier than any other man now in existence. His service began in 1833, and ended in 1881.

A Franklin street man awoke on Saturday night to hear some one on his stoop. He went out there and caught the intruder, a stranger. "Who are you?" demanded the householder. "I cannot tell," replied the stranger, in a rather thick voice, "I'm a Venner." The shock was so great that the owner of the premises went over backward, and striking on his head saw stars enough to keep his eyes in his head for months to come. —Danbury News.

Gen. W. S. Rosecrans, who is now the subject of much talk, was born in Ohio in 1819, and graduated at West Point in 1842, becoming shortly after assistant professor of engineering there. He is one of the few generals living who have resigned from the army and afterwards re-entered it.

Presid. Arthur receives more daily souvenirs than any unmarried clergyman in the land. His blue bed room at the executive mansion shows numberless handkerchiefs, cases, glove boxes, pin cushions, scent bags, cloths, ribbons, and his head saw stars enough to keep his eyes in his head for months to come. —Danbury News.

Justice Gray, of the supreme court, was a graduate of Yale at sixteen, and Justice Blatchford, was graduated from Columbia college at seventeen. Judge Blatchford is very wealthy in real estate. His wife was Miss Appleton, of Boston, a daughter of Eben Appleton. The judge is especially strong in admiralty and patent causes, and has given much attention to extradition cases also.

St. Jerome Barnabas Chaffee says he will come to Deaver as soon as he gets through reviewing the leaves and fishes at Washington. He has no political object in view; he wishes to consult with Fish Commissioner Slaty as to the feasibility of introducing alligators into the waters of Colorado. Since his removal from New York to Florida he has become deeply interested in the alligator and his habits, and he is exceedingly anxious to introduce this curious reptile into Rocky Mountain society. —(Deaver Tribune.)

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railway regulations. Such measures were promptly introduced and referred to committees where they have since lain unacted upon. In the meantime Albany is held by a combination railroad lobby, possessed of unlimited means and composed of some of the ablest corporation attorneys in the state. The New York Times openly charges that the active work of the lobby is showing itself exactly as it has done in previous years, and declares that it is an open question whether the great commonwealth of New York can get any thing to which the New York Central road objects.

New Jersey is so completely under the control of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Central roads that a member of the legislature last week rose in his seat and solemnly declared that the best thing the legislature could do was to lease the state to the railroads and make them pay all the taxes and assume all the liabilities. All railroads in the state have been declared free from local taxation and as the crowning climax of infamy the entire water front in New York harbor, including the riparian lands of Hoboken, Jersey City and Communipaw have been ceded with all the rights and interests of the municipalities and state to the corporations. The bill was rushed through both houses of the legislature in spite of the frantic protests of the taxpayers and when vetoed by the governor was passed by the senate over his veto. Sixty thousand dollars is reported to be the sum required to secure this outrageous piece of legislation from a set of men pledged to support the demands of the people.

What the country needs more than anything else is a few first class lynch-birds. Just as soon as the influences of the lobbies are more powerful than the wishes of the people we cease to have a representative government in anything more than the mere name.

UNDER the law passed by the last legislature, women will be entitled to vote at the coming city election for members of the board of education. Attention is called to the fact by the head center of woman suffrage that no registration is necessary. The law makers very charitably refused to subject the fair sex to the impertinent questions which the registrar is compelled to put to men regarding age, and previous condition. Our law makers knew very well that women eligible to vote would rather forego the blessings and glory of suffrage than make record of their age, and hence they very properly spared their tender feelings on this point. It is to be hoped that the strong-minded will rally the sex in stronger numbers than at the last election. The burning desire of women for the ballot didn't manifest itself last year in Nebraska any more than it has done in several other states where the experiment has been tried. The suffering sisters refuse to awaken to a realizing sense of their privileges. In Massachusetts the advocates of woman suffrage are in despair over the neglect of women to rally at the polls. In Vermont, at the spring election at Burlington last year only six women were at the polls. This year in the same place, school commissioners were chosen in two wards, and out of sixty-four women entitled to vote only five voted. The same results are reported from other portions of the state. We shall see next how the women of Omaha appreciate the glorious privilege.

Business men of Omaha need not feel alarmed about the "yellow dogs and d—n scoundrels." The only time we have been in danger from "yellow dogs and d—n scoundrels" was when they were put up by the corporation managers through bulldozed primaries stuffed ballot boxes and organized gangs of repeaters.

Who Located Des Moines? In the pleasant office of the most perfect livery barn in the state, we sat with some of the old citizens watching with some interest the contest in the Fourth ward, Oskaloosa, as to the straight republican and citizens ticket. Among the rest, and the oldest Roman of them all, was Hon. M. T. Williams, who incidentally remarked that he chose the spot whereon the Iowa hub and axel rests. In other words, was one of the commissioners to locate the county seat of Polk county. One, Mr. Pinneo, was sick and did not go out to look the country over, and the other, whose name we have lost, also tarried with the snuff, or at home, while Mr. Williams with about a hundred soldiers rode all over those hills and valleys to determine by the topography of that howling wilderness and by compass and chain the very best site for the capital. The captain of the post (Rice, we believe) furnished Williams with a finely caparisoned "cassidy" horse to ride; and most patiently did he with his escort and surveyor look the country over for some days. "At last," says Williams, "we found the finest natural site in the world for a great city, an amphitheater of hills, gently sloping to a nearly circular valley, where the stakes were driven and we decided to locate."

A few people were centered near the forks, or rather the junction of the "Cotton and Des Moines rivers, then. This was about September, 1840. Yet there were enough to take a western interest in so important an event as a county seat location; and that evening Mr. Williams met some two-hundred of these near the river by some kind of a shed where a good many barrels were piled, and from one of these he made a speech, giving his reasons for locating the county seat there, and further stated that he not only had chosen the place for their county seat, but "also that of the future capital of the state," whereupon they hoisted him higher than the barrels, and on their shoulders bore him about as the hero of the hour. Time has fulfilled his prophecy.

A FALSE ALARM. The two corporation organs have sounded a false alarm to frighten men of property and business men of Omaha into an alliance with the railway managers that will give the monopolies control of the city council for another year. The appearance of Hascall at the workmen's meeting is flouted by Doctor Miller as a red rag in the faces of Omaha's capitalists and the injudicious talk of the speakers at the late workmen's meeting about voting for "yellow dogs and damned rascals rather than supporting monopoly cappers" is made the text by The Republican for a hysterical appeal to democrats and republicans to drop party and "line in" with the U. P. brigade.

Now we say to the business men and property owners of Omaha to keep cool and don't fly off on a tangent as some of you did recently when you rushed headlong down to Lincoln to ask for troops to suppress an imaginary insurrection.

The workmen of Omaha are neither the knaves nor the fools you take them to be. Most of them are taxpayers, and all they have in the world is invested here. They are just as much interested in good government and law and order as the richest men in town. Last year, when the corporation cappers in The Republican were appealing to you to elect Hascall mayor of Omaha, the workmen, believing it to be a dangerous expedient, supported James E. Boyd in the interests of good government and law and order. They would support Boyd again if he had shown himself to be a man whose performances were as good as his promises. For instance, this law and order mayor pledged his honor to enforce the Slocumb law, and arrest every violator every day, every week, and every hour. He has had one man arrested twice and then he rested. On the Sunday when Armstrong was murdered the saloons were running in full blast and drunken soldiers and citizens were roaming about the streets imperilling life and inciting riots a good deal more than anything done by the strikers. The town is full of disorderly houses, but the law and order mayor has shut his eyes on those out-laws and we have heard of no efforts to enforce the law on this class of "yellow dogs and scoundrels."

It is true Hascall was at the working-men's meeting and he was allowed to talk as Doctor Miller might have been allowed to talk if he had been there. But the workmen of Omaha have no more confidence in Hascall now than they had a year ago. He didn't show himself while they were overawed by bayonets, and they can't be bamboozled by his eleventh hour sympathy.

The fact is that the interests of the business men are with the workmen and not with the monopolies. Both want honesty and economic government. Both are interested in making the corporations and land speculators pay their just share of public taxes. Both are interested in preventing the formation of a Tweed ring which expects to control public works through a close corporation that is to be in collusion with paving and sewerage contractors.

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tion. And in November, 1881, a large settlement was commenced by parties who did not know that an executive order, declaring an enlargement of that reservation, endorsed as a proclamation, and filed in a pigeon hole at the war department, was a notice to the public of such reservation, especially when the commanding officer of the post had received a copy, for publication, and had never published it in any newspaper of general circulation. These settlers, by mistake, happened to get on some prairie land on the west line of that enlargement, and proposed not only to settle as farmers, but actually contracted to build a town there.

The commander of the post immediately discovered that a town so near might lessen the profits of his hotel business. Then again he discovered that he in order to get into this "town speculation," as he calls it, would have to sign, as all others had, an agreement to invest some money in building on the town site.

Then again he proposed to go in with the railroad company and not the settlers on the town question, and drive out these settlers. And the commander at once concluded that Ft. Niobrara was established to obstruct—and not to protect—such settlement, and he has ever since proceeded to obstruct them. The settlers also discovered that a town so near might cut off some of their trade and profits. And they became perfectly horrified at the visions of saloons two miles from the post, and their effect in destroying the discipline of the soldiery.

And so two Thatchers, one Moore, and one Cornell all unite their energies to obstruct such settlement, and declare it very dangerous to military discipline.

Then they had the wood contract for 1,000 cords of wood last year, at \$4.85 per cord, to be stolen off the public land, and not to be taken off the wood and timber reservation. And should the wood and timber enlargement be opened, or any part of it, to settlement, they might have some competition in future bid-dings for wood, and they might not be able to make other persons steal and sell wood to them at \$3 per cord, for which they received \$4.85, and that would be financially wrong. And since they have, with Commander Montgomery, been more or less mixed up in this wood stealing business, it was important now that some honest people desired to settle in that vicinity that something be done to prevent exposure. So the commander by no fair representations or by misrepresentation, induced Judge Dundy to have Cornell, the sutler and wood contractor appointed a commissioner of the United States circuit court, at Fort Niobrara, that they could thereby protect themselves and intimidate others by being the only officer within 150 miles with power to arrest.

Now Captain Montgomery has signified his willingness that congress should give the railroad company the right to buy a half section of land within the reservation to build a town on, but no settler must be allowed to have anything to do with such a town so near the post.

Little by little this matter is getting before congress, and what the result will be no one can now foresee. But if there is any use for the military post at Fort Niobrara, it is to protect and not to obstruct settlements in that vicinity.

The commander of said post has been building laundresses' houses, and using a dozen government transportation teams and about twenty men, at government expense, to cut off and destroy the timber of the reservation, ever since November 15, 1881, and apparently without the authority of Sam, or order. Will the commander of the Division of the Platte investigate and explain?

If there is a necessity for a depot within the reservation, then it will be necessary that such depot and surroundings be placed outside of military jurisdiction for public use.

A party will be given here to-night by the Pleasant Hours club to its president, Mr. Fink, who leaves for Atchison tomorrow.

The injunction against the issuance of water bonds by the city has been modified by Judge Pound so that instead of \$10,000, as was proposed at first, Lincoln has about twenty-five firms engaged in the real estate business, all confidently expecting a mammoth "boom" in that line when warm weather fairly sets in. It is needless to add that the indications are against the fulfillment of their expectations. The business is hopelessly overdone.

ARGUS.

Fort Niobrara Settlement.

Editor of THE BEE: In December, 1879, the vicinity of Fort Niobrara was a fine country for settlement and a military post was then, at that point, established to protect settlement there.

The commander then prepared an order to have twelve sections of land declared to be a military reservation in every way at that time suitable and sufficient to supply wood and timber and for all other purposes.

In June, 1881, the commander of that post discovered that a large cattle ranch was a good thing to have, and he prepared another order declaring an enlargement of that reservation to include sixty sections of land, but with a careful exception of a part of section 27, township, range 27 west, on which the military post is located.

And it was immediately discovered by the commander of the post that this excepted part of section 27 was a first rate place for a ranch and hotel, in which some money could be made out of the transient persons having business thereabouts, and the commander now owns a hotel here.

The sutlers' company, J. M. Thatcher, J. Moore, A. E. Thatcher and Mr. Cornell, put their heads together, and by careful consideration concluded that about pay day a whisky and gambling saloon near the post, on the excepted part of that section would be a paying institution, and they furnished the where-withal from their sutlers to one John Dion. And such a saloon ever since the post was established has been doing a thriving business there.

In October, 1881, the T. E. & M. V. railroad survey was pointing towards the west side of Ft. Niobrara reserva-

THE CHARMED CIRCLE.

Mutterings From Depths of Political Life at the State Capital.

The Extra Session and the State House Ticket—Dawes Smiling Blandly.

Trimmers at Sea as to the Coming Issue.

Special Correspondence of THE BEE.

LINCOLN, March 27, 1882.—April 18th is the date now semi-officially announced for the meeting of the legislature, although the call will not be issued for some days yet. It is stated that the chief reason for the delay in calling the extra session has been that the Douglas county delegates might agree upon the desired amendments to their city charter before coming down. This, perhaps, is a wise precaution, as there would be little probability of their ever reaching an amicable conclusion after getting here. It is generally understood here that the gathering together of the legislature will be the signal for the commencement of the political machinations. Candidates keep coming in here with suspicious frequency. The "state house ticket" will put in some effective work during the extra session. The probable style of this ticket is as follows: Alexander, for governor; Dimmons, of Sutton, for treasurer; Roggen, for secretary of state; Kendall, for land commissioner; Wallechs, for auditor, and Jones for superintendent of public instruction.

Dawes, who intends to dispute Alexander's claim to the governorship, has been here several times lately, mending his fences. He wears a placid smile when interrogated about his chances, but very properly refuses to talk upon what foundation he rests his hopes for alternate success.

G. W. E. Dorsey of Fremont, has an enthusiastic advocate in the person of G. W. E. himself; but beyond that his name is not mentioned, unless with a suggestive wink. Brad Slaughter is a candidate for secretary of state, as he has been frequently before. There is a very uneasy feeling in political circles here regarding the part the Alliance is to take in the contest. Some of the shorter sighted ones affect an air of incredulity when told that their calculations are liable to be upset by the influence of this new party, but the shrewder members of the "ring" do not attempt to conceal their claim. "There is just one thing for the republican party to do," says a prominent candidate for a state office yesterday. "It has got to espouse either the woman suffrage or the temperance cause, make that the dominant issue and crowd the anti-monopoly movement to the wall. Otherwise we are gone."

The reply of the Missouri Pacific managers to the Lincoln board of trade committee was to the effect that if the city should make a suitable proposition it would be favorably received by the road. By a "proposition" is meant, of course, a liberal slip in the way of bonds or their equivalent. This unfortunate city and county being already bonded almost beyond redemption, it is to be hoped that no such "proposition" will be made. Whenever the Missouri Pacific people are convinced that Lincoln is a desirable point to tap, they will come here regardless of any such inducements.

A party will be given here to-night by the Pleasant Hours club to its president, Mr. Fink, who leaves for Atchison tomorrow.

The injunction against the issuance of water bonds by the city has been modified by Judge Pound so that instead of \$10,000, as was proposed at first, Lincoln has about twenty-five firms engaged in the real estate business, all confidently expecting a mammoth "boom" in that line when warm weather fairly sets in. It is needless to add that the indications are against the fulfillment of their expectations. The business is hopelessly overdone.

ARGUS.

Fort Niobrara Settlement.

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