

The Omaha Bee.

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The BEE PUBLISHING CO., Props.
E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

The Waring system of sewerage is
wearing well in Omaha.

Just at present Omaha streets are
"all torn up" and so are the people
who travel on them.

Wit which amuses itself at the ex-
pense of nationality and religion is
amusing to a very few.

The new three per cent. bonds are
being taken up very rapidly in ex-
change for the 3 1/2's. No nation in the
world now enjoys a better financial
standing than our own.

The methods adopted by Valentine's
strikers in Lincoln county to throttle
a free expression of the party through
the primaries is in keeping with the
course of the whole gang that seeks
to force Valentine upon our state for
a third term. Such outrages must be
repeated by our congressional and
state conventions. Boss rule in Penn-
sylvania was never more aggravating.

Several of the senators and repre-
sentatives who voted to pass the river
and harbor bill over the president's
veto approve heartily of the senti-
ments of the veto and express the
hope that it will guide future con-
gresses. Such commendation is like
that of Artemus Ward's lecture com-
mittee who passed a resolution asking
him to repeat his performance—in
other towns.

COMMENTING upon the star route
thieves' purchase of newspapers the
Washington Star says: "They bought
papers right and left, and when they
did not gobble up an entire establish-
ment, they purchased silence." This
sentence is respectfully referred to the
editors of the Republican and Herald
in Omaha who might, if they would,
throw some confirmatory evidence
upon the subject in connection with
the late star route trials in Lincoln.

AND now Minnesota is bragging
loudly over her crop prospects. The
harvest it is said will be one of the
largest and best ever grown in the
northwest. The grand total of the
wheat crop will not be less than thirty-
eight millions of bushels against thirty
millions in 1881. Oats far exceed in
quality and quantity any previous yield,
while the potato crop is simply enor-
mous. The man who takes care of the
Kansas statistics had better look after
his laurels.

OMAHA'S board of public works
seem to be earning their salary and
find it necessary to hold almost daily
meetings. Dodge and Sixteenth
streets are being curbed and guttered,
the north and south sewers are under
construction and Douglas and Tenth
streets will be paved as rapidly as pos-
sible. Eternal vigilance is the price
of good work in all city contracts and
a wide awake board of public works
will more than save their salary every
year of their existence.

THE present is not the first congress
which has protracted its session into
the middle of August. The first ses-
sion of the Forty-fourth congress
lasted 254 days, from December 5,
1875, to August 15, 1876. The
Thirty-fourth congress continued its
first session from December 3, 1855,
to August 18, 1856, in all 260 days.
The Thirty-third congress continued
its first session 246 days, adjourning
August 7, 1854. The Thirty-second
congress beat all the others before or
since, sitting from December 3, 1849,
to September 30, 1850, in all 302
days. All other congresses which sat
all winter took care to get away from
Washington before the dog days.

MR. BLAINE in an address to the
republican voters of Maine counsels
harmony of action, not only on ac-
count of local influences but for the
effects upon other states in the coming
elections. Mr. Blaine is said to be
personally interested in the Maine
election as a legislature which is to se-
lect a United States senator is to be
chosen and the ex-secretary of state
will doubtless be a candidate. From
Blaine to Frye the descent was a
very steep one, and the people of
Maine who are almost as devoted to
Webster and Sumner, are only wait-
ing for the chance to send their favor-
ite back to his old chair in the senate
chamber.

CONGRESS AND THE NORTH-
ERN PACIFIC

The influence of the railroads has
been more strongly felt in the present
session of congress than at any time
since Tom Scott's Texas Pacific lobby
ruled both houses at Washington.
In senate and house the committees at
the beginning of the session were
carefully packed with friends of the
corporations. The lobby was well or-
ganized, carefully disciplined and am-
ply supplied with funds. With the
committees to strangle unfavorable
resolutions and push bills in their in-
terest, and with sufficient retainers on
the floor of the bodies to provide
against any lapse on the part by the
committees, the railroads have suc-
ceeded in accomplishing nearly every
scheme which they have inaugurated,
and in stifling every bill introduced
counter to their interest.

The land grant roads have been
under active discussion, and early in
the session the question whether the
Northern Pacific railroad had not for-
feited their lands under the charter by
reason of failure to comply with its
conditions was referred to the judi-
ciary committee. On the 6th of Janu-
ary the majority report of the com-
mittee, signed by eight of the fifteen
members, was presented to congress.
The majority reported that the land
grant bore no reference to the com-
pletion of the road by any specified
time and that as the company is now
proceeding to complete its line as
rapidly as possible, there is no ground
for the interference of the government
in any respect except to issue certi-
ficates of land as the work progresses.

The minority report vigorously dis-
putes the position of the majority in
regard to the legal question of the for-
feiture of the land. In addition they
show how a generous government and
people have donated to the Northern
Pacific company a great railroad and
several millions besides. President
Villard's report shows 3,083,955 acres
of land sold for \$11,565,466; residue,
39,416,047 acres, \$98,540,117; total,
\$110,105,584; cost of 2,400 miles of
road, \$93,525,608; surplus, \$16,578,-
915. After making the company a
present of the road, the value of the
lands left in its treasury by the gov-
ernment exceeds the enormous sum of
sixteen million dollars, upon the
official exhibit of the president. The
minority of the committee do not ac-
cept the figures of President Villard.

Upon the data furnished by the gov-
ernment auditor of railroad accounts,
the value of the land grant is \$108,-
750,000; the cost of constructing the
road, \$97,466,000; surplus, \$11,284,-
000. But the minority take the mean
between the reports of President Vil-
lard and the government auditor, and
state the account thus: Value of the
land sold and unsold, \$101,105,584;
cost of construction, \$80,484,932; sur-
plus, \$20,620,652.

This enormous sum is the neat lit-
tle plump which is to be divided up
among Northern Pacific stockholders
after their road is entirely paid for in
government lands. The judiciary com-
mittee minority are of the opinion
that a liberal government has done
enough for these meritorious stock-
holders by constructing their road
without making them a present of a
colossal fortune to boot.

In the face of such revelations, the
Philadelphia Record thinks it is no
longer a mystery how enormous for-
tunes have been made in a few years
by manipulating land grant roads.

The original owners of this stock
of the Northern Pacific who stood on
the "ground floor" have never paid a
dollar of their subscriptions, but have
received it as a free gift from the
government, with lands to the value
of thirty millions more. They have a
railroad extending across the contin-
ent to the Pacific ocean, which cost
them nothing, and upon which the
people must pay them the highest
rates of freight that the traffic will
bear.

Still worse is the history of the
Union Pacific and Central Pacific rail-
road companies with the Credit Mo-
biliary scandal. In the construction
of these railroads Oakes Ames, Hoxie,
Durant and their fellow-conspirators
robbed the people of their lands and
money and the shareholders of their
rights. The cost of construction was
\$42,000 to \$96,000 a mile, the enor-
mous profits of which were di-
vided among the plunderers. And,
as a result, colossal fortunes—amount-
ing to ten, twenty, thirty and even
fifty million dollars—have been accu-
mulated from the land and labor of
the people. Some of these days a
movement will spring up against rail-
road monopoly which may become as
unjust and unreasoning in its fury as
its objects have been dishonest and
rapacious in the pursuit of wealth and
power.

MR. VALENTINE'S committee clerk
revamps his old challenge to argue the
anti-monopoly issue with the editor of
THE BEE through the columns of the
Republican, and charges that Rosewa-
ter refused the challenge when it was
last given. Any one who has read
THE BEE knows that the challenge
was promptly accepted. But as soon
as the editor of THE BEE expressed
his willingness to meet the question,
Val's clerk declined to be considered
as a champion of the railroads, or to
speak for any one but himself in the
discussion which he sought. As the
editor of THE BEE is not ac-

customed to fight windmills, he
promptly declined to furnish gratuitous
advertising and space in his paper to
a would-be antagonist who represent-
ed no one and nothing. Such a dis-
cussion would have been profitless. If
the Republican wants to post its read-
ers on the railroad side of the ques-
tion it will have ample opportunity to
do so during the coming campaign. It
is sustained on corporation paper for
just this purpose and in doing so it
will only be carrying out the wishes
of its Union Pacific masters. It can-
not, however, use the circulation of
THE BEE for a contest on conditions
which would make any discussion a
mere waste of time and paper.

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

(Continued from First Page)

ber on business concerning his de-
partment shortly before the vote was
taken, but so far from saying anything
in favor of the vetoed bill he inci-
dentally expressed to several sena-
tors his opinion that the bill was a
very objectionable measure and the
veto, by all means, be sustained.

The secretary further remarked
that he voted against every river and
harbor bill that came before the sen-
ate while he was a member of that
body; that he made speeches against
four of them, and that as a matter of
fact, he regarded the last bill, as much
worse than any of its predecessors.

At the evening session Mr. Calkins
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late war from the charges of desertion.
Agreed to. The bill as agreed to ex-
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very objectionable measure and the
veto, by all means, be sustained.

The secretary further remarked
that he voted against every river and
harbor bill that came before the sen-
ate while he was a member of that
body; that he made