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The BEE PUBLISHING CO., Props.

E. ROSEWATER Editor

HOMESICK congressmen who have scarcely warmed their seats are beginning to make ready for the holiday recess.

THE scramble for offices within the gift of the legislature has begun earlier than usual and even the candidates for firemen and engineer are singing the song of anti-monopoly.

CONGRESS has already passed the Indian appropriation bill after cutting down the estimates a little over a million and a half. The lesson of the election appears to have been well learned.

DEMOCRATIC virtue is always at high water mark just after an election in which they got a smell of the spoils afar off. But it has never yet stood the test of a chance to put it into practice.

THE best vindication of the necessity of the movement against the bosses is found in President Arthur's second message. Now that the president and the people are one, there ought to be no delay on the part of congress.

SENATOR BECK proposes to offer a resolution providing that congress, instead of the usual three or four weeks recess for the holidays, take only two days, Christmas and New Years. We would like to lay a small wager with Senator Beck against the passage of his resolution.

JUDGE WYLIE has treated the counsel for the star route defendants to a another wholesome dose of judicial reproof. Mr. Dorsey is beginning to believe that life is only worth living several hundred miles from Washington.

THE prospects for the proposed cotton centennial in 1884 are very good. Letters are being received at the headquarters of the National Cotton Planters association at Vicksburg which indicate a great interest in the project. It will be held either at New Orleans, Baltimore or Cincinnati. Over one million dollars have already been subscribed.

TAKING for granted that members of congress intend to vote as they talk, the indications point to the repeal of internal taxation except upon tobacco and liquors. This will be an excellent start on the road to relief. Our resources have for years been drawn on at the rate of half a million dollars per day, and the drain is felt in every artery of trade.

AN effort is to be made next week by the eastern trunk lines to compel the Union and Central Pacific to abolish the contract system by which Pacific coast merchants who dare to ship by water from New York are put on the railroad rack. Unless this and several other of the corporation abominations are abolished, there is danger that the people will abolish the present system of railroad management.

IT is a serious question whether our farmers are justified in holding their corn in the present state of the market. The corn crop is unusually large and while prices will undoubtedly advance somewhat over present quotations there is danger of a still further drop in the market the moment heavy holdings find their way to the eastern elevators. Borrowing money at country banks at one per cent a month while the cribs are full is very likely to be a losing investment in the long run.

UPON comparing the Pacific railroad land tax bill introduced in the house last Monday by Congressman Valentine, with the bill introduced by Senator Van Wyck during the early part of the last session, we find that Valentine's bill only covers the unpatented lands of the Union Pacific in Nebraska, while the Van Wyck bill includes the land grant of every railroad that is entitled to patents. The bill introduced by Congressman Anderson, of Kansas which is pending in the house, like that introduced by Senator Van Wyck, includes all land grant railroads. There is no good reason why the Union Pacific should be singled out, any more than there is a valid reason why the Union Pacific should pay taxes on its land grant in Nebraska, and go untaxed in Kansas, Wyoming and Utah. But the object of Valentine in introducing his bill at this late day must be apparent to everybody. It is a mere tub to the anti-monopoly whale.

THE house has adopted a resolution authorizing the appropriations committee to report a clause in the postal appropriation bill providing for a reduction of letter postage from three to two cents for each half ounce. This is in the line of Postmaster General Howes' suggestion. We should like to see his other suggestion of postal telegraphy also brought before congress for debate. With the telegraph in the hands of the government cheap telegraphy might become a fact. There would be no necessity every year or two for the purchase of competing lines, built by Credit Mobilier construction companies, and there would be no need of paying tolls to earn dividends for millions upon millions of watered stock.

UNDER the present laws distillers are allowed to place their surplus whisky in bond for the term of three years—that is, they may store it in a bonded warehouse for three years without paying the revenue tax. If the liquor is not sold by the end of three years it must be withdrawn and payment of tax made. The commissioner of internal revenue officially reported the quantity of spirits in bond to be 19,212,470 gallons in 1879, 31,363,869 in 1880, 64,648,111 in 1881, while his last report showed 84,628,331 gallons in bonded warehouse on November 1st, 1882. The commissioner says that this large stock consists of "fine grades of whisky," the tax upon which will fall due from month to month, and that the last of the quantity will have to be withdrawn by the 6th of December, 1885. During the past year the distillers and their agents have infested Washington for the purpose of having the bonded period extended for a longer period of years, if not indefinitely. Every appliance has been brought to bear upon congress to secure this benefit to themselves, but thus far their plans have suffered defeat. It is but a short time ago since they were charged with raising a large corruption fund for the bribery of congress, and they were only driven from the field by the senate investigating committee, raised by Senator Windom, of Minnesota. Discouraged by their past defeats, the distillers propose taking an entire new course. We learn from Commissioner Raum's report that they contemplate exporting their whisky to foreign countries and then reimporting it for storage in customs bonded warehouses. The commissioner says that this is practicable under existing laws. But he does not think that the owners of the liquor should be put to this trouble and expense, and therefore recommends that the bonded period should be indefinitely extended. Why need Commisioner Raum concern himself so particularly about this matter?

Why does he constitute himself the agent of the distillery interest? Does he advocate this change in the interest of the government. The cost of manufacturing one gallon of whisky is twenty-five to twenty-seven cents to which the government adds ninety cents by way of tax. If this whisky is kept about six or eight years its value is increased to five and six dollars a gallon. The government allows it to be placed in bond, and then takes care of it at public expense, paying a large army of store-keepers, gaugers, collectors, clerks, etc., for the sole benefit of the distillers. An allowance of twelve and a half gallons in every forty is made them for leakage, which, as some contend, is about double what it should be. In 1881 the commissioner reported this leakage for the year to be 811,466 gallons, largely a donation to the owners and a consequent loss to the government. The distillers should be made to pay their just dues, and if they engage in overproduction let them bear the burden at their own expense instead of placing it on the national tax-payers. At this time the tax due on whisky in bond amounts to $76,165,497.90, and every penny of it should be collected without rebate.

THE Boston *Herald* hits the nail on the head in commenting on the folly of paying the national debt when it says:

"To continue the redemption of the public debt is simply to take money from a man to whom money is worth 7 per cent. that you may pay off an obligation which is running at 3 per cent., and can run forever at that figure. In other words, from a business point of view, it is a borrowing of money at 7 per cent. for the purpose of lending it at 3 per cent. Could any proceeding be more irrational? Common sense and the remorseless logic of arithmetic call upon congress to reverse its financial policy. Let the payment of the debt be stopped, then cut down both the taxes and the expenditures with an unsparing hand, and leave $100,000,000 a year to fructify into the pockets of the taxpayers."

THE state of Beatrice may be able to survive the disappointment, but how will Colby and Griggs look practicing law in Judge Davidson's court.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

European politics, on the surface, have been unusually quiet during the past week. The English parliament has adjourned; French diplomacy has given no ground for adverse comment, except the question of a protectorate for Madagascar; the German bundesrath is slowly deliberating on a protective policy for the empire, and the animosity aroused in some quarters in Italy between the clericals and liberals appears to have subsided. Still there is an undercurrent of discontent in all the principal European countries, which causes apprehensions of a coming storm. Some go so far as to assert that a conspiracy has extended among the working classes of Russia, Germany, France, Austria and Italy, which contemplates, not changes in forms of government merely, but some radical changes in recognized principles which will injuriously affect public creditors. In France, at this time, the people have little cause of complaint, except that which arises from the burdens which the government is powerless to relieve them of. There is no complaint of extravagance on the part of the government, or of a disposition to incur unnecessary expenses. On the contrary, the government is criticised as being too conservative. The only respect in which retrenchment could be made would be in a reduction of the army and navy; but the army and navy cannot well be reduced without an understanding with the rest of Europe. The present governments of Germany, Russia, Austria and Italy do not seem inclined to come to such understanding. The rule now is for each nation to maintain as large a standing army as the revenues they can squeeze from the people will pay for. The popular movements which have created so much uneasiness extend throughout the greater part of Europe. There does not appear to be much idea of nationality in them. The supposition is that they propose to effect reforms which one nation can not inaugurate of itself. For instance, France cannot reduce her army unless Germany will reduce hers. The present German government will listen to no proposition of that nature. The purpose of the revolutionists, therefore, may be to establish governments all over Europe which will afford the people relief from the burdensome maintenance which a large standing army entails.

Parliament adjourned a week ago. The liberal party comes out of the session strengthened in public confidence and triumphant over the passage of the new procedure rules, the Egyptian victory, and the partial pacification of Ireland. Mr. Gladstone is the lion of the hour. The ministry is received everywhere with marks of approval, and even the most conservative of the conservative press are compelled to satisfy themselves with occasional growls, which fail to show specific causes of complaint against the government. Whether the new rules will be as operative in allaying dissatisfaction as their promoters hope is a question which their trial in the next session alone can answer. The government was successful in warding off all debate on the future Egyptian policy, and England must wait further developments before learning the results of Lord Dufferin's mission.

One effect of that mission was seen in the dropping of the elaborate programme for Arabi's trial by Lord Dufferin as soon as he saw the evidence which had been collected. There is no question that it seriously involved both the khedive and the sultan in the guilt of Arabi's rebellion, and any trial which brought these facts out would unquestionably have been a huge farce. Consequently Lord Dufferin concluded that the best way out of the mess was to drop the proceedings on condition that Arabi would plead guilty to rebellion and take a sentence of perpetual exile. This he has done, and will go abroad for life, Ceylon having been selected as the place of exile. Lord Dufferin is quietly making his arrangements for what looks very much like a permanent occupation of Egypt by England. General Sir Evelyn Wood will command the troops and "preserve order." In other words, he will see to it that no other interests conflict with those of the queen. France is looking on watchfully, but beyond a howl from Gambetta's organ that the republic will not consent to be ignored in the final settlement of the Egyptian question, both the press and the government seem inclined to let matters take their course.

In Germany the prohibition of the Bundesrath against the importation of American pork has excited much opposition. A number of the chief maritime cities have protested against its execution as unwise and uncalled for. The true animus of the prohibitory ordinance is to be found in Prince Bismarck's new protective policy, which avails itself of every possible pretext to exclude foreign articles or to raise the duties upon them. It is in the same line with the taxing of canned fruit as hardware and of hams in bags as dry goods. American imports have been thus treated in preference by way of "retaliation" for our high import duties. The effect of the ordinance excluding American pork, if adopted, will be, as to this country, a severe blow to an important industry, and, as to Germany, to make the people pay more for the food they eat, without making the latter more wholesome.

It may be that Mexico has some thought of setting up a claim to the island of Galveston and the city which has grown up there since the Mexican war, but it will never make any more of an international complication out of it than the mere avowal of the claim involves. Mexico will never get Galveston except by fighting for it, and it is, of course, needless to say Mexico will never even attempt to get it that way. There is no need to go into the details of the boundary question, for, whatever its merits, time has made an undisputable title, which the United States cannot, and it is perfectly safe to say, will never permit to be brought up for consideration.

It has recently been reported that Chili contemplated bringing a claim against the United States of Columbia for $20,000,000 damages in consequence of the latter governments having permitted the shipment of arms and munitions of war across the isthmus for Peru and Bolivia. The report is denied, however, and a lot of diplomatic correspondence which passed on the occasion of the Chilian anniversary is published to show the good feeling existing between the two nations. The correspondence grew out of a congratulatory resoultion adopted by the Columbian legislature, and is about as affectionately fulsome as the Spanish language can make it. If Chili really wanted to find fault with any nation for furnishing warlike material to her enemies, she would probably call to task her neighbor, the Argentine confederation, whose citizens have driven a thriving traffic in arms and ammunition with both Bolivia and Peru.

The recent excessive rains and inundations in Tyrol caused a damage of $7,000,000, yet all that has been done so far for the relief of the sufferers by private charity beside the donation of the imperial family, does not exceed the sum of $110,000. This is a sad comment upon the Paris-Mucie and Szegedin collections. Worse than all, the sluices of heaven have opened a second time over the afflicted district, sweeping away all the dykes, scarcely repaired, and causing untold additional damage.

China's naval defenses have taken another step forward. In addition to her new European war ships she has recently adopted the German system of ordnance and torpedoes, and she intends now, it is reported from Berlin, to introduce the new German system of plated fortifications for the defense of her new naval forts. Krupp guns will be employed exclusively in mounting these forts.

AFTER the Brooklyn theatre calamity a great deal was said about safety in places of amusement, and it was generally expected that the authorities in every large city would enforce safe exits in public halls and theatres. A report just made by the inspector of buildings in the city of New York shows how little was done. Out of eighteen theatres recently examined in New York only two are beyond dispute in safe condition.

DELEGATE PETTIGREW, of Dakota, has virtually given up hope of being able to secure the admission of Dakota during the present session. He is now trying to pull through the bill dividing Dakota into two territories. This scheme may succeed, as there can be no party division as to the policy of carving the proposed new territory out of Northern Dakota.

Resist the Widow.

New York Tribune.

The democracy will do well to harden its heart and double its outposts. The siege of the Widow Butler will be rather a quiet and stealthy one at first, but it will wax bolder and more open as the end approaches. Massachusetts was at first indignant; then disgusted; then thoroughly frightened; and then there was a feeble shriek and final surrender. It would be an immense joke to see the national democracy follow this programme during the next eighteen months.

A Dearly Bought Victory.

Chicago Herald.

Any deal which fastens George C. Gorham on the secretaryship of the senate, as the price for the support of Mahone and Riddelberger, will injure the republican party far more than the loss of the organization of the senate. There is no evil which can befall the democrats worse than the accession to power in the senate by the votes of these two readjusting spoilsmen.

Traps for Gudgeons.

Chicago News.

Assistant Attorney General Freeman has made a report to the effect that all the marriage associations of the south are illegal, and that their mail matter should be excluded from the mails. They were mere traps to catch gudgeons, offering, upon the receipt of a monthly assessment fee, to pay their members a certain sum upon their marriage.

POLITICAL TABLEAUX.

Legislative Groups Posing for Glory and Soforth on a Background of Varied Colors.

A Gravel Train Gang Thrusts Greatness on Birkhauser of Richardson.

Dave Stephenson Negotiates for a Prize in the Millard Senatorial Lottery.

Legislative Committees and the Speakership.

To the Editor of THE BEE.

FALLS CITY, December 7.—Having taken tea with O'Pelt, your correspondent sallied out to hunt up a few political items, as you directed. I soon struck a few, and among them Reavis and Towle, well-known lawyers here. The first inquiry was about the contest between Birkhauser and Schoenhite over a seat in the state senate from this district. As near as your correspondent can learn the contest is made upon a claim by "Birk" that illegal votes to the number of near 200 were cast in Falls City whereby Schoenhite was elected; that these

VOTERS WERE SHIPPED

in here by both the B. & M., and Missouri Pacific, and it is alleged that many of them are known to be residents of White Cloud and other points in Kansas, as well as a respectable number from Missouri. Reavis, when asked what about Birkhouser's contest, replied, "Oh, Birkhouser be d——d," but finally admitted that "Birk" might make an interesting fight. Both claimants are anti-monopolists, (everybody is now, including Valentine.) Schoenhite ran on the republican ticket, and "Birk" on the democratic. Just who Shoenhite would favor for senator is not generally known, but he is friendly to both Cowin and Crounse.

DAVE STEPHENSON,

the republican member of the house, lives here, as do the claimants for the senatorship. Dave is a great fellow for the "old flag and the appropriations," and has managed to scoop up a few thousand dollars' worth of government surveying each year, through the influence, chiefly, of John R. Clark, of Lincoln. Hence Dave may be set down as reasonably certain to be for "Monopoly Joe," of the Omaha National bank. When Dave reads in THE BEE that Governor Butler has drawn a $5,000 prize in the "Millard Gift Enterprise," he will stutter and swear worse than ever; but he will get to Omaha pretty soon thereafter. Dave may be behind, sometimes, but he is never very far behind. Dave is a little "freckled," but will manage to strike the winning man about the time the senatorial fair closes.

THIS IS THE NATIVE TOWN

of the Dundy's and Judge Weaver, the latter still lives here and is preparing to take a trip to Washington soon, so as to get a glimpse of congressional life.

On the way down here I had several conversations with farmers on the train, and a general rejoicing prevails over the complexion of the legislature and some good work may be expected.

PETITIONS ARE BEING SIGNED

nearly everywhere by farmers to the members elect to abstain from caucus, and to vote for no man for speaker of the house who will put the railroad committee in the hands of the railroads, also to senators to not permit the lieutenant governor to appoint the committee as Carns of bribery memory did, and if members of the legislature do not heed these appeals they can put on their political shrouds at once. No new features on the speakership except that a shrewd politician from Lincoln to day says that Whedon has enlisted Robberts in his behalf. The fact that a dozen of the straight Republicans are pledged on the matter of caucusing except in the anti-monopoly caucus has left a lot of candidates for speaker dangling by the gills. The Lincoln Journal started out to figure out a majority for republicans, but has gone out of the business since the returns are all in.

W. A.

A Railroad Accident.

Special Dispatch to THE BEE.

HINTON, W. Va., December 8.—A collision occurred at half past three yesterday afternoon between a freight train going west and an express passenger train going east, at the west entrance of Stretcher's Neck tunnel, twenty-two miles west of here. Three persons were instantly killed and five others injured. The two engines, two passenger cars, one baggage car and five freight cars were wrecked. The passengers numbered seventy-five, among whom were Senator Williams, of Kentucky, and Robert Bonner, of New York, who escaped uninjured. The accident was caused by a misunderstanding of orders by the freight train men whereby they were attempting to take an hour more than had been allowed to them of the passenger train's time, it being late.