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

This advance in hops has caused a jump in beer and a rise in froth.

Christmas is approaching, and it is about time for some lynx-eyed matter, who has snaked in his boots, to find another great sea serpent.

If Dorsey regains his eyesight, and does not go to the penitentiary, he may yet be induced to join Bob Ingersoll as a lecturer on "What shall we do to be saved."

Exaggerating California newspapers have interviewed Jones of Nevada to discover why DeLoe's expedition failed. The senator told them it failed because it did not succeed.

The democrats are still wrestling with Pendleton's civil service reform elephant. The last man that tackled the animal was West of Missouri. Pendleton is in a bad way if he cannot keep down his Vest.

The Philadelphia Press takes Senator Ingalls to task for saying that the civil service bill is a cheat and that each party is trying to cheat the other. While we do not take much stock in Mr. Ingalls as a representative of the people, we rather admire his pluck for telling the truth for once.

In order to prevent delay in the work of tariff revision the house committee on ways and means have agreed to remain in Washington during the holiday recess. That will keep the lobby in hot water between Christmas and New Years and afford a good chance for converting the members of the committee to their views.

The high protective duty on lightning rods should at once be abolished. The demand for lightning rods in Michigan, Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas will during the next month exhaust the entire supply of American manufacturers and we think it an imposition on senatorial candidates to deprive them of the advantage offered by the lightning rod market abroad.

With the decision of the national supreme court in the Curtis case, which makes it a criminal offense for certain officers and employees of the United States to solicit or receive political assessments from each other, we have reached one important step toward the reformation of existing abuses in the public service. Now let congress pass a law that will prohibit federal officials from acting as members of political committees or becoming delegates to political conventions, and we shall have traveled a good way toward purifying the cesspool of politics and putting down bossism.

They have a Sunday closing league in New York, whose business it is to cause the arrest of persons who violate the new Sunday law. The agents of the league made efforts to procure arrests in a number of cases last Monday, but as a rule they were not willing to go to court as complainants and the police were not disposed to put themselves out to assist in these prosecutions. The outcome is that the law is a dead letter and the league a failure. This is what has happened in every city where Sunday laws and strict prohibitory laws have been enacted. The good people who clamor for these laws are never willing to make personal efforts to bring the law-breakers to justice and the police are generally hired to "keep order" in Sunday lager beer gardens.

It is doubtful whether the advantage from two cent postage will be as great as has been predicted by the advocates of that reform. The penny postal card affords a very cheap medium for all intercourse that can be carried on without secrecy. Those who are compelled to communicate by letter would do so just as often at three cents per letter as they will at two cents. Of course business men, and especially bankers who have a large correspondence will profit by the reduction, but we doubt very much whether any bank or merchant would increase the number of his letters one per cent because they go through the mail for less than three cents each. Of course if the government can carry letters for two cents without loss it is proper that the reduction be made.

PUBLISH THE ROLL OF HONOR.

The pension list that bears the names of disabled loyal soldiers who rallied in defense of the flag and saved the Union, is a roll of honor. Every soldier whose name is rightfully enrolled as one of the heroes who fought and suffered for his country can be proud of the act. The suggestion that it would shame him or his children to publish him as entitled to and receiving in his old age the small compensation allowed by the nation to those who took up arms in defense of the republic is all bosh, and the widow who lost a husband, or a son on the field of battle cannot but be proud of seeing her name on the roll of honor side by side with the gallant defenders of the country. It is only the class that have no right to a pension that raises its voice against the proposition to publish the pension roll which would lead to the detection of impostors.

It is notorious [that hundreds of scoundrels who never came within a thousand miles of the battle field have succeeded in getting their names on the pension roll by fraudulent testimony. Almost every neighborhood is cognizant of this sort of scandal. Here is a case in point: An elderly cripple has appeared in Detroit claiming to be Charles E. Brewer, who enlisted in company A, First Michigan artillery, in August, 1861, and was reported killed in the battle of Bull Run, in August, 1862. After that battle Charles E. Brewer was never again seen alive by any person previously acquainted with him. The man who now claims to be the identical Charles E. Brewer has his certificate of enlistment and plenty of battle scars to show that he was a soldier, but tells a very strange story about his protracted disappearance. He says the injuries received in the battle wherein he was reported killed impaired his memory so that he cannot tell where he was or what happened to him for a long time after the battle. All he knows is that he found himself at last living in Kansas City, where his home now is, and being in destitute circumstances he has visited Detroit to get some of his old comrades to assist him in obtaining a pension, with the arrears allowed by the existing law.

This may be Charles E. Brewer, but the story is just such a one as would be concocted by a conspirator who had obtained or forged Brewer's certificate and found some old deserter or battered old rebel willing to personate a dead union soldier for a share of the plunder thus to be filched from the treasury of a grateful and outrageously swindled country. The trial of one Wackerle in St. Louis developed pretty strong proof that it is so easy for a living man to personate a dead soldier and enjoy his pension. The appalling increase of the pension list makes it morally certain that a large proportion of the pensioners are wicked impostors. Any miscreant who robbed a wounded soldier on the battlefield may, if he preserved his victim's papers and is ordinarily shrewd, make use of these papers and by perjured testimony get on the pension roll and even draw a snug fortune in the way of arrears.

The law, as now administered, offers a premium on rascality and fraud, and the proposition to publish the pension rolls in each locality or district where the pensioners reside would not only put a stop to the imposition, but would rid the country of hundreds of bogus pensioners who have no claim upon the government.

THE OLD CAUCUS TRAP.

Monopoly organs in this state were in haste to record the fact that Congressman Valentine had introduced a bill looking toward the taxation of unpatented lands claimed by the railway companies. The purpose was evident. The newspapers that paraded this "heroic" and latter day effort of Mr. Valentine evidently assumed that the people would at once deduce from this act another, to-wit: That Valentine and those who supported him and with whom he and his forces will labor shortly to elect a United States senator, were anti-monopolists—good and true. As the time draws near when the legislature of this state will meet at which a senator must be chosen, it became highly important to carry the conviction to anti-monopoly republicans that Valentine is all right on the anti-monopoly question; and more important still, that these anti-monopoly republicans should draw the inference from Valentine's bill that his friends, who will labor at Lincoln to secure their man for senator, were, like Valentine, good anti-monopoly republicans. It was one of those acts that a little political magician would quite naturally hold up to the gaze of men whom he too frequently assumes are ready to applaud deception. Old "Joey Bagstock" would probably exclaim "devilish clever," but then Joey did not live in this age. Men who know why they are anti-monopolists are not so ready to be caught with a clever trick, and drawn into the hoped for "regular" republican "caucus," on which all the hopes of the monopolists are based to secure a monopolist for senator. Aside from the radical difference which exists between a repub-

lican monopolist and a republican who is an anti-monopolist; aside from the real purpose which the monopolists at Lincoln will have in view in bull-dozing republicans, one and all, into a party "caucus," the time has gone by for independent men of any party, who happen to differ with the "besses" on a matter of principle, to be read out of a party for refusing to be caught in the old "party" caucus trap. When Roscoe Conkling resigned and sought a reelection in 1881 the party caucus was the thing that was to do it, but the men who subsequently elected Lyman and Miller, and not Conkling and Platt, saw the device that spoke for the result that would follow their attendance on a caucus, and they refused to attend. That refusal defeated Conkling, and the effort to read out of the party those who refused to be whipped into a caucus has met with a disastrous result in New York. Without doubt an effort will be made to secure the attendance of enough republicans at a regular "party" caucus to control the election of a senator, but the pledges made to the people are too numerous and all would be broken by an attendance, for the reason that all will be bound by the action taken in caucus by the majority, and the only true way to redeem the pledges given is to remain away until, at least, it can be seen what the real purpose of the leaders is in the matter of a candidate for senator. The people will not be prepared to accept any excuse for attending, and no man who weakly puts his trust in a caucus promise will be heard for a moment by the people in defense of his action. In the Conkling contest of 1881 probably the most bitter one on record, those who remained away from the caucus were derided and denounced by all the "regular" party organs as rebels, and all sorts of epithets calculated to render them politically odious in the eyes of men were heaped upon them, but they were as obstinate as Gen. Grant in the Wilderness and at Cold Harbor. The result of that long and bitter legislative contest was the defeat of the regular caucus at the outset and the irregular, overcoming the regulars elected their senators. Nebraska can elect an anti-monopoly senator and it depends at the outset, whether anti-monopoly republicans will remain firm and true to the people or not.

A bill to regulate interstate commerce has been agreed upon by the house committee on commerce, which will soon be reported. The bill is wrong in inception and calculated to stave off such action by congress as will remedy existing abuses in railway traffic. The committee recommend through this bill the creation of a railroad commission that will be limited in power to the gathering of statistics about the railroad traffic and submitting a report of its findings to the next congress. Such a commission would be a mere sinecure. There is already a bureau of railroads with a commissioner at its head, and all the desired information can be had through him just as well as through a board of railroad commissioners. What the country wants is laws that will prohibit extortion, discrimination and favoritism by railroads under revenue penalties—laws that will prohibit stock watering and credit mobilization construction companies. Such laws can be enforced through the federal courts, and it should be made the duty of the United States district attorneys to prosecute offenders. If the committee on commerce cannot frame such laws they had better leave the question of regulating interstate commerce to the next congress.

SECRETARY LINCOLN has sent an executive communication to the senate in which he says he cannot dispense with any of his clerks without detriment to the public service. Too bad. Now we can't even get military service reform.

The Cincinnati Commercial devotes one-third of a column to an editorial eulogy on the death of General Mead's war horse, which occurred last week, in the prime of horsehood, at the age of 30. It was a sad affair. The horse had been carrying a rebel bullet in the near hind leg for more than twenty years and had not been booked for a back pension. A post-mortem by an expert horse owner revealed the fact that the bullet had worked its way out through a saddle sore.

ALTHOUGH St. Louis is about 100 miles nearer to Omaha by rail than Chicago, the newspaper mail from St. Louis is delivered from three to five hours after the Chicago papers have been delivered. Why this is so nobody hereabouts can tell. It strikes us, however, that the St. Louis papers should take interest enough in this matter to have their mail facilities and connections improved.

The New York Sun prints a letter from Uncle Rufus Hatch, who is the head and front of the Yellowstone Park speculators ring, in which he endeavors to show why the proposed lease of the park is desirable. After enumerating the many natural wonders of the locality—the mountains covered with perpetual snow,

the geysers which spout boiling waters, the devil's paint pots, the canyons, the glass mountains, the elk, antelope, big-horned sheep, grizzly bears and the like, he adds that at present none but expensively equipped camping parties can enjoy this wealth of natural attractions, the only habitations being the huts of squabbling hunters and the barracks of the superintendant. The United States, he says, cannot with propriety go into the business of running hotels, bath-houses and lively stables, or of furnishing camping parties with outfit. Hence the leasing of parts of the park, under which Messrs. Hobart and Douglas propose, with the aid of himself and other gentlemen, to build and run hotels and do the things which the government cannot do, and that is the object of the leases now in course of execution. At present there are not over eighty miles of available wagon road in this vast domain. Not less than 300 miles will be needed to make its beauties accessible to tourists, especially if ladies and families are ever to enjoy them. He claims that there have been extraordinary misunderstandings concerning the scope and purpose of the lease. It is evident that Gen. Sheridan, who visited the park with a concourse of 200 cavalry, had seen the contract, or he would not have made that report about obligations which the government would not be able to shake off. Regarding the general's desire to see the park controlled by government officers, Uncle Rufus says it is so controlled. Guessing that perhaps the general meant military officers, he proceeds to picture the spectacle of a colonel as hotel manager, couple of elegant lieutenants as clerks, a sergeant in charge of the dining room, a squad of privates in United States uniform as waiters, and a major of cavalry in charge of the lively stable. Uncle Rufus further points out that long before Gen. Sheridan's report was made he and his associates had the attention of the secretary of the interior to acts of extraordinary vandalism committed in the park by federal troops as well as tourists, in the wholesale slaughter of game, which was left to rot in heaps on the ground, the burning of thousands of acres of beautiful timber and the useless mutilation of geysers cones. To put an end to this they recommended suitable legislation and the allowance of assistance to the gamekeeper adequate to put an end to the depredations of skin hunters. They now propose, if permitted, to have one or two handsome hotels open in June, with an equipment of stages, wagons, saddle horses and guides for the convenience of summer tourists. As they hope to make money, it will be for their interest to preserve the game and natural beauties of the place to the utmost of their ability. They want to make it the grandest pleasure resort on earth.

OCCIDENTAL JOTTINGS.

DAKOTA.

Elm Fork will have a street railway in the spring.

The demand for improved farms in South Dakota will be unprecedented next spring.

It is estimated that the population of the territory will be increased next year at least 100,000 people.

Some of the Santee Indians have become so that they can read and write the English language fluently.

The Northern Pacific company recently sold a quarter section of land adjoining Bismarck for \$50,000. The purchasers are the Bismarck mill, near Center, is becoming one of the most valuable claims in the hills. The mill attached to the mine is kept in constant operation.

The population of Burleigh county is 3,000, comprising 1,000 Scandinavians, 900 Germans, 250 Irish, 200 French, Scotch, English and Welsh 150, and Americans 2,000.

The bodies of Mrs. Selinger and her child, whose remains were recently lost in a storm and frozen. Their bodies have been found between Stump Lake and Adler's.

The different sheriffs of the counties have been transferring their convicts from the penitentiary at Sioux Falls. Twenty-nine have been brought back.

Should there be no financial squeeze this winter it is probable that the rub to the Devil's Lake country will be enormous. The focal point will be Odessa, the future capital of Northern Dakota.

The Hastings & Dakota railroad is closed for the winter between Milbank and Aberdeen. The recent snow storms filled the deep cuts, and it is found impossible to operate the road. Wahby, Webster, Groton, Groton, Groton and Bath are the prosperous towns thus cut off from the outside world.

The smelter at the Hartville copper mine was successfully blown last week from thirty to thirty-five tons of ore and daily used with a product of six tons of slag.

Cheyenne is terribly excited over the large number of fire occurring there. This week Keefe's hall, a large building, was fired by incendiaries and burnt to the ground.

Work has been commenced on a building in Laramie City which will be known as the wool market. California and eastern buyers will have offices there and will the wool raised on Laramie plains.

There is an unusual stagnation of business in Laramie City. It is said to be due from the fact that the cattle interests have almost entirely deserted Laramie plains, and there are only two firms making their headquarters there.

PIAN. Pigeon shooting is the sport in the territory. Springfield, Utah county, has the finest track in the territory outside of Salt Lake.

A block of 46,000 shares of Silver King stock was lately sold to a resident of Salt Lake.

Bullion valued at \$129,420.40 was received by the banks in Salt Lake one day last week.

Alfalfa is being sown in all parts of the territory. It grows as well in Utah as in California.

COLORADO. The bank of Breckenridge has suspended.

Druver's new city hall has already been condemned.

Colorado's beer tax for the past year has been \$37,381.

It is estimated that the Grand river will water 1,800,000 acres of land.

The contract already let on the new Lewis house at Gunnison reach over \$138,000.

One shipment from Silverton for the month of February amounted to 2,455,328 pounds.

It is said that 9,321 people living in the

state are unable to read, and 10,674 are unable to write.

The removal of the county seat of Carter county from Rosta to Silver Cliff is raising a stormy protest from the residents of the first-named town.

Considerable feeling exists in Denver over the proposed change in the site for the government building. Governor Taylor offered a place at Sixteenth and Arapahoe streets, which was tacitly accepted, but through the efforts of Senator Hill it is thought it will be changed to another part of the city.

IDAHO. A circulating library will be established at Blackfoot.

Some quite heavy transfers of real estate have been made in Blackfoot recently.

A large force of men will be sent to work on the Queen Victoria mine, on Lookout Mountain. This is one of the best mines on Wood River.

A force of men are employed in the Chloride mine in the Germania district. Calves have been built and provisions have been laid in for the winter's work.

The legislature at Boise City has not yet organized. There is a political in both houses and it will probably be some time before a compromise can be effected.

A curious geological fact exists in connection with the Kootenai river, in north Idaho. It rises in British Columbia, runs into the United States and then circles back into the land of its birth and empties into the Columbia river.

MONTANA. The total assessment of Chouteau county is \$2,309,238.

Work is now being done in the Butte mining district.

The weekly shipments from the Butte mines now amount to \$100,000.

A vigilance committee has been organized at Livingston to hold the ranches in check.

The Piegan and Crow Indians are stealing stock from each other and also murdering one another.

Prize fighters abound in the territory and "hard glove" contests are occurring in nearly all of the towns.

It is said that over 35,000 head of cattle have been taken out of the territory for shipment to eastern markets.

Fort Shaw and Magin's will probably soon be the scene of a battle, as they are no longer needed for frontier protection.

The placer diggings in Emigrant Gulch, near Bozeman, have been sold for \$31,000. It is thought that the yield of gold during 1883 will be great.

WASHINGTON. New Tacoma will soon have a national bank.

The assessed value of taxable property in the territory this year is \$32,567,857, an increase of \$8,789,452 over last year. The levy is two and a half mills on the dollar, and the revenue derived from it amounts to \$81,015.

A company has been organized at Seattle for the cultivation of hops. They have purchased 700 acres near the town, paying \$22 an acre. They will plant 900 acres in March, and the first year's yield, estimated at 80 pounds to the acre, will pay for the land. The expenses for the first season will be about \$60,000.

NEVADA. There are 130 patients in the Nevada insane asylum at Reno.

The Indians, Italians and Chinese at Mind and Pyramid lakes, are reported as destroying immense quantities of trout.

CALIFORNIA. The exports from the Santa Ana depot for the week ending December 8th were over 240,000 pounds.

The city of Sacramento has contracted with the gas company there to light the city for \$1,100 a month.

Los Angeles is very lively in building. Three story brick buildings are being erected in considerable numbers.

The California Southern Railroad company began the survey of the road from Colton to San Bernardino yesterday.

The business portion of Willow, which was destroyed by fire some months ago, has risen from its ashes, and a block of substantial brick buildings has taken the place of the frame structures burned.

The saw-mills at Glenbrook, on Lake Tahoe, have shut down for the winter, and a large number of the lumbermen will cross the mountains and work in the up-country lumber camps of California and Oregon.

J. M. Hutchings, guardian of the Yosemite valley, says that the number of tourists to the valley the past season was unprecedented. Substantial bridges have been built across all the ravines and arroyos where needed, and good roads have been constructed to all points of the valley, save through Indian canyon, which will require some further work next season.

NEW MEXICO. Another free gold lead has been opened in the Nogal country.

Work has been resumed on the North H megalite mine at White Oak.

A gold mine in the Dragon mountains recently was sold for \$100,000.

Silver City's trade with Mexico is temporarily cut off by the Indian outbreak.

The Cash Entry mine in the Corralles district has been sold to Alexander Gill for \$50,000.

The miners in the Clifton camp are making war upon the Chinese laborers employed there.

Two car loads of brick were recently shipped from Kansas City to Lake Valley. The freight charges were three times the price of the brick.

Francisco Nolan, a resident of Saballo, a little town near Mora, went to a wedding last week and while there shot and killed two brothers named Royal. He went home and cut off both of his wife's ears.

A CURIOUS EXPLOSION. A Pipe of the Power Company Tears up a Street.

Special to the Post-Dispatch. NEW YORK, December 19.—With a loud report the bed of the street at the northeast corner of Nassau and John streets was upheaved, and a cloud of steam spouted up as from a geyser, at 10 o'clock yesterday morning.

The steam continued to rise, and for a time was heavily laden with lamp-black, which was protrusely spattered over the sidewalk and against the windows in the street.

The streets were crowded, and people who were sufficiently near to see the earth open at their feet were badly frightened. The passage of an express wagon was somewhat interrupted, the driver being scared as well as slightly scalded.

His horse plunged under the effect of the hissing steam and the bottom of the wagon was bounded forward from beneath with paving stones. In the afternoon a gang of the American Heating and Power company's workmen had cleared away the debris, showing a hole nine feet long, about four feet across and two deep from which the steam was still ascending from the company's pipes. It was stated that the workmen of the company had just rolled the paving stones and had not proceeded more than a block on their way when the explosion occurred.

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