

The Omaha Bee

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

The whisky distillers are in bad spirits because congress does not seem inclined to attend to their spiritual wants.

Tobacco and beer have taken an upward course within the past few days but swill fed hogs and smoked tongues are not materially affected.

The late government director of the Union Pacific railroad, whose first name is George Spencer, is still among the missing. He is somewhere in Canada gazing at the stars.

CHRISTMAS does not come all the year round as our honorable police judge exclaimed when he was notified that twenty-five men were picked up by the police while trying to hold up a lamp-post.

There have been more changes in Nebraska postoffices during the past two weeks than in any three months previous. Our Val is bound to get in his strikers before Laird and Weaver can put in an appearance.

Red Cloud has smoked the pipe of peace with the great father and packed a heavy Christmas dinner into his spacious bread basket. He is willing to continue on those rations for a few months, even if he has to stay away from his reservation.

This fellows who turn the cranks on the monopoly organs keep telling that the railroads are out of politics and will not be in the lobby at Lincoln next month. Just wait a few days and we will see the trains packed with the railroad lobby going down to the Lincoln circus to see the fun.

RAILROAD accidents are altogether too frequent of late to speak well for the management of these public highways. Some of them are the result of recklessness and others of neglect. Several of these accidents have been quite serious, and the parties responsible ought to be severely dealt with.

The Pendleton bill has ceased to be the Pendleton bill, having been adopted by the republican caucus of senators and put into Mr. Hawley's charge to secure its passage at the earliest date possible. It will doubtless come to a final vote either tomorrow or next day, and it is sure of a large majority. How it will fare in the house remains to be seen.

The prospect of a favorable balance of trade is not very bright. The export of our breadstuff in the five months ending with November shows but a small increase upon the five corresponding months of last year, and that for the eleven months then ending, shows a decrease of twenty-one per cent. On the other hand our stocks are relatively large, and the hope of a vast European demand does not rest on a solid basis.

It would be well, says the Philadelphia American, in commenting on the recent bank failures, for those interested in the solvency of banks and other institutions holding money in trust, whether the cash is actually on hand or whether some of its custodians have not carried it away to speculate in stocks of oil, grain, cotton, or some other articles tangible or imaginary. Last Wednesday the failure of the City Bank at Rochester, N. Y., was announced, the president, Mr. Upton, having used \$350,000 of its funds in oil operations, and a banking house in a neighboring town (the William C. Moore house, at Victor, N. Y.) put up its shutters on hearing the news. On the same day, the Second National bank of Jefferson, Ohio, suspended because its cashier and his assistant had also been using the funds—\$50,000 to \$75,000 this time,—in private speculations. It would be reflecting on a great number of very upright and honorable men to suggest the danger of a general rottenness in banks and like institutions, but the vastness of speculative operations, and the continual overcropping of such cases as those described, ought to make every stockholder persistently inquisitive as to the strict management of the institution in which he has shares. If he be a national bank stockholder, he may be called upon, some fine morning, not only to see his shares wiped out, but to meet a demand for the payment of an equal amount in new money to make up a deficiency.

THE LEGISLATURE

The Nebraska legislature will convene in biennial session at Lincoln next Tuesday. In number it will be the largest law making body that has ever convened in Nebraska. Up to 1877 our legislatures were made up of 13 senators and 39 representatives. Since that time under the changed apportionment of the new constitution, the senate consisted of 33 members, and the house 84 representatives. The constitution authorized the legislature to increase the number of senators to 33 and the number of representatives to 100 after the year 1880. The legislature of 1881 acted on this provision and the coming legislature will therefore consist of 133 members.

The people of Nebraska will watch the proceedings of the coming legislature with a great deal of anxiety. A large majority of the body has been elected upon pledges to support measures that will afford relief to the producers from existing abuses by railway monopolies. They are pledged to use every honorable exertion to ward reducing the rate of transportation and putting a stop to favoritism and discrimination between persons and localities. They are pledged upon honor to their constituents to vote for a man for United States senator whose character and past record are a guarantee that he will honestly, faithfully and ably represent the people of this state and give his voice and influence to measures of a national character that will check the aggression of monopolies.

Beyond this the coming legislature stands pledged to enact laws that will bring about an honest and equitable assessment of railroad property and laws that will insure economy in the conduct of our state government and a general reduction of taxes. These are the outlines of the policy that the people look for from the next legislature, and we have reason to believe that they will not be disappointed.

One of the problems that will have to be solved in all the large cities of this country, is how to devise proper fire protections for buildings that are above six stories in height. In New York, Chicago and elsewhere great blocks have been built during the past three or four years, that reach way up to even ten and twelve stories. The other day an eight storied block was destroyed in Buffalo because the fire department could not throw a stream of water into the upper stories. Much fault was found by the Buffalo press with their firemen, but as a matter of fact the blame for the disaster must be laid at the door of the builders. Every intelligent person knows that the ordinary system of fire protection, either by water works or from steam engines, is utterly inadequate to put off fires above a certain height. To make any headway against a fire in a ten-story building the fire department should be provided with a water tower or some other contrivance. It is self-evident that we must either give up building eight and ten story blocks in large cities or take the risk of their burning down. The worst feature is, however, that such large buildings are apt to communicate the fire to lower buildings that surround them, and the flames from such buildings will readily spread across a street.

The present congress has taken a very deep interest in the federal office holder. They have not only taken compassion on the overworked clerks in the departments at Washington, who begin their arduous duties of shredding red ink for their country at 9 in the morning and quit at 3 in the afternoon, with only a month's leave of absence for recreation, but they are also beginning to look into the hardships that afflict the collectors of customs, marshals, surveyors general, heads of bureaus, territorial governors, etc. Until of late it was always believed that these offices were sought after by able bodied patriots, who were willing to fight, bleed and die for their country. It would seem, however, that the government has serious apprehensions that they will not be able to fill these offices on account of overwork and underpay. So congress is devising all sorts of means to relieve the poor fellows who wear Uncle Sam's harness.

CHICAGO is now earnestly engaged in discussing the high license system. There is vigorous opposition, however, from 8,000 saloon keepers who do business in Chicago, and it is not at all likely that a material advance in the license could be secured through the Chicago city council. It is proposed to apply to the legislature at its approaching session to make a high license law for the whole state. The proposition is to charge \$500 a year for license in cities and \$300 in towns and villages. There are about 14,000 saloons in Illinois, 10,000 of which are in the cities and the remainder in the small towns. It is estimated that the law would probably reduce the 10,000 in cities to 6,000, and these, at \$500 each, would yield a revenue of \$3,000,000. The 4,000 in the rural districts would be reduced to 2,000, and these, at \$300 each, would yield \$600,000 more, making a total of \$3,600,000 revenue derived from the saloons. The friends of the measure

argue in its favor that it would spike the prohibition gun, take the liquor question out of politics, and settle it on a basis where the public would be content to let it rest.

The actual tariff reformers on the ways and means committee are gradually coming to the conclusion that the only possible chance to secure any important reforms in the tariff lies in an up and down fight on the floor of the house. The charges recommended by the tariff committee cover so much debatable matter that it will be impossible to pass any plan for a general revision of the tariff in time for the senate to act upon it before the close of the present congress. The best that the minority can do is to make a determined fight with a view to placing the country in possession of the facts, and show where the responsibility for a failure to revise the tariff properly belongs.

MR. FRANK HATTON seems to be of the opinion that he is postmaster general, and "a bigger man" than President Arthur. He has the stalwart cheek developed as big as a barn door.—Cincinnati Commercial.

Mr. Frank Hatton has traveled on his check all his life. It was only by the exhibition of the most sublime cheek that he became postmaster of Burlington, and it was only his superabundance of cheek that gave him his present position, for which he is no more fit than a deaf-mute is to act as interpreter. Mr. Hatton has more cheek and self-conceit to the square inch than any man in America.

There is a rumor current at Washington that one of the star route thieves will turn state's evidence, that will convict Brady, Dorsey and others. When thieves fall out honest men get their dues.

SENATOR VAN WYCK's bill to compel the land grant railroads to pay their taxes meets with hearty approval from leading papers all over the country. The St. Louis Republican indulges in the following unvarnished comment: The bill reported to the United States senate providing for the taxation of public lands belonging to the railway companies should be passed without hesitation. It is said that a matter of fifteen million acres are involved, and there is no consideration of public policy which should excuse their exemption from contributing as all other lands do to the support of the governments of those states or territories in which they are situated. Ample provision was made in the acts granting these lands to enable the railways to dispose of them before forcing them to assume the obligations of taxation. The bill is a matter of the law being a speedy marketing of the public lands. The railway companies sought to escape the obligations of the limitations put in the granting acts, however, by making a pretended disposal of the lands, which has been declared to be null and void by the supreme court. The bill is a matter of the law being a speedy marketing of the public lands. The railway companies sought to escape the obligations of the limitations put in the granting acts, however, by making a pretended disposal of the lands, which has been declared to be null and void by the supreme court. The bill is a matter of the law being a speedy marketing of the public lands. The railway companies sought to escape the obligations of the limitations put in the granting acts, however, by making a pretended disposal of the lands, which has been declared to be null and void by the supreme court.

Work is being done on the once famous Belle Peck mine, at Silver City, with a fair prospect of striking another bonanza. The democrats have finally captured the organization of the house and will probably get the council of the present legislature.

Nearly 150 carloads of ore and bullion have been received at Blackfoot from Wood River and Challis. It was shipped to Salt Lake and Omaha.

The assessment in Gallatin county this year foots up \$3,367,610. The sum of \$2,600 has been subscribed in Benton to build a sister's hospital.

The bullion shipments from Butte during the last week was valued at \$27,424. The new hoisting engine at the Arconado mine near Butte, is said to be the largest in the territory.

The Billings papers say that the Clark's Ford county is full of gold, and predict that in a short time it will be filled with miners.

The bones of a mastodon fish were recently brought into Butte. They were found in the belt range of mountains, and weigh over 150 pounds.

The famous Shakespeare Parrot copper mine, near Butler, has been sold for \$30,000. This is a hundred feet claim, and the adjacent property is just as valuable.

Dear Lodge Valley ranchers complain bitterly of the increase in the rates of transportation of hay, grain and other freight over the Utah and Northern railroads. It costs many to haul their produce by wagon.

Late news of the flood near Walla Walla shows that earlier reports were true. The damage to railroads and bridges amounts to over \$100,000.

Several citizens of Seattle have secured a charter for a national bank in Yakima, the capital of which will be \$50,000. This will be the sixth national bank in the territory.

Six cases of the worst type of small-pox were reported one day last week in Portland. Trains on the Oregon and California road will be resumed soon and will run through to Astoria.

Travel will be interrupted between Walla Walla and Walla Walla, but the break will be repaired.

The stage between Yakima and Golden-dale while crossing a swollen stream recently was carried away by the current. The driver was drowned and the mail and express matter lost.

One of the Indians confined in jail at Pendleton for the murder of Mulherson was induced to turn state's evidence, and has disclosed the whole affair. The parties in jail are the guilty ones. The murderer of Mulherson's property has been found.

Ostrich farming is exciting the attention of San Francisco capitalists. One Los Angeles firm furnishes \$55,000 worth of produce per month to Arizonans. It is proposed to construct a narrow gauge road from Cojon valley to National City.

On December 20th there was a sharp shock of earthquake at San Buenaventura.

Mining has become quite common near Los Angeles lately, and several paying claims have been found. Building is very active in Los Angeles. One block there is in progress of erection to cost something over \$100,000.

The rain and mud storm which prevailed last week over the entire state was the greatest which has occurred for years.

In 1879 the improvement of Coos Bay was begun. The channel has been deepened from nine feet at low tide to over thirteen feet at low tide. Seventy thousand dollars has already been expended on the work.

The city front south of Market street in San Francisco is filling up so rapidly with tramps that the police have commenced raiding them. Thieving and burglaries are common and the tramps are looked on as the guilty ones.

The California Southern railroad company has begun a condemnation suit against the Southern Pacific in San Diego county. It seems that the former company unwittingly built about ten miles of their road on land belonging to the latter, near Leguena.

Tombstone will have a billiard tournament. Twelve hundred people visited the bull fight at Tucson last Sunday.

About 9,000 tons of hay were recently destroyed by fire at Fort Apache.

Two American prospectors were murdered eight miles from San Pedro on the

bullion is stacked up in Challis as common as cord wood. Idaho City is very dull; in fact, there is no life in the place at all.

The Custer mine at Blackfoot last week produced \$20,000 worth of gold bullion. A petrified corpse has been found near Blackfoot in the remains of a woman buried three years ago.

The Webster mine at Silver City turns out a quality of ore, which is said to be very fine and valuable.

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On inst. Their names were Alexander Stiles and John Morrow.

Fifteen desecrators from Fort Lowell are reported within the past fifteen days. A Walnut Grove swata turns out \$76 worth of bullion from 3,100 pounds of ore.

Three years and a half ago the Tombstone mines commenced producing. From that time to January 1, 1882, the output was \$1,219,717. To this date the output has been \$12,716,152.

The following mining property has recently changed hands in the territory. The Bell, State, and River, \$200,000; Holmes mine, \$250,000; Infer company mine, \$100,000; Hidden Treasure, \$50,000; Eureka, \$40,000; and the Blue Dick, \$15,000.

NEVADA. The east drift on the 2,700 feet level of the Sierra Nevada has been extended 30 feet lately.

Next week a cross cut on the 2,900 feet level of the Comstock mine will be commenced on the line between the Mexican and Union.

NEW MEXICO. In the last election the territory cast 28,440 votes.

A government arsenal will be erected at Albuquerque.

The Hard Scrabble mine, in the Magdalena district, has \$87,000 in sight.

A disastrous fire occurred at Las Vegas, December 15th. Several dwelling houses were destroyed.

The San Andres Consolidated Mining company has been organized. It has a capital of \$1,000,000.

Pat Coghlan, the cattle king of Tularosa, has sold his cattle ranch to a man in El Paso for \$200,000.

THE TELEGRAPHS. TEXT OF SENATOR LOGAN'S BILL. In the senate, December 19, Senator Logan asked, and by unanimous consent, obtained leave to bring in the following bill, which was read twice and referred to the committee on the judiciary:

A BILL for the regulation of telegraph and cable companies.

Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled:

That any company, corporation, or person owning, controlling or operating any telegraph line or cable which transmits messages between any of the states of the United States, or which occupies with its poles, wires, cables, or other structures any of the military or post roads of the United States, or any of the navigable streams or waters of the United States, shall receive any message from any company, corporation, or person owning, operating or controlling any other telegraph line or cable, and shall transmit and deliver the same in good faith and without discrimination, partiality, or preference, whether it shall relate to the business of the company, corporation, or person offering it, or shall have been received or collected from other persons for transmission.

Sec 2. That whenever any company, corporation or person owning, controlling or operating any telegraph line or cable, as described in the first section hereof, shall receive or be offered any message from any other company, corporation or person owning, controlling any other telegraph line or cable, and shall message, originating at some point other than the place at which it is offered as aforesaid, such company shall in transmitting and delivering the same, designate thereon the name of the place at which the message or dispatch originated without charge therefor. And nothing shall be added to any such message for which any charge shall be made.

Sec 3. That any company, corporation, or person violating any of the preceding provisions of this act shall be liable to a penalty of \$500 for every such violation, to be recovered, with costs of suit, in the name and for the benefit of the company, corporation, or person offering any message for transmission, and shall also be liable to an action by the person signing such message, or who may have any interest in the same, for any damages resulting to such person from any violation of this act. Any circuit court of the United States may, by writ of mandamus or injunction, or other appropriate proceeding, specifically enforce the execution of the preceding provisions of this act; and in case of repeated violations thereof any company, person, or corporation offending may be enjoined from transacting any telegraphic business.

Sec 4. That any officer, director, agent or employee of any company or corporation owning, operating or controlling any telegraph line or cable, as described in the first section hereof, who shall read, inspect or examine, or who shall permit any other person to read, inspect or examine any message intrusted to such company or corporation for transmission or delivery, or which shall come into his custody, excepting only those persons in the employment of such company or corporation who shall be required to read, inspect or examine such message for the purpose of transmitting or receiving the same, or in the discharge of some duty in connection therewith, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction therefor shall be fined not more than \$500 or be imprisoned for not more than six months, or both; provided, that this section shall not apply to any act done in obedience to any subpoena or other legal process.

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