

The Omaha Bee

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

YESTERDAY was a day of day. Tomorrow will be the day of remorse over broken resolutions.

EVERY Mohammedan when he prays turns his face towards Mecca. Every Nebraska jobber when he prays turns his feet towards Lincoln.

THE railroad organs are virtuously opposed to renegades, but Church Howes' portrait still hangs on the editorial sanctums draped in cruel crape.

GEN. SHERMAN says that the report that he had recently visited the Catholic church is "a d—d lie." No further denial is needed.

PARTY harmony, according to the view of the railroad organs, means the lying down of the anti-monopoly lamb inside of the monopoly wolf. That sort of harmony will never come.

DAVID DAVIS is not a candidate for re-election, and that iron-braced and copper-bottomed senatorial chair will be placed, after next March, among the curiosities of the army medical museum.

DELAWARE will elect a United States senator this month to succeed Senator Saulsbury. The legislature convenes to-day, and a vigorous attempt will be made to unlead the tail of the Saulsburies.

THE senatorial horses are waiting for the word "go" and are scoring for a start. The Millard mare seems a little out of condition, but who the dark horse will be appears as difficult to decide as it was three months ago.

In a vote of the old soldiers of the country was taken to-day, nine-tenths would be found opposed to any increase of pensions beyond that which would affect soldiers totally disabled. It is the pension sharks at Washington who are fattening at the expense of the good name of that grand old army which nearly twenty years ago overthrew the hosts of rebellion and staked their lives and fortunes that the nation might live.

It only takes a trip to Europe to make most sensible Americans more proud of their country than before their departure. Gen. John B. Gordon, of Georgia, says it is enough to make an American proud to rattle through the streets of London with its civilization of 2,000 years and see American implements, American sewing machines, American tools and American goods displayed on every hand and know that American watches are being sold in the stores, and American fields are feeding the English, and American factories beginning to clothe them. It is strange, too, how being in England wipes out all sectional pride that the southern man and the western man or northern man may have.

THE Omaha Republican sees no necessity for antimonopolists as distinct from the two dominant national parties. It cheekily informs the people of Nebraska that the present legislature, which is republican, will pass all necessary laws for the restriction of corporate monopolies without any assistance from the antimonopolists, and assumes that the party has all along evidenced a desire to keep pace with the wishes of the people entirely, irrespective of external influences. This is rich, rare and racy. The anti-monopoly issue has been forced upon the unwilling leaders of the republican machine after a struggle which has lasted for over ten years. In that contest the men who have dared, who have led the party to advocate the principles of antimonopoly, have been denounced as enemies to society and sowers of discord. Those leaders who have dared to rise superior to the clamor of the railroad party bosses, and who, through insult and abuse have made the anti-monopoly issue a living question in Nebraska politics, are responsible for the awakening in the party ranks, of which railroad tools and coppers are now attempting to seize the credit. If the revolt in the republican ranks against corporation control of the party had never taken place every one knows that Jay Gould and his Union Pacific henchmen would still be dictating from lower Farnam street the policy of the republican party in this state. That the men who have hung as a dog to progress at every step in the political advance should now claim that the anti-monopoly awakening is due to their efforts is the height of brazen impudence.

A FEW WORDS TO THE LEGISLATURE

THE BEE, on behalf of the mass of Nebraska producers, has a few plain words to say to the legislature which meets to-day in biennial session in Lincoln.

It is the first legislature in which an overwhelming majority of the members in both branches have been elected on pledges binding them to work and vote for the interests of the people as against the dictates of corporate monopoly. The number of senators and representatives who have secured their seats as straight-out-and-out anti-monopolists is nearly double that which ever before assembled in Lincoln. Of those who class themselves as democrats and republicans, a heavy proportion are bound by the most solemn promises made to their constituents to assist in the framing of such laws as will yield to the citizens of the state a permanent relief from the extortions, exactions and discriminations of the corporations who have for years brazenly defied popular sentiment and wantonly plundered the producers of this commonwealth.

Three vital questions will come before the present legislature. The first of these is the selection of an anti-monopoly United States senator to succeed Alvin Saunders. The second is the enactment of laws to reform our system of railroad assessments, to secure a general reduction of taxes by equalizing the burdens of taxation and to insure economy in the administration of our state government. And the third is the amendment of existing laws, or the passage of such new laws as will prevent the discriminations and extortions practiced on every class of our citizens by corporate monopolies. Upon these vital questions the legislature stands pledged to the people of Nebraska to vote their wishes and to work their will. The character, standing and ability of most of the members composing both houses give good hopes that the expectation of their constituents will not be disappointed.

THE BEE believes that it is the intent and desire of the present legislature to accomplish every reform demanded by the citizens of this state and to secure the ends desired in no half-hearted manner. On this account the efforts of the railroads to prevent effective legislation will be redoubled. The old caucus trap is to be sprung upon the legislature to prevent an unfeigned expression of the will of the people upon the senatorial question. THE BEE tells to see how any member who has pledged himself upon the anti-monopoly question can consent to bind himself by the result of a legislative caucus. It is notorious that the caucus is particularly susceptible to corrupt influences. It is the device of men beaten at the polls to secure their ends under whip and spur and shielded from the public sight. The mere fact that every railroad organ in the state is clamoring for a caucus is enough to show the object which its advocates have in view. No republican anti-monopolist can afford to blind himself in advance to support the nominee of a caucus which is promoted and engineered by the paid agents of corporate monopoly. The wishes of the people of Nebraska on the senatorial question are so well known that there are no grounds for any dispute as to their meaning, and the constituents of every member of the present legislature have a right to know and will demand to know the sentiments and the votes of the men whom they elected to act as their agents in the selection of a man who is to represent them for the next six years in the national capital.

The abolition of the present iniquitous system of assessing the property of corporations in Nebraska is as urgently demanded. The facts and figures already published by THE BEE on this important question have become common property, and call for no extended comment. While the people of Nebraska are taxed from three to eight times the amount paid by the corporations, the surpassing necessity of a radical and immediate reform in our revenue laws is manifest to all. It is plain that the present method was framed and operates in the interest of tax shirkers. The remedy must lie in the enactment of a revenue law which will compel the railroads to assume their share of the burden which they have insolently shifted upon the shoulders of an over-taxed people.

There is little fear that there will not be enough anti-monopoly legislation introduced at the present session. The policy of the railroads is to overburden the calendar with a mass of bills that will confuse the law makers and prevent the passage of laws effective in preventing the abuses under which the people now complain. What is needed is fewer bills and better ones, bills carefully considered and thoughtfully framed, with a view to their rigid enforcement. Such measures must be drawn up by men who understand that the courts are the first resort of the corporations and that a question of law is the most profitable means of delaying the securing of a needed reform.

Finally THE BEE urges upon every member of the present legislature to remember that records are to be made and reputations built up or destroyed at the present session. Most of the men chosen to the exalted post

THE RAILROAD LOBBY

THE corporation buzzards have flocked to Lincoln a half a hundred strong. They are swarming in the hotel lobbies and corridors, and ordering the champagne and oysters for the campaign. The Hanlons, and the Thurstons, and the Walters, and the Carns are on the floor in full regalia, lying in wait for "the glibbig granger," and the telegraph wire into Union Pacific headquarters will soon be red hot with messages, asking for advice and giving instructions.

THE BEE warns every member of the legislature who has been elected on anti-monopoly pledges, against the approaches of the railroad corruptionists. It is an open boast that money will be spent like water during the present session. The old "oil room" tactics of two years ago are to be repeated by the same gang of political prostitutes who narrowly escaped punishment at the last session. All of the grading contracts have not yet been given out. There is still a handsome surplus of the "contingent expense fund" which has not been expended.

The peddlers of railroad passes, pelf and patronage are known. They are already spotted and they will be closely watched. Every legislator who permits himself to associate with these harlots will at once lay himself open to suspicion. Every association with corrupt legislative morals in Nebraska, as well as in Ohio or New York. The railroad lobby cannot work so much in the dark in Lincoln that THE BEE will not inform its readers of their plans. The outline of their campaign is already known. The details will be published as they are matured. It will pay every member of the legislature to give these monopoly coppers as wide a berth as possible. Reputations once smirched are not easily cleared and dallying with corruptionists never pays in the long run.

There is a good deal of concern expressed in some quarters because congress has made no provision for the succession to the presidency in case of the death or resignation of President Arthur. The term of David Davis, president pro tempore of the senate, will expire on the 4th of March next, and at that time there will be no speaker of the house. There would then be no legal successor of the president, and the executive office would be vacant. The situation would be somewhat awkward, no doubt, but then there is no reason to fear the anarchy which is predicted. In a government of centralized powers confusion, anarchy and possibly, civil war might result from a disputed succession; but in our executive powers are, happily, too much diffused for any such dangers. General, state and municipal governments would move in their accustomed order. The laws would be executed, the revenues would be collected and disbursed with the usual regularity, and life and property would be secure. In this country law reigns, not the president. Fear of anarchy as the result of his removal arises from superstitious reverence of powers which do not belong to him. Still, congress has been guilty of much neglect in not making due provision for preventing any hitch in the succession to the presidential office. Whether the succession shall devolve upon a member of the cabinet or the chief justice of the United States until the people can elect a president is a matter of no great moment. But the thing ought to be fixed, so that all apprehensions of the danger of a vacancy may be removed forever.

ELIHA H. ALLEN, the newly-credited Hawaiian minister to the United States, dropped dead yesterday while paying his New Year's respects to the president in the White House. Superstitious people will regard this event in connection with the opening of the renovated mansion as a bad omen for its incumbent.

OMAHA will await with interest the action of the city council on the new gas ordinance, this evening. Our citizens are unanimous in their desire for cheaper and better gas, and they will know what steps to take if their wishes are thwarted by the underhand means which rumor whispers are being used to defeat the entry of the new gas company into our city. A saving of over \$100,000 annually to our city is no small matter, and Omaha taxpayers will so regard it.

LEON GAMBETTA.

The cable announces the death of Leon Gambetta, the idol of the French radicals, the uncompromising nationalist of 1871, the leader of the Extreme Left in the assembly, and the short-lived premier of the new republic. No Frenchman of the decade was so widely known in Europe, and none more greatly feared as a firebrand in continental politics. Bismarck and Germany will breathe easier now that their most dreaded enemy is removed by death, and those who are exercising a watchful care over that smoldering volcano called "the peace of Europe" will draw a sigh of relief at the departure of the brilliant orator whose inflammatory appeals to French patriotism thrilled the commons, rang above the Parisian barricades and rallied a desperate though already conquered people against the German invasion.

The life of Gambetta reads like a romance and fully exemplifies the proverb that everything comes to him who waits. Born at Cahors, of Gannese parents, on October 30, 1838, he was an obscure lawyer until his thirtieth year, when his electric eloquence in a political case first brought him into public notice. A year later, in 1869, just before the outbreak of the war with Germany, he was elected deputy to the Corps Legislatif as a representative of radicalism. His anti-slavery support of the popular will made him the idol of the masses. On September 4th, 1870, he became a member of the revolutionary government, rallying the disaffected elements to repel the German invasion, and with all the enthusiasm of his nature urging death before surrender to the armies which were closing around the capital. During the siege of Paris he escaped from the city by way of balloon, and vainly attempted from Tours, and afterward from Bordeaux, to check the victorious march of the enemy. Since the close of the war (Gambetta has been the most prominent politician in the republic. Twice defeated in his canvases for the assembly, he lived to see himself in the coveted position of leader of the Extreme Left, and the radical branch of the body, and finally premier of the republic. He resigned his office last year on the failure of his plan for a sort of direct, or representation at large, and has since been gathering strength for another movement against the conservative element, which at his downfall secured control of the assembly. An uncompromising enemy of Germany, his life's ambition was to regain for France a glory which she lost when Bismarck despoiled her of her territory. Several weeks ago the premature discharge of a pistol inflicted a wound in the hand which resulted in death yesterday from blood poisoning, the final cause being an intestinal abscess induced by erysipelas. His last words were, "I am dying; it is useless to conceal it, but after so much suffering it will be a happy deliverance."

GOVERNOR CLEVELAND, of New York, who was elected by a rousing majority of 196,000, was inaugurated yesterday at Albany. The first difficulty, as was to be expected, with which he finds himself confronted, is the opposition of the monopolies to the new railroad commission law. This law provides for the selection of the commission in an unusual way. Two are named by the governor, one from each of the political parties, and the other by the anti-monopoly league and board of trade. The candidate named by the latter agencies is a republican, so that if the governor observes the law, the board will be two republican and one democrat. Against this the democratic majority are unanimous in opposition, and it is proposed to reject the nominee of the league and board of trade, and compel the selection of a democrat. The railroads of course are agitating the democrats on to every possible obstruction. Governor Cleveland's path will not be strewn with roses.

THE OMAHA BEE says: A Columbus man wanted to get a carload of apples from an Iowa town, 146 miles east of Council Bluffs. The freight charges would have been \$203.50, of which the road would get \$15, and the Union Pacific the rest for hauling the car a little over ninety miles. That's nothing; some time ago a man in Albany received a box of goods from New York City, and the freight charges were the same from Council Bluffs to Albany as from New York to the Bluffs. It is against such extortion that people are kicking.

DECEPTIVE FIGURES.—An Albany telegram reports that the earnings of the New York Central and Hudson River railroads for the year ending September 30th last were \$30,628,781; and the charges against the earnings, \$33,030,699; leaving a deficiency of \$1,401,918. The person who should, however, jump to the conclusion, because of these figures, that the Central is not paying its way, would be badly mistaken. Among the "charges" against the earnings was undoubtedly the usual 8 per cent dividend on the fifty million dollars of stock. And the business of the year began with a surplus of nearly fifteen million dollars. The Albany telegram states that for the month since the close of the state's fiscal year—October, November and December—the Central's gross earnings show the handsome increase of \$1,200,000 over those for the corresponding quarter of the fiscal year above reported.

THE SENATORSHIP.

Various Views on Various Candidates.

NO MARQUESSADE.—General Thayer is making a tour of the state in his own interest as a candidate for United States senator. Every one in a while sees a mention of him in our exchanges, but outside of a Grand Island paper no decided expression in his favor. There is one thing becoming in the general, and in marked contrast with some other candidates for that position, who see that it is probably necessary to make a profession of anti-monopoly principles. We have not noticed that the general is masquerading as an anti-monopolist.

POOL FRIENDS.—Fierce County Call. We believe that the friends of Judge Valantine are doing that gentleman more harm than good by prostrating his claims for United States senator, to succeed A. S. Saunders, the present incumbent. Senator Saunders came out manfully at a critical time during the last campaign to help Val out, and his friends can do no less than return the compliment, at least they should not place any stumbling blocks in his way. Should it transpire at Lincoln that Senator Saunders could not possibly make it then it would be time enough for the admirers of Valantine to step forward and press his claim; by advocating him now they are doing harm and injuring their cause.

A FAINT VOICE FOR DORSEY.—Central City Nonpareil. Candidates for United States senator are looming up all over the state, and at present the list numbers half a dozen. All cannot be elected, but the man who is elected must be, first a North Platte man, secondly, a republican in the broadest sense of the word, and a man who will look after the people's rather than his own selfish interests. In view of the fact that the new senator is conceded to this side of the Platte, we would naturally prefer for the office our friend Hon. Geo. W. E. Dorsey of Fremont, a long acquaintance with whom has fully convinced us that he fulfills the requirements named. We do not know that he is a candidate, but his name has been very prominently mentioned by the state press, and we take occasion to say a word concerning him.

A PLIANT TOOL WANTED.—Columbus Journal. If the railroad forces cannot secure a well known, outspoken, downright agent of theirs as next United States senator from Nebraska (and it doesn't now look as though they could), they will in all probability select as candidates men who have never taken a decided public stand either way, and who can be relied on to do their bidding, while at the same time seeming to be with the people. Any man occupying such a position is devoid of good sense and political manhood, and will sooner or later be discarded by the people.

THE POLICY OF PROSCRIPTION.—Sutton Register. If the "straight" republicans, so called, in the legislature, fully appreciate the situation, they will treat such anti-monopoly republicans as Conner, Butler and Dye as though they were as good republicans as themselves—which they are. There is no reason why they should divide in the organization of the senate, the election of a United States senator, or in the passage of laws regulating railroads. If this is done in a spirit of candor and fairness on both sides, the republicans will be thoroughly benefited. But let the policy of proscription and factionism prevail, and the end will be disastrous to all concerned.

AN IMPORTANT EVENT.—Burlington. The selection of senator this winter determines the future of the republican party in this state; if good judgment is displayed and amicable relations sought, the party may be placed again on its former position, but if factional spirit is the ruling passion and the aggrandizement of cliques the motive, a large portion of the republican party will remain unrecruited, and the senator will depart from Judah. There are no doubt concessions to be made on all sides, and if made in the spirit of harmony the past may be only like a spot on the sun that is hid by the brightness of the present.

Pretty Good Profits.—Sutton Register. The State Journal says that no railroad in the state earns a reasonable profit on a valuation of \$70,000 per mile. Let us figure. Eight per cent dividend is considered pretty fair. The Union Pacific railroad reports net earnings at \$6,480 per mile. This is about properly be added interest on the bonded debt, which we believe is \$45,000 per mile, equal to \$2,700, calculating interest at six per cent. Add this to the \$6,480, and we have earnings over expenses, per mile, \$9,180. This is eight per cent on \$114,500. Pretty good profits on a pretty high valuation.

Simple Justice.—Alma Herald. Van Wyck, from the committee on public lands, has reported a bill requiring land grant railroads to take out patents for all lands to which they are entitled within one year from the time they become so entitled, under penalty of forfeiture to the government. It is simple justice, and there should be no opposition to such a measure.

DR. S. S. BRITAIN, says: "As a rule physicians do not, by their professional methods, build up the female constitution, while they seldom cure the diseases to which it is always liable in our variable climate and under our imperfect civilization. Special remedies are often required to restore organic harmony and strengthen the enfeebled powers of womanhood; and for most of these we are indebted to persons outside of the medical profession. Among the very best of these remedies I assign a prominent place to Mrs. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound."

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