

The Omaha Bee

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CORRESPONDENCE—All communications relating to News and Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor of THE BEE.

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

A REPUBLICAN caucus is the forlorn hope of the monopolies.

If history speaks the truth, it was Joseph who was sold by his brethren.

RESTRICTIVE but not destructive railway legislation is demanded by the people.

In faro banking the player runs the greatest risks, in political banking the banker.

SLEIGH riding at two dollars an hour is the destruction of the poor, but the bonanza of the livery stable keeper.

A DEMOCRATIC voice from Humboldt nominates Dr. Malony for the United States senate. Dr. Malony is to-day as sound as the soundest democrat on the anti-monopoly issue.

THE MAN who can throw a club in any of the Lincoln hotels without knocking down half a dozen railroad anti-monopolists, will draw the first prize in the political lottery.

CONGRESS is discussing the shipping laws. A law which would strip every lobbyist who is now working in Washington for John Rauch's monopoly would meet with general favor.

WHILE the east is shuddering over the prospects of a panic, western farmers are looking with satisfaction on their well filled barns and corn cribs. In hard times the farmer always holds the winning hand.

THE Philadelphia Press says that there is no opposition in Nebraska to Senator Saunders' return. The Press knows more about the habits of the Pennsylvania Beaver than it does about Nebraska politics.

EVERY railroad attorney is in favor of the commission system, because every railroad attorney knows that it would be knocked higher than Gilroy's kite by a decision of the supreme court declaring it unconstitutional.

EDISON has invented a new lightning arrester. The man who can devise a contrivance for the arrest of political lightning can make his fortune by the sale of his royalty to a score of senatorial candidates at Lincoln.

It may be that Capt. Humphrey was the candidate of the straight republicans, but the railroad attorneys who think that they have struck a bonanza in the new speaker, have a solid chunk of disappointment in store for them.

MISSOURI is about to pass a law taxing the gross earnings of corporations. There is no room for a state board of equalization under any such method of compelling corporations to bear their share of the burden of government.

SEVERAL of the state papers have announced that Vac Randa has been confirmed as register of the Niobrara land office. Randa's nomination is still pending in the senate. He has not been confirmed, and there is no likelihood that he will be.

EVERY shyster lawyer and blood-sucker justice in Omaha is opposed to a reduction of the number of justice courts in this city. In the interests of the poor, who are the chief victims of injustice, the legislature cannot afford to delay reform on the question.

JOHN LOGAN says that his speech against Fitz John Porter was the greatest effort of his life. A greater effort will be his attempt to secure the nomination for the presidency on the capital which he imagines he has worked up by defaming a gallant and unjustly stigmatized soldier.

SENATOR SHERMAN is working every wire to get the period of bonding for whisky extended. It was only a few years ago that the manufacturers declared, as they now do, that if the bonded period was not extended they would be ruined. When they secured the extension, they went on overproducing until whisky on which \$70,000,000 of taxes are due the government now lies in the warehouses. Still greater overproduction would certainly follow any further extension.

THE INFLUENCE OF ANTI-MONOPOLY.

The opening of the present legislature has shown, in the clearest manner, the influence of anti-monopoly principles in Nebraska. Ten years ago, to be an anti-monopolist in Nebraska was to be a political outcast. Both the leading parties were controlled body and soul by the corporations. The press was bound hand and foot by the railroad managers, and its editors either bribed with favors or bulldozed with threats. No man who aspired to political advancement dared to openly raise his voice against the taskmasters who plundered the public untried and rewarded their favorites with pillage and patronage. The beginnings of the movement to bring the railroad corporations under the control of the laws were small and attended with the most bitter discouragements. A venal press denounced every advocate of corporate restriction as an enemy to society and a dangerous element in the state. The farmers who first declared themselves on the issue were characterized as impractical reformers and hayseed grangers. The speakers who sought to influence party councils in favor of recognition of the principles of anti-monopoly were denounced as demagogues. Every producer, of whatever class or condition, who dared to identify himself with the movement was slandered and ridiculed, and the effort to shake off the monopoly Man of the Sea was declared to be a movement which would die out before half the people of the state knew of its existence.

The battle which the producers of this state have fought so long against the abuses of corporate monopoly is drawing to a close. Both political parties have been forced by an overpowering public sentiment to recognize the demand for railroad legislation by incorporating strong anti-monopoly planks in their platforms. The late campaign in Nebraska indicated that the people are at last fully aroused to the importance of the vital issue of the day. Eighteen thousand voters cast their ballots for the straight anti-monopoly ticket. Every candidate of other parties who was endorsed by the anti-monopolists secured his election, while a trifling change of votes would have sent to congress two anti-monopoly republicans. For the first time in the history of Nebraska the railroads find themselves in a strong minority in the legislature. The senate has been taken out of their hands, and the house has been organized with a speaker who cannot be controlled by the monopoly managers. Every indication points to the election of a United States senator whose record and standing will be a strong guarantee of his fidelity to the wishes of his constituents and who can be depended upon to stand like a rock against the corrupting overtures of the railroad lobby. On the streets, in the hotels and lobbies of the state capital, anti-monopoly is the one topic of discussion. Where ten years ago no man dared to profess it, to-day no candidate dare deny adherence to its principles. The anti-monopolists have won a great victory, in educating public sentiment to a clear understanding of the relations which exist between the corporations and the people. Care is now needed that the fruits of that victory shall not be thrown away. The battle is not entirely won when the enemy holds out a flag of truce. The people of Nebraska now hold the reins of power for the first time in many years. They must exercise it in securing to themselves results which will be lasting.

FEARS OF PANIC. Some of the eastern papers are expressing fears that another great panic is impending. They base their opinion upon the increase of failures, the stringency of the money market, the speculative fever in stocks and the amount of money which has been sunk in railroad construction and extension during the past three years. The history of the panic of 1873 and the causes which preceded it are referred to in support of the current dread of an impending financial crisis, and business men as well as speculators are warned that they are standing upon a smoldering volcano which is likely to burst at any moment into a destructive eruption. While it cannot be denied that there are good grounds for caution when the signs of the times are examined, the best financial authorities are not at all agreed that the condition of trade and the stock market furnish a sufficient basis for the near approach of another financial collapse. The record of failures itself, when scanned closely, is an assurance that the general course of trade is running smoothly on a sounder basis than might have been expected. Most of the assignments noted have been made by firms who either ventured outside of legitimate trade methods or sought to increase their business unduly at the expense of their capital: The wholesale construction of credits by the large houses, and the tendency to stop the practice of post dating time bills, which has sprung up in the course of heavy competition, are favorable to a postponement of the crash which so many expect. Speculation in stocks has fallen very

much more largely than ever before into a few hands. There are no evidences that the fever has infected business men generally. A comparison of the list with that of a year ago shows, that the market is lower and that the securities of purely speculative enterprises are going begging for investors. So long as speculation can be confined to the great speculators, and the general business public do not concern themselves with it, Wall street will not seriously disturb the financial condition of the country. Provided also that good crops afford sufficient traffic for the railroads to earn interest on their indebtedness and to declare dividends on their watered stocks.

The recklessness of much of the railroad building during the past year is admitted. There is, however, this difference between the construction of the past twelve months and that preceding the panic of 1873, that a large portion of the lines lately built will become immediately productive, either as extensions to or as feeders of existing dividend paying properties. It is not so much the heavy extension as it is the dishonest construction of railroads that is tapping the surplus wealth of the country, and turning the money of investors and the earnings of the people into the pockets of the construction rings.

One element of the present stringency of the times must not be forgotten, and that is the exorbitant national taxation, which is piling up a disastrous surplus of millions of dollars monthly in the national treasury. Prompt and radical action by congress on the question of tariff reform will do much to relieve the country from the weight under which it is now staggering, and to postpone to a late day the panic which some are now so much dreading.

A CORRESPONDENT referring to THE BEE's comments upon the advance in prices at the opera house when the best class of singers and actors appear on its boards, calls attention to the fact that the sale of prices at Boyd's is less than that charged at any other first-class theater in the country. He says that at Wallacks, the Union Square and the Standard in New York, at Haverly's and McVicker's in Chicago, and at Baldwin's in San Francisco the universal price for the best seats is \$1.50, while at our own theater \$1.00 is the highest sum ordinarily charged. THE BEE has no intention of doing Mayor Boyd or any one else any injustice in this matter. It expressly stated in its discussion of the question that the increased cost of seats was a matter which lay outside of the province of the legal managers and that in every instance where a contract was under consideration the matter simply resolved itself into the question whether the attraction should appear at the increased prices or whether they should pass Omaha by and play elsewhere. So long as people are willing to pay the advanced rates theatrical agents will continue to charge them, and local managements will have no alternative but to accept the situation or refuse the company. Omaha is a liberal patron of the drama, and Mr. Boyd's enterprise in erecting and maintaining one of the handsomest houses in the country has afforded her the opportunity during the past six months of seeing many of the finest stars on the American stage, with a liberal sprinkling of foreign singers.

DURING 1882 the immigration to the United States from all countries at all points amounted to 738,000 against 719,000 for 1881, an increase of 16,000 over the previous year. Germany contributed 232,000; England and Wales, 81,000; Ireland, 70,000; Scotland, 17,000; Sweden, 59,000; Norway, 27,000; Canada, 89,000, and all the other contributing countries 160,000. During the last three months of the past year the immigration fell short of that of the previous year and in the judgment of those who have observed the fluctuations of the tide, immigration has reached its maximum. The influx of Germans was considerably less than that of 1881.

MR. VANDERBILT wants to found an art gallery. The art which Vanderbilt seems to have studied most successfully is the art of dining the public.

Gas Proof. A guest at one of the Washington hotels blew out the gas before retiring to bed, and closed the window tightly to exclude the miasmatic atmosphere of the capital. The next morning he arose, dressed himself, and walked forth feeling as fresh and vigorous as usual. He had been accustomed to sitting in the gallery of the house of representatives, and was gas proof.

A Farce Everywhere. Twenty states have the railroad commission system, with the testimony that it works well, while not one has such a scheme as the Omaha Bee wishes to inaugurate.—Hastings Nebraskaian.

Not so. The railroad commission system is a farce everywhere, and there is no genuine testimony to the contrary from any state in the union. There is no state which has a satisfactory railroad law.

THE EUROPEAN FLOODS.

The close of the year 1882 and the opening of the present year have been rendered memorable by a succession of remarkable inundations unprecedented in the history of Europe. Hardly an European country has been visited by the universal deluge. Beginning in the latter part of November by heavy rains and tremendous floods in Baden and other parts of Germany, the stormy weather continued unbroken until the close of the year. Early in December France was laid under a rushing torrent of water. The Seine was so swollen that boats were prevented from passing under the principal bridges of Paris. A large part of the city was flooded, the sewerage system became practically inoperative and the whole suburb of the city was completely soaked. The Rhine and Rhone also overflowed their banks and great destitution and distress prevailed among the poorer classes many of whom were driven from their homes to suffer in dependence upon strangers. On the rest of the continent rain continued to fall until about a week before Christmas when a general deluge set in. Torrents of rain descended in Germany, Austria and eastern France. The rivers commenced to rise gradually at first, but soon with a rapidity that awakened widespread alarm. In France the eastern and southern provinces were flooded. Lyons and Besancon were seriously damaged, and several small towns along the Rhone were inundated. The floods in Germany and Austria were phenomenal. The Rhine and Danube rose to an astonishing height, and with a rapidity which one can scarcely conceive. At Cologne it rose two metres, or more than seven feet in a day and one-half, and during a single night, ninety centimetres, or three feet. The Danube flooded large part of Upper Austria, and serious alarm was felt at Vienna, lest that city should have to pass through the disagreeable experience of Paris. The Neckar rose higher than in November, and reached its highest point during this century. In Baden a bridge was swept away, carrying with it twenty persons. Altogether, it is estimated that fifty lives were lost by the floods. Meantime in December England was completely buried in snow, and the storm is described as violent almost beyond belief. Travel of all kind was impeded, the Scotch express were abandoned, the coast was ravaged with a furious hurricane, and the ports were crowded with dismantled shipping. In Wales a railway train was completely buried under the snow. As it did not arrive at its destination a party of horsemen with shovels and other implements were sent to hunt it. It was found under a drift sixteen feet deep. The passengers had been confined twenty-four hours without fire, air or food, and when released were almost dead from cold. Another train was blocked in one of the mountain regions of Scotland, and workmen were obliged to clear the track for a distance of five miles before it could proceed. All authorities agree in saying that such a series of storms and floods has not been known in the century.

In Monopoly's Path.

The republican press seem never to tire of baying at the heels of Senator Van Wyck. He seems to be a foeman worthy of their steel, and as his warfare is against monopoly in all its forms, and no public act of his has shown him to be any other than the farmers' friend, they should support him and be careful how they read the malignancy of republican papers, for monopolies will strike hardest where the foe is thickest. They know Senator Van Wyck always stands in the way of monopoly rule, and as they cannot buy nor force him to their turn, they resort to the weapons of malice.

What it Represents.

The Omaha Herald says that any man elected to the Nebraska state legislature as a democrat will vote for other than a straight democrat for United States senator, deserves to be kicked out of the democratic party. That represents the building element of the Herald's party. The Omaha Herald also says that a respectable republican for United States senator is preferable to a half-breed of any party, we suppose. That represents the trading element of The Herald's party. The Omaha Herald is much like the proverbial Irishman's flea. And so is The Herald's party.

He Recognized Her.

An old man would not believe he could hear his wife talk a distance of five miles by telephone. His better half was in a country store several miles away, where there was a telephone, and the skeptic was also in a place where there was a similar instrument, and on being told how to operate it he walked boldly up and shouted: "Hello, Sarah!" At that instant lightning struck the telephone wire and knocked the man down, and as he scrambled to his feet he excitedly cried, "That's Sarah, every time!"

The Disgracing Hatton.

The disgracing Hatton who edits The National Republican at Washington and holds a high place in the postoffice department besides, thinks the civil service commissioners will sell clerkships for \$200 apiece. "The business will all be done," says the paper, "without a word passed between the giver and taker. Commissioners will sell appointments to teachers of civil service schools. Any man

able enough to be a commissioner will not lack the ingenuity to devise a hundred plans to effect this, and nobody will be the wiser." Mr. Hatton is a fool of unusual magnitude.

Fighting the New Bridge.

The Union Pacific railroad is all torn up over the project now being discussed in congress providing for the building of another bridge across the Missouri river at Council Bluffs. Under the laws it is now the Union Pacific is alleged not to be longer entitled to make any charges for the use of the bridge except such as will cover the cost of maintaining it. But the monopoly which it has put to the very practical purpose of perpetuating its lease of the grant from the public, by that mysterious means which, in congress, is so potent and yet so silent. It is just barely possible that when there is a law passed that any lobbyist caught in Washington or writing to or conversing with a member of congress or government official, shall suffer the penalty of death and have all of his property sequestered; there may be some attention paid to the desires of the public in the matter of legislation regarding these plethoric corporations that make themselves so numerous around congress for the good of themselves and the everlasting damnation of the country. The notion suggests itself to us as the result of the information that the Union Pacific lobby is on hand fighting the new bridge project with all its might and main. It is extremely probable that the bloated corporations will come out ahead, although there will not be a man in the country who will be able to see why capitalists who so desire should not be authorized to put their money into a new bridge. But if they have to invest as much money in getting the matter through congress as it will cost to build the bridge, the probability is that they will not be likely to invest.

A Fatal Accident.

A shocking accident occurred on Tuesday last at the home of Mr. A. J. Crossley, living about seven or eight miles north-east of this city. Mrs. Crossley, a lady woman of about 40 years of age, was sitting on her chair knitting, with the right foot resting on a small stool, and her son, a young man, sitting in a fronting oblique direction about six or eight feet away with a double barrel muzzle loading shot gun lying across his knees, and unfortunately pointing toward Mrs. Crossley, which he was wiping off. A younger son having seen the action of breechloading guns, remarked the gun would break like a breechloader, and the elder brother replied that it would not, and proceeded to illustrate his reply by raising the hammers, &c., as the gun lay across his knees. The hammer of one barrel slipped from his fingers and discharged, the contents of the barrel, a load of 18 or 20 No. 2 shot, the whole charge striking Mrs. Crossley squarely in front of the right leg about six inches below the knee, shattering both bones of the leg and tearing a ghastly wound about two inches in diameter, then passing outward lodging in the fleshy part of the upper third of the thigh. The gun was so close that the charge of shot did not scatter but lodged in a mass. This occurred about 8 o'clock in the morning and about 9 o'clock of the evening of the same day Mrs. Crossley was delivered of a perfectly formed child. Then about noon of the next day the operation of amputating the wounded limb was performed by unjointing it at the knee joint leaving the thigh bone entire. Thus in the short space of about twenty-eight hours Mrs. Crossley went through a combination of occurrences which altogether make up a case without a parallel in surgical history. At last reports she was doing as well as could be expected; her health the past year has been of rather delicate nature. Drs. Dildine and Northrup, of this city, were in attendance. Since writing the above the report comes that Mrs. Crossley died to-day at 9 a. m.

One man's meat is another man's poison.

Kidney-Wort expels the poisonous humors. The first thing to do in the Spring is to clean house. For internal cleaning and purifying, no other medicine is equal to Kidney-Wort. In either dry or liquid form it cures headaches, bilious attacks, constipation and deranged kidneys.

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