

The Omaha Bee

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

The Speaker has spoken, but his voice is a railroad whistle.

The battle of the gas companies is ended, and Omaha is assured of better and cheaper gas.

The committee on the whole will have the casting vote, after all, in the Nebraska legislature.

JOHN LOGAN wasn't much of a soldier, but his attack on the Queens English will live in history.

SPEAKER HUMPHREY doesn't know the difference between comity and committee.

Two more suits have been brought against Gould properties within the past week. Jay appears to be having a bad run of luck.

There are too many poor sticks in the senate now," says the Globe Democrat. Senatorial timber appears to be a growth of underbrush.

While laws on liability are under discussion a measure providing for congressional inability to shut off wind and get down to solid business would be in order.

The star route defense is evidently trying to make Judge Wylie lose his temper. He ought to keep cool. The defendants will be mad enough after the verdict.

The Cleveland Leader, in an editorial article of a half a column, endorses Gen. Manderson for the United States senate from Nebraska, remembering his four years' distinguished service in the cause of the union as one of the best and most gallant of her soldiers.

BEN BUTLER in his inaugural recommended the hanging of men found putting obstructions on railroads. The address said nothing about the punishment of railroad managers who put obstructions in the way of trade and commerce.

Mr. NETTLETON failed in being recognized by the speaker, but he gives good promise of being substantially recognized by his constituents before another legislative convenes.

KING CADEAU has received a black eye in two legislatures. In Massachusetts the anti-Hoar republicans decline to be bound by its action if it is forced upon the party. In Michigan a majority of the republicans have renominated Senator Ferry, but nearly all the anti-Ferry men refused to attend the caucus and decline to be bound by it. As they hold the balance of power they will dictate the choice of the convention. Protests against caucus rule fill the Massachusetts press. Members of the legislature are urged to go into the joint convention free to vote as they please. It is strongly argued that no representative of the people has a right to bind himself in advance to vote for any candidate who may be subsequently proved to be unavailing, and whose choice may be contrary to the wishes of the majority of legislative constituencies.

The Philadelphia Times rises to remark that Jay Gould has evidently fallen on an unusually cold season. The New York courts led off by declaring his stock-watering job in connection with Western Union null and void. Next his company was prohibited from paying dividends on the surplus stock. This was followed by suits in New York, Pennsylvania and Illinois against the Western Union for violation of charter limitations. On Tuesday his injunction against the Mutual Union pool was dissolved, and the suit of Williams & Co. against the Western Union, which was brought to prevent the consolidation schemes, was fired for trial. On top of all these little perplexities comes the organization of the New York legislature by the election of the particular man for speaker that Mr. Gould didn't want elected. The first day's session was signalized by the introduction of bills requiring telegraph wires to be run under the streets, and reducing street car and railroad fares in New York city to five cents. The new speaker is sure to make up his committee in the interest of these reforms. Mr. Gould will probably find the weather constantly growing colder. In fact, there are just now strong indications of a blizzard in his neighborhood.

BETRAYED. "The house is the only master I shall recognize," was the concluding sentence of Mr. Humphrey's inaugural when he assumed the speaker's chair. The house gave Mr. Humphrey its confidence in return for this assurance. Impressed with his earnest, outspoken pledge this paper accorded Speaker Humphrey unreserved faith in his sincerity. While we know him to be a recent convert to anti-monopoly principles, we believed that he would fulfill his pledges to the letter. Our faith in Mr. Humphrey has been sadly shaken. His choice of members on the railroad committee has shown him to be a mere tool of the monopolists, and his reckless disregard of all parliamentary usage in the discharge of his official duties has proved him unworthy of the position he holds.

The speaker of the house is in duty bound to obey the mandates of the body over which he presides, and when that mandate is expressed he is expected to assist the house in executing its orders. One of the cardinal rules of all public bodies is that no measures shall be entrusted to its opponents. In appointing committees it is the rule to select from the supporters of the proposition, and especially does this apply to the mover of an adopted resolution. When the house by a decisive majority ordered that speaker to select four members of the joint committee on railroads, the speaker was in honor and duty bound to carry out the order of the house by selecting his committee from among those who supported the resolution. When Speaker Humphrey made the choice of four men who had gone on the record as opponents of the resolution creating the committee, he was not merely guilty of disrespect to the house and a breach of decorum, but he also became an obstructor of legislation. There can be no possible excuse for such conduct, and the people of this state will hold Mr. Humphrey responsible for the consequences.

ARMY LEGISLATION. The reorganization of some portion of the army is a topic of debate at every congress, and the present session furnishes no exception to the rule. The army appropriation bill which passed the house contains several important riders which will seriously affect the service as at present organized. The first is the abolition of the pay corps and the transference of its duties to the quartermaster's department. This proposition, which is meeting with the most violent opposition, ought to carry in the senate. The duties of paymaster could easily be performed by the quartermaster. All that it would require would be an additional clerk who could readily be taken from the army itself. As at present constituted the pay rolls are made up by the company clerks and furnished to the pay departments which cashes the vouchers. A large amount of the expenditures of the army are made through the quartermaster's department and the pay of officers and men could easily be added. There is however no likelihood that this portion of the army bill will pass the senate. The pay department is the only branch of the service in which party patronage rules. Four-fifths of the paymasters owe their positions purely to political influence. It is hardly to be presumed that the senate will lop off the pegs upon which it has been in the habit of hanging relatives, proteges and friends, for the sake of saving some \$200,000 annually to the government.

Another important proposition which has also passed the house is, that which sets down the number of aides and limits their time of service away from their regiments. This will meet with general approval everywhere outside of the soft service brigades who cool their heels on the mantelpieces at army headquarters, and act as private secretaries for the commanding generals. There is no reason why a single aide-de-camp in time of peace is not sufficient for every purpose of opening letters, replying to private correspondence, and acting as escort to our high army officials in their junketing tours throughout the departments. During a certain administration of the department of the Platte it was notorious that the only service rendered by one of the aids of the commanding general was the issuing and accounting for stock in a certain mining company in which the general and many of the officers under his command were interested. This congenial work cost the government \$175 a month.

The section of the army bill which changes the pay of officers retired on brevet rank to that which they would receive if retired on the rank actually held at the time of retirement, is a trivial and parsimonious economy. It would affect only a few disabled veterans who deserve every dollar of the pension which they are now receiving. More important is the change voted by the house in the interpretation of the compulsory retirement law which will open the list to retirement for disability. The former retirement law only permitted retirements for this cause, but restricted the list to 400. Since the passage of the compulsory bill the

retired list has been overcrowded with the new additions under its provisions, and no room has been found for officers who ought to be relieved from active service by reason of physical incapacity. The section of the army appropriation bill referred to interprets the operation of the compulsory law in a manner which will prevent it from conflicting with the intention of its framers.

These are the chief changes proposed in the army organization by the present congress. Army officers are very much in the habit of complaining that congress interferes too much with the service. The trouble lies in the fact that there is a large field for reform in our army organization. The conflict between the staff and the line which is continually breaking out has its reason for existence in the unwieldy organization of the executive portion of the army, which is copied after an obsolete system. Our army staff is sufficient for an army of ten times the size, and three, at least, of its departments, the pay corps, the commissary and the quartermaster departments, could profitably be merged into one without detriment to the service. The trouble has been that congress has contented itself by trying to remedy the flaws by piecemeal instead of drafting and putting through to its final passage a broad and comprehensive scheme of army reform which would place the service abreast of those of other nations. Such a measure would not meet with more opposition from the chair-warmers of the soft service brigade at Washington, reinforced by the army lobby, than the minor measures of reform which congress now finds so much difficulty in passing.

SPEAKER HUMPHREY has disappointed the expectations of many of his best friends by yielding to monopoly influences in the appointment of the house committees. His arbitrary action in the nomination of the men who are to compose the special railroad committee from the house places him squarely on record as an obstructor to all railroad legislation, and a catalyst for the corporations to pull their chestnuts out of the legislative fire. It remains to be seen whether the chestnuts can be raked. The temper of the house in its vote on the Reynolds resolution is not very encouraging to the railroad attorneys, and furnishes anything but a good basis for Speaker Humphrey's zeal in obeying the dictates of the monopolies. We shall see what we shall see, but the January chapters of Mary Hallock Foote's romance of the silver mines, "The Led-Horse Claim," introduce a tragedy underground, and develop a powerful interest. The story will be finished in two more parts. Mrs. Burnett's "Through One Administration" is continued.

GENERAL HOWARD is working hard to secure an appropriation for the enlargement of Fort Omaha, and the erection of quarters and barracks sufficient to accommodate ten companies of infantry. The amount asked of congress is something over \$116,000 which will purchase the necessary land and secure the needed buildings. Fort Omaha is one of the posts recommended by General Sheridan for permanent occupation in the Department of the Platte. Located at a great railway centre it is peculiarly favored as a point for the concentration of troops who can be rapidly moved at a moment's notice to any scene where their presence is required. A lack of energy on the part of Nebraska's congressional delegation has, up to the present time, prevented action on the part of congress looking to its permanent improvement. Fort Leavenworth and Snelling have been favored with handsome appropriations, and both garrisons show judicious expenditure in handsome quarters and beautiful grounds. Attention is called to the fact that the department of the Platte has been neglected at the expense of the Departments of Dakota and the Missouri. The requested appropriation ought to be promptly forthcoming.

STATE TREASURER STURDEVANT has made a serious mistake in the retention of Mr. Bartlett as his deputy. It is a serious mistake because the intention of the law limiting the term of service of the state treasurer was to afford every four years an entire change in the office and to give to taxpayers the opportunity to investigate through the new treasurer the disposition and investment of the state funds. It is plain that this cannot be accomplished when the old treasurer is retained as the deputy of the new. Any malfeasance in office will be doubly difficult to detect. The heads may change, but the policy will remain the same under slightly changed auspices. Mr. Sturdevant was elected by the votes of the anti-monopolists. Without them his election would have been impossible. He is doing both them and himself an injustice which he may yet regret in violating at the very beginning of his term the spirit of the law under which he secured his office.

The gas ordinance passed the city council at its session last evening. As finally amended the ordinance requires the company within sixty days of the pas-

sage of the instrument to file an acceptance with the mayor and to deposit \$10,000 in United States bonds with the city treasurer as a guarantee of the faithful performance of their contract obligations. Further provision is made that the gas furnished shall be of 20 candle power, and not more dangerous than that manufactured from coal. With these amendments the ordinance is substantially the same as that originally introduced. THE BEE congratulates the citizens of Omaha over the coming competition in gas production, and the certainty of cheaper and better gas. Within nine months the new process will be operation, and gas will be available at less than half the sum now charged to consumers. The annual saving to our citizens of \$100,000 is no small item, and Omaha will welcome cordially any company which will guarantee to give it to her residents.

The Magazine's "A Look into Hawthorne's Workshop" is a most remarkable feature of the January CENTURY, when we consider that the paper consists of the most interesting portions of Nathaniel Hawthorne's own posthumous notes for a romance. The notes are published here for the first time, the original manuscript in Hawthorne's minute and difficult hand-writing, having been lent to the Century by Mr. Julian Hawthorne.

Professor Wallace, the noted English scientist and author of "Island Life," contributes an important estimate of "The Debt of Science to Darwin," and of Newton. The frontispiece of the number is a striking portrait of Darwin, engraved by Johnson, after a photograph taken by the scientist's son; views of Darwin's home and his study are also given. Another Englishman, Frederick W. H. Myers, writes briefly upon the personal and literary influence of the late Dr. J. S. Stanley.

George W. Cable begins in this number his illustrated historical studies of New Orleans, by answering the much-asked question, "Who are the Creoles?" Dr. Eggleston's second paper on colonial history is well illustrated. "The Planting of New England" is the striking title, and the Puritans are treated with keen insight and sympathy.

"The Trip of the Mark Twain" is a slight, humorously illustrated and written paper on Mississippi river travel; and Frank R. Stockton, who is now traveling in Europe, describes the amusing experiences of "The Rudder Grangers in England," and how Pomona satisfied her curiosity by calling upon an English lord. In another vein is John Burroughs' charming studies in natural history, entitled, "A Mole, a Lamprey, and a Fairy."

The January chapters of Mary Hallock Foote's romance of the silver mines, "The Led-Horse Claim," introduce a tragedy underground, and develop a powerful interest. The story will be finished in two more parts. Mrs. Burnett's "Through One Administration" is continued. The poems of the number are by Paul H. Hayne, H. G. Bunner, Frances Hodgson Burnett, Edith M. Thomas, Henry Ames Blood, E. C. White, and Maria W. Jones; and among the verses of lighter vein in "Bric-a-Brac" are two of Uncle Remus' Christmas Dance Songs. "Topics of the Times" discusses "The Revolution in American Politics" and current subjects, and the other editorial departments are unusually full and interesting. Among the book notices is one of Mr. Howells' "A Modern Instance."

The Popular Science Monthly for January offers a goodly collection of articles which merit attention for their interesting character or their practical adaptability. Of the first kind is the opening article on "The Great Comet of 1882," by Professor Young, of Princeton, one of the very few American writers who are capable at once of discussing the subject fully from the scientific point of view, and of answering the questions the public asks in the way it wants them answered. Of the second kind is M. Foulle's "Scientific Philanthropy," in which the expediency of public charity and its ultimate bearing on the future of the race are ably and candidly discussed in the light of the views of the Darwinian school of philosophers and of a critical examination of them. Professor Lockwood gives a graphic account of the finding of "A Mastodon in an Old Beaver-Meadow," at Fraehold, New Jersey. Dr. Felix L. Oswald writes in his characteristic vein of sharp satire on the "Curiosities of Superstition." Herbert Spencer's after dinner speech, delivered at the farewell banquet given to him on the 9th of November, which attracted and deserves much attention, is published under the title of "The Gospel of Recreation." The portrait and sketch are of the late Dr. Henry Draper.

New York: D. Appleton & Company. Fifty cents per number, \$5 per year. St. Nicholas for January contains several notable features, pre-eminent among which is the brief biographical sketch of Elizabeth Thompson Butler, written by her sister, which is accompanied by six illustrations from drawings made by the celebrated artist herself especially for St. Nicholas, her portrait, engraved from a photograph, and several groups from the great picture, "The R. I. Call."

department, to be known as "Work and Play for Young People." In addition, is the usual amount of short stories, verses, bright pictures, and departments. The frontispiece is a beautiful picture by E. H. Bishop, called "His Lordship's Bedtime." D. M. Ferry & Co., Seedsmen, Detroit, Michigan, have sent us a copy of their Seed Annual for 1883. It is more beautiful and valuable than ever. The hints on the formation and management of gardens, as well as the cultural directions it contains have evidently been prepared by careful hands, and cannot fail to be of great service to all who garden, whether for profit or pleasure.

On Trial. New York Sun. Will the democratic tidal wave which swept the northern states in November maintain its height through the year, or will it recede so rapidly that the republicans will recover their lost ground in the election of next fall?

Andrew Jackson's Influence. Denver Tribune. The editor of The Omaha Herald has been heard from at last. He says "Swanee River" is a bigger musical gem than the "Jewel Song" from "Faust." This is one result of voting for Andrew Jackson at eight consecutive elections.

Truly Sustained. Stuyler Sun. A democratic exchange remarks that the charges of The Omaha Herald were fully sustained. Yes, The Herald's charges are nearly always sustained. Its charges for state printing were sustained, but one of The Herald's found it convenient to leave the state during the sustaining process.

For the Public. Humboldt Advocate. Those of our anti-monopoly friends who so vigorously supported the republican ticket in this county at the late election, claiming that because the candidates were members of the farmers' alliances, that they would not against the monopoly party, have now a chance to see the folly of their belief, as all of them voted directly in the interest of corporations. In the organization of the house we see that none of the representatives voted against the railroad organization (except Hon. John Luthy, who every time recorded his vote squarely in the interest of the people.

That Libel Suit. Graton Gazette. No man in the state has received more abuse from the corporation hermen and their organs than Hon. E. Rosewater. Every epithet, no matter how low or how lying that could be thought of has been applied to him. It is seldom he notices them, but when he does the fur flies—you bet! Not long ago a paper north of the Platte stated a base and contemptible lie, on that every one knows to be a lie, to the effect that Mr. R. was a rebel spy. This was copied into The Omaha Republican, and now that paper has a libel suit on its hands.

PERSONALITIES. Gladstone has lumbago. Walker Blaine is seriously ill. Anna Dickinson has not left the stage. The stage left her. Mr. P. S. Gilmore has lost his favorite corner. The new year starts out well. President Arthur is said to have killed "the largest salmon ever taken with a fly on this continent." The King of Burmah has four queens. The king is evidently awaiting the appearance of somebody with a jack roll. Dr. Yates, of Shanghai, says the Chinese pay \$154,750,000 annually to quiet the spirits of their living mothers-in-law. Gambetta was attended by seven doctors. His will power and constitution must have been something wonderful. Bjornstjerne Bjornson believes that he will live to very old age. If some American printer runs across Bjornstjerne he will discover his mistake. A St. Louis paper says that Missouri, during the last twelve months, has reduced her public debt by \$350,000. Frank James must have begun to refund. Mr. Uthbank, an American contractor, is building some railroads in China. The papers are under the impression that he will begin to operate the roads. The poems which Mr. Ruskin wrote in his youth are soon to be reprinted in this country. Almost anything is possible under a republican form of government. King Kalakaua ordered a fancy case of champagne from a Baltimore firm to be used at his coronation. The heathen in his blindness seems to have a pretty fair idea of what a coronation means. The little 14-year-old Archduchess Valerie of Austria has already written several poems, and is now engaged on a dramatic institution in Austria. The "whomping huggie" player of Scotland has arrived in New York. Perhaps if the baggage player could be induced to attend one of Herr Most's meetings and play a tune both would leave the country. Talmauge says speaking children should be done coolly, quietly, vigorously, and with the aim to let the lesson sink deep into their little hearts. Mr. Talmauge betrays an ignorance of anatomy which is deplorable. Dr. Moser, of Turin, has invented a machine for measuring thought. He fastened it to the back of Oscar Wilde's head Christmas eve, and by New Year morning he had only made a mile and a half, and had stopped to rest. "There is no man," said the poet Whittier on his 75th birthday, "who ought to write much after he is 70." Mr. Whittier is correct, except in cases where the girl will screw positively to destroy the letters. There is a rumor that Nilsson is to marry a Senor Angel de Miranda, whose mother was a grandee of Mexico, and made a Marchioness. The man who marries Nilsson should have the temper as well as the name of a wonderful angel.

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