

The Omaha Bee

Published every morning, except Sunday. The only Monday morning daily.

TERMS BY MAIL—One Year, \$10.00; Three Months, \$3.00; Six Months, \$5.00; One Month, \$1.00

THE WEEKLY BEE, published every Wednesday. TERMS POST PAID—One Year, \$2.00; Three Months, \$0.75; Six Months, \$1.00; One Month, \$0.25

AMERICAN NEWS COMPANY, Sole Agents—Newsdealers in the United States.

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

BUSINESS LETTERS—All Business Letters and Remittances should be addressed to THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, 214 N. 16th St., Omaha, Neb. Orders for advertising should be made payable to the order of the Company.

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

WHAT the people are anxious to discover is whether the legislature will base its action on principle or on purchase.

CLEVELAND is complaining of the overgrowth of its public schools. Omaha can shake with Cleveland on this question.

THE question "Who struck Billy Patterson?" is paralleled by the conundrum, "What struck Speaker Humphrey?" Both remain profound mysteries.

ADJUTANT GENERAL DRUM has cut down the lunch time of clerks in his department to ten minutes. That Drum ought to be beaten. It is snared up too tightly.

NEVADA'S population is steadily decreasing, but a United States marshaling in the Comstock state is as profitable as if the population were twice the size.

THE gong will sound on Tuesday next at 12 m. There will be some twenty starters in the senatorial race in which the dark horse has not yet become sufficiently prominent to bet upon.

THE legislature will undoubtedly take favorable action on the division of several of our judicial districts, but the reform of justices' courts in cities of the first class ought not to be overlooked.

EIGHT state legislatures are considering the railroad question in one form or another. The monopoly press should not let pass the opportunity for an appropriate essay on the spread of communism.

THOSE wholesale removals of New York office holders which have been so confidently predicted have failed to show up. President Arthur still continues to be more sensible than many of his advisers.

THE Milwaukee fire has agitated hotel owners, and now every one-horse boarding-house keeper is cutting a back door in his concern, and announcing it as "the only safe hotel in the city."

THE Brooklyn bridge will not be completed as expected on March 1st. The reason given is the lack of steel. The public generally is of the opinion that there has been entirely too much steel in the structure.

THE Michigan legislature is wrestling over the senatorial question with the choice of two evils, Hubbell or Ferry, before them. Michigan ought to be able to secure better senatorial timber than either.

THE city of Winnipeg has grown from 9,000 in 1881 to 25,000 at the close of 1882. The postoffice money order paid amounted to \$650,000 in the year. These figures afford an idea of the growing confidence of emigration in the countries beyond.

GOVERNOR LUDLOW, of New Jersey, urges upon the legislature to take prompt measures to compel the railroads to bear their share of the taxes which they are steadily evading. The list of tax-shirking corporations is not confined to Nebraska.

Tax reduction will be one of the leading issues in the coming presidential canvass, and if the next congress shows no greater inclination to meet the popular demand than the present democratic minority, the suburban journey to the white house will be no walkaway after all.

THE pension office asks for \$101,000,000 to meet the expected demands upon it during the ensuing year. This sum, which is twice the annual interest on the national debt, represents in large part the steals of claim and pension agents, and deliberate fraud on the government by men who never saw a battle or incurred an injury in fighting to save the nation. The people of the United States do not begrudge a dollar of the amount paid to their disabled veterans, but they are protesting against the gigantic iniquity which has foisted upon them an annual burden of taxation representing a million days' work by one hundred and one man.

LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITY

The present legislature, more than any which has ever assembled in this state, is under weighty and peculiar obligations to the people of Nebraska, and to the constituents to which they were elected to represent. For the first time since Nebraska became a state an overwhelming public sentiment asserted itself at the conventions and at the polls, directed against the abuses of corporate monopoly and in favor of the selection of a senator which could voice its demands in congress, and a legislature pledged to work its will at the state capital. Its effects were seen in both the party platforms in the professions of both republican and democratic leaders, and in the pledges of candidates in every section of the state. Popular opinion was still further manifested in the organization of the anti-monopoly party which at the late election polled 18,000 votes, elected a candidate on the state ticket and barely escaped sending two representatives to the national congress. There are not a dozen men in the entire legislature who could have secured their seats if they had dared to openly defy this sentiment before the election. There are not a half dozen there to-day who can secure reelections or further political advancement if they dare to defy it during the present session.

THE BEE urges upon every member of the legislature, of whatever party, who has pledged himself on the vital issue of the day, to stand firm in the performance of his duty. Every vote is being watched and recorded by the people of Nebraska. No member will be allowed to shirk his responsibility to his constituents and his duty to the people of this state without detection and rebuke. The will of the producers has been expressed so clearly that there can be no excuse for mistake. The wishes of the people, who have been so often betrayed by those sworn to protect their interests, can not again be safely defied. The backbone of every political organization in the state is strongly anti-monopoly. Many of the republican and democratic members of the legislature have been elected on distinct pledges to their constituents. They will be held to a strict performance of their promises by the people, who alone possess the power to make or unmake their political future.

DR. HEBER NEWTON, pastor of one of the largest and most influential Episcopal churches in New York, has been exciting a good deal of comment among the orthodox members of his denomination, by the delivery of a remarkable series of discourses upon the scriptures. Dr. Newton follows Professor Robertson Smith's critical method, and approaches the Bible exactly as he would the sacred writings of Persia and India. He takes up the scripture and examines it as an ancient contribution to literature, chiefly valuable in its historical and philological sense. He discards the legendary and literal interpretation of its books and subjects it to a merciless criticism under what he calls "the light of modern research." Dr. Newton following several distinguished European investigators, pronounces "Deuteronomy a literary forgery, prepared by the prophets of the time, and palmed off on the young king of Israel as the lost law of Moses. With Dr. Robinson Smith, he says that the Songs of Solomon are a drama of Hebrew poetry, Job, a philosophic discussion of goodness in which Jehovah is introduced by a stroke of poetic license, and Daniel, instead of being written by the prophet of that name, the work of some genius which did not appear until a century and a half before Christ. The Book of Genesis according to the same authority, "has been often worked over to answer the needs of different generations." "Indeed," says Dr. Newton, "none of the books appear now as originally written, and all have been edited and re-edited several times."

This is rather bold unorthodoxy from the pulpit of an orthodox denomination. It treats the Bible as a purely human production, whose prophets were the poets of their time, and whose chroniclers the historians of a primitive age. In Dr. Newton's opinion it simply "forms a manual in which we are to study the growth and phases of religion, and from which we are to draw into our lives inspirations of goodness." The most noteworthy incident connected with the affair is that Dr. Newton's church seems to agree with his views and his denomination offers no dissent to his preaching. In the words of a leading New York journal "the religious changes which have been taking place within the last ten years are of startling significance. They are shaking the very foundation of the faith."

SPEAKER HUMPHREY has acted in violation of all legislative usage in practically ignoring ex-members of the other legislatures in the composition of the house committees. It is the unvarying custom in all parliamentary bodies to recognize the experience of such gentlemen by giving them prominent places on the committees where their familiarity with legislative work can make itself felt in formulating and expediting

laws. But Speaker Humphrey who has from the outset set at defiance all rules of precedent and comity has taken his own course in the matter just as he did in his notorious appointment of the special railroad committee from the opponents of that measure. Mr. Palmer, of Dixon county, a member of the last legislature and a young man of more than ordinary brightness and ability, has been shelved, together with Representatives Roberts and General Hoiman, while members who are as green in legislative experience as are green in country pasture after a heavy shower have been pushed to the front simply because they happened not to be objectionable to Speaker Humphrey's particular friends, the railroads. Of all the records made by presiding officers of the house in Nebraska, that of Speaker Humphrey promises to be the worst.

THE year just past was a bad one for the insurance companies. Reports of the underwriters show that over \$90,000,000 was destroyed by fire in the United States and Canada. Of this amount, \$34,000,000 went up in the flames of 152 conflagrations, while \$56,000,000 was consumed in smaller fires. Carelessness and recklessness has caused a general advance in insurance rates. The companies have finally discovered, and are trying to convince the people, that low rates are only consistent with careful construction of buildings and reasonable safeguards and precautions against fire.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

Discussion in England during the past week has been evenly divided between the effects on continental politics of Gambetta's death, the probable policy of the government regarding Egypt and the approaching session of parliament. The health of Mr. Gladstone is causing serious apprehension among his friends, and he has accordingly abandoned his trip to Scotland, which had been eagerly looked forward to by the liberal constituencies of the north. It was confidently expected that the premier during his journey would give expression to the views of the ministry on several of the pending questions and the public is disappointed that the session of parliament must be awaited before learning anything definite of the policy of the government. The election of Sir Charles Dilke to parliament on last Monday is gratifying to the minority of which he so recently has become a member and assures the premier of a staunch adherent in the house of commons while at the same time indicating the continuance of Sir Charles' popularity among his constituency in spite of his late conservative tendencies. The utterances of Joseph Cowen, M. P. regarding the Egyptian question are considered significant. Mr. Cowen, who represents the left of the liberal party, informed his constituents at the beginning of the week that the government would be compelled to annex Egypt, which would lead to the breaking up of the Turkish empire and the commencement of the formation of a British North African empire. Such a revolutionary policy has hardly yet been formulated by the government. If it has been it is carefully concealed. But the tendency of public opinion towards a favorable consideration of annexation is very noticeable and may yet make itself felt by parliamentary vote.

Affairs in Ireland are not as quiet as several of the London journals would have us believe. The policy of proscription still continues, and with its usual branches for irrigation it will be 2,000 miles long and furnish water for 8478 square miles of fertile land, or a territory larger than all New Jersey. It runs across from Suttley to the Junna, in northeastern India, and waters a region whose grain will come into competition with our own, so that the opening of the canal has immediate interest for an American public. Suggested in 1841, planned in 1861, begun in 1871, it has cost in all, including interest and tax remissions, \$205,000,000—nearly twice the cost of the Erie canal.

The Girhard canal just opened by the Viceroy of India, probably not one reader in a thousand could place off hand, but it is one of the half dozen largest canals in the world, has 177 miles of lock navigation completed and has cost \$50,000,000. With its small branches for irrigation it will be 2,000 miles long and furnish water for 8478 square miles of fertile land, or a territory larger than all New Jersey. It runs across from Suttley to the Junna, in northeastern India, and waters a region whose grain will come into competition with our own, so that the opening of the canal has immediate interest for an American public. Suggested in 1841, planned in 1861, begun in 1871, it has cost in all, including interest and tax remissions, \$205,000,000—nearly twice the cost of the Erie canal.

The Postmaster-general of Japan has recently published his tenth annual report from which it appears that the Japanese are making considerable progress in the spread of the postal conveniences of occidental civilization. During the year ended on June 30, 1881, the number of books, newspapers and letters transmitted was upward of 83,000,000—an increase of nearly 20 per cent as compared with the previous year, and 49.3 per cent as against 1879. The aggregate length of all the mail routes in operation was 48,475 English miles—an increase since the previous report of 6,180 miles, and since 1879 of 12,422 miles. During the year there has been established 442 new postoffices, as well as 10 receiving agencies, 2,878 stamp agencies, and 2,755 street letter boxes. The total number of post-offices is now 4,819, and the net profit derived from the department amounted, for the period mentioned, to \$79,800.

It appears from the German Imperial Budget that Prince Bismarck, as chancellor of the empire, receives an annual salary of \$14,000, with the free use of his official residence and \$5,000 a year for maintaining it. The ambassadors in London and St. Petersburg receive \$7,000 a year each, those in Paris, Vienna and Constantinople, \$30,000 each, and the ambassador in Rome, \$25,000; and every ambassador has a free house. The largest salary paid to any state functionary is \$45,000, which the governor of Alsace-Lorraine receives.

New Zealanders have not yet made very satisfactory progress in the attempted destruction of the millions of rabbits that destroy their crops, so enormously do the rabbits multiply in opposition to the work of destruction. The newest scheme devised against them is the importation from India of mongooses, an animal which is well known in the east as an efficient enemy of the rabbit. Mongooses are accordingly being collected in various parts of Bengal and shipped to Calcutta for deposit in the zoological gardens, whence, so soon as a hundred couples are accumulated, they will be forwarded to the anxious New Zealand farmers. "Whether the experiment will succeed," remarks a Calcutta newspaper, "is looked upon as doubtful, the procreative powers of the rabbit having hitherto proved sufficient to withstand all attempts to thin the numbers of this creature, which in an evil hour was imported from Europe into the colony."

Spain has undergone another ministerial crisis, and the ministers have resigned in a body. The difficulty arose over the budget, and the necessity for tax reduction simultaneous with an increase of the revenue. The proposition of the minister of finance to the forest lands was opposed by the minister of agriculture, and the dissolution of the cabinet was the result. Sagasta at the present time is the one Spanish statesman of European reputation, and is believed to hold in his hands the destinies of the kingdom. Much is hoped from his liberal tendencies and influence with both the crown and the common people.

The German reichstag during the week has been equally engaged with discussion of the inundations, and measures looking to the relief of the distressed and with an examination of the budget. The emperor has given a grant of 600,000 marks from the imperial treasury fund as a contribution for the relief of sufferers from the inundations, and a bill has been introduced proposing to place at the disposal of the government 3,000,000 marks. Reports announce the Rhine and Danube as fallen. In Hungary the damage done by the floods is enormous.

Correspondence from Egypt pictures the khedive's situation as somewhat worse than that of the czar. Extraordinary precautions are taken to prevent his assassination. His palace is surrounded and garrisoned by English troops. When he goes to ride or drive the road is carefully patrolled by a military guard. His chamber is accessible only through a passageway closed by four doors fastened with combination locks. Countersigns are changed frequently and secret service agents are constantly on watch. Still, though the English are so jealously guarding the khedive's personal safety, they are described as losing no opportunity to undermine and destroy his authority and make him completely dependent on them.

There is not yet peace on the Russian Kuldj frontier. From Turkestan are reported two cases of murder and outrage by Chinese soldiers that are singularly atrocious. One case is the arrest by a detachment of Chinese troops of a Russian postmaster at a small station on the frontier and the torturing of him to death, and a similar outrage by the same troops on a merchant's clerk. It is declared that both bodies were committed to the flames, but there is reason to suspect that the clerk was burned alive. Only a few days later some Cossacks found the mutilated bodies of two of their comrades who had been murdered by Chinese troops and near them lay two disembowled horses. The Russian people in the neighborhood are said to have become greatly exasperated by these events, and retaliation is feared.

A Doctor's Suit as a Priest. Special Dispatch to THE BEE. LYNN, January 12.—Dr. Wm. A. McDonald brought a suit to-day, claiming \$10,000 damages against Rev. Patrick Strain, St. Mary's Roman Catholic church, who charged the physician was unskillful and advised the people not to employ him.

A Chilly Climate. Special Dispatch to THE BEE. BOSTON, January 12.—Reports from various points in New Hampshire and Vermont state the mercury this morning was 20 to 30 degrees below zero.

Business Failures. Special Dispatch to THE BEE. NEW YORK, January 12.—The business failures for the past seven days are 262, an increase of 38 compared with last week.

TELEGRAPH NOTES Special Dispatches to THE BEE. RICHMOND, Va., January 12.—The weather drops from zero to eight degrees below; at White Sulphur Springs, eleven degrees below. NEW HAVEN, Conn., January 12.—Gottlieb Beck, an employe of the bakery of George K. Kern, was shot fatally to-day by William Kobanus, who was fooling with a pistol. DES MOINES, Ia., January 12.—The loss by the fire is \$160,000; insurance half. WASHINGTON, January 12.—Clark Mills died this morning. BOSTON, January 12.—The b. & G. Gold-finder, Capt. Stuart, from St. Domingo for Boston, was lowered in the Delaware break-water yesterday, having four men frozen to death. WASHINGTON, Pa., January 12.—Efforts are being made to compromise the case of Samuel Ruddy, cashier, and Dr. R. J. S. Thompson, an accomplice, charged with the robbery of \$120,000 belonging to the savings bank. BOSTON, January 12.—The Herald says the Union Steamboat company, capital \$1,000,000, was failed. Many creditors claim that the whole business was a swindle.

RIVER STEAMER SUNK.

NEW ORLEANS, January 12.—The Anchor line steamer City of Greenville hence last evening for St. Louis with 700 hogsheads of sugar and other cargo, came in collision at three this morning near Bayou Goula, ninety-six miles above the city, with the grand Ecure packet, Laura Lee. The City of Greenville sunk, leaving only a portion of her Texas and pilot house above the water. The Laura Lee took off the passengers and crew of the sunken steamer and brought them to the city. It is believed the boat and cargo will prove a total loss. No cause is assigned for the collision. No lives lost. The value of boat and cargo is estimated at \$100,000. Insurance unknown.

WHY WILL YOU CONTINUE TO SUFFER WITH COURAGE WHEN ST. JOACOBS OIL CAN BE HAD?

THE STORM IN DENVER. Special Dispatch to THE BEE. DENVER, January 12.—A severe electric storm accompanied by high wind, which reached a velocity of sixty miles per hour, prevailed here to-day. The electric light tower, 185 feet high, was blown over, wrecking a small house which stood in its course. The inmates escaped uninjured. Several buildings were unroofed and walls of a number of buildings in course of erection blown down. The damage is quite heavy throughout the city. No loss of life reported.

GRAVEYARD INSURANCE.

HARRISBURG, January 12.—The court refuses to dissolve the Fidelity Mutual Insurance association of Elizabethtown, Lancaster county. This action of the court is different from that held by Judges Pierson and Henderson, retired judges, who passed upon the other "graveyard" insurance cases.

BOSTON'S MANIA.

BOSTON, January 12.—Another movement has been started for a world's fair, next summer, in the building of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics' association. It is proposed to have an exhibition of foreign-made products and manufactures only, agents to visit principal industrial centers of Europe and Asia.

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