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

The agency begins to day at noon at Lincoln.

MANHOOD, not money, will win the senatorial race.

A REPORT on the facilities of fire escapes afforded by Omaha hotels would be interesting reading for the traveling public.

KING CAUCUS won in Illinois, but the caucus candidates in Michigan, Minnesota and Massachusetts are shaking in their shoes.

THE producers of this state want for senator a man of less brass than brains. They demand grit, not greenbacks, and experience rather than elegance.

BEN BUTLER'S message has created a lively sensation in Massachusetts, but it will be increased after the legislature gets to work chopping off the sinecure offices.

THERE is more double distilled patriotism at the state capital among candidates than would serve to leaven the republic for two centuries to come. A good deal of it will disappear after the senatorial election.

NEBRASKA railroads are out of politics, of course, and are purchasing no more legislative stock, but the monopoly managers are interested all the same in watching the political peculiarities of the Marquette.

MR. DORMAN B. EATON is figuring over the salary to be paid members of the civil service commission and several of "his friends" are urging him to accept a nomination. The chances are that Mr. Eaton will not be given a chance to decline one.

THE agricultural bill is before the house. The Detroit Free Press takes the floor to remark that a congressman who does not scatter six or eight bushels of agricultural department seeds among his constituents must make the next campaign on his temperance record.

HATTON'S little plan of using congressmen as advertising agents for his Washington paper, The National Republican, has resulted in loud calls from all parts of the country for his removal from the position of first assistant postmaster general. Hatton is a very small pea in a large pod.

SPRINKLING about personal journalism commend to us the following New Year's advertisement in the Salt Lake Tribune:

"To John F. Saunders: You cowardly crank, it's four years tonight since you left and now deserted with sleep on the cold, bare floor of a box car, beating your way from Rawlins, Wyoming, to Ogden."

SCHUYLER COLFAX rises to say that he believes the republicans will succeed in 1884 by nominating a man who has not been identified with faction fighting. Colfax's views upon any subject excepting Credit Mobilier reminiscences are of no possible value to the public.

THE lives of great men, if the great men are representatives and their lives are told in the political manuals, do not always remind us of their general reputation outside. One case of remarkable frankness is, however, recorded. Among the "biographical sketches" of the Maine representatives appears the following:

"Joseph E. Moore, Thomaston, Democrat. In religion, independent as a man can be whose wife and mother-in-law are Baptists."

NEXT to electing their own candidates to the United States senate, the aim of the railroads is to defeat all aspirants for senatorial honors whom they believe to be unfriendly to their interests. Ex-Senator Hereford has withdrawn from the field as a candidate for the democratic nomination for senator from West Virginia. He says he does this, partly in the interest of harmony in the party and partly because he believes influences are at work adversely to himself because of his vote while in the senate for the Thurman bill to compel the Pacific Railroad company to create a sinking fund to pay the amount of their bonds. Incidentally he says that ex-Senator Thurman told him that his vote in favor of that bill beat him in Ohio for re-election to the senate.

A STILL HUNT

The business of electing a United States senator will begin to-day at Lincoln. The people, through their chosen representatives, are to express their choice of the man who for six years from next March will fill the seat of Alvin Saunders in the national senate. Many circumstances render the contest peculiar in the history of our state. The candidates are more numerous than ever before. Without exception every man who seeks the office disclaims any affiliation with corporate monopoly. It is conceded that no candidate can openly boast of railroad support and stand the least chance of success.

This fact of itself is strong testimony to the sweeping revolution which for years has been brought about in Nebraska politics. The open warfare of bribery and corruption has been changed to a bushwhacking campaign, which seeks to accomplish the same results under different auspices. The artillery duel of prominent railroad political attorneys has given way to a still hunt by small bore cappers of the monopolies. Corporation managers through their organs are professing an indifference to the result which they do not feel, while their agents with changed headquarters and a greater show of secrecy, are carrying out the directions of their masters.

The situation has its dangers, which must not be overlooked. A secret foe is often more difficult to meet than an open enemy. The only safety for honest representatives of the people is to resist all overtures from the friends of the monopolies. In simple justice to their constituents and to the solemn pledges of devotion to the principles which they were elected to voice, no member of the legislature, be he republican, anti-monopoly or democrat, can afford to engage in entangling alliances with men who seek to win their support to the secret candidates of the corporations. Without assistance from representatives pledged by the most binding of pledges to resist the advances of corporate monopoly, the railroad tools and cappers will be powerless.

The motto of every anti-monopolist must be "No surrender." With the combined strength which they possess on all questions of vital moment, surrender will be a political suicide. No member can safely violate his pledges, prove traitor to his trust, and face an outraged constituency. No legislator can afford to leave his post of duty and betray his position to the enemy if he hopes for further political advancement in Nebraska. The sentiment of the state has expressed itself so clearly and forcibly that there can be no excuse for disregarding it. The people of Nebraska will accept none. And no nominee for the senatorship will be acceptable unless he is a man above fear or railroad displeasure, and above the reproach of monopoly connections.

THE subject of forestry has been taken up in earnest by the Kansas legislature, and sooner or later must be more earnestly considered by the people of this state. Tree planting since the passage of the national timber culture act has grown upon the public attention just as its importance has been forced into prominence by the necessities of a new country and the rapid extinction of our forests in the older portions of the United States. The question is of pressing importance how the nation is to recoup itself for the wanton waste of timber which each year witnesses in our lumber regions. The operation of our exorbitant tariff tax which has overstimulated the lumber interests of our country under the pretense of protecting a handful of lumbermen from Canadian competition, has compelled our people to witness the rapid destruction of our pine lands. Estimates are freely made that the supply is not more than sufficient for twenty years. Under these circumstances tree planting for future lumber production is at once a duty and a necessity. Aside from the question of a national supply of lumber, forestry has a local interest which cannot be overlooked. The climatic conditions of the states are greatly influenced by the presence of growing vegetation and rainfall and moisture, are stimulated by groves and forests. In our prairie states farms are much enhanced in value by plantations of trees. The future rail, post and pole supply of the farmer can, within a few years, be secured without leaving his land, while the fuel problem will be greatly simplified by the encouragement of woodland.

Kansas has already a forestry law under which 93,000 acres have been planted, chiefly in cottonwood trees. A bill has recently been introduced in her legislature for the appointment of a commissioner of forestry, to secure statistics and afford information for the benefit of tree planters. Few economical questions are of more importance to our farmers, and THE BEE looks for a growing interest on the subject in our state and much practical work in the direction of the making of woodland within the next few years.

THIRTY members of the state legislature frequently show up large bank accounts at the close of a session. A member of the Indiana legislature, says a correspondent, explained the

fact that on his salary of \$1,000 he had in one session saved \$50,000, by saying: "It's all owing to my wife's being economical in not keeping a hired girl that we've saved so much."

ENGLISH CIVIL SERVICE.

The civil service bill as passed by congress is modelled very closely after the system now in operation in England. Of the plan, methods and results of the operation of the British civil service reform bill few of the public and still fewer congressmen, if we may judge from the speeches printed in the Record, have any definite idea. People were led to believe while the Pendleton bill was pending in the senate that the absence of patronage and all traces of the spoils system were entirely eradicated in England and that the plan of competitive examinations as a prerequisite to entrance into the civil service applied to all classes of government officials. The public will be disabused of this idea by reading Congressional General Merritt's report to the state department, which makes a practical comparison between the American and English systems of admission into and tenure in the civil service. According to General Merritt, the English civil service is a compromise between the patronage and the competitive system. All positions commanding more than \$2,000 a year in the home service, and all without limitation in the foreign service, are filled by the heads of departments or by the crown, and there does not appear to be any serious complaint as to the manner in which this patronage is disposed. These higher positions are occupied by the friends of the representative men of both parties, and have never been brought under the control of the competitive system. At the same time patronage has practically ceased to be an important element in political contests. The civil service regulations apply to all positions in domestic administration for which the annual compensation is less than \$2,000. The lower grades are divided into classes; applicants who succeed in passing a competitive examination begin with a salary of \$400 or \$475, which may be advanced by triennial increments to \$1,000 or \$1,250. In the "Higher Division," a new grade of open competition, the salaries are raised triennially from a minimum of \$500 to a maximum of \$2,000; and promotions cannot, as a rule, carry the official out of the group which he has entered, but can be sanctioned by the civil service commissioners in exceptional cases after ten years' service. Life tenure is the fundamental principle of the system, a pension being allowed whenever the incumbent becomes unfit for office. Gen. Merritt finds that the weakest point in the English plan is the pensioning system, against which public criticism is uniformly leveled. He thinks it would be wiser to compensate public servants fully for services rendered than to incur obligations that can be cancelled only by pensions or gratuities otherwise unnecessary. He is also disposed to question the wisdom of making increase of salary dependant entirely upon length of service and in no measure upon exceptional talents. He warmly recommends, however, the disciplinary rules relating to pecuniary embarrassment of government employees, and is convinced that their application to the civil service of the United States would have the most beneficial effect.

The practicability of adopting in the United States service the principle of life tenure has never been generally conceded by the most intelligent observers. Public opinion is generally opposed to it. Gen. Merritt advocates a limited tenure for representative positions of the highest class, the salaries being adjusted to the importance and responsibility of the office, and for the lower or merely clerical positions a tenure subordinated to periodical examinations every four or five years. The application of these principles, he thinks, would practically secure tenure for life wherever the employees were zealous and faithful, and at the same time would promote the efficiency of the service. Gen. Merritt, as an old and well seasoned officer holder, is naturally in favor of the life tenure principle. The people of this country will not agree with him. They are opposed to the building up of an office holding aristocracy as unrepublican and contrary to the spirit of our government. They are in favor of throwing open the civil service to every man ambitious enough to desire entrance and more competent than the official whom he would displace. A limited tenure, a business administration and a rigid responsibility to superiors and to the people for a small portion of the civil service—these are all the results which the public can hope to secure from the civil service bill which is shortly to become a law.

AN unsophisticated and youthful official of the Union Pacific who had from Northern Ohio, has been begging a pledge from one of the Douglas county delegation for a complimentary vote for senator. His object, as he states it, is that his friends abroad may see his name in the press dispatches as among the eminent Nebraskans. "How we apples do swim."

A BUILDING ORDINANCE

Over a year ago THE BEE called the attention of the city council to the necessity of a building ordinance for Omaha. It pointed out that business houses, public halls and private residences were being erected in the city, constructed with a gross disregard of the safety of human life, and in violation of every rule held essential by the building ordinances of all large cities of the country. If we remember correctly the subject was agitated in the council and particular interest taken in it by Councilman Herman, but the matter was finally dropped without action.

Every great fire like that which has just shocked the country brings the question forcibly before our people. Why has Omaha no ordinance regulating the erection of buildings and providing for the filing and approval of plans with a city official competent to pronounce whether they comply with the law? Fire traps veneered with brick, foundations which are dangerous from the day of their completion, theaters and halls with improper and insufficient exits, hotels with no extra provision for the escape of guests in case of fire or panic, are planned and constructed, and there are no grounds for objection under the law to their completion, or punishment for their owners who recklessly endanger human lives and property with impunity.

If the city council desire to gratify a praiseworthy public sentiment they will at once take steps in the matter. A building ordinance ought to be at once drawn up and introduced. Those of other cities will provide all the materials essential to a measure which will prove a much needed safeguard to Omaha and its citizens. The details can be discussed in the open council. Such an ordinance should provide for the thickness of walls, the proper thickness of floor beams and their insertion free of flaws in walls, the proportion of breadth of brick walls to the height of the structures, the number and character of exits in places of public amusement and such other provisions as may seem advisable and necessary. Our present city government is probably adequate to give supervision to plans and to furnish proper inspection of buildings.

Mr. Herman will do the public a service if he will again take up the matter where the council dropped it. There will be no more favorable time than the present, when everyone's attention is occupied with the recent disasters in Milwaukee and St. Louis, and when our citizens will need no urging to support any measure which will tend to make more secure their property and persons and those of their neighbors.

GERMANY may repudiate the American hog, but it welcomes the American actor. Edwin Booth, our most subtle and artistic, and therefore our most effective interpreter of Shakespeare, is now playing Hamlet in Berlin to audiences who have received him with marks of distinction as flattering as they are extraordinary. It is praise enough for Edwin Booth that his Hamlet is regarded by the German critics as the perfection of dramatic art. Germany is the country where Shakespeare has been most exhaustively studied and appreciated. German Shakespearean criticism preceded any intelligent criticism of the great dramatist in England. It was Goethe and Schilling, Schiller and Lessing who drew the first philosophical analysis of Shakespeare's plays, and to-day, in Germany, admiration for the English playwright is held to be the first requisite of literary intelligence. To the German mind "Hamlet" is one of the ideal productions of the world, the embodiment of the profoundest philosophy, the most consummate art and the sublimest poetry. That Edwin Booth speaking in a foreign tongue, with a support of native actors can produce such an impression on the culture of Berlin is proof enough that he has not been overrated by his countrymen as the most accomplished tragedian of his age.

GEN. CLEVELAND has appointed the new railroad commission. One is a lawyer, who has done business for the corporations; another was urged for the place by several railroad kings, and the third is the only anti-monopolist on the board. The prospects for railroad legislation in New York are not particularly cheering.

IN Luck Again. E. K. Valentine's alleged boom for the U. S. senatorship is said to have spent its force. Lucky Nebraskas.

A High-Priced Massachusetts Toe. One Colony Memorial.

A Brocton soldier, who lost a toe in the war, has just been paid \$440 for the member by the government after sixteen years' delay.

How to Abate the Tramp Nuisance. Texas Still.

Let women be brought up to habits of industry and economy and learn to support a husband and the tramp nuisance will soon cease.

Gould's Paper Paying. The Tribune association, at its annual meeting, has declared a dividend of 25 per cent. This brought out the exact registry of its stock, from which appeared that Whitelaw R. Reid held 75 shares in his own name and 18 in the name of his wife. White,

his brother-in-law, owned 90 shares more, the family thus owning altogether 145 out of the 200 shares. The rest are held in small lots, and in nearly half the cases by estates. The report states with the exception of a loan of \$100,000 the building had been entirely paid for out of the profits of the current business.

Check Located but the Brain Not. Philadelphia Press.

The check of the Indiana democracy rests under the hat of D. Webster Voorhees, its hope under that of Joseph McDonald, and its despair under that of Thomas A. Hendricks. The reopening place of its brains has never been discovered even until this day.

St. John's Lecture. Philadelphia Times.

Gov. St. John, of Kansas, it is reported, will soon start out on an extended lecturing tour. His subject is not announced, but it may be assumed that it will be "How to Fritter Away Majorities," as he evidently knows more on this question than any other.

The Mask Off. Fairmount Signal.

Humphrey, the speaker of the house, stands before the people to-day stripped by his own hand of the corporate veil under which he had been trying so hard to conceal himself, and if we know anything of the material which composes the body over which he presides, we predict he will soon have reason to repent his insolence.

Better Than Mining. Denver Tribune.

As a rule the servant girls of Denver are rapidly becoming the owners of houses and lots. They get good pay, don't have to spend it for dress, and consequently have a surplus to invest. An industrious girl can save enough in a year to buy a lot near a street car line. Fortune hunters are getting hold of this state of facts, and are sometimes found paying their addresses to the kitchen rather than to the parlor.

A Man for the People. Franklin Echo.

Hon. A. H. Conner, candidate for United States senator, is a western man and closely allied with western interests. He has been a lifelong Republican, was chairman of the Republican state central committee for a time in Indiana. He was a very influential member of the constitutional convention of 1875, a reer and co-worker of and with Van Wyck, Weaver, Laird, Manderson and other brilliant minds of the state who gave our present state constitution. He is a man ripe in years, a logical reasoner, a fluent talker, honorable and upright, essentially a man of the people, and, as we believe, a true-blue anti-monopoly Republican, and would make a good Senator.

Worthy of Thanks. York Tribune.

Hon. Matthew Howell has taken a course in the senate which brings down upon his devoted head the maledictions of all railroad men and their numerous lackeys and journals throughout the state. But the people of Nebraska, in whose interest he has been so bold as to stand and fight, will not forget to do him honor. The Times, though opposed to his election, is happy to state that it has been very agreeably surprised in the course which he has thus far pursued. If the statement of the railroad journals that Mr. Howell is responsible for depriving the lieutenant governor of the right to appoint the senate standing committee, is true, he is entitled to the thanks of every honest man in the state.

A Boston Globe reporter was informed by Mr. E. M. Gifford, of the Norway Iron Works, that city, that nothing he had ever seen equaled St. Jacob's Oil on a rapid and permanent relief for the accidents constantly occurring in manufacturing establishments.

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