

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

THE O'Brien boom petered out before it put in an appearance.

SOME of the candidates at Lincoln are in as little danger of being hit by ballots as they were by bullets during the war.

THE attempts of the railroad agents to sow dissension in the anti-monopoly ranks at Lincoln will fail. The flies will refuse to walk into the parlor of the monopoly spider.

MASSACHUSETTS newspapers are busy correcting the grammar of Ben Butler's message. They find it easier work than criticizing the recommendations which it contains.

SENATOR ELMUNDUS in the senate yesterday announced that in his opinion some sort of railroad regulation was a necessity. The country at large will fully agree with the senator.

SINCE his inauguration there is less talk about Governor Cleveland as a rising presidential candidate. Mr. Tilden will not be too odd to have a vote in the next democratic convention.

THE Milwaukee tragedy is already bearing fruit. A bill has been introduced in the Nebraska legislature for the protection of guests in hotels, in case of fire. It ought to be carefully considered and passed.

OBJECTION is made that the editor of THE BEE stamps his personality on his paper. No one has ever intimated that its columns were filled with the screeds of Swedish lawyers or the arguments of corporate managers.

IT is to be hoped that the first business of the republican national committee now in session in Washington will be to provide itself with another secretary. Steph. W. Dorey has outlived both his reputation and his usefulness.

A PROMINENT minister recently remarked that he did not consider the laws of Massachusetts more inspired than the laws of Massachusetts. The worst enemy of Massachusetts has never intimated that he had any influence in the drafting of the laws of Massachusetts.

BISHOP TALBOT, of Indiana, died on Tuesday at Indianapolis. As one of the pioneer Episcopals of the northwest Bishop Talbot was well known and highly esteemed in his denomination. He had occupied the diocese of Indiana since 1872.

AN error of the wires gave Ex-Governor John D. Long, of Massachusetts, a majority over Senator Hoar on the senatorial fight. At last reports Hoar was still leading and it looked as if it would be an unusually long lane before John D. reached the turn which leads towards Washington.

A MEMBER of the Tennessee legislature has introduced a resolution closing the galleries entirely and excluding from the lobby all persons wearing unclean linen. If the Nebraska legislature passed a similar resolution one of the railroad attorneys would have to seek new quarters.

AGAIN there are rumors of trouble with the Indians in the Powder River country, which are likely to turn out to have as little foundation in fact as the rumored rising of the Crows in the neighborhood of Fort McKinney, last spring. The true inwardness of the affair will be shown up when the post trader calls for "more troops."

OF the twenty-six new or re-elected senators whose terms begin on the 4th of March next sixteen have already been chosen. These are Morgan, of Alabama; Garland, of Arkansas; Frye, of Maine; Lusk, of Mississippi; Anthony, of Rhode Island; Ransom, of North Carolina; Butler, of South Carolina; and Harris, of Tennessee have been re-elected. Randall L. Gibson has been chosen to succeed Kellogg, of Louisiana; James F. Wilson to succeed McDill, of Iowa; James N. Dalglish to succeed Grover, of Oregon; Riddleberger to succeed Johnson, of Virginia, and ex-Governor Colquhoun to succeed Barrow, now serving the fragment of Hill's term from Georgia.

THE SECOND DAY'S BALLOT.

The first joint ballot for United States senator which was cast yesterday at Lincoln affords no substantial grounds for speculation upon the final result. The changes from Tuesday's vote are trifling, and devoid of significance. All that is certain is that the battle, like its predecessors, will be a fight of the field against the leading candidate, who is carefully heading his strength for the final effort. Of the thirty professed candidates who received complimentary votes, twenty-five have no possible hope of success.

The contest in which the legislature is now engaged promises to be protracted and exciting. The claims of the railroad organs that any attempt at dictation have been made in the ranks of the anti-monopolists is sufficiently disproved by the scattering of their vote. The anti-monopoly members of the legislature are instructed for no candidate, and are pledged only to assist in the election of a man who will be acceptable to the people of Nebraska, as a competent, honest and willing exponent of their wishes. They will not or cannot be conjoined or bribed into the support of any candidate against whom there is a shadow of a shade of suspicion of monopoly affiliation. The divisions in the republican and democratic ranks are largely on the same line. In both parties are men who will be first of all true to their pledges to their constituents, and afterwards if possible loyal to the expressed will of their party in the legislature.

The cries for a caucus which are beginning to come with renewed vigor from the railroad organs are too palpable in their object to deceive any honest member of the legislature. No republican who stands by his pledges of anti-monopoly can afford to consent in advance to bind his judgment or to fetter his conscience. If King Caucus is to rule, he must exercise his sway over men who have no principles to support except a blind adherence to party and no one's wishes to consult but a shifting personal preference which can be easily transferred to men who, through scheming and promises, secure the favor of a bare majority.

A SERIOUS DANGER.

There is serious danger that the political cowardice of the republican party in congress in their action on the tariff will render certain their defeat in the coming presidential election. The ways and means committee have so butchered the report of the tariff commission that their recommendations, if endorsed by the house and senate, will result in an actual increase of revenue instead of a decrease of at least fifty millions, as demanded by the mass of the people of the country. The tariff commission report was unsatisfactory because it made only trifling additions to the free list, but its adoption would have taken off some thirty millions of taxation annually from the consumers of the country and increased by that amount the productive capacity of the nation. Pig Iron Kelly's committee, however, has mutilated it to such an extent that instead of any reduction in the \$220,000,000 which are annually raised by custom duties, there will be an actual increase of \$3,000,000 provided the importations are maintained up to last year's standard.

The charge is brought against the present tariff by its opponents that it is exorbitant and oppressive. Four-fifths of the population of the United States are farmers or directly dependent upon farm labor. For the benefit of less than one-fourth of the remainder engaged in industrial pursuits the people of this country are bled to the tune of \$100,000,000 annually more than is sufficient to pay the running expenses of the nation including the collection of the custom dues.

It is charged, and the charge cannot be disputed, that the tariff after upbuilding American industry is now maintained in its present form simply to foster monopoly. The tariff commission virtually conceded this fact. It reported that the tariff ought to be substantially reduced and that such reduction would be permanently beneficial to the very industries which resisted it. And this report was made by men chosen from avowed protectionists, nearly every one of whom was directly interested in some great industry which has been stimulated by the nation's bounty.

The sentiment of the country on this question is reflected in the press. When such apostles of high protection as the New York Tribune are found protesting against the arbitrary action of the ways and means committee and clamoring for at least \$40,000,000 reduction in the customs duties, the tide of current opinion is clearly indicated. The danger to the republican party in refusing to reduce the taxes by a substantial revision of the tariff lies in the certainty that such a reduction will be made by the incoming democratic congress. With the report of a republican tariff commission to fall back upon, and further justification in the speeches of such eminent protectionists as Messrs. Morrill and Sherman the passage of a revised tariff will be easily accomplished by a democratic majority. The odium of refusing to do the same thing when they had the opportunity will certainly fall upon the republican party who will be branded by the people

either as political cowards, or as the tracking tools of industrial monopolists. Under such circumstances, the democratic party could enter the next campaign with a platform of performances, rather than promises. A substantial reduction of taxation would be a battle cry which would easily be understood by the masses, and which would rally to the democratic standard thousands of votes lost to the republicans through the criminal blundering of their representatives in congress.

These members of the legislature who were opposed to the creation of a special railroad commission have probably discovered by this time that it is likely to have plenty of work before the session is over. The facts which are being brought out will be especially valuable in the framing of a law for railroad regulation and for the prevention of the abuses under which the people are suffering. There ought to be the widest latitude given to researchers of the committee. Already the objections of some of its members to the probing questions put to the agents of the corporations have verified the charges of THE BEE regarding Speaker Humphrey's appointments. If the railroad's Nebraska subsidize the press and bribe favored patrons with passes and patronage, let the facts come out. Any attempt to suppress them will only react upon the heads of the men who fear the exposure of their corrupt practices, and the laying bare of a policy which is opposed to every honest business principle and to the public welfare.

Several inconsequential Washington scribblers have started the rumor that should the Fitz John Porter bill pass the house it will be vetoed by President Arthur. This rumor is evidently spread abroad with the intention of influencing members of the house to vote against the measure. THE BEE knows whereof it speaks when it says that President Arthur will gladly sign the bill for Gen. Porter's relief. The president has stated that for several years before the Schofield board of inquiry he was fully convinced of Fitz John Porter's innocence, and that every development since has convinced him that a great crime was committed against a brave and gallant soldier. There is unfortunately little possibility that the present congress will do a simple act of justice to General Porter, but should the bill pass the house it will certainly meet with President Arthur's approval. In the next congress, if the bill fails to become a law at the present session, Nebraska will have at least one representative, Hon. James Laird, who will have something to tell from his own personal experience about the second battle of Manassas and the brave corps commander who saved Pope's army from annihilation.

THE Chicago Herald says that the poet Longfellow has been made the recipient of a unique pen made of a bit of iron from the chain of the prisoners of Chillon, the pen stock from a fragment of the frigate Constitution. In a heavy band of gold encircling it were set three rare stones—red, yellow and white—a tourmaline, a zircon and a phenacite. The whereabouts of the editor of the Herald during the past year is not stated.

Democratic Leaders Nervous.

There are signs that the democratic leaders with long heads are getting nervous over the conduct in congress of the democrats with long ears. Especially does the behavior of the democratic members of the ways and means committee distress those who hoped the democratic party could slip into the White House and the treasury in 1884 by wearing the lion's skin of tax reform. The most prominent democrat in the house, Mr. Randall, who will be speaker of the next congress, is voting for every increase of taxation that comes up before the ways and means committee of which he is the most influential member. As the speaker of the next congress, he will have the appointment of the first ways and means committee his party have had in six years. It will be his committee that will frame a democratic revenue bill to illustrate the democratic ideas of reducing taxation. It is easy to forecast the kind of committee that he will appoint who is now busy in raising the rates of taxation on blankets, flannels, cottons, tools, and pretty much everything the people use.

At this rate the victory of 1882 will be lost by the democrats, just as they threw away that of 1874. The apprehensions of those in the party who see this retrogressive drift are vigorously expressed by the New York Sun. It asks, what is to come of the great victory of 1882? Is it to end merely in a great scramble for the places filled by the republicans? Are the people to hear a great deal about reform, but fail to gather its fruits? Are lavish promises of retrenchment, economy, reduction of taxation, and the abolition of needless offices to be followed by no performance? The Sun, which is more truly a leader of its party than any of the politicians in the capital, warns the democratic members of congress that in the states where they seem to be strongest they will be held to the strictest accountability, and that in those where their success was only partial they will be closely watched, and must act now as to show the voters what they would do if they had the full control of the government. The great hope of the republicans lies in the almost certainty that the

democratic members of congress will continue as they have begun to join their forces with those of the monopolists who are throwing fresh taxes in the face of the great popular demand for reform and reduction. The talk of the democratic leaders has already shown that they cannot be trusted to carry out the civil service reform even if it is law, and so far they have done more to increase than to lower taxes. The nervousness that called out The Sun's warning is fully justified by the attitude of the democrats in congress. As the democratic leaders grow nervous, the republicans can see more clearly their own opportunity. Let them take the question of tax reform out of the hands of the traitorous ways and means committee, and put through the following simple law, which can be understood by every taxpayer without the aid of a Pennsylvania expert:

Be it enacted, etc., that after June 30, 1883, all duties levied on imports into the United States be reduced 20 per cent.

With such a reform passed by the republican congressmen and opposed by Randall and his followers, the republicans can come before the people in 1884, after two years of the inevitable blundering of the coming democratic congress, and walk over the course to the white house. But democratic blunders will do the republicans no good unless they make a contrasting record before the end of the session.

BREWSTER'S EXTRAVAGANCE

The Aesthetic Tastes of the Attorney-General Gratified at Public Expense.

WASHINGTON, January 9.—The report of the attorney-general, which has just returned from the printing office, makes a showing nearly as unique and interesting as the once noted contingent fund report of the treasury under the last and most inspiring year of Mr. Sherman's administration, which report, it will be recalled, charged the secretary's lunch to campaign friends under the euphemistic item of "banquets," and cast the stationary and furniture taken from the treasury to supply his personal literary bureau, in the accounts for his run or something of the kind. Mr. Brewster's aesthetic tastes are in part revealed in the report now in question, in which also it is shown that the department of justice has not only paid retail rates for its purchases, but at a very liberal advance over what ordinary people pay. Two of the local papers for instance, whose subscription prices delivered are respectively 50 and 44 cents a month, are charged throughout the report at \$1 and at 75 cents.

The department bought during the year 449 yards of floor covering and upholstery as follows: Four pieces of flannel, eight pieces of border, eight pieces of flock and 384 feet of gilt head, all of this lot costing \$86 64; also one piece of velvet border, two and a half pieces dado border, thirty-two feet gold bead, black Japanese wolf robe, \$20; hanging pictures, \$12 50; moving furniture and arranging rooms, \$10 50; two and a half yards of billiard cloth, \$4; upholstery for four sofas and lounge and chair, \$7 50 each; eleven small chairs at \$2 50 each; two arm chairs, easy chair and sleepy hollow, \$5 each; Turkish chair, \$18; two chair seats, \$5 each.

Among the other items are a half-gallon demijohn and two corkscrews, seven decorated cardboards, bust of "Young Augustus," \$8; one celluloid comb, one onyx Gaius's corset, one pair of gloves, one pair of Congress knits, \$2 50; 500 cards for the attorney general, \$5; footstool for the attorney general, four plated ice pitchers, \$40; fur plated waiters, \$18 50, and one decorated plate, \$4 75.

The attorney general's telegraph bills were a usually small, but in one month they reached \$325, and in another \$279. The expenses for the United States courts in the district of Columbia for the fiscal year 1882, paid in the fiscal year 1883, amounted to \$2,041.72, as compared as follows: Marshall, \$135 62; miscellaneous, \$121 65; attorneys, \$2,143 45. The expenses incurred and paid in the fiscal year 1882 amounted to \$199,186 59, besides \$38,000 for the District jail, expended as follows: Marshals, \$1,400; jurors, \$26 892; witnesses, \$61,080 80; miscellaneous expenses, \$48,846 96; attorneys, \$60,445 43; commissioners, \$311 40.

In the District of Columbia W. A. Cook received \$5,250 for services rendered the government in the star route cases; A. M. Gibson and R. T. Merrick each received \$5,000; W. W. Ker, \$11,000 for election and star route cases; George Bliss, \$38,150 34 for fees and expenses in star route cases; John K. Porter and W. O. Davidge were paid each \$10,000 for services in the Gaitheau case.

The attorney general, before his accession to office, received \$2,500 for services in the star route cases in the eastern district of Pennsylvania. Mr. Merrick and Mr. Ker are each credited with receiving \$50 a day for services as counsel in the star route cases. Mr. Merrick's fees above the \$5,000 specified, as well as the expenses of the government's special agents and detectives in the last trial, are probably included in the miscellaneous item of \$48,846 46, making star route expenses so far certainly not less than \$150,000. Mr. Bliss has been continuously for over a year under government pay at \$100 a day.

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