

The Omaha Bee.

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

The Morton boom was killed by the cold weather.

JACK HORNOR got in his work in the Kansas legislature when they chose a senator. He pulled out a Plumb.

It appears to be a year of senatorial deadlocks. Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota and Nebraska have each entered upon the second week of their legislative struggle with land not yet in sight.

THE Tennessee legislature has been passing several resolutions on national political questions during the past two weeks. A resolution to pay the state debt would come in better gear from the members of the home of Polk.

Or the twenty four hundred divorces granted in Maine during the past ten years a large number were for drunkenness. The state of Neal Dow and prohibition has the floor to explain how these things can be.

It is claimed that the fish caught by American fishermen in Canadian waters are so few in number as to cost the government, under the treaty of Washington, \$1,400 a barrel. The Canadians appear to have been getting the biggest bite of the apple, and the sooner the treaty is abolished the better.

"No Eastern Mail," has been the placard staring the people of Omaha in the face from the postoffice front for the past four days. Every snow blockade means loss to our business men and inconvenience to the patrons of Uncle Sam's postal service which a little more activity in the postoffice might greatly diminish.

A CONSCIENTIOUS member of the legislature of Georgia, who during the session obtained five postage stamps from a clerk in one of the state departments, insisted upon paying for them, although they were to be used for state business. This looks very commendable in the legislator, but it is asserted that at the same time he had railroad passes in his pocket, and had used them, and charged the state mileage both ways.

MR. OLIVER was on the tariff commission, to raise the duty on wire, Mr. Hayes' business was to see that the wool interests were protected, and now Mr. Kenner writes a note to explain that all his efforts were directed towards keeping the duties on sugar from being lowered. The other members of the commission are yet to be heard from, but there is a prevailing opinion that most of the commissioners had equally good reasons for drawing \$10 a day from the government.

SENATOR VAN WYCK in the senate on Monday moved to put all wood and articles manufactured from wood, excepting household furniture, on the free list. There are good grounds for the senator's motion. The duty on lumber has done much to stimulate tree cutting, and tree cutting ought to be hindered by all reasonable means. Forests which are the growth of thousands of years are being destroyed in a season and our lumber supply is rapidly diminishing. Even if as Senator Corger says, we have enough timber to last fifty years, the duty on lumber ought to be remitted.

OMAHA has an ordinance which compels householders to shovel snow off their sidewalks, and which provides a fine for non-compliance with its provisions. Why is it not enforced? For nearly a month past our streets have been covered with snow and a large portion of our sidewalks are scarcely less blocked than the streets. We have yet to hear of a single arrest by the city marshal or of a fine imposed in the police court. Even in the business portion of our city many sidewalks remain from twenty four hours to a week uncleaned. On the side streets and on Capitol Hill there are lots in front of which the snow of Christmas day is still lying. The marshal's duty in this matter is plain. He can not plead ignorance of the law or of its defiance. Nor has he to wait until complaint is made by outside parties. A few notices served by the police and one or two fines would soon bring obstinate property owners to a realizing sense of their delinquency.

ANTI-MONOPOLY WARFARE.

Nothing gives such supreme satisfaction to the editor of the Herald as a word in favor of railroad construction, in any of the anti-monopoly papers of this state. It taps the barrel of adjectives at once and a brilliantly sarcastic editorial on the inconsistencies of "roaring anti-monopolists" is the immediate result. Of course no one knows better than Dr. Miller that the anti-monopoly party are not opposing railroads, honestly built and operated with a respect for common decency. Candor, however, has never been one of the shining characteristics of the Herald and its readers are accordingly treated to a discourse on the "destroying and consuming curse" of anti-monopoly warfare.

There is probably not a farmer in Nebraska who does not favor heartily, as rapid an extension of railroad systems, as is consistent with the needs of our thinly settled territory and compatible with sound financing on the part of its constructors. There are few who will not agree that railroads have been "invaluable blessings" in hastening the development of the state and in bringing producer and consumer closer to each other. And there are just as few who do not desire to see the companies earn a good return on their legitimate investment and who are not entirely willing to assist towards that end.

What "the roaring anti-monopolists" are endeavoring to secure is not the injury of the railroads but the restriction of tyrannical railroad management. They complain that though over capitalization, construction risks and combinations of officials, the actual legitimate capital of the road is difficult to ascertain and the public are compelled to pay dividends more on water than on stock, representing cost of construction and equipments. The roaring "anti-monopolists" charge, and prove their charges by the evidence of the railroad managers, that the corporations are daily defying the laws and conducting their business with the greatest disregard of the public interest. They complain that the railroads refuse to pay their taxes and throw the burden of their protection upon the citizens of the state. These briefly stated are the facts forming the basis of the demand for legislative action which comes from the "roaring anti-monopolists." The details in the counts in the indictment are two numerous and familiar to mention.

All that the anti-monopolists ask is that justice shall be done to them and to all citizens of Nebraska by the corporations which they support. They desire to cripple no industry, to destroy no capital, to block no improvement. But they do demand, and they intend to incorporate that demand into a fair and an operative law, that the corporations shall perform their duties to the people as common carriers without favor and discrimination; that their charges shall be reasonable and uniform, and that the taxes which they have so long evaded shall no longer be paid by an already overburdened people. And this is the programme of the "roaring anti-monopolists."

It is high time that the remarks of democratic editors about republican ingratitude to Stephen W. Dorsey ceased. The republican party honored Dorsey just as long and only as long as he was believed to honor the party. Its leaders confided in him as an energetic and presumably honest republican, with good organizing ability and a fair record as a citizen. The moment he was discovered to be a thief they withdrew their confidence and unceremoniously booted him out of their council. This was not ingratitude; it was common decency. Gen. Garfield believed Dorsey to be an honest man as politicians go. He knew him to be a valuable worker, and he used him in securing his election by the people. What Dorsey's actual character was at the time is nothing to the point unless General Garfield knew it. Of this there is not an iota of proof. The best evidence that such was not the case, are the letters which Dorsey has been dealing out to the public since a republican president and a republican cabinet have refused to cover up his crime or to assist him in escaping justice. It is the consummation of cheek in Dorsey or his friends to talk of ingratitude. Tallyho carries with it no obligations on the parts of a thief's friends to assist him in evading justice, simply because he may have been a good dinner giver, or have had honorable business connections when no one believed him to be a rogue. Neither Dorsey nor those who are taking up his case are likely to reap any political benefit, or to gain much public notoriety from their howls about party ingratitude. The party has suffered a great deal more from such men as Dorsey than Dorsey has from the ingratitude of the party.

The legislature took one ballot yesterday and adjourned. The only changes noted were the passing of the democratic votes on Mr. Boyd and the change of the anti-monopoly strength from Captain Stikel to General Connors. The attempt to force caucus rule upon the republicans failed. The changes in the republican vote had no

significance and the situation remains practically unchanged. Meanwhile the Lincoln hotel keepers seem to be the only parties who are entirely satisfied over the prospect.

CHANDLER'S RESOLUTION.

A resolution presented by Secretary Chandler at the meeting of the republican national committee, and which was adopted without discussion, reads as follows:

Resolved, That the call of the next republican national convention shall be so broad and liberal as to invite the co-operation (without imposing any other test of faith) of all citizens who are in favor of elevating and dignifying American labor, protecting and extending home industries, giving free popular education to the masses of the people, securing free suffrage and an equal counting of ballots, and effectually protecting all human rights in every section of our common country, and who are willing to support the nominees of the convention.

It will at once be remarked that the "only test of faith" actually required is a willingness to support the nominees of the convention. The other requirements all voters are supposed to possess. Everyone, of whatever party, is in favor of elevating and dignifying American labor, approves of popular education, a free suffrage, an honest ballot and a proper protection to American industry. None of the subjects are issues any longer. What peculiar significance can they have as a call to the republican ranks.

Why cannot the party leaders understand that the next campaign cannot be won by platform platitudes which have done service for twenty years? Are they so blind that they fail to see that the 1,500,000 republicans who either refused to vote at the late elections or who voted for other than the party candidates cannot be recruited again into the ranks by war cries which long ago ceased to arouse enthusiasm?

The success of the republican party has been due to a feeling among voters that its policy and its leaders were abreast of the times. They believed that it had a mission to fulfill and a great cause to serve. They reposed trust in its management as leaders of current thought and statesmen anxious and able to solve the problems of the day. And, believing this, they gave support to its platforms and elected its candidates. But parties must either advance or die. Political stagnation is political death. Mr. Chandler does not voice the best sentiment of republicanism if his resolution is intended in any sense to outline the future political programme of the republican party. Such a programme will scarcely re-awaken the waning interest which a large number of republican voters have already evidenced in the party's existence. It will neither arouse the halting veterans nor call new recruits to the thinning ranks. The old times when they have outlived their usefulness, not alone their novelty, fall flat upon the public ear. It is the questions of the day incorporated into the party life which alone have political interest. And those are practically untouched by Mr. Chandler's resolution.

THE house yesterday passed a resolution introduced by Mr. Robbins, calling upon the supreme court for their opinion upon the constitutionality of a railroad commission. The court is requested to state (1) Whether railroad commissioners would be executive officers if created by the legislature. (2) Whether such officers would come under the inhibition of the constitution. (3) Whether laws under the commissioner system regulating railroads would be in violation of the constitution, and (4) Whether a railroad commissioner law could be framed, such as would not conflict with the constitutional provision.

Mr. Robbins' resolution is timely and should receive as speedy an answer as possible from the bench. The Nebraska constitution, after defining the number and duties of state officers, provides: Art. V, Sec. 26: "No other executive state office shall be continued or created, and the duties now devolving upon offices not provided for by this constitution shall be performed by the officers herein created."

If a railroad commission has any power to enforce its decrees it is executive in nature. If it has no such power it is a costly and useless bureau for the collection of statistics.

By a further provision of the constitution it is made obligatory upon the legislature to "pass laws to correct abuses and prevent unjust discrimination and extortion in all charges of express, telegraph and railroad companies in this state, and enforce such laws by adequate penalties to the extent, if necessary for that purpose, of forfeiture of their property and franchises." Has the legislature a right to delegate this duty to another body organized for this purpose? Is it not made obligatory upon the representatives of the people, acting under this constitutional mandate? What authority, under this section of the constitution, is there for the creation of a commissioner system which removes the whole question of railroad regulation from the hands of the people's representatives? These are the questions which, under Mr. Robbins' resolution, the supreme court will be called upon to decide.

OCCIDENTAL JOTTINGS.

NEVADA. Nevada county has compromised their tax cut with the Central Pacific railroad company. Farmers in Sumner county object to the law which prohibits trapping in the sporting season.

THE hop business is popular in Green Valley, many extensive plantings have been made there.

THE Nevada county general fund is exhausted and is not likely to be in a healthy condition for some time to come.

A large well-to-do stable at Utah last week and made a savings attack on one of the horses. The intruder was dispatched with a shotgun.

Arrangements have been made for the construction of a large flouring mill at Salinas, Cal. Its capacity is to be 600 barrels of flour per day.

The farmers in California have been very busy during the last few days of the winter, and most of them have finished sowing their small grain.

W. E. Hopping, the sheriff elect of Sumner county, was refused possession of the office by ex-Sheriff Hull, and last Saturday, by virtue of an order of court, took forcible possession.

Edward Y. Ely of Sacramento attempted to seduce Mrs. T. D. Ardeley by telling her that the two incurable polios on the life of her husband, who is at the point of death, were obtained by fraud. But he offered to prevent witnesses from testifying to that effect if she would assign one of the policies to him. The next day he called and conceded witnesses heard him repeat the offer. He was arrested.

OREGON. Lieutenant P. G. Schwaska is lecturing in Oregon, on his Arctic experiences.

James Miles, who was herding horses on Beaver creek, 18 miles from Brinesville, was found dead with a bullet hole in his breast.

The machinery for a 500-barrel flouring mill, now in course of erection at Salem, by the City of Salem company, was purchased in Chicago. The freight from that city to Portland alone on the machinery received up to date amounted to \$10,715.50.

WASHINGTON. The prosecution in the trial of Orenty, at Dayton, for the murder of Cummings, rested last week.

A piece of coal weighing half a ton fell on Peter Seal, a German, in the gangway of the 5th Street mine, near W. Wilson, Sunday night, and instantly.

The United States revenue steamer Oliver Wolcott, Captain Louis N. Stoddard, left Port Townsend, Saturday for Fort Simpson, B. C. to quell the Indian disturbances there.

MONTANA. The Alice Mining company of Butte shipped 762 bars of bullion last year.

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The Blackburn mining district has a town site. The place has eight houses and fifty men.

The contract for carrying the mail between Nevada City, Cal., and Downsville has been let to Idaho contractors, whose bid was a little below Green & Co., who own the stage line on the route.

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During 1882 the Denver postoffice transacted the following business: The total receipts of the office were \$1,022.82, and receipts of the office were \$1,179.99. In the money order department the orders aggregated \$626,235.12, and the disbursements, \$39,644.51.

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M. Hellman & Co. Wholesale Clothiers,

1301 and 1303 Farnam St. Cor. 13th OMAHA, NEB. The joint investigating committee of the legislature has got to work. A few days ago the committee called before it as a witness D. C. Brooks, former editor of The Republican. During the investigation he was asked if, when he was editor of The Republican, he was on the payroll of the Union Pacific railroad. The committee was organized for the purpose of ascertaining the means and methods by which the railroad agencies affected public opinion and controlled political forces. With this in view, the question propounded to Mr. Brooks was a proper one. If a railroad company has upon its payroll an editor of an influential paper, and pays that editor a salary which he earns only in his capacity of editor, that is a fact which the public has a right to know.

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