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

Both republicans and democrats are dogging the tariff issue. The one side is afraid and the other daren't.

TREASURERS in the south are skipping the country with great regularity. The latest is one County Treasurer Woods, of Texas, who has gone to join Polk and Vincent.

The motto "In God we trust" has been omitted from the new nickel pieces. It is still retained on the standard dollar, where it is supposed to refer to the 14 cents of missing silver.

Of course Senator Reynolds is a crank. Every public man who can neither be bought or threatened into obeying the monopoly cappers is a dangerous character who ought to be placed in the insane asylum.

The French chamber of deputies has adjourned until the end of the week and hopes are expressed that a little common sense may be injected during the vacation into that mercurial and excitable public assembly.

THE Michigan senatorial contest has been postponed until February 13th. It is generally believed that a new candidate will be selected before another ballot is taken. Senator Ferry has not only failed of a re-election, but his business is ruined and his firm hopelessly bankrupt.

This proposition to increase the hours of work in the departments at Washington has sent a chill of horror down the backs of every government clerk. Six hours a day with ten hours pay is their idea of a condition of affairs with which civil service reform has no right to interfere. There is no reason why the government should not receive as much value for its money as a private individual. If it does not the taxpayers are being swindled in the interests of laziness. No merchant would think of retaining for an instant in his service an employee who protested that more than six hours of labor was wearisome and unprofitable.

THE growing observance of Lent in this country has been especially noticeable during the past ten years. This is due largely to the fact that it has become fashionable to rest from social amusements during its continuance, and the decrees of fashion rule where the commands of sect fail to exercise more than a passing influence. For the coming thirty-nine days, or until Easter Sunday puts an end to the season of presumptuous fastings, believers and unbelievers will generally follow the fashion and cease from their social labors. The fast will be overhauled by the spirit. The pocket book will be replenished in anticipation of another season, and regular hours and fresh air can give place to early morning dancing and the heated ball room. For this reason Lent comes as a sweet boon to the devotees of social dissipation, and has found as lasting a place in the diary of fashion as it has in the calendar of faith.

PRESIDENT ARTHUR is delaying the appointment of the civil service commissioners until he can be thoroughly satisfied with his choice. Within a week, however, it is fully expected the selections will be made. So far as the newly enacted civil service law applies to postoffices the following will be brought under its operation at the outports: Albany, Baltimore, Boston, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis, Jersey City, Kansas City, Louisville, Milwaukee, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Providence, Rochester, St. Louis, St. Paul, San Francisco and Washington. All these have fifty employees and upward, and some others may be added when the full rosters are received at Washington. It is held that in making application of the law it may be extended to postoffices and custom houses having fewer than fifty employees. The act requires the heads of departments, when directed by the president, to arrange in classes the clerks "in other" offices, and under this provision the system may be extended to office having so low as twenty employees. Having thoroughly committed himself to this measure the president will doubtless extend the benefits of the system as far as the law will permit.

INCREASING THE DISTRICTS.

The demand for an increase in the number of judicial districts is especially strong in Douglas county, where the district court is two years behind in its business, with no hope of relief, except from action of the legislature at the present session. Under the existing law the Third judicial district comprises the counties of Sarpy, Douglas, Washington and Burt. Two-thirds of the cases in the district arise in Douglas county, while less than half the time of the judge can be devoted to their consideration. In consequence the docket is constantly increasing in size until at the present time a case filed to-day in Omaha can scarcely be reached for at least eighteen months to come. It is evident that relief is necessary in the interests both of suitor and of the judge.

Section 11 of the constitution reads as follows:

"The legislature whenever two-thirds of the members elected to each house shall concur therein, may in or after the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty, and not oftener than once in every four years, increase the number of judges of the district courts, and the judicial districts of the state."

It is evident from the reading of the section that the number of judges in district may be increased by legislative enactment whenever in the opinion of two-thirds of the members of the legislature such increase is necessary, and that the number of districts may also be increased at their discretion, under the restrictions of the law.

The adoption of the first of these plans would perhaps solve the problem in the Third judicial district. With two judges there would be no necessity for dividing the district and the dockets in the four courts could soon be cleared. One judge would be more than sufficient for the needs of Sarpy, Washington and Burt counties, while the growing requirements of Douglas county will soon demand more than the presence and attention of a single judge.

During a portion of the year both judges could sit at Omaha, dividing the work of the session between them and rapidly disposing of the cases on the docket and the motions which might be brought before them.

This plan has commanded itself to a number of our leading lawyers, and is well worth the thoughtful consideration of the legislature. If there are any doubts that it will conflict with the requirements of the constitution, the opinion of the supreme court might be requested as its feasibility. If adopted, it will obviate the necessity of redistricting the Third district for some years to come, and will afford relief to the overburdened docket much more rapidly than if the district were divided.

All that will be required is an act of the legislature authorizing the election of two judges at the election which takes place next fall, when a successor to Judge Neville is to be chosen. The subject is well worth the attention of the Douglas county delegation.

CHANGING THE SESSIONS OF CONGRESS.

Congress has now before it two or three bills which propose changes both in the terms of congressmen and in the time of sessions. The present arrangement of sessions has often been criticized. It was originally due to the recommendation of the constitutional convention that the old congress as soon as nine states had ratified the constitution, should fix a date for the choice of electors and congressmen, and one for the choice of president by the electors, the congressmen being notified to assemble at the same time, and that as soon as the president should have taken the oath, "the congress, together, with the president, should, without delay, proceed to execute this constitution."

The day fixed for this ceremony was the 4th of March, 1789. The term of the first congress, therefore, began on that day, and the term of each successive congress has begun on the 4th of March of each second year since. Inasmuch as the constitution provides that the term of the president shall be for four years, it is impracticable, without amending the constitution, to fix another date for the beginning of his term; but it is held that another date may be fixed for the beginning of the term of members of the house of representatives if it does not conflict with the constitutional stipulation that they shall be elected every second year.

In any change, two objects would have to be kept in view. One is to avoid a meeting of the old congress after a new one is elected. The second is to secure such an arrangement of the sessions as will give congress more time to work. The business of the country now requires more time for its consideration than is given under the existing laws.

Mr. Blanchard, of North Carolina, has introduced a bill to meet both these requirements. It provides that the Forty-ninth congress, which will be chosen in November, 1884, shall begin its first regular session on the 5th of March, 1885, instead of the first Monday in December, 1885,—that is, on the day after the inauguration of the president,—and that no sitting of

that congress shall begin on the first Monday of December; that the second regular session of that congress shall begin on the first Monday in January, 1886, and that the "Term" of that congress shall end at noon on the first day of December, 1886, at which time the term of the Fifteenth congress, elected in November preceding, shall begin, to continue for two years; and that thereafter, until otherwise provided by law, the term of each congress shall begin on the first day of December, and the annual sittings shall begin on the first Monday of December.

This scheme is highly commended by a number of eastern papers, and notably by the Boston *Advertiser*, which thinks that the arrangement proposed would accomplish the two purposes spoken of. The new congress would meet soon after its election, and the new determination of the people regarding the conduct of the government's affairs would at once begin to be effective. Further, no session of congress would be prematurely cut off. Each session would be a long session, as long as necessary even if it ran through the year. Another thing that would result from such an arrangement is that the proceedings of congress affecting the choice of president, whether simply the counting of the electoral vote, or, in case of no election by the people, the choice of a president by the house of representatives, would be in the hands of a congress newly elected, chosen by the people at the same time that the president was voted for, and, therefore, more likely to be of the same sentiment with the majority. It is not pleasant to think that it may be in the power of a congress controlled by a party the people have repudiated to make the candidate of its party president for four years ensuing. In case a powerful third party should arise before the next election, defeating a choice by the electoral college, the next president will be chosen by the democratic congress elected last autumn, although the congress elected in 1884 may be republican. If the new congress began its term and session in December following the election, such a thing could not happen.

Of course the term of one congress, the forty-ninth, would be shortened three months, ending on the 1st of December instead of the 4th of March. But as the bill provides for two sessions of that congress, and the session of the next congress is to begin at once, no harm would be done. Probably the country would not object to their voting themselves the pay of a full term. Although there is no probability of the passage of this or any bill on the subject at this session, the matter is one of increasing urgency, and it is not improbable that a change will be made some time.

ALEXANDER III has appointed May 27th for his public coronation. The dynamite trade is happy over the prospect of increased orders.

The Spectre Meringue, another of Frank R. Stockton's humorous extravagances. The poetry of the number is abundant and strong. The Constant Heart, by E. C. Stedman, easily ranking first. The Century Co.: New York.

The experience of the city in making bargains with the railroad corporations should be a warning to it to be on its guard in future bargains. The city gave up valuable thoroughfares and exclusive privileges to the Union Depot people in consideration of having a million dollar depot erected, and was cheated in the trade. It made arrangements with certain railroad corporations about the bridges on Twelfth and Fourteenth streets, and was cheated in manner that would disgrace "Hungry Joe," the New York confidence man. It gave Poplar street up for railroad purposes, and no compensation was made to the poor people whose property was undoubtedly injured. With these examples before us there is no excuse for allowing the city to be caught again making a bad bargain with railroad enterprises.—*Post-Dispatch*.

Omaha gave over a half a million dollars in bonds and land in consideration of having a magnificent union depot erected, and got a cow shed and the bridge monopoly in return.

EVERY dishonest cost mill justice in Omaha is trembling in his boots for fear that he will be legislated out of office, and every honest lawyer and swindled suitor fears that he will not be. The duty of the legislature in the premises is plain. Senator Brown, of Douglas, ought to have something to say on the subject.

THEIR are fully 300 miles of railroad side tracks and switches in Douglas county alone, and not one mile has been returned for taxation by the corporations who are beating the state out of their just dues and howling against anti-monopoly oppression.

THE St. Paul *Pioneer-Press* says that there is a suspicion that senator-elect Sabin's methods are not always marked by the virgin purity of the fresh fallen snow. The same can be said of Tabor and Bowen of Colorado.

MONOPOLY organs are boasting that the special railroad investigation was a farce. It remains to be seen whether they can make the same boast over the railroad legislation which is impounding.

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Exeter wants a steam mill, a public hall and a jail.

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The records of Furnas county are being overseen by an expert.

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The estimated number of cattle in the state is 500,000.

The ice is 24 inches thick on the Republican river.

A Masonic lodge has been organized at Steele City.

Nearly \$50,000,000.

The immensity of the business done by the Pennsylvania railroad company east of Pittsburgh in the year 1882 is made apparent. The fact that the average daily income was \$140,000 from its traffic—nearly \$50,000,000 for the year. A review of their annual statements of earnings shows that there have been only two periods in the history of the company in which the earnings have been so high, but the monthly average for 1882 is greater than the largest earnings ever recorded for any single month previously.

In September, 1873, and in October, 1876, the earnings reached \$4,000,000.

In the latter named month the centennial traffic was very heavy.

The monthly average for 1882 is \$4,089,985, while the largest earnings of any month previous to 1882 were in September, 1873, and aggregated \$4,039,196.

In 1880 the gross earnings were \$41,260,072; in 1881, \$44,124,182, and in 1882, \$40,079,826.

The operating expenses were: 1880, \$24,625,047; 1881, \$26,709,809; 1882, \$30,647,379.

While the gross earnings have been large, the cost of operating has also been heavy. Over

\$30,000,000 was paid out during the year, and the beneficial effects produced upon the communities interested by the distribution of such an immense sum cannot well be overstated.

The prospects for 1883 are such as to warrant the belief that the earnings will be fully up to those last year.

The roller skaters' friend.—It cures their sprained wrists, skinned limbs, cut noses, and bruised bodies. No roller skater, or other skater can afford to be an enemy of St. Jacobs Oil.

The First Locomotive in Iowa.

The statements in your paper this morning regarding the first locomotive brought into the state of Iowa were incorrect. I was upon the ground and saw that interesting event.

The first locomotive on the soil of Iowa was the "Antoine Le Claire." It was brought across the Mississippi river from Rock Island, Ill., to Davenport, Iowa, upon other skids or a temporary track laid upon the ice, and not in a car, as stated. I do not remember the year, but it was about 1854 or 1855.

I remember distinctly seeing the locomotive hauled across the river and up the bank at Davenport, and rode upon it frequently, as a boy, while it was hauling construction trains upon the Mississippi and Missouri railroads.

BENJ. W. CLARK.

Miss Amelia Church, who had been teaching at Norfolk, left there on December 29, intending to go to Madison. She has not been heard of since, and foul play is suspected.

Isaac Best, one of Madison county's pioneers, suffered a stroke of paralysis while doing chores in his barn one morning. He was riven somewhat, but a few days later had another stroke, which killed him.

Miss Amelia Church, who had been

teaching at Norfolk, left there on December 29, intending to go to Madison. She has not been heard of since, and foul play is suspected.

The scaffolding supporting three men who were plastering the ceiling of the Wyman opera house fell on the 24th and the men were more or less injured.

Prof. Drummond, principal of the Plattsburgh high school, was fined a small amount last Tuesday for "dressing" an unruly pupil with a switch.

No clue has yet been found of the whereabouts of Richard Malloy, the Atkinson teacher, who is supposed to have fled to death. It is reported he had three or four hundred dollars with him.

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Jerome J. Collins, who perished on the Jeannette Arctic expedition, was lost on the Lincoln Steamer a dozen years ago.

A high wind last Monday blew down a

number of Central City chimneys, and the

people looked toward their cyclone caves,

The school house at Sargent, Oma-

ha, was burned on the 19th ult., with all the books of the thirty-nine scholars.

The Hill county Agricultural society has begun work with a view to securing the first prize at the state fair.

Robert J. Kendall, an old-time editor in the Elkhorn valley, has become private secretary to the governor of Texas.

Charles Heyden, a York county man, tried to suicide with cyanide on the 25th ult., but was pumped out.

Several ladies have been arrested in Juniper for stealing railroad ties, and it cost them \$50 each to get out.

Mrs. Kidder, wife of Norfolk, celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of their marriage on the 16th inst.

The Methodist church at Lone Tree was dedicated on the 28th ult. It is the first church in Custer county.