

The Omaha Bee.

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

It is free for all race for spools at Lincoln, with the devil not very far distant from the hindmost.

There ought to be a good market at Lincoln for a number of signs with "For Sale" neatly painted on them.

The net earnings of the Union Pacific increased over \$1,000,000 in 1882. For a pauper corporation this is doing very well.

NEBRASKA wants no protection for her legislative steel industry. It is already overstimulated by the prospect of the close of the season.

Does the legislature still believe that THE BEE had no groins for its charge of barefaced bribery in connection with the passage of the capitol appropriation.

If half the members of the present legislature could be placed in the reform school no taxpayer would begrudge the appropriation of \$50,000 recommended by the senate.

WHATEVER may be the end of the Michigan senatorial contest, the disclosures show that the United States senatorship in that state is a marketable commodity, and that Ferry failed because it was doubtful whether he could make good his promises.

THE Rev. Joseph Cook admits that his knowledge as to the time when the soul quits the body is not exact, and his statement that it remains for hours after death is partly a surmise. But he knows for positive fact that there is no probation after death.

It will be a delightful surprise to the general public outside of Boston to learn that there is anything of which the Rev. Mr. Cook admits his ignorance.

THE civil service commissioners have been appointed by the president and Dorman B. Eaton, as was expected, heads the list. Mr. Eaton will now have the pleasure of appointing his pet theory to 10,000 clerks, while the heads of departments and all the most influential officials of the government will escape the rules adopted by the commission.

TARIFF is great depression in the iron trade just at present, and Pig Iron Kelley and his friends hold up the recent failures as terrible examples of what will certainly follow throughout the country if the tariff on iron and steel is reduced from its existing extortionate rates.

The fact of the matter is that excessive protection is the chief cause of the troubles in the iron and steel industry.

The tariff on raw material and products ranges from 50 to more than 100 per cent. This is virtually prohibitory. At the outset just as in the paper industry it assured such enormous profits as to attract a rapid influx of capital. Ten furnaces and mills were erected where one was required, and overproduction was the result.

And now comes a cry for more tariff or against any reduction in the piratical imposts which have been chiefly responsible for the failures. The trouble has been and now is that a prohibitory tariff has been an unnatural and suicidal stimulus to many of our industries, and those which have been most highly protected are suffering the most.

The home market is glutted and foreign markets are closed, and yet the industrial cormorants clamor against any reduction of duties to lower prices and decrease public taxation. The tariff is a tax—a necessary tax in a young nation wishing to foster growing industries—but at the same time a tax which must be adjusted to the necessities of industry, and not to the greed of great monopolists.

THAT BRIBERY CASE

Several days ago THE BEE openly charged what every member of the legislature knew. It asserted that the capitol appropriation bill had been worked through the house by brazen bribery and conscienceless trading of interests and votes.

The editor of THE BEE went further and declared his knowledge of a distinct instance in which money had been paid for a favorable vote on the capitol bill. He named the sum as \$500 and the bribing parties as Lincoln merchants. Beyond this the editor of this paper did not go.

The house very properly appointed a committee of investigation and Mr. Montgomery's testimony is now before the people of Nebraska. It corroborates fully the charge made by THE BEE.

Mr. Montgomery swears that a fund for the passage of the capitol appropriation bill was raised by the merchants of Lincoln, and that one of the lobby pointed out to him a member of the house to whom \$500 was paid in consideration of his vote.

This was the charge made by THE BEE, which the pap-smoking organs of the railroads who have all been tied up in this robbery of the taxpayers of Nebraska, protest had no foundation in fact and was made for the sake of notoriety.

Now let the name of the bribe taker be made known. It will not doubt be a surprise to the virtuous Whig who told the house that every member charged with corruption by THE BEE was helped by it to know that for once he has been barking up the wrong tree.

The jabbering Johnson, who considers any charge made in THE BEE a compliment, may also find the disclosure an interesting one.

By all means let us know the name of the bribe taker who has been unfortunate enough to have been discovered in getting away with his portion of the Lincoln merchants' lubricator.

SENSELESS PARTISANSHIP

The exponent of that spongy republicanism which relates chiefly to the distribution of the loaves and fishes of political patronage reads the republicans of Omaha a lecture because the bar of this city has almost universally endorsed Judge Wakeley for appointment to the additional judgeship in this district.

The Republican rises to the occasion in an address to Omaha republicans upon their duties as partisans and informs its readers that "no office that is secured through the nominating convention is too trivial to command party support and none is too high."

Probably no office is too trivial to command party support. A very important fact that the Republican overlooks is that clear-headed voters do not elect offices, but men to fill the office. They ballot for judges, and not for judgeships; for candidates, and not for opportunities for drawing salaries.

The days for blind partisanship in local elections have gone by, and they are not likely to return until political parties are again divided as they were twenty years ago upon the great issues. Under such circumstances nominating conventions may select incumbents of offices and a partisan majority ratify the choice of the primary and caucus.

When great principles are at stake, partisan excitement is excusable, often commendable. But when the only issue is good government, citizens are inclined to laugh at party whips, and to use their own judgment in ratifying or defeating the decrees of the nominating convention.

ROSEWATER'S charge of bribery in the capitol appropriation affair turns out to be the usual unfounded lie for notoriety's sake. He saw a man that knew a man that knew it.

Mr. Carl Montgomery, of Omaha, of the firm of Groff & Montgomery, whose testimony appears elsewhere puts the quietus on this statement. The Republican is barking up the wrong tree as usual. Let it turn its batteries on Mr. Montgomery whose unworn statement will stand any day against the oath of the editor of the Republican.

LITERARY NOTES.

The frontispiece portrait of Gambetta in the March Century, and the accompanying article by a writer who was intimately acquainted with Gambetta, appear now with a timeliness, which, a foot note explains, is not to be credited to editorial haste or energy, since they were both in preparation for the March Century before Gambetta's illness.

A short biographical sketch of the late Dr. Leonard Bacon, with portrait, is contributed by his son, Leonard Woolsey Bacon, under the appropriate title, "A Good Fight Finished." Also of a controversial character is Mrs. Runkle's plea for the higher education of women, apropos of the recent petition for the admission of women to Columbia college. It is called "A New Knock at an Old Door."

John Burroughs, in "Signs and Seasons," has charmingly and instructively of country life and nature; and Elbridge Klugler has illustrated the paper with several striking engravings.

In contrast with the rural American life of local scenes and character in "The Village of Oberammergau," which she visited at the time of the last Passion play.

Mr. Cable continues his illustrated historical series with "The End of Foreign Dominion in Louisiana"; and Dr. Edward Eggleston, in his third historical paper, treats of "The Migrations of American Colonists."

A realistic romance of the Russo-Turkish war, entitled "Yantli," by Frank D. Miller, the artist and war correspondent, is the story of the number. Mr. Howells, in his second part of "A Woman's Reason," which has already made a strong impression, introduces a catastrophe that changes the whole tenor of the heroine's life; there is also a detailed description of a Boston section. Mrs. Burnett's "Princess of the Administration" is nearly finished, and Mrs. Mary Halleck Foot's striking story, "The Led-Horse Claim," is brought to an effective conclusion.

The poems of the number are by Andrew Lang, Mrs. Julia C. Rorr, Ina D. Conlith, John Vance Cheney, W. P. Andrews, and others. Worthy of special mention is an unfinished poem by William Collins Bryant, entitled "A Post to His Wife," and dated Roanoke, 1873. Various public questions are discussed in "Topics of the Time," notable one in "Stealing a Minister," and the other editorial departments treat of new books, in "Literature," of "Home and Society" topics, and of new inventions in "The World's Work."

St. Nicholas for March has a notable list of contributions. Archibald Forbes, the distinguished war correspondent of The London Daily News, furnishes a vivid and interesting story of the Russo-Russian War, entitled "Where was the Villiers?" which has the additional attraction of being illustrated by the well-known painter, W. H. Overend, of The Illustrated London News, himself both a personal friend of Forbes and Villiers. In the "Letter box" is a pun and ink sketch of Mr. Forbes by Hubert Heisterkamp, from the portrait of him by that artist. Rose Terry Cooke contributes a capital story of the Michigan firm of 1881, called "The Wrong Key." There is a charming poem, "Ban Bruin," by Lucy Larcum, and one by Collis Thaxter, Lucretia P. Hale gives us the latest particulars from the Peterkinis, and tells how "Mrs. Peterkinis Faints on the Great Pyramid." Professor William Elliot Griffis, the eminent orientalist, writes about Hokusa, a famous Japanese comic artist, and the paper is illustrated by reproducing some of Hokusa's most popular pictures.

"The Sly Old Woodchuck" is a characteristic American boy story by W. O. Stoddard; and Miss Anna Elchberg, author of "The First Violin," has a delightful tale from the German of Loander. E. S. Brooks finishes his four-part story of "The Field of the Cloth of Gold." Frank S. Stockton contributes a picturesque and thrilling installment of "The Story of Yitan," and J. T. Crowbridge tells how the "Plinkham Brothers" took a firm stand in defense of their "Tide mill." The frontispiece is an engraving of Greuz's celebrated painting of "The Broken Pitcher."

Besides the foregoing there are stories, sketches, poems, and pictures by Charles Barnard, Sarah Winter Kellogg, Joel Stacy, Palmer Cox, Reginald B. Brock, W. P. Sheare, L. Sheppard, De Cost Smith and many others.

Log-Rolling for a Tariff.

NEW YORK Times. Senator Van Wyck, of Nebraska, has been making himself disagreeable to the high tariff "combination" in the senate by insisting on letting the country know about the "negotiations" that have been going on for the mutual salvation of certain "great interests."

There was no danger that the country would "burst in ignorance" of the prevailing method of legislation. The senate has been trying to pass a tariff by the familiar process of log-rolling. It is the same method by which river and harbor bills have been "put through" in times past. The country has long been demanding a reduction of the revenue, and therewith a thorough revision of the tariff duties on imported goods.

The demand has been made in very clear and emphatic terms. It may be safely said that the people generally have not asked or expected a revision of the tariff and not a reduction of the revenue therefrom which should leave all the highly protected interests untouched. They have too much sense to expect anything of the kind, but a large number of the members of the senate and the house—representatives as well as assumed the part of representatives of the protected interests.

THE NATION'S DANGER

The Railroad System of the United States, Versus the American Republic. [BY A NEBRASKA FARMER.] This is not the only question affecting our people. But of all great political questions, for indeed it has become one, it is the very one that needs the most immediate attention. Unlike the political questions, it threatens directly the civil liberty of the citizen, and consequently jeopardizes the American republic.

The American people should, as of old—and by the eternal it will—secure to all without regard, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in the night of danger; and to retain it as such, it is absolutely essential that no tripartite or syndicate of capitalist gamblers shall be enabled to control, directly or indirectly, the industries of the people, for the reason that such a control places the avarice of the citizen in opposition to and in contact with his civil duties.

Do the railroads effect the industries of the people? Who dare answer, N? Some men will sacrifice their avarice to their civic duties; they are true patriots, but their number is so small, very much too small; and their manly independence oftentimes results in disaster to them and theirs. This should not be made possible in this land of ours. But besides those few men, there are others. The millions who toil day by day, year in and year out, are at the mercy of unscrupulous demagogues, who stop at nothing to subvert the suffrage of the people to their greed, and this is an outrage upon the civic rights of all, for the reason that the American republic becomes a farce if the suffrage of the toiling millions is not placed above the ambitious fancies of men who by chance happen to be their employers.

It is more important to republican institutions to safely guard the suffrage of the weak than to strengthen the suffrage of the powerful, and no true American will ever stand by a system which has a tendency to weaken the civic liberty of the masses for the pecuniary interests of the very few.

It is much more necessary for the maintenance of our democratic republic, that the toiling millions retain their suffrage free and unrestricted, than to have the prestige or power of a few millionaire railroad kings prostitute that suffrage.

A prostituted suffrage, such as is witnessed, encouraged and forced by railroads, is a monopoly of the people, one great grand grade of republican life, which leads direct to an abyss where despotism rules absolute. Comparatively it would not be an evil, so far as the American republic is concerned, if half a dozen railroad kings were disfranchised; but it would be the ruin of the American republic if the suffrages of the toiling millions were at the mercy or command of a few unscrupulous capitalists. So much for the difference between the suffrages of the few and the suffrages of the many.

Capital is avaricious and cowardly; the ballot should be liberal and brave. Therefore no political concord can exist between the two.

It may, perhaps, seem an exaggeration to some to take this advanced view of the situation, but really it is not, as the sequel will show. During the last decade the power of corporations has grown at such a rapid rate, that it conducts so reckless and so devoid of patriotism, and their will so despotic, that no use can gain any or doubt the proposition. Our railroad system has become a matter of stock-jobbing and robbery; wild and fabulous, a political problem instead of an industrial enterprise, as it should be; and the result will prove as disastrous to capital as it has been to labor, and more so, unless an end is at once brought to this speculative frenzy.

The fact is that our railroad system is far in advance of the records of the country, not in carrying and producing capacities, but as to the relation of our population and the vast extent of our territory. Our agricultural centers have by scheming legislators been hurried away at breakneck speed from the manufacturing centers, and the result is what we see to-day: That the laborers in the manufacturing centers, as well as the laborers in the agricultural regions, are the victims of those scheming men who have subverted national legislators for the enactment of laws which not only made the Godlike homestead law a sponsor to the immense land subsidies which those scheming men have secured, but which has also placed labor at the mercy of capitalists. Such a state of affairs cannot exist much longer, or labor must, per force, assert its equality with capital, and supremacy over accumulated and ill gotten riches.

Legislation must furnish the remedy, and speedily too, or a more majestic, but more terrible power, will. It must be understood, now and forever, that the fallacious sophistry of railroad capers, whether penny-liners or railroad superintendents, can not force the laborer of our land in chains. The laborers of this nation refuse to meet railroad kings as their equals, in a political sense, because such an equality can only be debasing and ruinous to the American republic. Patriots can never meet patriots, but railroad kings have become tyrants, and between the patriot and the tyrant is the law! But if the law is set aside by the corruptive power of capital, beware—for then there may be blood!

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The Target of Malice.

Senator Van Wyck is made the target for a great deal of political malice on the part of those papers whose expectations failed to materialize. But for all this Nebraska has never had a more vigorous champion in the senate.

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