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The BEE PUBLISHING CO., Props.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

Why don't Nebraska make a dash for the postmaster generalship? If Colorado is entitled to a cabinet officer Nebraska ought to be.

FRANK HAYTON is shedding crocodile tears over the sudden death of Timothy O. Howe while he is trying on the dead man's shoes.

DORSEY makes a flat denial. No thief ever finches from perjury to clear himself from a charge that would land him in the penitentiary.

With Mike Meaney as chairman of the republican central committee, as if Hascall as the master spirit, the republicans of Omaha are marching towards a pit-fall of their own digging.

THE BEE takes pleasure in explaining that the article in reference to "Boggs, of Nebraska," copied from The Washington Critic, had no reference whatever to George H. Boggs, of this city, nor to his brother, John W. Boggs, of Blair, Neb.

REPORTS are coming in from the usual quarters that the peach crop is again ruined. The peach crop has been ruined regularly for the last twenty years but the Delaware orchards continue to turn out every year enough to supply the cravings of the country.

THE rumor that there is to be a consolidation of the internal revenue districts and a corresponding reduction in the number of collectors is denied. For the present no changes will be made in the list. This will be gratifying news to several patriotic office holders in Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York and Illinois where the headman's axe was expected to fall.

TIME was when the republican party was brave enough and manly enough to nail its colors to the masthead and submit its candidates fearlessly to the public in sufficient time to let them know who they were asked to vote for. But under the generalship of Hascall and Mike Meaney the ticket will be put in the hands of voters on election day, and no questions must be asked. That is bohemian with a vengeance. It only has its parallel down to Lincoln where the railroad strikers are playing the same game.

THE report which comes from the east that the auditorship of the Union Pacific railroad has been tendered to a Massachusetts railroad official is probably correct. Mr. Gannett, who has for many years stood at the head of that department in Omaha, virtually retired from the position some months ago owing to enfeebled health. His actual retirement will be received with a regret which will be all the more universal for the reason that his too close application to official duties has alone rendered it necessary.

But we venture to say that the Astors, and the Coopers, and the Hewitts, and the Evans, and the Taylors, and the Danes, and the Clafios, and the Tildens, did not put in an appearance at the Vanderbilt shindy.--Herald.

As usual Dr. Miller is mistaken. THE BEE's solid and only special telegram about the Vanderbilt shindy reports that "Abram S. Hewitt appeared as King Lear while yet in his right mind." In the majority of his political public appearances the exact condition of Mr. Hewitt's mind is open to question. It will be gratifying to Dr. Miller, who recently published a private letter from Peter Cooper's son-in-law just to show the sort of company he trains with in New York, to know that in addition to being "in his right mind" Mr. Hewitt was attended by his three daughters, "whose costumes were much admired." The gratuitous information ought to furnish the editor of the Herald with materials for at least three columns of "Home Gossip."

WM. PITT KELLOGG has been called at last by the star route grand jury. He will promptly enter his plea of not guilty and take a seat with Brady and Dorsey.

THE Italian hand of John M. Thurston is pulling the wires in the political puppet show.

CHICAGO is running a high-low-jack license campaign.

THE CITY CAMPAIGN.

The democrats of Omaha hold their primaries to-day and will nominate their city ticket to-morrow night. That is late enough. But the republicans in under the leadership of Hascall and Mike Meaney have kept back their call and will not nominate a ticket until Saturday evening. About four hundred republicans who patronize the ring organ will learn on Sunday who have been nominated, but the mass of republican voters in this city who depend on THE BEE will only know whom they are asked to support on the day before election.

From the very outset of this campaign the political shysters and jobbers who are managing it for the republicans have sought to devise a scheme that would enable them to run the gauntlet of public opinion successfully with their gang. It was an open confession that the candidates were not to be the true choice of the republican party after a thorough comparison of their merits but simply the product of primaries packed with repeaters and roustabouts, and a convention made up of the elements, that could be depended upon to open the road for Tweedism in Omaha.

You may take the horse to water but you can't make him drink. You can put up a job on the republican party but you can't make the reputable republicans give it their support. Two years ago the same old gang foisted Hascall on the party and wrecked the whole ticket. This year they imagine they can pull through by holding back their ticket to the last minute. As a matter of fact, their ticket is doomed in advance. While some good men will doubtless be put on as ballast, the rotten hulk cannot stand the gale that will blow next Tuesday. Hundreds of good republicans will have nothing to do with any ticket gotten up with such reckless disregard of decency and precedent. It is far better that another severe lesson should be administered than that corrupt and un-republican methods should be endorsed.

SUPPRESSING AGITATORS.

The British Lion is roaring loudly over the outrages committed by the "Irish press" in America, and Minister West has been requested to draw the attention of our government to the utterances of O'Donovan Rossa's Irish American and Mr. Ford's incendiary Irish World. Just what Mr. Gladstone expects the United States to do under the circumstances it is difficult to determine: We have no law to prevent the publication of criticisms of foreign governments by political exiles, and if we had such a law no American jury would enforce it.

The English ministry have poor memories if they fail to recollect that in 1858 a like demand was made upon England by the French government, and that Mr. Palmerston's ministry fell under an attempt to pass a bill embodying the principle advanced. The same arguments which defeated that measure in the English parliament would make its defeat two times more overwhelming in the American congress. The people of the United States have no sympathy with assassins, but they will never abridge the freedom of the press.

During the civil war the English press was, for the most part, hostile to the union. It gave constant aid and comfort to the confederacy, and through its influence on the English capitalists, who furnished the shew of war to the southern government, prolonged by several years the existence of the confederacy. How would Mr. Gladstone and his ministerial colleagues, several of whom were in power during that period have treated a demand from the United States for the suppression of the incendiary press of Great Britain. They would have hooted it out of the foreign office. What the English ministry calls "the assassination press," lives and thrives from the criminal blenders of the English government in its treatment of Ireland. The moment the Irish problem is settled, as it only can be settled by giving that country a fair measure of local government, the O'Donovan Rossa and Pat Crowes will be out of a job. As has been well said, there is only one way for England out of the difficulty, and that is to come to terms with the reasonable Irishmen. Having done this she will not suffer long from unreasonable Irishmen.

At its last session congress voted a reduction of three dollars a thousand in the tax on cigars. It is admitted that consumers will get no benefit from this change in the revenue laws, and the manufacturers propose to pocket the additional profit. On this account the cigar makers of the country are preparing to strike on the first of May, unless their employers agree to share with them some of the benefits, amounting to a tenth of a cent on each cigar, or a dollar a thousand. For our part, we sincerely hope that they may get it. Their success will help to distribute the reduction of revenue among the people, and thus to effect that lightning of the public burdens which was the ostensible purpose of congress in reducing the tariff. The tax is reduced enough to take ten or twelve millions out of the treasury, but not enough to lessen prices to consumers. A reduction of a third of

a cent on a cigar will, of course, not touch retail prices at all. Thus the twelve millions lost to the treasury will all be pocketed by the 410,000 tobacco dealers in the country, unless the cigar makers get a share of it.

ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

When the New York legislature found itself balked in its effort to reduce the elevated railroad fares to five cents, by the veto of Governor Cleveland, another step was taken to bring the great monopoly to time. There is a law on the New York statute books empowering the legislature to make changes in the charters of any railroad companies where the net income exceeds 10 per cent on the capital actually invested. If it could be shown that the net income of the elevated roads was more than 10 per cent on the capital invested, the legislature could amend the charter that authorized ten cents fares without touching on what the monopoly attorneys call "vested rights."

Two weeks ago the New York senate passed a resolution requesting the state engineer, Silas Seymour, to furnish information as to the real cost of the elevated roads. Mr. Seymour made a report that shows him to be as useful a tool of the elevated railroad syndicate as he is fifteen years ago of the Credit Mobilier ring when he acted as consulting engineer of the Union Pacific. He made a report in which he took the ground that the actual outlay must be computed by the amount of capital stock and bonds issued by the company.

His opinion rests on the proposition that it is the common practice of railway corporations, both in his state and the United States, to charge the losses of discount on their securities to the cost of construction, equipment and other necessary expenditures, and there appears to be no valid reason why these elevated railway companies should be inhibited from pursuing the same course.

Such a plea could only emanate from a railroad attorney. It enunciates the dangerous doctrine that the public must submit to a tax for the use of public highways based upon fictitious values. A railroad company may issue stock at a nominal value of ten cents on the dollar. They contract with a construction company composed of an inside ring of railroad directors at an extravagantly high price and divide the stock among them. They will then bond the road as fast as a section of it is constructed at two-thirds of its real value. And then the sum total of stocks and bonds is to be taken as the actual investment, upon which the patrons of the road are to be taxed to pay interest and dividends. This is nothing more nor less than legalized robbery. And when the railroad kings insist upon a fair return on millions upon millions of fictitious capital, they are no better than the masked road gents who board their trains and compel its passengers to give up their purses and watches.

The people of New York have allowed the elevated roads to occupy and obstruct their streets. The owners of property on these obstructed streets have sustained millions of damages without receiving any other return than the benefits derived by the general public from rapid transit. They would cheerfully allow the owners of the railroad to earn fair interest on their actual investment, but to quadruple the real cost and demand that the people shall pay dividends on the inflated figures is taking an ell where only an inch is intended to be allowed. The railroad question will never be settled until this evil is corrected, and a just system of capitalization and profit is established. The New York law with respect to actual cost, as interpreted by State Engineer Seymour, means absolutely nothing at all. His "opinion" is perfectly ridiculous to any one who knows how railroads are built in these days.

The New York legislature is on the right track, and it is to be hoped that it will be able to secure a fair apportionment of the value of the property it has under consideration and act accordingly. If it can deal with the matter justly, and wring the water out of the elevated roads or compel them to regulate their charges on the basis of real cost, they will establish a precedent that must sooner or later be followed in every state of the Union.

THERE was a sound of revelry on Fifth avenue on Monday night when W. H. Vanderbilt gave what is said to be the most expensive and luxurious private ball ever given in America. The entire expense of this piece of regal magnificence was over \$50,000, the single item of champagne footing up the neat sum of \$9,000. The party was held in a palace which with its decorations, furniture and braccas could not be replaced for \$5,000,000, and the invitations bore the signature of a railroad king whose annual income at his own estimate is more than \$20,000,000. Yet within a quarter of a mile of this gorgeous and luxurious exhibition of folly hundreds of poor men and women were shivering in wretched hovels and pauperism, and want and misery were stalking the streets on the east side of the city scarcely a pistol shot's distance from

the marble steps of the Fifth avenue mansion. The cost of this entertainment was equal to the life pay of any three of the laborers on Mr. Vanderbilt's road, and equal to the entire yearly earnings of a thousand section hands on the Harlem or Hudson river railroads.

CALIFORNIA is alarmed over the possibility of a failure in her wheat crop. The spring rains are delaying much longer than usual, and unless there is a generous rainfall within two weeks' time, irrigation will have to be depended upon to supply a crop large enough for the home market. Last year California exported 40 per cent of the entire amount of wheat sent from the United States. A failure in the wheat crop on the Pacific coast this year, taking into consideration the certainty of small harvests abroad, is a serious prospect.

NO RESPONSE.

San Francisco Call. The politicians have been gently tapping at the heads of their leaders to see if the sound emitted would call out any response from the people. The head tapping so far has not been productive of great results. The heads tapped have given forth a dull sound, the tone of which could not be interpreted by the people. Blaine, Sherman, Edmunds, Windom, and at last Conger, have been sounded, but their names bring forth no response. It may be necessary to state that the latter is a senator from Michigan, distinguished for nothing in particular but his hostility to a portion of the American family of states. The next presidential contest will doubtless be fought by the present parties, but neither of them represents the strong undercurrent of opinion existing among the people. That opinion is not, as has been represented, a tendency to communism, but a determination to resent the encroachment of associated capital. Under the plea of vested rights and the obligation of contracts, capital is seeking to emancipate itself from legislative control. It declares that it is not safe subject to the sense of justice of the people, to which our lives and liberties are subject. A tribunal which is held to be sufficiently honest and intelligent to make and administer laws regulating the conditions under which individuals may live and act, is declared not to be sufficiently honest and intelligent to make and administer the laws regulating the ownership of property. These ideas must be eradicated from the minds of the representatives of associated capital before they will become in the full sense of the term good citizens. Their present purposes are at war with republican institutions. No man who has recently obtained prominence in public life is sound on this question. The senate is especially unsafe. It can hardly be said that there is a man there who represents the people. They nearly all take the corporation view of the rights of property. When Thurman, of Ohio, went down before the opposition he had provoked, he left no successor. It is of no use, therefore, to tap the skulls of senators in the search for presidential timber. There is very little difference between the parties on this point. While the democrats sound the heads of such men as Justice Field, and railroad president and director Jewett, they cannot reproach the republicans for making similar experiments with Sherman, Conger & Co. There is a principle which will show itself in some future campaign, the assertion of which is necessary to the permanence of the republic. That principle is as to the relative rights of individuals and of property. Is the law which is sufficiently supreme to take life to be paralyzed when it comes in contact with property? If we may treat the people with our lives and liberties, may we not also treat them with our property? The great corporations say we may not. The right to live is, in their opinion, less sacred than the right to obtain all the advantages they can from the possession of property. The fallacy of the corporation argument will soon be shown. It only needs a careful examination of its claims to secure its rejection. Against property in any form, whether held by individuals or corporations, there is no feeling, but against the claims of property to be above the law to which our lives and liberties are subject, there is a growing opposition.

THE YANKONS.

Interesting and Gossipy Talk With the Trader on the Agency. Sioux City Journal. C. C. Sperry, one of the most genial and broad shouldered of up country men, who is post trader at the Yankton Indian agency, about sixty miles above the capital, left for home yesterday after spending a day or two in Sioux City in selecting a stock of goods. He entertained a reporter of The Journal for a half hour in interesting talk concerning the Yankton Indians, which occupy their own reservation of 500,000 acres, and number 2,300 bucks, squaws and papposes. He first remarked that it was somewhat unusual for him to purchase goods in Sioux City so early in the spring, but he had some hopes of an early break up and wanted to be ready for the first steamboat that went up the river.

"The Yanktons mostly have houses, although a good many don't live in them, preferring the tepees. It is difficult to bring them to the idea of adopting the civilized style of living, as, like the Winnebagos some time ago, they regard the houses too hot in summer and too cold in winter. Of course the Yanktons are made up of a good many different grades of Indians as regards civilization. Some of them are industrious and good. Of this number perhaps the best man in the tribe, John Red, died recently. He had some land under cultivation and was a decidedly smart Indian. There are others, too, who are just as wild as ever, and cling to all of their nomadic customs with persistence. One peculiarity about the Yankons is that they don't appreciate what the government gives them. If an Indian gets a suit of clothes from the government he invariably sells it to some of the wild traders just on the boundaries of the

reservation, and then come and buy at my store what he thinks is better. Of course the Indian loses on the operation, as he gets comparatively little from the wildcat trader. Those fellows who trade on the outside do quite a business. The Indians cut a good deal of government timber and carry it off the agency to sell to these parties, who will buy anything from a dead hog to a stick of timber.

The schools are pretty good. Sixty or seventy young Indians are in attendance at the government school; about fifty at the Episcopal school, and a number under Rev. Mr. Williamson's instruction. There are besides two day schools taught by native teachers. The missionaries there, Revs. Williamson and Cook, are doing all that could be expected, and they have the confidence of the Indians, which is every thing.

"You ask me about the agent? I had rather not be quoted. I am giving an idea concerning Mr. Ridpath. A special agent, as you know, is there investigating the affairs around the agency, and he will probably finish his work in about a week. If I should be obliged to express my opinion regarding his report, I would say that it will be accompanied by a recommendation for removal. Ridpath doesn't know anything about Indians and not too much about business. The Indians don't like him and have demanded his removal. The police take no stock in him at all, and do not act under his directions. On the night after the special agent arrived the safe at the agency, which contained several hundred dollars, was taken outside and an attempt was made to break it open with a sledge hammer. The back of the safe was crushed in but the money was not obtained. Agent Ridpath called the Indian police to look at the safe and express their opinion as to who had attempted the robbery. They looked the ground over for a few minutes and then said to him: 'You did that yourself.' They told the special agent the same thing, and you couldn't get an Indian on the reservation to believe anything else. There is something peculiar about the redskin's honesty. They are, of course, inclined to steal, but not one of them will take any chances. I can have goods shipped from this city by steamboat, unloaded on the bank, and leave them there unprotected all night and not a thing will be touched. If, however, an Indian gets his hands on something in the store when he imagines neither I nor my clerks are looking he will steal it."

"The treaty with the Yanktons was made by the commission with the chief Slick-Beas and the head men of the tribe without difficulty. The work of the head men may be regarded as that of the tribe, because the former are politicians in a certain sense, and they won't put their signatures to anything their constituents will not support, if they know it. I saw the members of the Indian commission at Yankton the other day and had a talk with them. They say that if their treaty isn't good the Black Hills treaty isn't. It is pretty nearly impossible to get the signatures of three-fourths of a tribe which is scattered over as much territory as the Yanktons. Col. Pattee was out there eight weeks trying to get signatures to an agreement with them to sell a part of their land to the Poncas and failed. The Indian commission will go to the Agency next week and will make a new treaty with the Yanktons. The members of the commission think the bill will pass at the next session of congress without much trouble."

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