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The BEE PUBLISHING CO., Props.

E. ROSEWATER Editor

A VOTE for bonds means a vote for a decrease in our mortality rate.

EVERY citizen of Omaha should vote or sewer bonds at to-day's election.

JOE REDMAN says he is satisfied with the republicans nominations, with one exception. He only wanted a chance to vote for Clark Woodman for mayor.

PUBLIC improvements are in the air and public sentiment is overwhelmingly in favor of putting Omaha abreast of other cities of her size throughout the country.

THE board of public works still holds the fort and will act as supervisor of the contracts entered into by the city. On this account, if for no other, a vote for bonds is safe.

THE anti-free pass bill has been killed by the New York legislature. The opportunity to bilk the state out of their mileage is too valuable to be thrown away by the average legislator.

A WRITER in the *Atlantic Monthly* complains that American society is now carried on "solely for the benefit of young girls." Whether Susan B. Anthony or Gail Hamilton wrote the article is not stated.

BEN BUTTERWORTH has been provided for as commissioner of the Northern Pacific railroad where his vulgarity can be expectorated without shocking the hardened citizens of Fargo and Billings.

THE first comptroller of the treasury has decided that Tom Ochiltree's salary cannot be attached for debts due the government. Since the decision the usual poker game has been resumed with the boys at the old stand.

UNDER the decision of Judge Lawrence in the Ochiltree case, the salary of a congressman cannot be attached, garnisheed or otherwise got at without his consent by any creditor. Five hundred Washington bar rooms have ordered signs displaying the national motto, "In God We Trust—All Others Cash."

THE army of the United States is very small, and its navy is absurd, but both are exceedingly troublesome and expensive. The crop of scandals and bickerings in the military and marine departments is enough to cause general rejoicing that there are not more officers to loaf about the capital and use social influence instead of merit as a means of shirking duty.

INCOMPETENT and dishonest assessors are the taxshirkers' bonanza. The men who are paying in proportion to their income from five to ten times the amount of taxes contributed by our real estate magnates are interested that property in Omaha shall be assessed equitably and at a uniform valuation for the rich and the poor.

OHIO stands ready to plug the opening in the postoffice department with a dozen unemployed statesmen if need be. The friends of Governor Foster have handed his name in as a sort of explatory offering to the manes of Garfield. But there are so many men in Ohio who want office that to take one is to offend a hundred In a multitude of applicants there is danger.

MR. STUT, who has been nominated by the republicans as councilman at large, is a resident of the 1st ward, and has been a citizen of Omaha for the past sixteen years, during the larger portion of which time he has been in the employ of the government as a wheelright. Mr. Stut is an honest and capable man, and if elected would doubtless prove a trustworthy and efficient councilman.

THE citizens of Omaha will be asked to-day to authorize the issue of $100,000 in improvement bonds for extending the North and South Omaha and the St. Marys avenue sewers, and for the construction of storm water sewers at the base of the hills. The bonds will require a two-thirds majority, and every voter ought to cast his ballot in favor of the proposition.

NON-PARTISAN VOTING.

The tickets nominated by the democratic and republican parties for city officers indicate more clearly than the most labored demonstration the necessity of non-partisan voting in municipal elections. It is safe to say that three-quarters of the intelligent voters of both political parties to-day will refuse to vote what is called a straight ticket. Many of the very men who are howling the loudest for party loyalty and strict adherence to the wishes of the people—as shown in the political conventions—will be found among the "scratchers." We believe a majority of the nominees themselves will exercise their own judgment in balloting. On the other hand the men who can be bought by a drink, bribed by a dollar or bulldozed by fear or favor will vote straight and glory in their "principles."

It is a fact that municipal elections are more subject to corrupting influences than state or national contests. The struggle for party offices is narrowed down to a more contracted field. The public to be appealed to is smaller, and the ward caucus and primary offer more ready inducements to the arts of the small bore politician and the trafficer in influence and votes. The elements which most directly affect unfavorably the welfare of communities have no personal interest in the selection of a state executive and still less in the choice of a president. The corner groggeries and the dago dens, the low down dives and the flashy gambling hells, keepers of disreputable houses and men to whom all law is a threat and a good government a standing menace, care much more who represents their ward in the next council than who secures a seat from Nebraska in the United States senate. And so where party lines are strictly drawn, and party machinery promises to push to a successful election the nominees o the primary and the convention Every influence is used as it can nowhere else be used by the criminal and law defying elements of the community to secure the election of men who will at least give assurance that they wil not enforce the law against law breakers.

There has never been an important reform in municipal government except by an open or secret union of citizens on a non-partisan basis. The majority of mayors who have secured their election because they have pledged themselves to reform existing abuses, have gained their office as the result of the independent spirit among voters. The councils and boards of aldermen who have shown the greatest efficiency and wisdom in building up a city's credit and in pushing her development without crippling the treasury or bankrupting taxpayers have rarely been elected by a dominant party. The Tweed regime in New York was overthrown as much by the votes of outraged democrats as by the efforts of indignant republicans. The carnival of jobbery in Philadelphia under the rule of Boss Manes was ended by a hearty union of mortified republicans and earnest democrats. And to-day in Chicago a combination of the best men of both political parties is doing its best to snow under a mountain of ballots a democratic mayor and a democratic ticket who represent the worst elements of the community and are endeavoring to perpetuate a government in which crime and drunkenness and debauchery receive practical immunity from the laws.

If the same spirit prevails in Omaha in the election which is now progressing a ticket can be elected which will do honor to the city. Neither of the slates presented by the conventions will be or ought to be elected. But it is of the highest importance that the successful candidates shall be picked from the best and not from the worst nominees o nthe party tickets.

WANTED, A POLICY.

Roscoe Conkling is reported to have said recently in that piquant and caustic style for which he is noted, "I have but one annoyance in connection with this administration, and that is that in contrast with it the administration of Hayes becomes respectable if not heroic." This doubtless represents the stalwart view, and is echoed by the Tom Murphys', the Steve Frenchs' and the Logans' of the republican party. But the policy of the president, if he can be said to have a policy, receives as cold a shoulder from the other faction of the party. The Philadelphia *Press* charges him with weakness and indecision, the Cincinnati *Commercial* insinuates that he is lacking both in convictions and firmness, and the rest of the republican journals either echo the cry or maintain a studied silence.

If President Arthur has laid himself open to the accusation of a want of perception and of courage, he has only reflected the prevailing tone of the political party of which he is presumably the head. A president unless a man of great mental ability and political training can scarcely be expected nowadays to lead the party leaders. The days when party platforms and political debates merely reflected the views of the chief executive have passed. Jackson and Lincoln undoubtedly made and unmade party platforms. They were at once presidents and party leaders, interpreters of party policy and executives of their own. The days of Jackson and Lincoln are not however our own. New issues then were constantly crystallizing. Questions of national importance were forcing themselves continually to the front upon which a decided stand had to be instantly taken, and in endorsing the president the parties were forced to endorse his acts Such occasions now are rare and few have occurred during Mr. Arthur's administration. Over those which have, the president has attempted to exercise no influence and the party has followed suit. The president has been drifting because the party has been drifting. Neither have found secure anchorage grounds. The late republican congress, assisted by the light of last fall's political disaster, did its best to furnish materials for a national policy, and failed. To the credit of President Arthur be it said that he was often better than the party. He urged in advance of congress, tax reductions, vetoed the river and harbor steal, and pushed the civil service reform measure. Standing between two factional fires, he has dodged to the best of his ability the misiles of the angry contestants and has sought to allay party discord. Many of his appointments have been good and his attitude throughout has been that of a well meaning and respectable executive. In the present condition of republicanism it is unfair to expect the president to be the Moses who is to lead the party from the Egypt of impending defeat to the Promised Land of success and officeholding. It will take something more than a presidential policy to do that.

SEVERAL experiments have been made lately to test the practicability of applying electricity as a motor on street railroads. One of the most successful was made at Greenville, N. J., on a track about one-eighth of a mile long, with one sharp curve and a heavy grade. The electric motor drew a five ton car over it at a good rate of speek. With a load of seven passengers it spun along at a rate equal to that of a steam locomotive. The Daft electric motor, as it is called, consists of a simple pair of trucks placed on the rails as a basis; under a platform above it are the electrical appliances for regulating the motor. The rate of speed can be increased or diminished at will. The electricity is generated by a powerful dynamo machine, and carried to the rails through which it runs a harmless current. It is claimed that the cost of running cars by electricity is forty per cent less than by steam. The motor regains 75 per cent of the energy exerted by the steam engine which generates the electricity. On long railroads it will be necessary to have stations every 25 miles at which dynamos of the requisite power shall be placed for supplying the train. On street railways only five to ten miles in length this would be unnecessary, as one charge would carry a car through from one end of the line to the other. The cost of the motor, which is a small affair, is trifling compared with that of a steam engine, and any number can be run on the same track. The motor is to be used on street railroads in Newark and on one of the Coney Island roads; if it shall be found to work satisfactorily on these it may come into use elsewhere and we shall in the end see electric motors substituted for horse flesh on street railways in all our cities.

IN the eyes of the Springfield *Republican* the list of expenditures for law services which "Brewster, attorney-general," has allowed in the past 13 months includes some curiosities. Davidge and Judge Porter, the government counsel in the Guiteau case, had $15,000 each for their services. Duncan S. Walker, brother-in-law of Brewster, rendered some service in a case, for which he received $500, a modest sum. Richard Crowley in a case against the New York Central, being then member of congress, received $8,636,—an allowance of doubtful legality and one which is certainly against propriety. Edwards Pierrepont got $4,599 for his case against Tilden on the income tax, an outrageous prosecution for the government to have countenanced. Gen. Chalmers received $500 for "services in his own election case," another outrageous allowance; it is on a par with the charge of Mackey, the South Carolina congressman, who sent in a bill to the house of representatives for $1 500 for arguing his own caste before the committee on privileges and elections. Controller Lawrence ought to have stopped some of these bills.

THE bonds to be voted upon to-day will assure the permanency of public improvements in Omaha. The sooner our system of storm water sewers is begun the more rapid will be the extension of paving operations and the construction of solid and substantial street crossings.

AMID all the turmoil of politics there is one thought that racks Dr. Miller's brain. The Arctic search expedition has not discovered the whereabouts of George Washington Ambrose.

COTTON VS. FOOD PRODUCTS.

Southern farmers are complaining bitterly of the cheapness of cotton and the small returns received from its production. They claim that the price has steadily decreased for the past five years, and that at the present time, the cost of raising and marketing the crop leaves no surplus to the producer.

In reply to these complaints the cotton factors of St. Louis have sent out a circular letter of advice to southern planters which contains many excellent points. They insist that the only way for the farmers of that section to attain independence and competence is to grow less cotton and pay more attention to the raising of food products. After pointing out that the credit system, so long in vogue in the south, is disastrous to planters and tenants, because it forces them to pay extravagant prices for supplies, and obliges them to force their cotton into the market with such rapidity and in such quantities as send prices, in many instances, down below the cost of production, the factors declare that over production of the favorite staple is the key note to the entire situation. Believing that it will be to the advantage of the south they advise that farmers devote their labor first to the raising of grain, cattle and hogs, and give the balance of their time to the culture of cotton. It does not require much reflection to understand the utility and value of the advice thus proffered. Those who give their sole attention to cotton culture must depend upon the merchant for all supplies, and when their crops are ready for market they are so heavily in debt that they are compelled to sell and take such prices as they can get. They cannot afford to hold on, because their creditors are entitled to a settlement on the year's trade They are losers in two ways, for while cotton is fifteen per cent lower at this time than the average of the past five years, corn is thirty-three per cent and provisions over fifty per cent above the average.

If southern farmers would undertake the raising of their own supplies and decrease the production of cotton there can be no doubt that a change would soon be wrought in their condition. As the factors well put it in their circulars, "with the production of enough provisions on each farm for domestic use, cotton would become a surplus, and soon the incubus of debt would be lifted from their shoulders, and each year advance them on the high road to prosperity and wealth."

THE statement that the expenses of the national government for the current year would exceed $300,000,000, including interest, presumes that the pension payments come up to the appropriation of $100,000,000. But notwithstanding the new force of clerks, these payments proceed slowly and will not exceed $70,000,000, in which case the expenses of the year will be less than $275,000,000,—how much less depends on how near the appropriations the actual expenditures are. One of the mysteries of the pension office is that it paid $23,000,000 of claims in the three months, July, August and September; since the force was increased, it is not able to do as much work; in April, May and June, it expects to pay off $20,000,00 of claims.

C. D. WOODWORTH, one of the republican nominees for councilman at large, is an able, honest and industrious citizen who has already served as secretary of the board of education with ability and to the satisfaction of all. Mr. Woodworth is a clerk in the U. P. headquarters, but if he can roll up majorities as rapidly as he can figure up freight tariffs he will lead the poll this evening.

A LITTLE Philadelphia boy was recently heard to pray: "O Lord, bless brother Bill and make him as good a boy as I am." That boy should apply for a job with Dorman B. Eaton's civil service commission.

EX-CITY ATTORNEY FERGUSON is a candidate for member of the board of education and ought to be elected by a rousing majority. He will be if our citizens give him the support he deserves.

FLORIDA is epigrammatically described by a correspondent of the Chicago *Inter Ocean* as a place where "the leaves on the trees are too lazy to fall."

IT is reported that Secor Robeson has filed an application for the postmaster generalship. Belknap and Howgate are still to be heard from.

Florida Panthers.

Palatka (Fla.) Herald.

On Sunday last three colored men were out deer hunting near White's log camp, back of Rollstown. One of them was at his stand, and the dogs were heard coming in that direction. Soon there was a terrible commotion in the bushes, the sound coming toward him. The darky, thinking it was a deer, stopped so as to get a fair shot, when suddenly a tremendous panther confronted him. Hearing a noise behind he looked around, and, to his surprise and horror, saw another in a tree, which he fired at and killed just as it was in the act of springing upon him. The other immediately escaped, much, as the darky says, to his delight. The one killed measured seven feet and the negro estimates the male to have been twice as large.

POLITICAL NOTES.

The Tennessee house has adopted a resolution accepting the proposition of the bondsmen of Treasurer Polk to settle with the state.

The Arizona legislature has passed a bill to fund the territorial indebtedness by the issue of bonds in the sum of $250,000, to run twenty years and bear seven per cent. interest.

Ex-Senator Gordon, of Georgia, makes a vigorous denial of the report that he has taken a residence in Florida, and that he wants to return to the senate.

The passage of a bill by the Tennessee legislature making it a felony to rent buildings for gambling purposes has caused a sensation among the gambling fraternity.

The Charleston (S. C.) News (dem.) says: "The signs of the times, we are glad to say, point to an alignment of parties for the contest of 1884 upon the issue of tariff reform, pure and simple."

As the constitutional amendment providing for biennial sessions and elections in Massachusetts requires only a majority vote in the senate, its presentation to the people is almost certain.

The Connecticut prohibitory amendment before the legislature has been recommitted merely for the purpose of changing the form of submitting it to the people, provided it is approved by the house.

The Pennsylvania legislature has passed a bill providing that no free passes or discount passes shall be issued by any railway in the state to any one but officers and employes of the company, and that violation of the act shall be punished by $500 fine, six months' imprisonment, or both.

Ex-Representative Bowman, in a speech made at Somerville, Mass., on Tuesday evening, when a reception was tendered to him, said: "When a man has got through with his business as to be independent, let him, if he will, go into political life for amusement. Political life must hereafter be given up to the rich man. It is to be regretted that it is so, but far preferable to such a career is the enjoyment of a quiet home and the pursuit of one's business."

The Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution (dem.) has pronounced opinions on the speakership question. It says: "If Mr Randall becomes speaker, what follows? The democratic party will not only be irretrievably committed to the Pennsylvania idea, but the house committees will be so made up that the house will be as fully under the control of the coal, iron, steel, and pottery barons as the senate or the executive mansion. The work of revenue reform would be more than impeded—it would be ended until a new congress could be elected. If Mr. Carlisle, on the other hand, becomes speaker, measures looking to a reduction of taxation and to the simplification and adjustment of the tariff would be proposed, and some of the propositions would so commend themselves to the country that neither the senate nor the president would be willing to go on record against them. No extravagant proposition could become law, but a reasonable tariff bill in the light of new facts could and therefore should be pressed to a final vote"

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