

The Omaha Bee.

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

FREE oil pipe bill has passed the Pennsylvania senate and was sent to the house to-day.

JAY HUBBELL is settling up his brother's estate in California by "assessing" the debtors.

OUR county affairs need a little overhauling. Things are altogether too unanimous in the old court house.

THERE are a good many deep groans in Chicago over the result of the election, but the fact remains that 4,000 saloons discount six weeks of newspaper editorials and whole stacks of sermons.

DR. NICHOLSON, of Philadelphia, has declined a bishopric on account of his church work. He makes no mention of the trifling fact that his salary is three times that of the office to which he was chosen.

THE anti-monopolists of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, elected their candidate for mayor on Tuesday. Anti-monopoly is forcing its way east with a steadiness which is bound to make itself felt.

PNEUMONIA has increased forty per cent in the United States during the past seven years. There is an old, reasonable and sensible rule, which is especially good for our climate, "Stick to your flannels until they stick to you."

OUR county clerk is supremely indifferent about the complaint made that his published commissioners' proceedings don't tally with the facts and figures on record. It remains to be seen whether the commissioners will permit their proceedings to be garbled.

DENVER cast over 7,000 votes in the last election, and Omaha 4,400. Less than two-thirds of the full vote was polled in this city. On the basis on which Denver claims 60,000 inhabitants, Omaha would have over 40,000, even on a two-thirds vote.

We are becoming more and more a manufacturing people. The increase in our population "pursuing useful occupations" during the last census decade was 39 per cent; the increase in those engaged in agriculture 29 1/2, while the number of those in other occupations increased 47.7 per cent. Each year a larger proportion of our farm products is required for home use and their carriage will steadily become of less importance to the trunk lines of railroads. But on the other hand there has been great progress in machinery used for farming by which the production per capita has increased each year. The number of persons employed has steadily decreased in proportion to the volume of agricultural products and there is no danger that our farms will not be able both to supply the home markets and to furnish a good annual surplus to the rest of the world.

It is high time that the number of voting places in Omaha should be increased, as they can be under the new law. In the city of Denver, with nine wards, there are twenty-six precincts or voting places or about three to every ward. In Omaha we have only six voting places to 6,000 voters. The result is that instead of having the vote counted within three hours after the close of the polls it is often three days before the names of the successful candidates are known. In addition the count is always bungling and often inaccurate. If a thorough and final recount of the ballots cast at the last election were to be made it is safe to say that a good many errors would be found.

Besides the difficulty of counting the vote where so many ballots are deposited in a single box, the small number of polling places makes a full vote impossible. On important elections it is practically impossible to poll all the votes offered. A year ago there were fully two hundred voters in line when the polls closed who failed to deposit their ballots through lack of time.

The council ought to take the matter in hand at once and provide for a division of the wards into at least two polling places each. This will double the number of polling places and will afford sufficient relief for several years to come.

The probabilities are that the city engineer and other city officials will be named without consulting Rosewater. The editor of THE BEE does not ask or expect to be consulted about any appointment at the mayor's disposal. If the city engineer is not competent or reliable his place should be filled by a man who is better qualified to plan and supervise the construction of public works and protect the interests of the city in its relations with contractors who do our grading, paving and sewerage. The legislature, very properly, divorced the engineer's office from politics. It placed his appointment in the hands of the mayor and council, who are to be the judges of the capacity of the engineer.

The engineer's office concerns every property owner. In incompetent or dishonest hands it can bankrupt the city by misconstructed public works and fraudulent estimates. To make such an office a mere plaything for political tricksters in a growing city like Omaha would simply be ruinous.

The present city engineer has no money interest in this paper and as far as we know is not begging for a reappointment. He stands alone upon his merit and is able to earn in his profession more than his present salary. We are aware that great pressure will be brought on the mayor to displace him. There are those on the one hand who imagine they can punish the Bee by such a change and on the other hand there is a gang of cormorants who have failed to get fraudulent measurements on grading and sewerage contracts which they think can be secured through some other man.

So far as other appointive officials are concerned the position of the Bee is the same. We want a city attorney of known ability and of unquestioned honesty, a man who can give advice that will stand the test of the court and who can conduct the suits of the city with as much skill as any corporation lawyer.

We want a marshal who besides being sober and honest has the snap and the courage to enforce the laws regardless of friend or foe, a man who can keep the police force in thorough discipline and who will not pander to criminals.

We want a man in the public works who has no axe to grind, and who will enter into no ring to siphon money from the tax payers. If the present incumbent is such, and we believe him to be such, he ought to be reappointed.

These are our views in a nutshell, and they are the views of ninety-nine per cent of the tax payers and business men of Omaha.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS' All Europe is now trembling in fear of the revolutionists. The disclosures of the last week are not calculated to weaken the belief that a reign of anarchy is impending. In Russia, the Kremlin at Moscow, where the czar is to be crowned in May, has been approached by an underground mine, with large quantities of dynamite ready to blow the annointed of the Russias into eternity before the crown reaches his devoted head; at Kiel four members of the German Reichstag have been arrested for socialism; bombs have been captured at Geneva, an explosive machine at Liverpool, and England is thrown into consternation by the discovery of a dynamite factory in Birmingham and four dynamite bombs in London. The alarm in England is not at all disguised. The police have proved clearly that the kingdom is a veritable nest of anarchists and that plots against the government have been transferred from across the Irish sea to the most densely populated cities of England itself. Double guards now surround the government offices, the residences of the ministers are patrolled and sentries pace all the avenues to Windsor castle. If to thoroughly frighten England is O'Donovan Rossa's chief desire, his wish has certainly been gratified. The cablegrams are vague regarding the identity of the persons implicated, but naturally the Irish and Irish Americans are charged with the offences. Westminster is suffering from a severe case of Edaphobia and Ireland, and Irish interests will suffer in consequence. They have suffered in consequence.

It is generally admitted that Parnell's bill for amending the Irish land act was badly treated by the government. The bill was intended to remedy what all admit are very grave defects in the act, some of which have been revealed by judicial decisions. The principal one--the inability of the tenant to get the benefit of the act from the time he gives notice of his intention to apply for it; its failure to cover the leaseholders, who constitute one-fourth of the tenant farmers; and its failure to protect the tenant against having to pay rent on his own improvements. Parnell had the direct support of all the Ulster members, who have hitherto stood by the government, and many English liberals, such as Mr. James Bryce, who spoke in the debate, and the indirect support of others, who refrained from voting altogether. Parnell's speech was in places violent and injudicious, but Gladstone's first refusal to hold out any hope of an amendment to the bill is felt to be a grave matter, as likely to alienate the Scotch-Irish of the north, and thus increase the home rule forces at the next election. Mr. Shaw, one of the most moderate and

respected of the Irish members, who has always held aloof from the Parnellites, has already made a speech in the north asking the farmers to withdraw all allegiance to either English party, or vote for whichever promises them most.

Parliament has devoted itself chiefly to domestic matters. The budget has been presented and shows a much more flattering state of finances than had been anticipated, including a national debt reduction of \$35,000,000 during the year and a good surplus of revenue over expenditures. An attempt to bring up the Kilmaham treaty in the commons failed. Mr. Gladstone opposing it, although Parnell reasserted his charge that the first overtures looking to his release came from the government.

In France fears are expressed of another ministerial crisis, in which Leon Say will succeed Ferard as minister of finance. General Thibaudin will resign the war portfolio. The French debt is now so immense and the extravagance of the government in public expenditures has been so great that Say's elevation will be everywhere regarded as strengthening the cabinet. The removal of the war office from Thibaudin, who, however his partisans may seek to palliate the act, indisputably broke his parole in the Franco German war, naturally gave offence at Berlin, and the German newspapers have since shown more hostility to France than at any time since 1873, when, as is well known, Bismarck had planned a second invasion. The removal of the present minister of war is apparently indispensable to the re-establishment of thoroughly friendly relations between France and Germany, and it is noteworthy that the majority of the chamber are looking for his successor in the ranks of the Gambettists, who alone of the republican factions enjoy in some degree the confidence of the property owners and the army. The selection of Gen. Campenon would mean that the republicans feel constrained by the insecurity of their own position to accept a man long regarded as a tool of Gambetta's, and whom not long ago they reviled with much of the same bitterness with which they denounced the ex-dictator himself.

Italy, in preparing for the resumption of specie payments, is going through precisely similar experiences to those of the United States. The 23rd inst. is the day fixed for the event, but the gold premium has already disappeared. The banks handle gold and paper at par; "shin-plasters" have been replaced by silver; there is no popular excitement; no run on the treasury is anticipated, and the operation from beginning to end has a decidedly American-like appearance.

Archbishop Groke will not fall in the esteem of his diocesan because Rome holds him in disfavor for his loyalty to Parnell. Asute as the Vatican has always proven itself in its dealings with states as Germany, Austria, Russia and France, it has never interposed in Ireland save to bring discredit upon the church and incite hatred among the people. It is the glory of the present movement in Ireland that lines of creed are no longer drawn, and the Protestant Parnell is supported as cordially in the contest for reform in Ireland as O'Connell or the martyrs of '68.

The Nicaragua Canal Company talks of beginning operations at once, without waiting for a subsidy, and building the canal off-hand in five years for \$45,000,000. This is wise. There is no possible prospect of a subsidy or guarantee from Washington. If the canal will pay there will be no difficulty in raising the money, and if it will not pay the taxpayers of this country should not have to meet the bill. O. O. Panama canal nothing has been done but a few preliminary surveys--according to the engineers of its rival--although circumstantial reports are made that a large part of the enterprise is under contract.

The French policy of colonial extension is getting a good airing. France now claims a considerable part of the country on both banks of the Congo river, by virtue of M. de Brazza's famous treaties, but Portugal also claims jurisdiction over these districts, and in these pretensions Portugal, it is said, is backed by Great Britain. It is a peculiarly natural enough. France, again, is asserting itself in the upper valley of the Niger, to reach which the construction of a railway across the divide from a point high up on the Senegal, if not, indeed, from the Atlantic coast, is under way. The eastern, or Niger, terminus of this line is to be the town of Bamako, and a Paris dispatch a few days ago announced the receipt of intelligence that the French troops, after a severe fight with the natives, had captured Bamako. This country is surpassingly fertile, and well worth fighting for. Central Africa, in truth, is a new world. It may become another America some day--unless the climate shall prove to be an insuperable hindrance. Frenchmen, also, it may be mentioned, still entertain hopes of making of the Desert of Sahara an inland sea.

British correspondence gives some revelations of the alleged relations between the Vatican and the Prussian government. It is stated, on good authority, that the Jacobini note was not inclined to make further concessions to the Prussian government. The latter is now greatly embarrassed, and some time will probably elapse before the reply to the note is sent to Rome. The government is expected to publish soon the second letter of the emperor to the pope, which was forwarded to his holiness some days ago. As to what will be done in Prussia much depends upon the attitude of the national liberals, the two principal leaders of whom have recently had several interviews with Prince Bismarck. Many of that party are convinced of the futility of some of the May laws, and the revision may be undertaken without waiting for the assent of Rome. In that case, the present ministers for home affairs and public worship would have to be removed, as they do not enjoy the confidence of the liberals.

The old love of France is still very strong in Alsace-Lorraine, and many of the inhabitants look upon the rule of

Germany much as the Jews did upon their captivity in Babylon, as a temporary affliction, from which they will sooner or later be delivered. The present feeling of the populace is restless and anxious, and it manifests itself from time to time in public expressions of affection for the French people and their government.

The course Russia is pursuing in the Caucasus has a deep meaning. Six months ago, or about the time when England made her onslaught on Egypt, it was reported that 70,000 Russian troops had been concentrated in the Caucasus. The number was exaggerated, but the army sent there must have been large, and it was undoubtedly intended to take advantage of any mistakes made by England and push Russian interests in that direction. Her motives are various. England was the advance of her rival all along the line from the Caucasus to Persia and Afghanistan. To observe the Caucasus, General Gordon, who acquired no great a reputation in China, has been for some months stationed at Jerusalem. By the treaty of Berlin, Turkey promised reforms in Armenia and other parts of Asia Minor which she has never carried out, and her failure to perform treaty obligations may be made an excuse for Russia's invading her territory. A portion of the war indemnity remains unpaid, which may also, under certain circumstances, be made the ground of interference. If a war is wanted, either in the Caucasus or any other part of Europe, there need be no lack of excuses for the party that desires to be the aggressor.

The Russian nihilists, who are threatening the czar with assassination if he does not proclaim a constitution before his coronation, have taken an ingenious way of announcing to the Russian people their programme of reform. They reprint the czar's proclamation of his approaching coronation, with its pious aspirations and promises, but add this paragraph of their own, as though it came from him: "You will, at the same time, announce to our faithful subjects that we have graciously decided that all the land which is now in the possession of the nobility and the rice shall be divided into equal parts among all our faithful subjects; that all the taxes hitherto levied shall be abolished, and replaced by others imposing just and moderate burdens on all classes in proportion to the wealth; that the whole of the standing army shall be disbanded and replaced by a small landwehr, and that all government appointments shall be abolished and replaced by such appointments as may be created by the communes. We have already issued the necessary orders, and we call upon our faithful subjects to assist in carrying them out."

An interesting outline of what is doing in exploring the various unknown or imperfectly known quarters of the world is given in the March number of Science. In the Arctic regions two naval expeditions are ice bound in the Kara sea, and some thirteen parties located at stations established under the auspices of an international arrangement are supposed to be doing well somewhere up in the snow region. In Antarctic regions there are presumed to be parties taking observations in South Georgia and the Falkland Islands. In Alaska the only explorations in progress are those pushed by the greedy gold hunters. In South America there are numerous explorers seeking to penetrate the jungles of the Amazon and Orinoco valleys. One party that ascended the Pliomayo were murdered by Indians, and a couple of expeditions are fitting out to search for their remains. In Asia active and systematic exploration of the vast domain of Russia is progressing under direction of the government. A French scientific party has just returned from B. Bharu. In Asia Minor extensive underground exploration in the field of archeology is in progress. Indo China, Burma, Cambodia and Northern India are being penetrated in every direction. In Africa the French are actively pushing ahead in Senegambia with pioneers followed by rail roads. The Russians and Italians have expeditions seeking to cross the continent. De Brazza and Stanley are exploring the Congo region, where two other expeditions are also at work. In addition to these there are about a dozen German African explorers searching in different directions, and the Egyptians have a couple of parties looking into the topography of the Sudan. Similar investigation is making in the unsettled parts of Australia. Altogether several thousand people are engaged in the laudable effort to subdue the wilderness and revise the world's maps.

That Astoria Jenkins Again Washington Correspondence: Hittsburg Leader. Let me tell you an incident of the senator's late marriage. There at Wilford the president was present, at the ceremony, the off-time bride pinned a buttonhole (sic) on the lapel of the chief executive's frock coat. Miss McQuirt, Mrs. McQuirt, or Mrs. Tabor, or what you will, is a very handsome woman, a perfect Cleopatra in form and structure, and her bust would have driven Praxitiles (sic) wild, to say nothing of a modern Gallant, and the president is nothing if not an admirer and admirable judge of feminine beauty. I must not linger, however, but go on with the incident. The bride wore a particularly low cut corsage, and while reaching up to get at the shoulder of her handsome president, of course, (taking this point of view), considerable of her snowy bosom was exposed. Can you wonder that the president stood entranced? He has been hinted by some spiteful female who was watching the operation, that the lady had to stick the button on the chief executive's frock coat himself. This, however, is thought to be pure malice on her part, and is not believed.

In a late article in the Louisville, Ky., Courier Journal we observe that Gov. Blackburn, of that State, speaks: "Again and again have I had occasion to use St. Jacobs Oil, and every time it has been successful."

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