

The Omaha Bee.

Published every morning, except Sunday. The only Monday morning daily.

TERMS BY MAIL-- One Year, \$10.00 Three Months, \$3.00 Six Months, 5.00 One Month, 1.00

CHE WEEKLY BEE, published every Wednesday. TERMS POST PAID-- One Year, \$2.00 Three Months, .50 Six Months, 1.00 One Month, .20

AMERICAN NEWS COMPANY, Sole Agents Newsdealers in the United States.

CORRESPONDENCE--All Communications relating to News and Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor of The Bee.

BUSINESS LETTERS--All Business Letters and Remittances should be addressed to THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, 1324 FARNAM STREET, OMAHA, NEBRASKA. Drafts, Checks and Postoffice Orders to be made payable to the order of the Company.

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

FARMERS who have held their corn are now on the top heap.

MAYOR CHANE proposes to preserve his reputation as a vector at all hazards.

WHILE the streets in every direction are being prepared for paving, Farnam street stinks in her covering of macadam and mud.

MR. DILLON considers Secretary Teller's demand for that little trifle of a million and a half dollars, "impudent and impertinent."

FRED DOUGLASS denies that he is worth \$100,000 to \$150,000, in a way which suggests that \$75,000 to \$90,000 is about the thing. But it is nobody's business, anyway.

THERE is no doubt that the Mutual Union has at last been swallowed in a way that will keep it down. Now it remains to be seen how many successors will spring up asking to be eaten.

THE president's digestion is still badly deranged, but as congress does not meet until December, and dinner giving will be stopped in the meantime, there is plenty of time for his recovery.

THE editor of the New York Staats Zeitung is about to expend \$100,000 in the erection of a free dispensary for the poor of that city. The heart of a New York editor seems to be larger than those of the Gotham railroad millionaire.

THE St. Louis Republican whose sound views upon party questions and party policy have made it the leading democratic organ of the southwest, thinks that the next session of congress will have a great deal to do in determining the next presidential election, and that the public proceedings of the two houses will determine the fate of the contest. "The house," it says, "will be democratic, the senate, republican. In the action of the house the country will look for the democratic platform of 1884; and in the action of the senate it will look for the opposite platform. This is inevitable, and perfectly fair. What a party promises to do when it gets into power is not half as much to be relied on as an indication of its policy as what it actually does when in power. The two parties that are to stand face to face in the next presidential contest will previously stand face to face in the Forty-eighth congress; and the country, without waiting for the regularly proclaimed platforms, will look to the house and the senate respectively to learn what democracy is and what republicanism is on the practical questions of the day.

It is easy enough to tell what these questions will be. They are few and very simple--a few and simple that they may be disposed of in a single bill. There is no dispute about the currency; no dispute about Indians, pensions or foreign policy; happily there is not a single constitutional issue before the country since Mr. Hayes withdrew the troops from the south and adopted the democratic policy of leaving the southern states, as well as the northern states, to their own self-government. All these matters over which the parties fiercely wrangled eight years ago are settled. There remains the single fact of a large excess of revenue annually pouring into the treasury and this is the subject to be dealt with.

This is all very true. But how to dispose of that excess without disposing of a political party at the same time is the troublesome problem. It is certain that the republicans will not abandon the protective policy. It seems equally certain that the democracy cannot unite upon a free trade platform. Where, then, is to be the issue? A campaign made upon a compromise can scarcely be looked upon as an aggressive one. The last election was largely won on the supposed issue of protection as against absolute free trade. The democratic party seem to be in the dilemma of the intoxicated gentleman grasping the lamp post. If they should hold to their free trade doctrine they will leave themselves in pieces, and if they let go they are likely to break the party's neck.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM IN NEBRASKA.

When we deal with the question of the public service in offices not elective, we must deal with it not as an ideal question, but in the light of facts as they actually exist. First and foremost all the local appointments to federal offices in Nebraska are made solely at the instance of our senators and congressmen. They, and they alone are consulted by the president and the heads of departments, and they, and they alone, must be held responsible for the character and conduct of the men appointed.

No matter what the service rules at Washington may be and no matter what pretense is used to the contrary, the fact is undisputed that no one can get an appointment from Uncle Sam at the present time unless he comes endorsed by some or all of the members of the state delegation. What ever abuses exist by reason of incompetent or disreputable federal officeholders must be charged directly to the congressional delegation, and no member thereof can justly plead civil service reform rules as an excuse for shirking his responsibility. Moreover, each of our senators is personally responsible for every bad presidential appointment in Nebraska, because the senators from each state are usually consulted about all such appointments, and if they are not they are able to block in executive session any appointment that is unfit to be made. Of late a new departure has been taken by our delegation in the matter of federal appointments. The offices have been parceled out as if they were the personal property of each congressman or senator and the whole delegation has obligated itself to sustain the choice of each individual member. For instance, Mr. Valentine is conceded a land office in his district, and no matter whom he may name the senators are bound to confirm his man. The senators fondly imagine that this convenient arrangement relieves them of all responsibility and puts it on Valentine. As a matter of fact, the people put the blame where it justly belongs, upon the Senators themselves, because they alone have the power to confirm, and it is their duty to exercise their prerogative in the interest of the people whom they represent, and not as mere partners in a bargain. If Mr. Van Wyck, for instance, votes for a bad man just in order to get the delegation to support one of his own friends, he is culpable just as much as if he made the appointment himself. And if General Manderson votes for an incompetent or unfit office seeker because Judge Weaver demands it, he can't shirk the responsibility and charge it up to Weaver.

Another and more flagrant abuse in the civil service system recently adopted by our delegation is the attempt to delegate their own privileges to members of the legislature that elected General Manderson. Under this programme nobody is to have a federal appointment unless he can get the endorsement of the republican members of his district. This is to say that the republican members of the late legislature have been constituted office brokers in general and office holders in particular, who, so to speak, dispense postoffices and land offices as if they were crops raised on their own farms. The members of the late legislature are notoriously in bad odor and if to-day they were to ask for an endorsement from the people not one out of ten could be elected constable or poundmaster. Upon this conclusion of all the political virtues has been conferred the power which presidents and senators alone are supposed to exercise. What may we expect as the result? More corruption, more bargaining and more trading than ever before. Not only this, but the humiliating spectacle of compelling men who have held the highest positions in the land to demean themselves by begging an endorsement of men who are in every way beneath their mental and moral calibre.

Our delegation may as well know first as last that this new system of dispensing patronage will not be approved by the people. The president very properly delegates his power of appointment to senators and congressmen because he cannot be expected to acquaint himself personally with the fitness or unfitness of candidates for office who reside thousands of miles from Washington. But senators have no right to delegate that delegated power to any other person or persons. They cannot and will not be allowed to shirk the responsibility for unit appointments, and all schemes and plans and programmes concocted towards that end will be worse than useless.

There is some wretched work being done in the matter of laying down wooden sidewalks and crosswalks. So long as the city ordinance compelling the construction of the sidewalk is complied with property owners seem to care very little how it is laid or how it joins with those on either side of it. The consequence is that many of our streets are a succession of rises and falls which at night are positively dangerous to pedestrians. Often when

a single block there are from three to five alterations of steps and descents besides innumerable holes and loosened boards which threaten at one moment to break a leg and at the next to break a neck. This is to say nothing of scores of lots in front of which the sidewalks are so rotten and broken as to be worse than none at all. There is room for a wholesome reform in this matter and the council will do well to give it a little attention in the interest of many citizens.

ARMY DESERTIONS.

It is rich to listen to the criticisms of the New York Sun on the subject of army desertions. Nearly 4,000 out of the 25,000 men in the army deserted last year. This ratio of desertion the Sun characterizes as "monstrous" and demands the cause. There are half a score of causes. In the first place the pay of our enlisted men is too small and there are unnecessary and burdensome restrictions which the soldiers are always compelled to undergo outside of the line of military duty. A young man who enlists for what he supposes to be a soldier's life naturally becomes disheartened and disgusted when he is ordered to act as gardener for one of his officers or to perform the duty of a stable boy at half a day laborer's wages. When whole companies of men are kept at work for months with spade, pick and axe digging roads, building telegraph lines or cutting wood, the glory of a soldier's life at \$13 a month is apt to fade very rapidly away. When in addition to this the men are forced to endure unnecessary hardships on the frontier through rotten and breezy quarters and cheerless contentments simply through the parsimony of congress, the only wonder is that desertions are not more frequent than they are. The first remedy against desertions is an increase in pay and in the frequency of pay days sufficient to make the men contented, the second is such appropriations for permanent posts, quarters and roads as will obviate the necessity of turning half the army on the frontier into day laborers at intervals during their term of enlistment. Another remedy is an easier road to preferment from non-commissioned to commissioned officers. With these suggestions, which are by no means new ones carried out, we would find a better class of recruits enlisting and fewer desertions from enlisted men. But neither of them are in the line of a further cutting down of our army estimates.

THE APACHE RAIDS.

As Looked at from a Purely Military Standpoint. Army and Navy Journal. The movement of the Indians in Arizona recalls those daring raids which distinguished the warfare on both sides during our late war. As in those enterprises, the marching party starts from a secure position, circles round the centers of the enemy's strength, passing through an important though not strongly guarded territory, and after a career of which the apparent recklessness is merely a careful adjustment of boldness in attack to prudent provision for retreat, returns to its own quarters. The Apaches left Sonora and crossed the line apparently east of the Sonora railroad and their blow was struck at a charcoal camp on the northern end of the Huachuca mountains, only seven miles it is said, from Camp Huachuca. They then crossed westward to the Santa Rita and killed some woodchoppers, and striking northwest encountered and killed four men near Winchester, and after that appear to have returned southward to Sonora. They are said to have picked up a party of squaws from San Carlos in their path, and either this band in the vicinity of another band coming up from Sonora killed Judge McCombs and his family near the line of New Mexico.

The exact details of the march are unknown, for the Arizona papers are all too angry to hunt for and give the true facts. Our account of their line of march is made out entirely from a comparison of the localities of their successive murders, and not from the contradictory stories told by the press of the territory. The one fact that seems indisputable is that they swept around Tombstone, in the southeastern corner of Arizona, near Fort Huachuca, always at a respectable distance from that important town, and probably returned to Sonora, after committing a number of murders, supposed to be about forty, counting those in Sonora and Arizona.

In all such movements there is no advance after the first blow is struck, for then, whatever success may be taken, the march becomes a retreat and it is this which makes pursuit futile. In the present raid, news of the attack on the charcoal camp appears to have been sent to the post in the most slowly fashion, delaying action; but it is extremely doubtful if successful pursuit could have been made, even if unusual promptitude, both on the part of civilians and the military had been made. In the war no one dreamed of making a chase after raiders, but the necessities of the case make this the only recourse in an Indian raid, and it is highly probable that it will never succeed in an open southern country. The military posts are not on the line, and do not all have the telegraph, the Indians are well acquainted with the country, and the border can be crossed at any point for miles of its extent. There is no certain track for their operations, and thorough means for meeting their raids by military force would require much more complete preparations than are provided. Still there can be no doubt that the yearly murder of citizens by Indians must be prevented. Many things combine to make Arizona dangerous ground at present. In the first place, it is the last ditch to the southern tribes. In the second place, it is the southern portion of the territory next the Mexican line that has always been the habitable area, and is now the scene of violence. Thirdly, altering climatic conditions have made this country open at all seasons for two years past. The high rainfall which has been so disastrous in the eastern and middle states has extended to that territory, giving an abundance of grass and water and making every valley in the whole region, probably for 400 miles along the border, a practicable road where the largest band of ponies and cattle can be fed in any month in the year. It seems quite probable that this heavy rainfall may be repeated next year and in years following, and if it is the government will be called upon to make special provision for the defense of the inhabitants of Arizona and New Mexico.

We have spoken of Sonora as a rare retreat for a marauding band. In that state the Mexicans are making the greatest effort to put down the hostilities and with apparent success, though at great cost of blood and treasure. But it is evident that when hard

pressed there the Apaches can cross the line, retreat through Arizona, and reappear in Arizona 200 miles away, and in this way defeat the most careful plans. No doubt co-operation on the part of the government, a thorough system of telegraph lines, and the distribution of posts nearer the border may do much to destroy these advantages, but there remains one condition which threatens to destroy the best efforts of the army on either side of the line, and it is a condition that our government is called upon by duty and humanity to remove--San Carlos reservation.

WASHINGTON RELICS.

Their Removal to the National Museum--Model of an Invention of Lincoln's. Prof. Baird, of the National museum, having offered to transfer the Washington and other historical relics, now in the model room of the patent office, to the National museum, the proposition has been accepted. The Washington relics are accompanied in their case by several articles of almost as much interest, but whether they will be sent to the National museum is not yet decided. Prominent among these is a model of an invention patented by Abraham Lincoln May 22, 1849, and was probably whittled out by Lincoln's own hands. The invention is for carrying river steamboats over shoal places, and especially destined for Mississippi steamers. It consists of two bellow-shaped appliances placed at either side of the boat, under the guards, and it floated by means of poles projecting through the upper deck. The idea was never put into use to any extent, the boatmen preferring the old fashioned method of sparring their vessels over the shoals. The relics themselves include the coat and pants worn by Washington when he surrendered his commission at Annapolis in 1783; silk pants and a merino waist worn by him; a tresser coat, camp chest, tent poles and pliers, and iron; ballows, tables and chairs. The sword worn by Washington throughout the revolution, and the one willed to him by Benjamin Franklin, are both gone, being in the war department museum, while the original of the Declaration of Independence, which was formerly with this collection, is in the state department. In another case is the Washington china, including the set presented to him by the Society of the Cincinnati with a pair of candlesticks, and a plate presented to Martha Washington by General Lafayette in 1781. There is also in this case Washington's secretary, compass and sleeping tent, and a set of curtains worked by Martha Washington.

Failed to Appreciate the Senator. Senator Bowen tells a story about himself which will bear repeating. On his return from Washington some weeks ago he was riding through Iowa on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy road, and late at night passed Creston, the little town where Bowen lived when a boy. At that point an old man, Deacon Elihu Baxter, boarded the train, and Bowen recognized him. Of course the venerable deacon didn't know Bowen from anybody else, and when the two fell into conversation Bowen gave out he was from Colorado, he had the deacon all at a disadvantage. "From Colorado, eh?" said Deacon Baxter. "Their new senator, Tom Bowen, is an Iowa boy--did you ever meet the one?" "Well, yes, off 'n on," replied Senator Bowen rather nervously. "They tell heeps 'o' yarns on him," continued Deacon Baxter, "an' some 'o' the stories is purty tough. But I guess most on 'em is true, for I knew him when he was a boy, an' if my recollection serves me right, he was a leetle the ornierest chap I ever seen."

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