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

SEVEN ought to confirm all good nominations and reject all bad ones.

SULLIVAN could tackle Tag Wilson and Mitchell, but whisky seems to have knocked him out of time.

JOE DAVIS has been appointed postmaster at Wahoe and the music will soon be floating in the spring air of Saunders county.

ACCORDING to the Rochester Express "Got there," will be the sole issue in 1884. This is exactly Dana's idea in a little less classical language.

WHILE the croakers are busy in killing off the crops an April sun and April rains are equally busy in assuring the prosperity of our farmers.

THE Vermont maple sugar crop is a failure but as brown sugar continues cheap, dealers will continue to sell the usual amount of pure Vermont at the old prices.

FRANK HATTON recently died in England. Mr. Brady will be pleased to learn that it is not his successor in the editorial chair of the Washington Republican.

A STATEMENT published by the bureau of statistics shows that our exports of bread stuffs for the three months of 1883 increased over \$14,000,000 over the first quarter of the preceding year.

MAYOR CHASE says he does not propose to have any fight with the council or police committee over his nominations. In fact he says the police committee is the safety valve to his appointment engine.

PATTI will sing in America next season at \$5,500 a night under Mapleson's management and enthusiastic New Yorkers, who scarcely know a symphony from a sardine, will have the privilege of raving over the opera to the tune of \$10 a seat.

WITHIN twenty minutes after the Commissioner of Internal Revenue Rumm had resigned, twenty ex-congressmen were hard at work writing applications for the office. The itch for office once contracted is only cured by death or insanity.

DUBLIN ought to start a volunteer department. Volunteer firemen in this country are exempt from jury duty. In one panel in that city lately there were seventy-five men who refused to serve as jurors and they were all fined \$500 a piece. It would be cheaper to run with the machine.

SENATOR ANTHONY, of Rhode Island, is lying at the point of death. Mr. Anthony enjoys the distinction of being the oldest member of the United States senate. He was sixty-eight years old on the first of the present month, and has represented Rhode Island at the capital for more than twenty-eight years.

AND now there is wailing and lamentation among the civil service reformers. The commission has recommended, and the president has kindly appointed as chief examiner, Mr. Kelm, of Pennsylvania, a protégé of the Camerons and an active worker with the machine in the Keystone state. This is civil service reform on the half shell with trimmings.

THE New York Tribune says there is no doubt that the revival of the Tilden boom is genuine. But Mr. Dana who is even nearer to Mr. Tilden than Dr. G. L. Miller of Oregon fame, says that the talk of Mr. Tilden's candidacy is sheer nonsense. Ben Butler's boom just at present is following closely in the wake of Joe McDonald's presidential flat boat.

THE pious house of representatives in Massachusetts has rejected, by a vote of nearly two to one, a bill to permit persons injured in Sunday traveling, through the fault of others, to recover damages. Traveling on Sunday is a heinous offense in the Puritan state, but clothing insane patients and skimming corpses at Tewksbury seems to have perfectly legal until exposed by Widow Butler and the investigating committee.

FRIIGHTENED OFF.

Combinations, consolidations and sales of great properties, wholesale issues of new securities, all engineered by great capitalists for their own interests certainly furnish the small investor a subject for sober consideration. Every line of investment is now controlled by the great operators, and the small financier is completely at their mercy. Whether his investment is to be a paying one depends entirely upon whether the financial kings believe his interests are identical with their own. "The investing public be d--d," is the motto of our railroad stock jobbers who wreck the properties under their control with a happy disregard for the interests of the stockholders and a cheerful indifference to any other demands than those of their own bank account.

Within the past month the Wabash & Iron Mountain systems have been consolidated, the transfer of the Wabash involving the issue of \$10,000,000 six per cent collateral trust bonds to pay off the floating debt and the car trust obligations. The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy has purchased the Hannibal & St. Joe and burdened itself with several million more of five per cent bonds; the Northwestern is about to create \$10,000,000 of additional stock to be held in the treasury to represent new properties acquired, and the Union Pacific has sold a part of its \$5,000,000 collateral trust 5's at a little less than 90. In addition we hear of further consolidations in which Jay Gould is to link together the Southern railroads and unite the Erie-Enger lines to his Southwestern combination, and the Wisconsin legislature, by an act just passed has authorized the St. Paul road to throw an unlimited amount of securities upon the market.

The result is that the outside public has been frightened off. The railroad stock market is flat, and dealings are confined to the brokers and large operators, who are playing pass in the corner with the lambs. There is still a fair demand for good railroad bonds secured by mortgage on the roads. In purchasing these securities the investor is protected in the disposal of his money by the courts and can count the cost and probable profits before he ventures his capital. Nothing but an act of Congress, as in the case of the Union Pacific, can vitiate a first mortgage security, and a small holder of bonds, provided the bonds are well secured, is as safe as a railroad director with unqualified control of a majority of the stock.

There is a general distrust of American railroad management, both at home and abroad. Englishmen have never recovered from the shock of the Erie developments, and our own people have since learned by bitter experience that all the thieves are not confined to the penitentiary, and that the worst confidence sharks are those who conduct their operations in magnificent offices under the protection of our laws and with judges and courts as their most faithful accomplices.

IS PUERPERAL FEVER EPIDEMIC?

To the Editor of the Bee. I desire to call your attention to the alarming prevalence of puerperal fever in this city and the fatality which has attended its course. Since the 1st of January, as I am informed on excellent authority, over fifty deaths have occurred from this disease. Many of the cases have happened outside the province of regular practitioners, where mothers have fallen into the hands of incompetent midwives. Of this class the greatest number of deaths have taken place among our foreign population. Still, a large number of cases have occurred in the practice of some of our best known and most reputable physicians. One doctor has lost four patients from this disease, two others three apiece, while ten or a dozen deaths from puerperal fever are distributed among as many more regular practitioners. I am not a physician myself and do not feel competent to criticize those whose education and training presumably "fit them to deal with disease. But it does seem to me that this epidemic, for it can be called nothing else, must be the result of gross carelessness somewhere. If I understand the matter puerperal fever is highly contagious and can be carried by physicians from bedside to bedside, communicated by insufficiently cleaned instruments, or induced by gross carelessness on the part of the attendant physician after confinement. The matter is one well worth the public attention and I am astonished no notice has been taken of it in the public prints. It is a false delicacy which suppresses facts bearing upon life and death when their publication might assist in working a reform or eliciting further information for the public benefit. E. A. W.

The facts as above stated are certainly startling. Every epidemic of puerperal fever can be traced to criminal negligence and carelessness somewhere. The disease often originates through a gross disregard of common sanitary precautions and it spreads by contagion or through the medium of attendants or physicians. Early in February a prominent physician of Omaha called our attention to the death of six women from puerperal fever, all patients of a single nurse who makes a specialty of labor cases. The deaths all occurred among our foreign population where the fees charged for attendance by physicians are often a bar to their employment. But since that time cases of puerperal fever have been by no means confined to irregular practitioners. Several of our best doctors have been unfortun-

ately employed them even more so. No physician who loses a case from puerperal fever has any right to take charge of another labor case for at least six weeks after the death of his first patient. This is what such eminent professors as Dr. Thomas in New York, are now teaching. The most thorough use of disinfectants, cleansing of instruments and fumigation of the premises promises no certain destruction of the poison. It is criminal for a doctor to go from a deathbed where death has occurred from this cause to the bedside of the living and tender his services in assisting labor. It is criminal because while no bad results are certain to follow where every precaution has been taken, there is always a possibility of communicating the most fatal disease which follows child-birth. The best precaution is absence. Our young physicians in the largest medical schools are now being taught to hand over their engaged cases to others until every danger of communicating the disease is past. If Omaha physicians value human life more than they do the increase of their bank accounts they will do the same.

One thing more ought to be said. Of course all argument will be wasted on ignorant charlatans and professional nurses who usurp the functions of doctors without the education or experience necessary to fit them to properly perform their duties. A thorough use of disinfectants, great care that no decomposition of animal or vegetable matter is in progress near the sick room, and plenty of sunlight and fresh air are precautions which can be used with great effect in staying the progress of an epidemic of puerperal fever.

There is a good deal of criticism over the mayor's appointments of policemen and the committee on police seem to be in a dilemma how to act in the matter. The easiest way in this case seems to be the best. If the committee on police have better sources of information regarding the new appointments let them take advantage of them and reject or confirm nominees in the light of what they know. Some of the present force ought to go. Of that there is no doubt. A great deal of the inefficiency of the force has arisen from the inefficiency of the marshal but several of our policemen during the past year have been notoriously lazy and incompetent. Mayor Chase undoubtedly desires a good, steady, working body of police and it is the duty of the committee on police to assist him in securing them. If any of the nominations are bad they ought to be promptly rejected. Those which are unobjectionable should be confirmed.

There is no use in the council passing ordinances if they are not enforced, and many ordinances will not be enforced unless the marshal and his police make it their business to see to their enforcement. It is to the interest of the city council, no less than to the interests of our citizens, that we should have an efficient body of police, and it will be the fault of the council if such is not the case.

MURAT HALSTEAD, who always talks good, sound, common sense, has never been more sensible than in the following from the Cincinnati Commercial-Gazette: "There are a good many very shabby paragraphs about ex-President Hayes flying about. Some people ought to remember that ex-President Hayes was a gallant soldier, repeatedly wounded in the service, and on more than one occasion distinguished for personal bravery and useful leadership. Then the republicans won the great honest money battle in Ohio with him for standard bearer, and specie payments were resumed under his administration. A great many other things might be said but it is not worth while.

We cheerfully give space to a dispatch from the clerk of Lincoln county, giving assurance that Mr. Anthony Reis, postmaster of North Platte, has faithfully accounted for all moneys belonging to Lincoln county handled by him during his term as county treasurer. Why this was telegraphed by the county clerk we cannot understand, as no charge appeared in this paper reflecting on the conduct of Mr. Reis as treasurer of Lincoln county. We shall more cheerfully publish any statement from officers of the North Platte Building association exonerating Mr. Reis from the alleged defalcation of their funds.

In another column we present to our readers a notice of the celebrated "Kaiser Water," from Birresborn, on the Rhine, with an accompanying analysis of its ingredients. The continental reputation of this remarkable mineral water has long been established. Containing a large portion of carbonic acid gas, it is a most refreshing drink, and is especially valuable to persons of sedentary habits. It is particularly beneficial in all cases of kidney complaints, owing to the presence of a considerable quantity of bicarbonate of Lithia, a remedy which is indorsed generally by the medical profession for complaints of this nature.

The Edmunds Commission. Springfield, Republicans. Commissioners under the Edmunds bill are in Utah at work upon election

machinery again, but Mormons are openly rejoicing over the substantial failure of their last year's work, while gentiles seem to consider the men so incompetent that nothing can be expected from them. Polygamists just fill the offices and serve as jurors, yet if they used to, in spite of the law, and if some are prevented from voting, it makes little difference, for they manage nominating conventions and have a congressional delegate to do their bidding.

The Labor Clouds.

The outlook with respect to the agreements as to what wages employers shall pay to workmen this summer is far from reassuring. The iron and coal interests are principally concerned, but there are also indications of trouble in other quarters. Bricklayers, plasterers, cigarmakers, and even the cowboys of Texas are under the impression that the situation justifies them in standing out for higher pay than is offered. News comes from Pittsburgh that the iron manufacturers will reduce wages on June 1, for the ensuing year, 10 per cent, and that the amalgamated association will be conferred with on any other ground. It is emphatically claimed by members of the association that there can be no arrangement made on this basis. If both these statements are true, a general strike among the iron men is inevitable. What is true of the condition of the manufacturers is more or less true of several other large classes of employers, so that the disengagement is likely to extend widely.

Possibly there is no other practical way to settle the differences, but through the modifying influence of strikes. If the workmen could place entire confidence in what the manufacturers say the difficulties of the situation would be greatly lessened. The latter tell the former in Pittsburgh that unless the reduction is accepted the mills will lose money by continuing in operation and eventually bring on bankruptcy. Hence they must close down. If the workmen can be convinced that such is the case, they will understand that it is not the manufacturers who are reducing their wages, but circumstances over which they have no control. If the goods produced will not bring a certain price in the market, the manufacturers are not going to turn themselves into charitable institutions and distribute all they possess among the workmen in order to keep wages up. Workmen understand this as well as anybody else. If they strike, the reasonable among them will claim that they only do so because the business justifies the wages demanded. If the business will not justify them there is but one thing for the workmen to do, and that is to decide whether he will work for lower wages or turn to some other industry which holds forth better prospects. The condition of affairs indicates that the world has on hand rather more of the article he has been producing than it wants. If such is the fact, no strike can possibly prevail against it—unless, indeed, it is one which contemplates idleness until the surplus in the market shall have disappeared.

If the employer has been misrepresenting things to the employe and claims not to be making any money when he is making it, a strike is pretty sure to be successful. The strike becomes a test of his veracity. But it is often a very expensive test for both parties, and one to be avoided if possible. Therefore it behooves the workmen to acquaint himself thoroughly with the state of the market before they strike on a decided course. Ignorance on this point is liable to be very costly to him, and the harder he kicks against the pricks the more it will hurt him. If he is in error he is not contending against the manufacturer, but against the inevitable, and that is at all times a worse than profitless business. There is very good reason to believe that the Pittsburgh and other iron manufacturers are truthful when they claim that they must stop their mills if the present rate of wages is sustained. A number of establishments have already been closed, and there have been of late many large and conspicuous failures among firms and corporations manufacturing and dealing in iron. All the outward signs that the business in most branches has been and is unprofitable are present, and if the workmen would carefully and fairly compute the cost of production and compare it with the market price they would probably find the employer supported by facts. The main difficulty in the way is his indisposition to make proper allowance for interest on capital invested.

The failure of the strikes of last summer ought to exert a salutary influence on the deliberations of the workmen this year. The closing of some of the mills has limited production to a certain extent, but the over-production was so very much in excess of the demand last year that it is not likely that the rate of supply has been yet brought down to its normal proportions. It is probable now, as it was then, that many manufacturers had rather shut down than not, as it would tend to enhance the value of stock they now have on hand. Whatever good may result to workmen through the creation of organizations, it is beyond their power to sustain wages other than temporarily through strikes a higher point than they would otherwise be unless they are able to keep their numbers within a certain limit and crush out competition. It is impracticable to them to limit their numbers. High wages and personal freedom insure competition, and when there is a surplus of labor in one direction a decline in wages is sure to come, strikes or no strikes. And when there is a general depression a lowering of wages is sure to come in all directions. Strikes may cause things to go by leaps more than they otherwise would, but that is about all. Their virtue consists in securing workmen the advantages which belong to them when things are going in their favor. When things are going the other way they accomplish no good whatever. Unless intelligently ordered they are worse than useless.

The Red Sea's Secret. Philadelphia Press. Should the project of the Abbe Maigne be carried out the positivist schools, who trend upon skepticism, will be obliged to reconstruct Darwinism. The abbe's purpose is nothing less than the scarping of the Red Sea and the adjacent Bitter Lake to re-

cover the chariots and treasures that were engulfed with Pharaoh when the children of Israel escaped the Egyptians by the miracle of the waters. The latest reports show that the abbe has enlisted capital and that a joint stock company with \$150,000 in hand are seriously beginning the preliminaries. The only details the divers will have to guide them is the history of the fight of the Israelites given in the Bible. The scientific date is all digested and the abbe counts that the dredgers will have to break through reefs of salt which have preserved not only the army equipments, chariots and golden treasures, but even the bodies of the victims themselves. The recovery of the chariots will, it is estimated, compensate the company. But if in addition all the gold with which Pharaoh loaded his train be recovered, the company will be enormously enriched.

While the credulous projector of this marvelous enterprise counts in the undertaking is worthy the quick wit of a Yankee, for if any considerable number of relics are found the exhibition of them will more than compensate the stockholders. Few would be eager of the whole world to see the purified figures of the dusky myrmidons that followed up the fleeing Israelites. If the country went wild over the Cardiff giant, who could contain himself until he had seen the salted form of the Pharaoh after 3,000 years repose under the salt crystals of the Red Sea? Such an enormous mass of treasure and such hosts as were engulfed would be enough to supply Barnums in every country in the known world, while also filling the museums. How the scientific folk would revel over the find? How soon we should have sacred history reconstructed and even profane history modified! Gibbon would rise from his grave to disavow his positiveness and disparagement of the miraculous, and Darwin himself would send some sign to indicate that his hypotheses were the mere fabric of the brain, spun from doubt and resting on error.

Not only this, but new fashions could be invented, based upon the real Egyptian habiliments, utensils, ornaments and what not. For even Herodotus was vague in his descriptions of the forty dynasties. His impossible chariots, prodigious horses and other monstrosities would be confronted with the preserved realities over which the world has speculated for 2,500 years. It is a misfortune that there are no Americans associated with this semi-sacred mission, as we should share in the expense if we hope to get any share of the treasure.

A Word for the Servant Girl.

Burdette in Burlington Hawee. Say you are well to do tradesman or mechanic. You can afford to employ a servant to make life easier for your wife. Your wife and yourself discourage followers. You don't like her to have company of either sex in the kitchen. Your wife cannot associate with her. The kitchen is her sitting room, the smallest and most remote room in the house is her bed room. From 6 a. m. until 9 p. m., or earlier and later maybe are her hours of work. In all that time she speaks when she is spoken to, and she is spoken to when there are orders for her, just as convicts are allowed to speak in a penitentiary. Well now; the lonely creature in the kitchen is a wife. Do you wonder she wants to go to the jolly butcher and the grocer's boy for a little gossip? Do you wonder that when she does go to the ball she stays until some time the next day? She sits down three times a day and eats her meals in solitude—so utterly alone that she can hear herself swallow. I wonder that she doesn't go mad. The man who works at the lowest occupation has an easier time than that. The man who cleans the streets has company of his own class. He eats his dinner with his fellow laborers. The rag-picker meets rival rag-pickers every day. I don't wonder the house servant stipulates for company and evenings out.

Sensible Views.

New York Journal. The Journal believes in marriage, first, last and all the time, for women provided they get good husbands and make good wives. We would rather see a lady making suits for her children than bringing suits for her clients. In our eyes a woman looks better dressing a baby than dressing a wound, or compounding puddings than composing paragraphs. Still, if she prefers labor to love, and assists on turning up her nose at a husband, we are willing to open up the learned professions and all other callings to her.

Oregon Religion.

San Francisco Call. In Oregon they are not as particular about the kind of amusements engaged in at church festivals as they are in some of our churches. A Pendleton paper announces: "To-night a sociable will be held at Liberty Hall by the Ladies' Guild of the Episcopal church, for the church's benefit. Admission \$2. The amusements will consist of dancing, card-playing in all its branches, and other harmful amusements, followed by a basket supper." Probably the writer of the advertisement meant to say that these amusements were harmless. But the printer or his diabolical assistant did the mischief and turned intended good into promised evil.

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