

THE OMAHA BEE.

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

The public improvements Omaha needs most just at present is an improvement in her public men.

Talk about the Holly Water Works job the paving job is a good deal more dangerous to public morals.

According to the Charleston News and Courier, Mr. Robeson's old pets form "a navy for repairs only." That covers the ground.

WHAT do the tax payers of Omaha propose to do about it? Will they sit still and let the council defy them by putting in worthless paving material?

"AN honest poor man has no business to be a member of the city council. A thousand dollars a vote is a terrible temptation," said a councilman on Thursday.

THE Santa Fe tertio millennial celebration was a great success. Mr. Tilden, who, it is understood, was present at the founding of the city, failed to put in an appearance.

SECRETARY CHANDLER has gone to New Hampshire, "to see his sick mother." New life may be expected to appear in the senatorial contest in the Granite state before the week closes.

OMAHA is doing her best towards getting ready for cholera by piling up the fifth in her alleys and dumping beer kegs in the gutters of her main thoroughfares until the streets smell like a well appointed still tub.

JUDGE BLANCHFORD, of the supreme court, has a hobby of collecting calendars of all kinds. He has not yet succeeded in collecting the scattered calendar of the court over which he presides and which is already three years behind.

THERE was another drop in provisions yesterday at Chicago. All the necessities of life have been bulled and cornered to an unusual height and the bottom has either got to drop out the inflated market or out of the speculators' pockets before bed rock is reached.

WALL STREET stock brokers are stranded with nothing to sell and nothing to buy. All the old props of the market are gone and a real revival is not likely until the production of food gets ahead of the population and the population ahead of the supply of manufactured articles.

THE Central Pacific railroad company will soon compel all its train employes to wear uniforms. And this leads the San Francisco Chronicle, which ought to know what it is talking about, to remark that it is a great pity that the rule is not extended to all branches of the service. It would be a brave spectacle to see in full uniform the lawyers, editors, legislators, public officials, alleged workmen, etc., who are on the pay-roll of the monopoly.

THE NEW TARIFF.

The new tariff has gone into effect without raising a ripple in business and industrial circles. Nothing better illustrates the worthlessness of the new law as a reducer of taxation. There was more disturbance to business resulting from the clause of the tax and tariff law reducing the tobacco tax, which went into effect on May 1st, than there was from all the general tariff clause, which went into effect on July 2d. There was a little increase in the importation of wine, in anticipation of the increased duty which must be paid hereafter, and California opium has been rushed in for the same reason, but neither of these results can be considered particularly salutary. There has been some holding back of tin-plate, carpets and silks, on which the duty is reduced, and of spices, most of which now go on the free list. But, on the whole, the general business of the country has not known that such a thing as tariff revision was going on. Even sugar, on which the reduction of duty (a very slight one) went into effect June 1st, has shown very little increase in the amount imported, and no change at all in the prices paid at retail by consumers.

This is precisely the result predicted for the patch work of incongruities and inconsistencies called the revised tariff. The changes made were so slight and so ill placed that they gave the people no relief at all. The other great object of tariff reduction—that of reducing the enormous needless revenue so as to remove a constant temptation to the cupid-ity of congressmen—also fails of accomplishment. The new tariff will have no appreciable effect upon importations or revenue. It is the unanimous testimony of importers and manufacturers in every branch of trade.

The tariff revision of the Forty-seventh congress was a delusion and a sham. Its result is a tariff for political effect only with incidental protection to office holders.

NATIONAL FINANCES.

The last day of June closed the fiscal year and the public debt statement then issued contains many instructive features. The following comparisons of receipts and expenditures is valuable, taken in connection with the boasts of a greatly decreased revenue as the result of the change in the tariff and internal revenue laws:

Table with columns for Receipts and Expenditures, showing figures for 1882 and 1883.

The customs revenue would probably have been about the same if large stock of imported goods had not been warehoused for the past month in order to take the benefit of the reduction of rates which went into effect on July 1st. As it is, the total revenue has exceeded the expenditures by about \$13,000,000. Of this amount, about \$45,000,000 is supposed to be needed to meet the requirements of the sinking fund for the reduction of the public debt.

The fact is, however, that through the aid of refunding operations there was nearly \$138,000,000 applied to debt reduction last year. The funded debt of the United States stands to-day at \$1,338,229,150, which draws interest as follows:

Table showing interest on bonds at various rates: 4 1/2 per cent, 4 per cent, 3 per cent, 2 1/2 per cent, and Navy pension fund.

The chief funding operation of the year has been the conversion of the 3 1/2's. One year ago the volume of these 3 1/2's was \$460,461,000; now there remains only \$32,000,000, about \$304,000,000 having been converted into 3 per cents, and \$125,000,000 paid off. The new 3 per cents are redeemable at the option of the government, the 4 1/2 per cents not till 1891, the 4 per cents not till 1897. The success of American financing is well vindicated by the reduction of the burden of interest in 15 years from \$151,000,000 a year to \$59,000,000. The total net debt is now about half what it was when it reached its highest volume in 1865.

The pension payments were not as large as the appropriation by nearly \$20,000,000, and perhaps the total requirement for arrears of pensions has been overestimated. Pension Commissioner Dudley claims that he has saved some \$2,000,000 in fraudulent claims which would otherwise have been paid. But that is his business, and what he is there for. The increase in ordinary expenditures from \$125,000,000 to \$140,000,000 arises partly from the payment of the Japanese and Alabama claims and is perhaps more apparent than real.

THEIR ONLY HOPE.

The return of the wandering independent voter is the only hope of the republican party for success in the impending national campaign. Fifteen hundred thousand republicans, disgusted with the Barney Biglins, and the Boss McMullens and the Jack Logans, and the rule of the sainted '806' walked quietly up to the polls last year, and cheerfully assisted in defeating republican candidates in four republican states. Two hundred and thirteen thousand republicans in the state of Roanoke Conkling voted against the present secretary of the treasury, who was a candidate for governor, because the party was boss ridden and ring ruled, and needed political purging through the medicine of defeat. What the engineers of the machine in four republican states thought to be only a slight campaign breeze turned out to be a political cyclone. The party has not yet recovered from its demoralizing effects.

No unprejudiced observer dare assert that the outlook for the future of the republican party is a satisfactory one. The lesson which the independent voter owes to teach the bosses has not been taken to heart. They have recognized their defeat without being willing to remove the causes and the clashing of the opposing factions is still heard in both Pennsylvania and New York with the looked for harmony apparently as far off as ever. In Ohio and Iowa, republican success has been still further jeopardized by the endorsement of sumptuary legislation and the consequent alienation of the entire foreign vote. In Massachusetts the persecution of Butler is making it a serious question whether the Old Bay state can be counted upon as secure in the presidential campaign. Indiana and New Jersey are hardly doubtful and can be saved only by a miracle.

But more discouraging than any specific cause for the opposition to republican rule is the widespread and undefinable disgust and distrust which pervades that class of voters upon whom party lines hang loosely, who care nothing for offices and patronage and little for campaign shrieks and party platforms. The independent vote will decide the next election and the independent voters are showing no signs of returning to their old time republican allegiance.

Several exchanges are predicting that Governor Dawes is about to oust Doctor Mathewson from the superintendency of the Insane hospital and report that his successor has already been chosen. It is even asserted that the position was promised to one Dr. Paddock of Wilber, by the governor prior to his election and that the sham investigation played very nicely into the hands of the executive. We are not prepared to believe that Governor Dawes will make the grave mistake of removing a tried, experienced and competent superintendent like Dr. Mathewson who is heartily endorsed by the best medical talent of Nebraska as

the right man in the right place, to make room for a physician whose only claim for the position is that he is a political friend of the chief executive. There is too much at stake in the management of the Insane hospital to have it made the football of politicians. Those who ought to know best place every confidence in the skill, the humanity and the executive ability of the present superintendent and Governor Dawes will fly in the face of an overwhelming medical sentiment throughout the state if he permits his personal wishes to get the better of his political discretion.

THE Iowa railroad commissioners have decided that no road is obliged to accept traveling men's samples on first-class trains, and that when they are carried on passenger trains the rate may be regulated by the traffic in use for express packages. If there is any other possible decision in favor of the monopolists which the Iowa commissioners have not yet made, it will surely be forthcoming. Its aims of commission ought to lead to the omission of every one of the board when their terms expire.

If votes on sandstone in the city council are worth \$1,000 apiece, what is the market value of a member of the board of public works?

TOWNY TALK.

"It is a little early yet," said a local politician, "to talk about the fall election, but the fight in Douglas county will be a lively one. We elect a full county ticket and six justices of the peace at large in Omaha, and the hair will begin to fly in the various wards before another month has passed. Most of the county officers profess to feel pretty secure for a reelection, though Corliss seems to realize that he will have a hard row to hoe to make the commissionership, and Baumer, with all his hand-shaking of voters, feels a little nervous about that county clerkship. Rush will work his 'influence' with the Irish vote to secure a unanimous re-nomination and Dave Miller pretends that he doesn't care a straw which way the convention cat jumps. Although I am not at all personally interested, I should like to see an entirely new deal in the court house. Things have been running in one rut so long, and a change, in my opinion, would benefit the tax-payers. It wouldn't hurt a bit if we got a good square lunatic on the board of commissioners and a county clerk who didn't strain, every point of the statute to rake in fees. You thought the salary was fixed by law and all fees turned into the county treasury? Poo! The balance always lies on the side of the county clerk, and the pickings are not so good as you think. The county clerk is not a deal sure thing by any means. The clerkship of the district court, which is considered by some the best political plum in the county, will also be hotly fought for. I understand that 'Jimmas' is satisfied with his long term of office and will withdraw from the field which will make the result of the election less of a foregone conclusion. The contest for the judgeship is not yet developed sufficiently to say anything definitely about it. For the other and minor offices there will be the usual scramble and candidates are already beginning to pop up. George Schickels stands the county superintendency of schools and John Jacobs is willing to undertake the corner-ship. Doc Smith can have the surveyorship if he wants it and the chances are that he will."

A gentleman who is in a position to know tells me that Mr. Young, who is Mr. Gannett's successor as auditor of the Union Pacific, has entered upon his duties, and that there is considerable uneasiness felt among clerks in his department as to whose heads are to come off. New officials have a very disagreeable hankering after new clerks, and age and experience do not often stand in the way of removals. Gannett was a very capable going head of his department, and was immensely popular with his men, who respected his abilities and admired him for his affability, but some of the other officials, I understand, claim that Mr. Gannett was a little too prominent and did not get as much work out of his force as he might have done, although my informant tells me, that the general auditing clerks are among the most efficient in the building. The freight auditing department, according to several merchants, has had long deferred claims are being pushed through at a rate which makes shippers stare. In older times anywhere from one to two years were required for auditing claims in the U. P. headquarters and the new regime shows what was always claimed, that the long delays were merely the result of incompetency.

"Tom Hall is a good boy, and don't you forget it," said an old crony of the non-homestead postmaster, as he cocked his feet up on one of the pillars in the porch of the Paxton House and gazed meditatively on Sam Brown's architectural curiosity across the street. "I was much amused at his card to the public about that little salary divy. Now, of course Tom don't pretend to deny to his friends that he has regularly contributed \$1,200 a year to various 'political purposes.' A half a dozen lawyers in town will tell you that Thomas has steadily pleaded this as an excuse for standing off his old debts. Speaking about lawyers, John D. Hays fought Tom's debt battles for him in the courts for a number of years, and did it well, too. Tom came off victorious in nearly every court, and the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker went out of court whistling for their money. But when John D. came to present his own bill against Tom, he found that his client had got so in the habit of not paying bills that he refused to settle with the attorney who had settled his creditors. John was naturally indignant, but he instituted suit for his fees, and was paralyzed when Hall pleaded the statute of limitations. Now you mark my words, Tom has 'beat' almost every one else in town, and he will beat Henderson's plan of harmony yet, if the senator don't buckle on his old sword and go out to a stalwart battle."

No Husks in Their's.

Philadelphia Record. The prohibitionists of Iowa, it appears, are not altogether satisfied with the action of the republican party. It put a prohibition plank in its platform, but it changed that selected saloon candidates. This is equivalent to keeping the corn for itself and giving the prohibitionists the husks. When a political party deliberately runs off of the main line on to a side track it cannot expect to make the usual connections. The political situation in Iowa is very interesting.

Hanson's temporary removal to New York, is to institute suit in the United States circuit court for the recovery of Hanson Park, which he gave to the city some years ago, and whose improvement and development under city auspices have increased the adjacent property so greatly that Hanson is understood to have boasted that his gift of forty acres of rough woodland had been worth to him \$10,000 for every acre given. The story goes that Hanson thinks that all the provisions of the gift have not been complied with and that on a fair showing the property which is now very valuable could be made to revert to its original owners. There is fully \$600,000 in the turn if it can be made, and not so very much lost if it fails. Hanson has been a shrewd real estate manipulator but he missed his vocation in not turning his attention to architecture.

"City councilmen have been as scarce on the streets as hens' teeth since last Tuesday's vote," said an indignant property holder on Fifteenth street to me yesterday. "Of all the corrupt jobs that have ever been tried on in Omaha this is the most brazen. Here I own a lot and a hundred other property owners who have petitioned in accordance with the charter for a certain paving material, and our petition is insolently rejected by a packed board of public works and a council in which a vote of 9 to 3 has been secured by 1 I don't know what means. Worse than that is a stone which we one and all refused to consider because we knew it to be worthless is rushed in upon us and we are to be forced to pay 'uff against our petitions, protests and remonstrances just because Bill Stout, Pete Shelby and Horace Newman own a quarry and the Union Pacific owns a railroad running from it. I make no charge of bribery, but it is significant that Bill Stout boasted three weeks ago that he had eight councilmen and that a mayor's veto wasn't worth any more than a citizen's protest. Its a fine deal isn't it to open the game of public improvement to the Omaha mob? With a powerful corporation backing the sharks and two papers endorsing a bolder defiance of public sentiment than the Holly iniquity, the odds against the citizens look pretty heavy."

If you want to catch a Tartar scratch N. B. Falconer's back with a piece of Colorado sandstone. "We'll leave \$10,000 if the swindlers will only raise town," remarked that gentleman last evening. "I never saw more indignation among property owners in my life. If our board of public works and city council can't protect us from knowers we will appeal to the courts. It is a question of those nine blocks which the contractors insist upon paving with their abominable material. The question is, whether all Omaha is to be at the mercy of a ring which will swamp us in debt, without taking the trouble to read our protests and remonstrances. For one we will fight it out to the last and am ready to put up \$1,000 to see whether the citizens of Omaha have any rights, that the city council are bound to respect."

"September," said a prominent society man, "is going to be a heavy month for weddings. First of the lapsis will come the marriage of the son of an ex-United States senator to the daughter of an ex-collector, then the wedding of a young legal light to one of our most attractive society belles, while a clerk in the B. & M. will follow suit with the daughter of quite a prominent attorney, who lives on Upper Farnam street. In October another lawyer is to enter the bonds of matrimony, and will capture his bride from far up the hill. Next week a prominent newspaper man of democratic tendencies will take a bridal tour towards Birmingham, New York, carrying with him a very popular and attractive member of the Wesleyan church. Several engagements are quietly rumored in upper circles, which the injunction of secrecy forbids my giving away."

I see by a Nockells county paper that senator Saunders is negotiating for the purchase of 1,000 acres of land in that section of the South Platte country. The friends of the senator will be pleased to observe from this that he has recovered from his financial distress and that he returns from Washington in much better circumstances than when he went there. Senator Paddock too is still a real estate purchaser and is carrying a good deal of land in various parts of Nebraska. That is where the money is going to be found, right in farm lands. Thurston and Hall in Omaha are heavily interested in unimproved lands in Northern Nebraska and Redick and Horbach have also pinned their faith on the advance of property in the rural districts.

Let Him Explain.

Buffalo Express. The report that Pension-Commissioner DUDLEY can, with his best exertions, succeed in paying out only \$60,000,000 to pensioners this year, instead of the \$100,000,000 that he has promised to pay, has done the country in a tone that shows plainly the commissioner's regret that he can go no deeper into the public pocket. It is not probable, however, that the people will complain if he never pays out more than \$60,000,000 a year. But they may want to know how he can make such an extraordinary misstatement. He was given a thousand extra clerks, at a cost of a million dollars or more for salaries, on his promise that he could then pay off the pensioners at the rate of \$100,000,000. Now he reports the tremendous misstatement of \$40,000,000—that is, he pays off so faster with a thousand extra clerks than he did with the old number. If the report from Washington to this effect has been correctly given, Commissioner DUDLEY should certainly feel called upon to explain promptly.

Puffing Van Wyck.

Saline County Vindicator. A republican exchange says that the democratic newspapers are puffing and defending Senator Van Wyck. Yes, and so are the anti-monopoly papers. And the republican papers would do likewise if they had the courage of their convictions, and were not owned body and soul by monopolists and politicians. When a republican sticks his hand into the public treasury and takes what does not belong to him Van Wyck calls such a man "a—d thief." It's his frankness about these little discrepancies that the republican press does not like.

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PERSONALITIES.

Conkling denies that he will write a book. Hannibal Hamlin catches trout without an overcoat. Maggie Mitchell is the fourth largest land-holder at Long Branch. Mrs. Katherine Chason, formerly Mrs. Sprague, has gone to Europe for the summer. Bob Tombs is reported in his local paper to be looking hale, and not so feeble as lately reported.

Remmy, the "d—d good fiddler," as he always calls himself, seriously thinks of becoming a newspaper editor.

Fredrick Gebhard has a tremendous race horse, and has become "one of the most remarkable men in the country."

Paul Du Chailly bronzes with age instead of growing gray and wrinkled. He is active as he was twenty-five years ago.

Widow Glenn is the boss farmer of California, and perhaps of the world. Her wheat crop this year will bring her \$700,000.

Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher does not bear her years so lightly as her husband, and she is described as looking bent, wrinkled, broken and old.

Charles Francis Adams, Jr., has publicly declared that Greek and Latin must go. This is a condition every man falls into who invests in Kansas City town lots.

Walter Evans, who died on his farm near Reading, Pa., recently at the age of ninety, lived on that farm all his life, never left it, and never saw a railroad train.

Jane Grey Swisshelm is growing very red as to the most and thickest strictly temperate person, she is continually subjected to the suspicion of being a gin drinker.

Francis D. Moulton, the mutual friend, has just returned from Europe, and says he doesn't take half the interest in agriculture that he did, and that money is to be made easier in other ways.

General Wade Hampton is looking bass in Virginia. His carriage is strictly temperate, for he knows what the governor of North Carolina once said to the governor of South Carolina.

Capt. Cyrus Vignoe, of Louisiana, claims to be the oldest Freemason in the United States, he being ninety years old on the 4th of next September, and having joined the society in 1815.

When Sarah Bernhardt passed through Hamburg recently on her way to Copenhagen and Stockholm, she had forty-six trunks full of baggage, and waded furiously when the customs officers insisted upon examining the contents of every one to the very bottom.

Joe Jefferson's hobby now is fine cattle. He took a lot of valuable Alderneys down to his country farm in Michigan, and it is estimated that his favorite flock is now worth \$75,000. He is painting a picture of a lovely heifer, his favorite, which he has been offered \$2,500 for.

POLITICAL NOTES.

Hancock, according to his friends, is still in the field for president. Illinois will have no elections this fall—either general or local.

Harrison, Logan and Blaine are to make campaign speeches in Ohio. Representative Belford, of Colorado, wants the national republican convention next year to adopt a strong anti-monopoly platform.

Commissioner Dudley looms upon the political horizon as the probable nominee of the Indiana republicans for governor next year.

Colonel Ingorsoll thinks the re-election of Arthur impossible. He says the people don't like to have deathly sick nominees for the presidency.

Mr. Hewitt, of New York, says he will not be a candidate for the presidency in 1884. We violate no confidence when we say that Mr. Hewitt is right. He will not be asked.

It is intimated that ex-Senator Platt, of New York, is anxious to return to the United States senate. It is safe to say that if he ever gets there again he will not resign.

The son of Senator M. C. Butler, of South Carolina, has been elected a cadet at West Point. If a republican congressman should send his own son to West Point the democratic papers would be terribly agitated.

Chalmers, if it said, would like to get back into the republican party. It is too late, however. Even the Democrats won't have him. The order has gone out to every political association. "No quarter to Chalmers. It remains one, somehow, of a stable order at Fort Pillow a few years ago."

Butler has, it is said, given up all hope of being nominated for President. The most he expects to do will be the presidency in 1884. He has voted for the winning candidate in the Convention, and thus secure control of the New England patronage or make himself Minister to France.

Representative Pierce, of the Eighth Congressional District of Indiana, in speaking of political affairs in his state the other day, said: "There is an entire absence of divisions that are found in the ranks of the party in other states. We have no Half-Breeds or Stalwarts; we are all Republicans; and, above all, we have no bosses."

Judge Hoadley, the democratic candidate for governor of Ohio, is one of the most expert political orators in the United States. He began as a whig, turned democrat, then joined the Know Nothing party, because a republican, floated over into the Greeley movement, and is now again a democrat. "Everything by turns, and nothing long."

Morrow, the republican candidate for governor of Kentucky, is said to be "getting decidedly the best of Knott," his democratic antagonist, in their joint canvass. Knott, on the other hand, is said to be "too strong" for Morrow. It all depends upon the organ that reports the debate. There are no independent papers in Kentucky, so that the voters will have to hear the speeches if they want to judge intelligently of the contest.

With one son already on the pay-rolls, a Judge in the Territories, and another relative chief of a division in the Treasury, Senator Conger, of Michigan, has just secured another brilliant victory for reform within the party by having his son Frank appointed Postmaster of Washington, with a salary of \$5,000 a year. Now, if he will go West and set an Indian reservation, the Michigan Senate will be pretty nearly over with Logan.

Joseph K. Ross, who has been nominated for Judge of the State Supreme Court by the Republicans of Iowa, is forty-eight years old, and is a native of Ohio. He served four years in the volunteer service as captain of the Second Iowa Battery. In 1869 he removed to Council Bluffs, where he still resides. In 1872 he became Judge of the Thirtieth District, and is now serving a third term. During his army service he had several opportunities to be transferred and promoted, but declined them all, and those who served under him say he was a model officer.

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