

THE OMAHA BEE.

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Will the Omaha Republican kindly give us Mr. Reese's judicial record?

There is a glorious uncertainty about our weather, but as the crops are now assured Jack Frost can come without much damage.

For the last six months Nebraska has been under a regime of civil service reform whose chief result seems to have been to reform old and competent Republicans out of office.

Pledges are cheap and promises grow on every bush, but what has the Republican party in Nebraska done in times past to redeem its pledges to the people on living and vital issues.

A LATE number of the Contemporary Review gives some interesting statistical facts in regard to the operation of English trades unions. It appears that the aggregate membership of the principal associations of this character was 121,000. Their aggregate income for six years, from 1876 to 1881, was \$8,922,000, and their aggregate expenditure, \$9,920,000. The deficit of nearly a million dollars was covered by assessments amounting to 25 cents per week. The money was mainly applied to the assistance of members out of work and to the maintenance of strikes.

The Republican quotes the Falls City Journal that no Nebraska cad has ever graduated from West Point. The first cadet in West Point from Nebraska was appointed from the Republican office in the person of Mr. L. T. Webster, now First Lieutenant of the First Artillery, and then a printer in Omaha. Lieutenant Webster was appointed by Congressman Daily and graduated with high honors in 1866. Since that time he has been four years instructor of military tactics at the university of Nebraska, and is well known to the people of the state. Both the Omaha Republican and the Falls City Journal must revise their estimates.

It is understood that the Hon. N. K. Griggs, late consul at Chemnitz, and still later a candidate for the Supreme bench, has serious doubts about the election of Mrs. Colby's husband as Judge of the 1st District. The Hon. Mr. Griggs is understood to charge that Col. Colby failed to exercise his herculean strength properly at the State convention for his candidacy in accordance with the promises made when the Gage county slate for the two conventions was fixed up. Consequently the air around Beatrice is blue with sulphur and Chemnitz swearing. Mr. Griggs can console himself with the reflection that the name of the next Judge of the 1st District is J. H. Broady who will roll up a majority that will make Mrs. Colby's husband feel like a damp sheet on washing day.

POSTMASTER GENERAL GRESHAM is treading on dangerous ground in his order stopping the registered letters and money orders from going to the New Orleans National bank. The law authorizes the stopping of letters addressed to "a person engaged in conducting a lottery," but the bank which does business with a lottery manager is no more "engaged in conducting a lottery" than the boarding-house keeper that boards him. There is a valuable privilege enclosed within the sealed envelope that covers a written letter, of which the people are rightly jealous. It should be carried safely and quickly without delay. The postmaster general may possibly have evidence which will show that the bank was more than a fiscal agent of the New Orleans lottery, but unless he can establish it he seems to have gone too far.

THE grading of Farnam street, from Twenty-Fifth to Twenty-Ninth street, which has been decided upon by the council, is a move in the right direction, and at the right time. Farnam street is now and must remain the leading thoroughfare of the city. The building of the court house on Seventeenth and Eighteenth streets, and the grading of the hill, assures the extension of the line of business towards the west. If the city is wise it will still further reduce the grade above Sixteenth street, and in conjunction with the county officials, give us a thoroughfare into the country by grading the street to the west at least as far as the extension of the city limits. By another year we may hope for the replacing of the useless limestone macadam by a durable pavement of lower Farnam. That done the paving of the upper portion of the street will follow soon as a matter of course. When both these improvements are an accomplished fact, Farnam street can lay claim to being one of the most beautiful, as it will certainly be one of the most popular business and residence thoroughfares.

A SECOND PROTEST.

Last year seventeen thousand Nebraska voters cut loose from their party allegiance to enter a protest through the ballot box against the villainies perpetrated by the monopolists through the misuse of party machinery. More than two-thirds of these had been loyal Republicans. They severed their party bonds after a repeated struggle for reform within the party. Their demands had been treated with ridicule and contempt because the managers who were for the most part railroad henchmen felt sure that a nomination by a Republican convention was as good as an election.

The revolt of the Anti-Monopoly Republicans brought the party to the verge of defeat. While Gen. Garfield received 69 per cent of the total vote the Republican candidate for Congress in the Second district received only 49 per cent, and the Congressman in the Third district but 39 per cent. For the first time since Nebraska entered statehood a Republican candidate for State office was defeated by a decisive majority and the Republican candidate for Governor pulled through with a plurality, while his predecessor received more than 20,000 majority. This emphatic protest of the dissatisfied Republicans created a profound sensation for the time being. Republican leaders and Republican candidates were all suddenly converted to the Anti-Monopoly doctrine. When the Legislature met, the newly elected Governor delivered an Anti-Monopoly inaugural, which among other things urged upon the Legislature the propriety of prohibiting by law the giving of passes. In the contest for the speakership the issue was squarely made and Humphreys was elected Speaker upon profuse pledges favoring laws to regulate railroads and compelling equitable taxation. Every Republican candidate for the Senate was equally pronounced on the railroad issue.

Speaker Humphreys proved a traitor to his pledges and a pliant tool of the railroads. The Senatorial election was no sooner over than the majority of the Republicans in the house began to block every effort to carry out the will of the people. The railroad lobby, reinforced by a corrupt lobby of jobbers and public thieves, had such a grip upon the Republican organization in the house that no relief to the producers could pass while nearly a million of dollars of taxes was voted and squandered. In view of these facts, with every pledge made by them last year dishonored and broken, with a Republican convention presided over by Church Howe, what is there left for honest Anti-Monopoly Republicans except to administer another rebuke through a second vigorous protest at the ballot-box.

How can this rebuke be made most effective? Certainly not by throwing away their votes on third party candidates who would simply ensure the election of railroad Republicans. Are they to shrink from the election of honest, able and loyal Democrats like Judge Savage because it is party treason? Did the Republicans of New York shrink from their duty when they buried Folger under 213,000 majority because party leaders had turned their backs upon every principle and promise? Did the Republicans of Pennsylvania shrink from burying Cameron and bossism by electing Democrats? The Republicans of New York and Pennsylvania have profited by last year's lesson and as a consequence the disaffected Republicans in those states are disposed to return.

The Nebraska Republican leaders have in the face of the revolt of 17,000 voters taken no step to redress the grievances of the people. They have failed to redeem their own pledges. They defeated every bill to assess railroad property in the same manner as other property is assessed, and they have enacted no laws to protect producers and consumers from the rapacity and greed of the monopolies. It now behooves every Republican who does not wear a brass collar to join with the Anti-Monopolists and make it impossible for another Legislature to adjourn without carrying out the will of the people. It is much better for this commonwealth that the Republican party should be defeated in Nebraska in 1883 than that it should continue in the reckless course which it has pursued during the past ten years.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

There are several matters connected with the board of education and the management of our city schools which call for comment. In the first place, there seems to be a tendency on the part of the board to extravagant and uncalled-for expenditures. At its last meeting a music teacher was employed at a salary of \$1,000 a year, whose duty, as we understand it, will be to teach the teachers music. We do not believe that this step is at all necessary, or that special education in music falls within the province of the public school system. Much less do we think that the education of teachers devolves upon the board of education. Certain qualifications are demanded by examiners from candidates for teachers' certificates. If it is considered best to have simple singing exercises in our schools, which is a question, let singing or music reading be added to the requirements. That would take away the necessity for a special teacher of music and save \$1,000 a year, which could easily be applied to a better use.

The increase of the wages of the janitor of the high school to \$125 a month is another piece of extravagance. The janitor has his rooms, fuel and light furnished him in the building and fifty men stand ready to take the position at the old salary. For this reason the in-

crease was uncalled for. The school board make a mistake if they imagine that the funds arising from the liquor licenses are a bonanza which can never be exhausted. They make another mistake if they think that because \$80,000 are received from the liquor dealers the tax is not felt by the public generally. Under our constitution all moneys derived from fines and licenses must be applied to purposes of education.

In many other states the revenue thus derived goes into the general fund and is applicable in diminishing the direct taxation and in reducing the tax levy. This is impossible under our laws, but just because it is made impossible, and for the benefit of our schools, the school expenditures are felt in the raising of the general tax levy. Our citizens do not begrudge a dollar of the money drawn from them for school purposes, but they demand that it be expended judiciously and economically. What is first needed is sufficient accommodations for our rapidly increasing school population. Even with the new buildings recently erected many of the school rooms are overcrowded. Good buildings, good light, pure air and comfortable seats and desks are needed more than music teachers and high priced janitors. Complaint, too, is made that teachers are appointed from outside Omaha when equally competent instructors can be found holding Nebraska certificates in Omaha.

We want the best teachers for the money in our schools. But our law requires that no teacher shall be employed unless he or she has a certificate procured from a board of examiners specifying the grade. It goes without saying that other things being equal our home teachers should have the preference.

WHEN Mr. F. B. Thurber testified before the Senate Committee on Labor and Education he threw a bomb shell into the meeting by the remark that one of the greatest difficulties reformers have to contend against is the fact that corporations hold so many Congressmen and State Legislators in their pay. Mr. Thurber asserted that a majority of the 264 lawyers in the last Congress were either retained by corporations or were directly or indirectly influenced by others in the interest of corporations.

Although Senator Call, of Florida, thought that the witness misrepresented the standard of morality among public men, all will admit that there is much truth in Mr. Thurber's charge. The statement has often been made that several of the Senators represented, or at least looked after the interests of corporations whose influence had elected them. The bond between the Senator and the corporation may not go to the extent of client and counsel, but it is believed to require the Senator to take care of the corporation he represents to the best of his ability. How does he do this? Not so much by voting and speechmaking as silent committee work. He finds many in the same fix as himself. One represents one corporation and another another. Corporations are of one blood and are a unit against the outside world. One corporation Congressman helps another to kill off in committee, if possible, all bills inimical to their respective clients. Once in a while the bill escapes the committee by the inherent force of the interests. As a rule, however, in recent Congresses, the committee-room proves the graveyard of bills against the interests of corporations. The assumption that lawyers compose the larger part of the corporation contingent in Congress should not be regarded as a reflection upon the legal profession. Corporations naturally select lawyers to represent them. They do not go into Congress and offer lawyers a retaining fee, but send lawyers to Congress for certain well-understood purposes. If the exact truth could be known the chances are that Mr. Thurber would be found nearer to it than Senator Call. Certain legislation and certain failures in legislation can only be accounted for on the supposition that there is a large number in both houses who are pledged to other interests than those they were elected to serve. Absolute bribery is not a common thing. There have been notable instances recently where the use of money during a session has failed. But there is believed to be a distinction between nominating and electing a man pledged to certain interests and in bribing a representative who stood unpledged. The danger lies in the election of representatives who, from bias of mind, from association, or professional interests, are so identified with corporations that they have no alternative while in Congress but to act as directed. The influence which makes can generally unmake, and the average representative does not want to be unmade.

The Supreme Court of the United States will take up next week the legal tender case the outcome of which is awaited with much interest in financial circles. The question involved is whether the issue of legal-tender notes after January 1, 1879, is constitutional. Governor Butler, of Massachusetts, who is one of the parties to the suit, contends that the present greenback issues are constitutional. If the same as the issues made under the necessity of the civil war. The former decision of the Supreme Court sustaining the constitutionality of the greenback issues was based on the war necessity. Should the Supreme Court declare the legal tenders now issued to have no validity in the constitution the question will be how long it will take Congress to legislate for their final withdrawal and redemption. The amount is \$300,000,000. For these greenbacks 3 per cent bonds of long date could be issued, and they would form a basis for the national bank currency that might be re-

quired to fill up the vacuum made by the withdrawal of the legal tenders.

THE Department of the Platte loses this week two of its most efficient staff officers through transfer to other fields of duty. General Wilson, late commissary of subsistence at General Howard's headquarters, leaves to-morrow with his family for San Antonio to assume charge of the commissary department in the Department of Texas. Major John V. Furey, late depot quartermaster, takes his departure on Saturday for Santa Fe where he will occupy the same office in the District of New Mexico. Both officers have been stationed long enough in Omaha to make many warm friends both socially and officially, who sincerely regret their departure.

When General Wilson first came among us he enjoyed the distinction of being the oldest captain on the staff in the army. He leaves us with the maple leaves of a majority which he had earned years ago by hard and faithful service in his department.

Major Furey will be particularly missed among a wide circle of friends in this city where his social qualities have found exercise for the past six years.

Each officer will carry with him to his new field of duty the hearty good will of our citizens and their best wishes for their future success and rapid promotion.

There are some complaints about the slowness with which paving is going on, and the prospect of unpaved cross streets during the coming winter. Certain parties are grumbling that if the injunction suits had not been pushed, we should all have been satisfied with a well-paved city before the first snowfall.

If we have lost a few blocks of paving through the injunction suits, we have gained something that is much more important. That is the assurance that the people must hereafter in Omaha determine the action of the council in the letting of paving contracts. That is much more desirable than a few acres less of mud this winter. We can afford to wade knee-deep in slush until April with cheerful faces, when we know that the rights of the tax-payers of this city have been secured through the suits which temporarily hindered the paving of the cross streets.

The Overland Pool.

The deliberations of the representatives of the different overland railroads, who have been in session in this city during the present week, have attracted general attention and their plan of operations has been telegraphed to every city in the United States. Why the public at large should take any interest in the matter is a puzzle. It required no special astuteness to discover that at no time was there the slightest disposition on the part of any one concerned in the conference to move for a reduction of existing rates. From the very beginning there was a tacit agreement that the existing method of making the traffic pay all it will bear should be scrupulously respected. The meeting, therefore, can only be considered as a gathering of the robbers of the people for the purpose of amiable discussing the subject of the division of the spoils. This being the case, it is of small moment to the public whether the Central Pacific the Northern Pacific or any other Pacific road got the best of the bargain.

The result of the meeting, however, has made one thing quite clear, and that is that the Northern Pacific management is as shameless a violator of its promises, expressed and implied, as our own heartless and corrupt monopoly. Those who watched the course of the Northern Pacific people when the land grant of that corporation was in jeopardy and believed that there was any honesty in the comparison of men engaged in manipulating railroads, might have formed a hope that some of the promises so freely made on the floors of Congress and in the committee rooms of that body would be redeemed, and that the new overland road, instead of an instrument of extortion from the people, would prove a bond of peace and familiarity with the callousness of the average railroad magnate would have made such a blunder. He would have clearly foreseen that if Congress did not bind the management in fetters that could not be broken, they would seize the first opportunity to use their power to augment their own fortunes at the expense of the public.

The agreement arrived at by the roads shows that they are not in the broader sense competing lines. They are rivals, it is true, but their rivalry is as that of a couple of robber bands who harmoniously determine to parcel among themselves the public highways, with the understanding that each shall be free to plunder every traveler who happens to come by his road, provided that he leaves him enough to make a fresh start in the world, so that he may prove a suitable subject for plucking at some future time. The only point of difference is that the highway robbers, being of impulsive temperaments, are not capable of maintaining a pool for any considerable period, while the cold-blooded money-making machine known as railroad manipulators very rarely lose their heads long enough at a time to impede the work of gathering wealth. They often find themselves dishonorably treated by those who are parties to their plundering agreements, but they may be depended upon not to quarrel with each other as long as the amount robbed from them by their partners in a pool is less than they can rob from the people by keeping up their alliance.

It cannot be denied that there have been frequent examples of broken pools at the East, which have resulted in brisk competition and low rates. The causes, however, which have led to ruptures of this kind are entirely absent on this

WILSON'S BOILER AND SHEET IRON WORKS.

Stick to the Farm, Boys. Butler's Middletown Address. I have made my own way in the world. Why? Because as a boy I had time to reflect and think, and when I came to a city at the age of 10 years, I have a right to say that I was as far advanced in my studies and in the knowledge of what I had studied as though I had been kept at school all the time at school. Who is the Speaker of your House of Representatives? Another man born, as I was, on a farm in New Hampshire. Who is the Mayor of Boston? He was born within six miles on a rocky farm from mine, if possible. I give you this advice of an old man who is passing away, and whatever may be its mistakes, it has no mistake in sincerity and earnestness. And, again, I say now as I began, that the wealth, the prosperity, the steadfastness, the hope of religion, of liberty and freedom to the world, rests on the producing and on the country population of this commonwealth and on that of the United States.

Let Truth Prevail. Friendly Relations. Chicago News. Dr. George L. Miller, editor of The Omaha Herald, is now in London. This evidence of good feeling will do much toward promoting friendly relations between two cities which have hitherto been bitter rivals.

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