

THE OMAHA BEE.

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Thanksgiving Proclamation: In furtherance of the custom of this people at the closing of each year...

As the law restricting Chinese immigration now reads, all Chinese traders, students, merchants, and those desiring to travel can enter the United States.

According to Bradstreet's estimate the valuation of new buildings constructed or started so far this year are: Chicago, \$12,780,000; Cincinnati, \$11,000,000; St. Louis, \$9,580,000; Minneapolis, \$8,310,000; Cleveland, \$3,750,000; Detroit, \$2,580,000; Kansas City, \$2,000,000; Toledo, \$1,495,000; Pittsburgh, \$1,420,000; Indianapolis, \$1,250,000.

The Bee says that Senator Van Wyck does not use the pocketbook in politics. Who paid the \$25,000 for the "extra copies" printed during Van Wyck's campaign against Valentine?

We don't know and don't care. Suppose Van Wyck did buy 200 or 300 copies of The Tribune extras with his Fremont speech, does that paltry \$10 or \$15—paid for newspapers—show corrupt or reckless use of the pocket-book in politics?

The enemies of Pendleton are trying hard to lay him on the shelf by pooling the opposition in the Ohio Legislature upon a Senatorial dark horse.

Virginia politics will attract considerable attention at the hands of Congress this winter. Mahone will demand an investigation into the Virginia election, and if what he says is true, such an investigation will be eminently proper.

We have always regarded the rapid liquidation of the National debt as a great blunder. Why should the present generation, which has already paid off over two billions of the National debt, continue to tax itself to pay the remainder?

THE OMAHA BEE has been fighting the returns with great obstinacy since the morning of the 7th, and has been badly thrown every day. Now it takes its stand for the last time on "less than 5,000 majority for Reese," and by the holy Moses will never consent to move the figures up another inch.

Will the Journal favor us with correct figures for the returns which The Bee has "mutilated." The revised figures which we print in another column contain official returns from fifty-six counties. These returns are furnished by the respective county clerks.

Compute the whole national debt with national bank bonds included at \$1,000,000,000, and the annual interest at three per cent, would be \$45,000,000. At six per cent, which is as low as money can be borrowed and loaned, the interest would be \$90,000,000. In other words, by paying the debt the tax payers would lose the difference between what they now pay in interest, \$45,000,000, and \$90,000,000, which represents what they could either earn or an amount equal to the national debt, or would have to pay out if they were compelled to borrow the money to pay it.

And now the Massachusetts prohibitions propose to open an aggressive "national" crusade. They have engaged

PROBLEMS OF THE HOUR.

One of the great problems for Congress to solve at its coming session is what shall be done with the surplus in the National treasury. Another grave problem is how to pay off the National debt without disturbing the present banking system.

Political economists, statesmen and financiers differ widely about the proper solution of these problems. Wharton Barker, of Philadelphia, one of the ablest minds in Pennsylvania, advises Congress to divide the surplus in the treasury among the States; continue the protective duties on imports and abolish internal revenue taxes.

Mr. Barker is seconded by influential protective tariff organs in Pennsylvania and elsewhere. The proposal to divide the surplus in Uncle Sam's cash book strikes a very responsive chord among southern journalists and politicians, who see in the shower of gold a chance to replenish the depleted treasuries of their respective states.

The government of the United States should have absolute control of the telegraph for its self preservation. Had the telegraph been in loyal hands at the outbreak of the Rebellion, the war would have been over in less than two years.

Place the telegraph in the hands of the government, and the telephone, which is now confined within narrow limits of usefulness by a compact with the telegraph monopoly, would become a powerful and economic competitor in cheap telegraphy.

Where is the pecuniary profit and the tyranny? How much did Senator Van Wyck ever contribute to the Bee? The pecuniary boot has always been on the other leg. All the money ever paid by General Van Wyck toward the support of this paper would not pay the running expenses of the Bee for one hour.

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REVISED RETURNS.

Below we print official returns on Supreme Judge from 56 counties, and revised estimates for the remaining eleven counties. The majorities for Reese are more likely to fall below than reach above our estimate, and the estimated majorities of Savage are comparatively so small that the official returns cannot possibly decrease them.

Table with columns: COUNTY, REESE, SAVAGE. Lists counties and vote counts for both candidates.

Estimated Majorities: Antelope 35, Box Butte 15, Cheyenne 30, DeWitt 25, Hamilton 10, Kearney 15, Lincoln 10, Nemaha 10, Platte 10, Polk 10, Saunders 10, Sherman 10, York 10.

Reese's majority over Savage, 4,379.

The Bee has a patron saint in Senator Van Wyck, a man whose devious and dubious political record would be choice picking for Mr. Rosewater, should the Senator even in the slightest degree revolt against the tyranny which Mr. Rosewater exerts for pleasure and pecuniary profit.

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THE RAILROAD POWER.

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FEEDING THE ARMY.

The report of the Commissary General of the army for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1883, shows that the total resources for that year were \$5,227,200, and the total expenditures \$3,320,308, leaving a balance of \$1,906,892. The additional 2 per cent, on cost is still charged on all sales to officers and enlisted men (except as of the latter, in accordance with the decision of the secretary of war. The clause requiring the extra charge was omitted from the appropriation bill for the year ending June 30, 1884. Subsistence supplies are purchased as near the points of consumption as possible. The greater portion has been purchased in the large markets, such as New York, Chicago, San Francisco, St. Louis, New Orleans, etc. In consequence of the competition of another transcontinental railroad and the extension of others into the territories, direct communication is now had with a

large number of army posts, affording a supply of fresh stores more frequently than formerly, and with less cost and less loss. The rapid development of the country along these roads enables the department to procure a considerable portion of the more bulky articles in the vicinity of the posts.

During the year 118 newspaper advertisements and 87 circulars for proposals were reported and 2,217 contracts made. The average contract price per pound for fresh beef for the year 1883 was 10.11 cents per pound, and for 1884 10.01 cents. The price has declined on the Atlantic coast, and has increased in the States along the Ohio river, on the great plains, and in the extreme northwest, showing that, although there has been a decline in the States and Territories that are consumers rather than raisers of cattle, there has been generally a rise in those which furnish the cattle for consumption.

Supplies to the amount of \$9,916 were, by the order of the Secretary of War, furnished to the signal service in May last for the Greeley relief expedition, with the understanding that the subsistence department would be reimbursed to the extent of \$5,000 from the appropriation for supplies for the expedition not available at the time. Supplies to the value of \$20,213 were issued to the Indians during the year, being \$16,983 less than the previous year.

During the year 4,865 rations were issued in cases not specially provided for. One thousand and twenty-seven were for the subsistence of citizens held in military custody; 2,072 for citizens within the sanitary cordon near Fort Brown, Texas, during the yellow fever epidemic; 105 for Mexican women recaptured from the Chiricahua Indians by General Crook's command in Mexico in June, 1883, and the remainder were issued at remote spots on the frontier to persons suffering and destitute, who might otherwise have perished.

For the subsistence of recruiting parties and recruits at rendezvous \$3,757 cooked rations were purchased at a cost of \$44,950.

The losses in the transportation of subsistence stores, for which no one was found responsible, during the year amounted to \$12,350. The total losses by storms, fires, accidents and thefts were \$2,222. The subsistence stores condemned during the year involve a net loss of \$14,661. Attention is invited to the necessity of providing good cooks and bakers for the army. A recommendation is made that congress, in its next appropriation for subsistence for the army, leave it discretionary to regulate the number and compensation of employees for the subsistence department according to the varying necessities of the service.

On July 1, 1882, there were on file 715 claims, and during the year 32 more were received. Of these 23, amounting to \$4,424, were allowed in the sum of \$2,567, and 611, amounting to \$395,070, were disallowed. Further legislation is recommended as to claims filed under the act of July 4, 1864, that have been examined and not recommended for payment. It is also recommended that Congress be urged to fix some future date for the termination of action on claims by the commissary general, under section 300, B, revised statutes, and that some tribunal be established to which all such claims shall be transferred. Of 3,001 claims under the joint resolution of July 28, 1860, and the third section of act of March 2, 1867, in regard to computation of rations to Union soldiers who held as prisoners of war, 278 claims, amounting to \$10,460, were allowed out of 908. Of miscellaneous claims 144, amounting to \$1,477, were allowed.

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