

THE OMAHA BEE

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

Other day the city council ordered several city lots and parts of lots to be sold. The bids for this property are invited through an obscure paper, which has no established circulation.

The Bell line took a rest on Sunday, and General Hanlon was given an opportunity to attend divine services and listen to a sermon which had for its text: "Six days shalt thou take a rest, and on the seventh shalt thou plant frogs on the railroad crossings."

ROSEWATER abuses Roberts because the Republican praises him. He praises the president's message because the Republican criticizes it, etc., etc.—Republican.

The president's message was published in both papers on the same morning. The Republican has never favored us with advance copy of its editorials and Rosewater has never been gifted with second sight. We disclaim that Roberts has been abused. We have simply expressed sympathy for the people of Idaho in their affliction and warned them to beware of a notorious dead beat and disreputable jobber.

PENNSYLVANIA has had all the legislature she wants for several years to come. The salary grab of her law makers, at the rate of \$10 a day for each member, amounts to \$457,414 for the six months special session which has recently closed. The fellow who sent out circulars stating that for fifty cents he would inform anybody how to make money without work, knew what he was talking about, when he laconically replied to his numerous victims, "Get elected to the Pennsylvania legislature." Any attempt to prosecute him for obtaining money under false pretenses would undoubtedly prove a failure.

The winter so far has been a phenomenal mild one, and the weather prophets are entirely at a loss to account for it. Various theories have been advanced, but none of them are at all satisfactory. In connection with this mild weather, the lurid evening glow in the western sky, which continues with undimmed brilliancy, and which is an inexplicable phenomenon. This weather may be appreciated by the poor man on account of the reduction in coal bills, but as it is unseasonable it is the cause of more than usual sickness among all classes, and has a bad effect upon trade all over the country.

STANDARD time is not proving as popular as was expected. People fail to see the improvement over the local standard of solar time. Railways may run on the new time, but there will always be more or less inconvenience to the people arising from it. Columbus and Cleveland propose to return to the old system of local time, and Louisville will probably do the same thing. Cincinnati and Chicago have not adopted the new standard time, and have no intention of doing so. Omaha sticks to local time, and has no idea of changing. It is an indisputable fact that the only true time at any particular point is solar time. Railroads may find it advantageous to run by the new standard time, but cities and communities will not be governed in their local affairs by railroad time unless it happens to agree with the local time. In Omaha the standard time is twenty-three minutes faster than local time. Only two of the Nebraska railroads, the Missouri Pacific and the Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Paul & Omaha, have adopted the standard time. Unless all the railroads adopt the new system of reckoning time the so-called reform will prove a failure, even on the railroad.

We understand that there is a scheme on foot to build a new high school and library building in the near future at some central point west of Twenty-fifth street, on Capitol hill, with a view of devoting all the room in the present high school to the lower grades. If such a scheme is ever brought before our citizens in the shape of a proposition to vote bonds, it will be overwhelmingly defeated. The city of Omaha has expended a small fortune in constructing one of the finest high school buildings in America. As a matter of necessity the high school building has been used as a common school for a number of years, to accommodate the children of the central district of the city. The high school proper has occupied but a very small portion of the building. If any relief from overcrowding is designed by the board of education, it should be through the construction of additional common school buildings. It is bad enough for a thousand children to be crowded into the high school building, and that a large number of these children, under ten years of age, should climb the hill and then climb several flights of stairs to the rooms in the higher stories, is a condition of affairs that ought to be changed in some way for the better.

THE POSTAL TELEGRAPH.

The bill introduced in the senate by Mr. Hill, of Colorado, to establish a postal telegraph is in every respect the most practical proposition since the first postal telegraph bill was introduced by Congressman Washburn, in 1870. Mr. Hill very properly takes it for granted that a complete system of postal telegraphy will require the purchase of all or nearly all the existing telegraph lines. The contemplated change cannot be made within a few weeks, or even months, but will necessarily take several years. Mr. Hill proposes that on and after July 1st, 1887, messages shall be transmitted by telegraph telephone, or other device, from all postoffices in the United States than now forward letters by mail. The postmaster general is also authorized to establish telegraph offices where they may be required to facilitate intercourse in the large cities, independent of the postoffice. Proposals are to be published by the postmaster-general to existing telegraph companies to dispose of their lines and apparatus to the government. The contracts for the purchase are to be submitted to congress for approval, and their consideration to have precedence over all other business except regular appropriation bills. The charge for transmission of messages between all places in the United States is to be one cent per word, counting date, address and signature. Reduced but uniform rates are to be made for the press, and the postmaster-general is to have authority to lease wires to newspapers exclusively for press dispatches. The full text of the bill, which we print elsewhere, contains elaborate details, which show that Mr. Hill has devoted a great deal of time to his proposed measure, and doubtless had some experienced telegrapher as his adviser. The detail of this bill is perhaps its most objectionable feature. Mr. Hill attempts to fix inflexible rules and rates that should be left to the discretion of the postmaster-general and the officers who will be in charge of the postal telegraph bureau. Instead of fixing a uniform single rate between all points in the United States, it would have been better to fix a maximum rate for distances varying from 100 to 2,000 miles. There is no doubt that a cent per word rate between all points in the United States may be profitably maintained at no distant day, but the postal telegraph could not be made self-sustaining with such a low rate for the first three or four years. There are other details in Mr. Hill's scheme that may have to be modified, but on the whole his bill is the first practical effort to bring about the general use of the telegraph and telephone in connection with our postal system.

That the Western Union company should oppose Mr. Hill's bill and every other postal telegraph scheme is quite natural. But why the Associated Press should be hostile we cannot comprehend. Whatever contracts the Western Union has made with the Associated Press the government would be compelled to carry out in good faith. The facilities which the Western Union now supplies to the Associated Press would be at its disposal all the same and if it was thought advisable or economic, wires for its exclusive use, could be leased and operated upon reasonable terms. It is true the government would exact equal tolls for like service from all its patrons but that would not deprive the Associated Press from the advantage it enjoys by reason of cooperative service in the collection and transmission of news. The English press opposed the postal telegraph when it was first broached, but it has long since conceded, that the change has been beneficial to newspapers as it has been to the people. British postal telegraph under government control is a great success. Since the purchase by the government the number of offices and length of lines in operation have more than doubled. Ten million dollars of interest on the purchase have been paid out of the proceeds, and now the rate for messages, to be reduced from one shilling to sixpence, and all has been done without any increase of taxation. The people of England have much less use for the telegraph than the people of this country. The distance between the remotest points of Great Britain can be reached by mail within a few hours, and only matters of the utmost importance need to be telegraphed. It takes seven days for a letter to go from New York to San Francisco, and three days from Boston to Galveston. Our people are more migratory than those of any other country, but up this time they use the telegraph less than any European nation, excepting perhaps Russia and Turkey. The sentiment in favor of postal telegraphy has been of slow growth, because the public were not well informed upon the subject, and the business had not assumed the magnitude to which it has grown within the last ten years. The demand for cheap telegraph and efficient service is now widespread, and it is only a matter of very little time when congress will be forced to accede to the popular will.

Other day the Union Pacific managers decided to force their right of way through premises which had been leased by a mechanic. They ordered a gang to pull down his little house and clear the lot. It used to be that a negro had no rights which a white man was bound to respect. Now it is the poor man who has no rights which a monopoly is bound to respect.

The education of the Indian is progressing slowly, but satisfactorily. The Indian school at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, is quite an old institution, and it is proposed to employ some of its more advanced pupils as teachers in subordinate

REAGAN'S INTER-STATE COMMERCE BILL.

Congressman Reagan, of Texas, proposes to push his inter-state commerce bill, which he will introduce in the same shape as it was before the house commerce committee last winter. Mr. Reagan is confident that the measure will have a fair consideration at this session of congress, inasmuch as Carlisle, the new speaker, will appoint a fair committee. Mr. Reagan says that his bill is not against the railroads, but simply intended to prevent wrong doing on their part. He recognizes the value of the railroads in the development of the south and west, but that it is no reason for permitting them to exercise a tyrannical and arbitrary power of discrimination. His inter-state commerce measure does not seek to regulate the rate paid for the freight and passenger traffic of the country, but to prevent extortion and make the roads charge a uniform rate to every one for like service. The constitution, he thinks, clearly gives the power to congress to regulate inter-state commerce, and that is all the bill proposes to cover. Discriminating rates and treatment when entirely within the states must be left to the states to remedy.

The trouble with all state legislation upon the subject in the past has been the insufficient means furnished for the punishment for violating the laws passed. Mr. Reagan's bill provides punishment of a severe character, and in some cases imprisonment. It further guards against the intimidation of poor people, or those loath to fight corporations, by giving the United States district attorneys power to proceed against roads upon information.

Mr. Keifer, the speaker of the last house, packed the commerce committee in about the same manner as Speaker Humphrey packed the railroad committee of the lower house of the Nebraska legislature last winter. Randall was bad enough. He packed the congressional committee with nine monopolists against six members who favored the bill. Keifer went still further. He sandwiched Reagan between fourteen railroad cappers, and then the fourteen tried to have Reagan taken off, to make the thing unanimous. Mr. Reagan may be confident now that Carlisle will appoint a favorable committee, but unless he makes the committee as unanimous for the measure as Keifer made it against it, the chances are ten to one that the railroads will resort to their old tactics and buy up a majority of the members.

READING OUT OF PARTY. There was a time when to be read out of party by any public man or political journal had as much terror as the Pope's bull of excommunication had during the middle ages. To be read out of party was to be a political outcast with whom no true party man would associate and whom every rank partizan would shun as a leper. In those days every voter was a bigoted partizan, who believed his party never could do wrong, and who looked upon everybody of opposite political faith as an enemy. That was during the civil war and the ten years following it, when the republican was the union party, and democrats were copperheads.

Times have changed since then. Men no longer believe party to be infallible. A large and most intelligent portion of the people of the United States refuse to obey King Caucus, and reject as heresy the claim that right or wrong the party must be sustained. Great newspapers have emancipated themselves from party tyranny and boldly discuss men and measures, according to their true merit. The days of the great "organ" which was formerly a political oracle to enunciate the dogmas of party, a champion to sustain party leaders through thick and thin, and vilify and scourge their opponents, have passed away forever. An intelligent public refuses to patronize and support journals that have no higher aim than to be mere party hacks and whips to lash those who dare to kick in the party traces.

When the republican majority was 30,000 in this state threats of reading out of the party were freely made, against those who refused to support candidates who secured nominations by packed conventions and the corrupt use of railroad patronage and money. Since the majority has come down below 5,000 the threats of reading men out of party are rarely made. Self-styled leaders, who have well nigh wrecked the party, have been brought to their senses. They are actually willing to forgive, if they can't forget, and general amnesty has been proclaimed to all those who are willing to renew their allegiance. This must afford great relief to the 17,000 anti-monopoly republicans who have been read out, because the party machinery had fallen into the hands of the railroad monopolists. It is amusing to note, that even The Omaha Republican, which has read nearly every republican out of the party who did not subscribe to its code of political morals, has of late proclaimed its independence of party allegiance. It has lampooned the republican president of the United States, and made scurrilous comments on his message, and it now justifies its course by pleading its political independence. In fact, it goes further, and intimates that it does not fear The Bee's threat of being read out of the party. Now The Bee has never indulged in any such foolish threat against the Republican or any other party or politician. The shoe is on the other foot. The reading out of

THE SIOUX RESERVATION.

Congress will be called upon to take some action towards opening the Sioux reservation for settlement. The people of Dakota urgently demand it, and are putting forth every effort to secure this desired result at once, so that the reservation can be utilized early next spring. There are numerous good reasons why this reservation should no longer remain a forbidden land to white settlers, and the arguments in favor of its being thrown open for settlement are unanswerable.

The reservation embraces over forty-eight thousand square miles. It extends northward from the southern boundary of the territory a distance of two hundred and forty miles, and runs westward from the Missouri river two hundred miles. This vast tract of valuable land is held by twenty-four thousand Indians, who occupy and utilize but a very small portion of it. It is the last body of public land, of any extent, that homesteaders can reap any benefit from, and were it opened for settlement to-morrow it would be all taken up by actual settlers within thirty days, and within two or three years it would be converted into a rich agricultural region, dotted here and there with flourishing towns and villages.

At present it is a great barrier to the advancement of the Black Hills district, and is an obstruction to the commerce of that rich section. So long as the reservation remains closed to civilization no railroads can cross it, and thus the Black Hills and the vast extent of territory beyond are cut off from the rest of the country, except by wagon trains and stage coaches. The people of the Black Hills are now paying two and a half cents per pound for freight transportation to and from the nearest railroad terminus, and their annual freight bills amount to \$2,500,000. The Black Hills country, containing 7,000 square miles, is one of the richest and most wonderful regions in the United States, and its resources have only begun to be developed. When the Sioux reservation is opened railroads will resume building towards the hills, and people in great numbers will flock thither. The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway will be extended to Deadwood immediately upon the opening of the reserve, the Chicago & Northwestern will follow, and the Sioux City & Pacific will build an extension of ninety miles west from Valentine next year and continue into the hills. It will be seen that the extension of these railroads will develop the northwest very rapidly, and bring into direct communication with the commercial centers of the country, including Omaha of course, a region rich in mineral resources, in cattle and in agricultural possibilities. It is important to the entire northwest that the Sioux reservation be opened.

A treaty with the Sioux Indians, providing for the reduction of their reservation for a certain compensation and upon certain conditions, has been prepared and presented to congress for ratification. The Indians, under the terms of the treaty, are to receive a fair compensation, although it is claimed by some that it is not enough. This, however, is a matter that can easily be adjusted by congress. So far, the smallness of the compensation is the only argument of any weight whatever that has been presented against the ratification of the treaty.

STATE NOTINGS. Diphtheria is prevalent in Tecumseh. Telephone service between Cedar Rapids and Albion is talked of. Oliver Giest, a prominent farmer of Cumming county, suicided last week with a bullet.

The rush for free government land at the Valentine land office is said to be unparalleled. The route is the new county seat of Groesbeck and the business of the county is now being transacted at that point.

Steps are being taken to organize a company, and determine whether or not coal is under any of Johnson county.

John Hauer, of Fremont, celebrates his honeymoon by subscribing \$200 towards an institution of learning for the rising generation.

The farmers around Wahoo are grumbling loudly and apparently justly against the low price of hogs there compared with towns at a distance.

The railroad from Nemaha City to Salem will be completed this month, and then Brownville will be on a through north and south line.

The enterprising citizens of Neligh, finding that the county is unable to build a court house at the present time, have formed a stock company to provide buildings for county purposes.

Steller furnishes these accidents: J. D. Fisher, while fixing an elevator, which started unexpectedly, had his hand badly cut. J. H. Overman had a bone broken in his face by a post falling on it.

A fire broke out on the bottom west of Elkhorn, Tuesday, and was not extinguished until 29 stacks of hay were burned. The fire was supposed to have originated from the engine of a C. & P. train.

This is the way the mill at Cedar Rapids is appreciated, according to The Era: Tuesday a farmer arrived with a load of wheat to be ground, which he had brought over a hundred miles with an ox team, being on the road nearly a week.

A man named Samuel A. Cyr, a resident of Hardy, engaged in the sewing machine and organ business, shot a man and killed him out on a farm a few miles south of Superior. It is a dangerous practice to fool with an organ when it is loaded.

A number of old soldiers from various parts of the state are now edging westward to settle on the soldiers' colony about which so much has been said. Many of them are taking along good bunches of cattle, heavy teams, and are generally fixed.

The records of the clerk's office of Dodge county show that Jürgen F. Voss, who was killed on the railroad west of Fremont a few

TENCENTS.

This is the sum Mr. A. Burns, three miles east of Cobourg, Ont., says he wouldn't have given for his chance of living before he used Burdock Blood Bitters. He had dyspepsia for fifteen years, and was cured by three bottles of this very excellent preparation.

BY THE DOZEN. Mrs. J. C. Anderson of Peshigo, Wis., asks us the price of twelve bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters. They cured her of dyspepsia and liver complaint when no other remedy she ever tried would do it. Think what Mr. Martin Rizer of Linn Grove, Ind., says.

Burdock Blood Bitters are sold by every druggist. You want to try them; try them to be like them. FOSTER, MILBURN & CO., Prop's Buffalo, N.Y.

PERSONALITIES. It is understood that Sam Randall's gout is still painful—in his head. Oakley Hall has quit the newspaper business and gone back to the practice of the law. Joe Jefferson and his voice were among the prominent arrivals at Cincinnati on Sunday.

Bismarck thinks trout is better than American pork. But then it ought to be. Trout is a dollar a pound. An monument is to be erected at Lynn to Wallace Cobb, who died from the effects of eating taked beans.

Moses, the fat girl's widower, is making love to an armless woman in Baltimore. He seems to be attracted by attractions. "Poor Oscar! His glory has departed. He has discarded knee breeches and has cut his hair, and now lectures to empty benches." Sigmund Vogel, of Mobile, Ala., died of a broken heart immediately after making an assignment for the benefit of his creditors.

Wendell Phillips gives six cents every day to an organ grinder. With Mr. Phillips money is no object where a man is concerned. King Kalakaua wears a straw hat all the year round. Evidently either the Sandwich Islanders don't dare to tell him to "shoot it," or else he is of a sensitive nature.—(Lowell Citizen.)

Congressman Weller, of Iowa, is called "Calamity" Weller, because, in making his speeches, he would warn his hearers of the calamitous consequences awaiting them unless the cause he advocated triumphed.

An English lady, who has met the czar of Russia, says "he is an incredibly ignorant, obstinate, and pig-headed fool." This sounds like one of G. H. Hamilton's forty-horse power thumps, but Gail is not an English lady.

Mary Churchill ran away from St. Louis because her parents required her to practise at the pianoforte two hours a day, and now that she has returned and begun to play eighteen hours a day, rumor says her parents are missing.

The Ulemas of Mecca denounce El Mahdi, but the Khedive of Khartoum up and says to the effect that the Ulemas of Mecca is a crank. This is the situation as it now stands in Egypt. What the morrow may develop even the wisest of us cannot tell.

It is believed that Col. Mike Sheridan's removal to Washington has proved a dismal failure. There is nothing in the president's message about the Yellowstone or the scenery or the mule that fell over the beetling precipice.

Matthew Arnold is described as a "terror" in conversation, continuing to bring his interlocutor up with a jerk to inquire, "Why well, now, exactly what do you mean by that term? Precisely how is that word understood in French?" and other interrogations equally maddening.

John G. Thompson is said to be lurking about the gloomy recesses of a Washington boarding house, meditating an awful revenge. At last, accounts he had not made up to his mind whether to blow the democratic party up with giant powder or hurl its limbs and struggling body off a boiling crucible.

Jabez Lewis, of Williamstown, Mass., is ninety-four years old; has buried five wives, and says that he would like to marry again if he could find a girl to suit him. We must send Jabez the address of Miss Sabra Phillips, a maiden of Norwood, Rhode Island, who has just finished her one hundredth year, lives alone, does her own housework, saws wood for her own fire, and carries it home on her back from the woods.

Mr. W. H. McCambridge, managing editor of The Bloomington Post, appears to be a very versatile gentleman. In addition to his arduous professional duties, he is a member of the Bloomington school board, first baseman in a local baseball club, manager of the opera house, and president of the Press club. And now we learn he is organizing a singing school in the Second Presbyterian church, for the purpose of giving a series of secular concerts this winter. He is said to possess a remarkably fine tenor voice.

When the Rebel Yell Went up. Washington Post. The first "rebel yell" of the session was heard at the democratic caucuses Saturday night, when General Slocum moved, and the caucus unanimously resolved, that the crippled and disabled Union soldiers on the roll of the doorkeeper be retained in the "Solid South" is getting its work in promptly.

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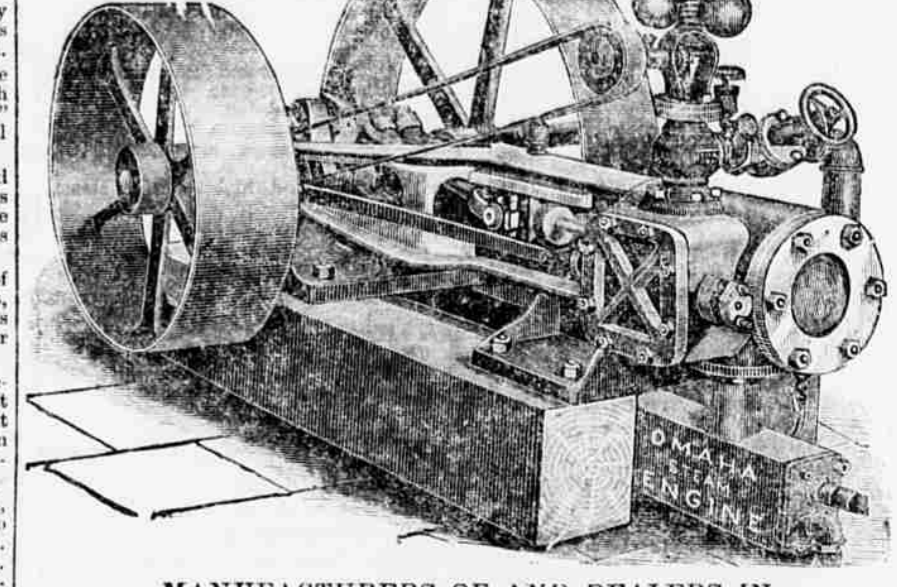
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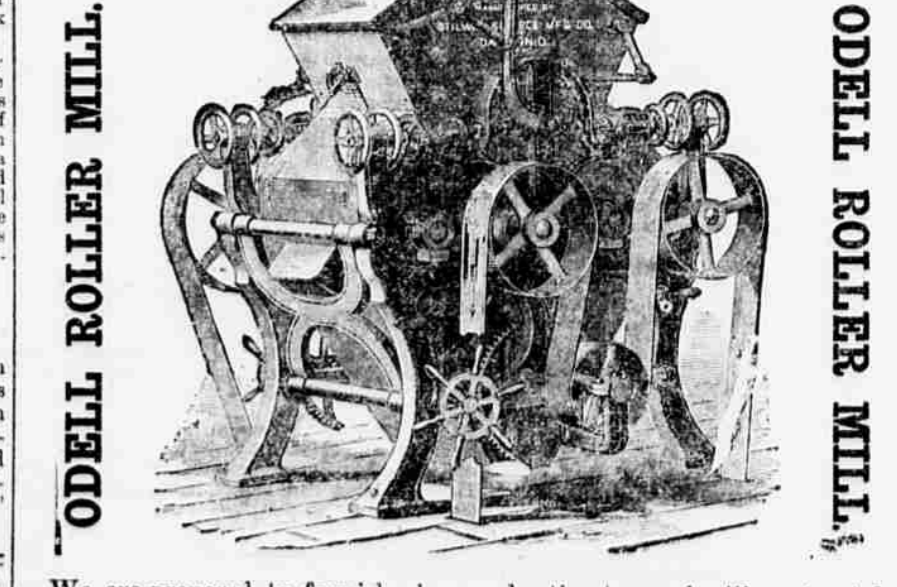


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