

THE OMAHA BEE

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The BEE Publishing Co., Props. E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

Having done nothing during the first two weeks of its session, congress has decided to take a rest for the next two weeks.

Speaker Carlisle makes the agony long drawn out by putting off until Monday next the appointment of the committee.

The new thing in Washington lobbies this winter will be the Mormon saints. They will bring their fabricator and leave their wives at home.

Iowa will soon be invaded by the female suffragists, and there is a great deal of fun ahead if the legislature should attempt to submit the suffrage amendment.

The Honorable Mr. Colpeltzer will soon have his reward. He is booked to succeed Mr. Parrish as government director of the Union Pacific.

They can hatch out chickens by patent incubators, but you can't get up a good practical farmer by raising him on book-farming, with an instructor whose chief accomplishment is political wire-pulling.

What Prof. Thompson, of the Nebraska agricultural college, doesn't know about farming would fill several volumes. An ordinary cowboy knows more than the average professor of these hot-house-plant colleges.

Senator Bayard will never be president of these United States, if the democratic Flanagan's know themselves. Mr. Bayard, like gentleman George Pendleton, is altogether too much of a civil service reformer to suit the men who run the machine.

One of the newspapers of Washington City last Monday served notice upon the property owners to clean the snow off their pavements, as the law would be strictly enforced from the start. Out here in Nebraska we have had no use for the snow shovel so far.

AYER, the pill man, owed to advertising his fortune of \$4,000,000, which he owes to his wife. This is a hint to the wives of business men to persuade them to advertise extensively. It is not necessary to us to remind them what paper is the best advertising medium in Omaha.

MR. AGEZ will for once attach his great name to the great seal of Nebraska, on a reprieve granted to the murderer Hart, who was to have been hung at Grand Island on Friday. This historic document will be the only relic to remind future generations that Agez was once acting-governor of the state of Nebraska.

PRIVATE DALZEL has come forward with a prediction which every one ought to chalk in his hat. He says, "Unless the republicans nominate General Sherman, 1884, the democrats will, and they will elect him." If the democrats are to elect a president we just as leave see old Tecumseh there as any other man. The country will be safe in his hands.

OHIO is to be afflicted with a legislative session about as costly as that which Pennsylvania has just got rid of at an expense of \$510,000. The Ohio legislature will wrestle with the license and temperance question, re-district the state, reorganize the state institutions, and elect a United States senator. That amount of business, with no limitation as to time, will keep the Ohio bourgeois in their seats until the next presidential election.

LOOK out for showers of meteors and ghosts that "shriek and squeal about the streets," for it is reported that the relations between President Arthur and Senator Logan are becoming strained. Should they break you may hear something dread.—Chicago News.

In the event of a break between Arthur and Logan there are liable to be a great many political corpses lying around loose in Illinois, but we don't believe there will be a ghost of a show for them to get their heads on again through President Logan.

The business men of Lincoln are agitating the question whether they shall be competitors for the next state fair. The members of the Lincoln Driving Park association are taking a very active interest in this matter. The location will be made in January by the state board of agriculture and we presume Lincoln will have a fair show to compete. Omaha is now in a condition to make state fairs a success. She will have a paved roadway from the Union Pacific depot to the fair grounds; she has waterworks to supply the livestock, and to operate the water-motors and fountains, etc., at a mere trifling cost. Her street railway will be finished beyond the fair grounds, and in all probabilities there will be competition among several railway lines. Last, but not least, Omaha can always guarantee financial success to a state fair by the population she has at home and within a radius of ten miles.

THEREBY HANGS A TALE.

Prof. Elliott, of the Smithsonian Institute, says that "he traveled over every part of Alaska when it belonged to Russia, and he is fully convinced there should be some simple form of government there. He first went over Alaska in 1865, '66 and '67, in the interest of the Overland Telegraph company, laying their wires, selecting stations, etc. It was thought that the Atlantic cable would be a failure, and the Overland company proposed to run telegraph wires overland through Behring's strait into Asia and down into the different parts of Europe. The company spent nearly three millions of dollars in the work and laid nine hundred miles of wires. But it was all deserted when word was received that the cables worked successfully. In less than a year the Indians throughout Alaska had pulled down every foot of wires, which they used in making salmon nets."

And thereby hangs a tale. Prof. Elliott is a little mistaken in his dates, but that is not material. The first cable across the Atlantic was laid in 1858. A congratulatory message from Queen Victoria to President James Buchanan had hardly flashed across the Atlantic, when the cable parted and remained mute for years. American electricians had grave doubts whether that message was ever received, and nearly all of them were pronounced in their opinions that a submarine circuit of over three thousand miles never could be worked successfully. Imbued with this view, Captain Bulkley, an eminent telegraph builder, projected an overland line from America to Europe by way of Behring's strait and St. Petersburg. Captain Bulkley enlisted in his scheme the capitalists who had built the Pacific telegraph from Omaha to San Francisco, and who thus expected to control communication between America and Europe. Chief among these were Jetha H. Wade, of Cleveland, Ezra Cornell and Hiram Sibley, of New York, Edward Creighton, of Omaha, Brigham Young, of Utah, and Ralston, of San Francisco. It was a bold and risky venture, to construct, maintain and operate a line of telegraph through British Columbia, Russian America, and Siberia, a region that was inhospitable, unpopulated, and having a polar climate. But there were millions in it, if it proved successful. It will be remembered that the charge by the Atlantic cable between St. John, Newfoundland, and Valentia, Ireland, during the first year, was one hundred dollars in gold for any messages up to ten words, including the address and signature, and ten dollars for each additional word. Gold was then at a premium of 50 to 70 per cent, which made the charge for a ten-word message about \$150, and \$15 for each additional word, in greenback currency.

The Overland, or rather Russian telegraph, as it is called, absorbed about \$1,000,000, when on the 3d of August, 1866, a second Atlantic cable was finished, and communication between America and Europe was fully established. This knocked the Russian telegraph scheme higher than Beecher's "Life of Christ" for a few weeks. But another break took place in the cable, and the doubters in its practical workings became more than ever positive that it would prove a failure. Fresh supplies and additional materials were shipped by way of Panama to Van Courver, and work on the Russian telegraph was pushed more vigorously than ever, when, as Prof. Elliott says, the Atlantic cable was grappled by the Great Eastern from the depths of the ocean and successfully spliced. Then the Russian telegraph scheme collapsed.

And thereby hangs another tale. While the Russian telegraph was being built, the section of the overland Pacific telegraph lines between Omaha and Salt Lake City was consolidated with the Western Union, and Jetha H. Wade, its president, became president of the consolidated company with several of his former partners as directors. When the Russian telegraph scheme collapsed its stock became worthless, and then the genius of our telegraph system showed itself equal to the emergency. The Western Union company absorbed the Russian telegraph and issued \$3,000,000 of Western Union stock to take up the worthless Russian stock. The Russian telegraph syndicate had frosted their fingers in the polar regions, but they managed to thaw them out. They invested about \$1,200,000 in money, for which they had issued nearly three times as much stock, and in the exchange for Western Union they pocketed about one hundred per cent on every dollar that they had invested.

And ever since 1867 the people of the United States have been paying dividends on \$3,000,000 worthless stock, which represents the wires which the Alaska Indians are now using for salmon nets.

An Omaha merchant, who considers himself a prodigy in devising cheap and novel advertising schemes, has got up a combination "crazy-quill" dodger, with cards advertising millinery, face powders, hosiery, hair pins, bustles, liver pads, St. Jacob's oil, perfumery, pocket knives, corkcrows, and other articles too numerous to mention. Several thousand of these artful dodgers have been posted on telegraph poles. The inventor and patentee of this original device probably thinks that the ladies are in the habit of hugging the poles. To make his scheme more attractive he ought to hang samples of the goods advertised on the telegraph wires. An array of female apparel, such as hoop skirts, bustles, stockings, petticoats, hair nets, waves, curls, waterfalls, bangs, cordsets, bonnets, handboxes, etc., would

REMEMBER THE POOR AT CHRISTMAS.

Charity begins at home, and it covers a multitude of sins. In Omaha there are hundreds of poor but deserving families, to whom Christmas will be the same as any other day so far as enjoyment is concerned, unless some friendly hand shall give to them some little aid and comfort. While the rich are enjoying the great Christmas holiday, the poor will be suffering, perhaps, from hunger and cold. Omaha has had a prosperous year, and our rich men have become richer. They will not hesitate to spend money freely in giving to their families and immediate friends costly presents. Thousands of dollars will be spent for diamonds, jewelry, silks and satins by men who will not think of giving to the poor even one dollar, unless they are asked. THE BEE thinks it proper to remind such men that they should not forget the poor. Let them be liberal on this occasion. Let their over a multitude of sins by exercising a practical charity. It ought to be a pleasure to the wealthy to aid the poor, and we believe that it is a pleasure to a large number of our rich men. All that they need, perhaps, is a little reminder. We can easily pick out one hundred men who would not miss a hundred dollar donation to the poor, and some of them could easily give five hundred dollars.

It will not be a difficult matter to find out where the poor people live. It certainly ought to afford the greatest pleasure to a rich man to send a Christmas turkey to this family, a load of coal to that family, clothes to another, a barrel of flour to a fourth, and so on, to the extent that he can afford. At the same time the children of the poor ought to receive a few of the Christmas knick-knacks in their stockings, and to make a sure thing of it a new pair of stockings ought to accompany the knick-knacks.

Now is the time to act on this suggestion. Do not delay until Christmas day. Spend a little time and money at once in behalf of the poor. Seek out the homes of the destitute, and so arrange it that your gifts to them will be received in time to make Christmas day for them a day of joy with all the world.

SACRED MUSIC IN DENVER.

Many persons in Omaha and other Nebraska cities and towns will remember Prof. Seager, whose occupation is getting up "Queen Esther" oratorio entertainments, on the mutual benefit plan, he, of course, always receiving the lion's share. Having "done" the cities of Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska, he is now "doing" Colorado. At present he is in Denver with his "Queen Esther." He is meeting with a warm reception there; that is to say, they are making it rather hot for him. His plan of operating in Denver is to get up a "Queen Esther" and have it performed in the city.

This is what the Denver News has to say: "Professor Seager, who is running the 'Queen Esther' show, says that the News dislikes him because he spoke respectfully of 'ex-Governor Hoyt, of Cheyenne, who is a republican and a gentleman." This most extraordinary reason may be the cause of our esteemed contemporary's eccentric refusal to admire "Professor" Seager, but we are disinclined to believe it. The truth is that while ex-Governor Hoyt may be a republican, he is anything but a gentleman, and the "Professor's" ardent declaration that he is one will meet with a very cold reception here. He will be recoiled by people with a memory for trifles as the boor who was governor of Wyoming at the time General Grant passed through Cheyenne on his return from his trip around the world on eight cents.

A Colorado delegation went up to Cheyenne to pay their respects to the general then, and not only they, but nearly everybody in Cheyenne and General Grant to boot, were thoroughly disgusted with the niggardly, selfish and contemptible way they were treated by Hoyt. If the "Professor" is going to run his show on the basis of respect for Hoyt he will get very little support here. It will be much better for him to switch off on another track. He has sat down on this one.

The Denver Tribune thus speaks of the professor: A person named Seager, or Segar, or something like that, has undertaken to convince the people of Denver that they ought to buy tickets for the alleged opera of "Queen Esther," in order to aid the Home for the Friendless. Now, while we feel very friendly to the Home for the Friendless, we do not think that the people of Denver ought to permit themselves to be duped in this matter. This person Seager, or whatever his name may be, is mainly intent upon making money for himself; he came here to fill his own pockets, not to aid the friendless, and he will vanish like smoke when the Queen Esther business is over. We do not blame him for trying to help himself, but we do not believe that the public should be misled by false pretenses in this matter. It is quite certain that if the alleged opera is attempted at all, it will be a very flat and wearisome execution of music and charity.

Under the terms of the business arrangement it is most unlikely that the Home of the Friendless will get a dollar of the possible receipts, and those who buy tickets should remember this. Charity is sufficiently strained in Denver for legitimate objects, without making it a mask for an ambush of opera, and the person named Seager is not a fit subject for public aid.

It is quite evident that Prof. Seager needs an organ in Denver. When he invades another Colorado town he ought to not only have an organ, but a monkey to pick up the hot pennies. We half suspect, however, that Denver is not partial to sacred music, much less to oratorios like "Queen Esther." If he had come to Denver as the manager of a ballet troupe or a slugging combination, he would have been welcomed with open arms by the entire population.

Mr. LOBBING, of the national poetry garden, has been way off in his guess of the aggregate production of corn in the northwest this year. General Loring does his shooting at long range with Quaker guns. There is not one farmer in a hundred who can guess anywhere near what he has in his crib.

The profession of journalism is gradually reaching an elevated plane. Even the nobility of Europe are entering its ranks as reporters. The latest is Baron Albert Salvador, of Paris, who is in the gallery at Washington as the representative of La Figaro. He will remain in Washington for that paper during the session of congress.

STATE JOTTINGS.

The new flouring mill at Lowell is now in full blast. Ainsworth has raised \$400 to put brass collars on the necks of their band boys. Marriage bells and vigilantes are the prevailing fashion in the Niobrara country. The prospect of a \$50,000 wholesale grocery house is causing a great flutter in Hastings. North Auburn will have two papers from this time on, the Brownville Republican moving there.

Seward is to have a telephone exchange. It is thought that the exchange will open with 30 instruments. A vein of coal of good quality has been discovered on the Otoe reservation, four miles southwest of Laberty. A large cattle company has been formed in Plattsmouth with a capital of \$100,000 to start a ranch in Custer county.

Fritz Bahm, a young Saunders county farmer, was thrown under a wagon near Wabor, and severely injured internally. The grading of the U. extension from Lincoln to Omaha is nearly completed there. Half the iron is already laid. There have been about fifty cases of diphtheria in Saunders county, in the neighborhood of the North Bend. The disease was a mild type.

Strong efforts are being made by Plattsmouth people to secure a respite for Polin, who is sentenced to hang there at noon to-morrow. Fremonters have subscribed \$10,000 for the location of the normal school there. Articles of incorporation will be filed immediately and work begun.

Alvin McGuire and Ed. Campbell, two prisoners in the Lancaster county jail, filed off the iron bars on the window of their cell, and escaped last Friday. They were captured. Old Uncle Masterman, of Lincoln, was slugged on the streets, Saturday, but before the ruffians could go through his pockets they were scared away by the crowd of friends.

The board of trade of Lincoln had a large meeting Tuesday night, to secure if possible rates from the railroads which will enable their wholesale men to compete successfully with Omaha's wholesale houses. A strata of sandstone has been met with in the vicinity of Bellwood. Charles Bovslivy, a farmer living in the bluffs adjacent to the Platte river, while digging for water, came across the vein at a depth of 75 feet.

Mr. A. M. Thayer, sheriff of Greeley county, has a stock farm of 320 acres and has started in stock raising, having some 35 head of cattle, partly of the breed of hogs, and about nine head of horses, which is good enough for a sheriff. During the snow storm in October last a drove of 64 fine sheep put in an appearance at the farm of Sylvester Hayes, near Lowell. Strange to say no one has yet claimed them. It is supposed they straggled away from a herd brought from Lowell about that time.

Byron Shure, of Madison, Neb., dropped a nickel into an unused well, and the water had frozen over, and the money was in plain sight, he determined to secure the wealth. Carefully he dug for the well, he boldly stepped onto the ice which was about as thick as a sheet of paper, and went plum through to the bottom.

The Liberty Journal, speaking of the sale of the Otoe reservation last week, says: As was the case the other time, the people went crazy and ran the land up to a higher figure than speculators' land was selling, and in farms were selling for on all sides of the reservation. That was very fine land on the reservation, but none that commanded such fabulous prices as was paid in many instances. On the second day of the sale they formed a ring and ran the land out of reach of the purchasers, and they would then give the name of a straw man, who of course would fall to the ground. A great many who came from a distance did not understand this little game, and, disgusted with the mob, left for home. Of course the land would then be put up for sale again, and those who remained and were posted would get their land at a better figure.

LITERARY NOTES.

"Martin Luther, the Reformer" is the title of a little volume, written by Julius Koestlin, and translated from the German by Elizabeth P. Weir. It is published in neat style by Cassel & Co., of London, Paris, and New York, and is for sale by W. T. Seaman, Omaha. The recent 400th anniversary of Luther makes it of special interest at this time.

Edward Eggleston continues in The January Century his series on early colonial history with a paper on "Hudson and the Colony Times." In connection with the recent attempts at silk-culture in the United States, his story of the trials of the colonists in starting the industry will be of interest. Before corn had been grown in the Jamestown settlement sufficient to keep away starvation, quailery troops had been sent, and the culture of silk begun. In almost every American colony the same experiment was tried, and always with discouraging results. Silk was at one time believed to be the long-sought staple that should take away the reproach of barrenness from New England. Dr. Eggleston describes also the beginnings of tobacco, rice, indigo and wheat culture.

Brains vs. Cash.

It is rather a matter of congratulation that the very rich senators are reported to be extremely disgusted with the positions assigned them on the committee of the senate. They had no sort of pretense in experience, public service or special knowledge to more important positions. But they seemed to have imagined that their riches entitled them to some special consideration, and it is well that this imagination should be dispelled. In the far west it has become so much a matter of course that the senatorships should go to the richest men in the state who care about it that an election to the senate has several times had very much the appearance of an auction. The senate has in its own power to mitigate this ambition by showing that it is not a plucocracy and that it applies other standards than that of a bank account in assigning special duties to its members. The senate showed when it passed the Thurman-Edmunds railroad bill that money could not influence its legislation when the question was fairly presented. It has now made another and equally needful showing that money cannot influence the relative standing of its own members.

Unhappy Postmasters.

Forty-seven postmasters in the United States receive a salary of \$1 a year. After the republican campaign assessments are deducted their income must excite commiseration in the breast of a Digger Indian.

Cattle on the Wyoming plains are in good condition.

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WYOMING.

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A correspondent of The Cheyenne Live Stock Journal writes from Laraine: "An enterprising citizen of this moral burg, who was long on wires and short on rations, has negotiated his blushing spouse for a fine ranch and appearances. All parties to the trade seem to be satisfied."

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Gunnison was fooled on Boncouteau and the church choir folks, but Gunnison is going to have a minstrel troupe and may be made happy by an "Uncle Tom" show. The Derango smelter continues the good work of producing about one car load of bullion each day. The mammoth establishment works like a charm. The supply of choice smelting ore is ample.

MONTANA.

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A Montana miner brought to Helena a few days ago a little sparkling stone which he supposed to be a piece of quartz but which proved to be a diamond of good quality, weighing over three carats. He was offered \$300 for it by a jeweler, but refused. The stone was found in his placer claim near Helena.

CALIFORNIA.

Hay sells for \$18 a ton at Los Angeles. A reclamation society is being formed at Stockton. The erection of the new court house has been completed at Santa Rosa.

Gilroy dairymen are experimenting with dry grass. This feed is especially adapted to overworked land, as it cannot be drowned out. Cattle and hogs are said to thrive on it. A singular disease has carried off a number of cattle in Tehama county. They are taken suddenly sick, have a fit, lie down, roll over and die. On opening them, all organs are found apparently healthy.

There were taken from the Sacramento river and tributaries for the year 1883, ending October 15th, and delivered to the different packing firms, 451,357 spring salmon and 59,542 fall salmon, weighing 7,349,988 pounds. The wholesale dealers have received 115,000 spring salmon and 52,902 fall salmon, making a total of 780,450 salmon, weighing 9,585,672 pounds.

NEW MEXICO.

Silver City is struggling with small-pox. A new and magnificent hotel building is to be erected at Albuquerque at an early day. The Las Vegas Gazette insists that the finding of gold on the new court house site is a genuine find and is panning out beyond all expectations. A boom of the biggest kind is looked for down there.

Colonel Fisher, collector of revenue for the district of New Mexico and Arizona, aggregates his collections as follows: New Mexico, \$54,084.46; Arizona, \$40,007.72. New Mexico leads all the territories.

Albuquerque's soap factory has commenced operations for the year 1883, ending on the first run of the cleansing product with ominous apprehension, as it was an innovation that could hardly be overlooked, and at one time it was feared that serious results would follow.

FUNNY STORY ABOUT EX-PRESIDENT HAYES.

A good story comes from the pension bureau. One of the rules regarding the filing of applications for a pension requires a certificate as to the reputation and good character of the persons who are cited in the application as witnesses of the physical condition of the applicant. A pension claim came from Ohio, and "R. B. Hayes" of Fremont, Ohio, was the witness as to the alleged facts set forth in the document. The papers, in the routine of business, were assigned to a civil service clerk, who found there was no certificate attached to the application, and good character of the witness—R. B. Hayes. The clerk had never dabbled in politics, and did not know R. B. Hayes, whether his character and reputation were good or not; in fact, had no recollection that such a person had ever occupied the presidential chair. Accordingly he returned the papers for a certificate as to the character and good reputation of R. B. Hayes. The reply came of course, and then for the first time the higher officials of the pension bureau became aware of what had been done. The story would not keep, and so has leaked out.

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1509 Farnam Street, - - Omaha, Neb. WHOLESALE SHIPPERS AND DEALERS IN Hard & Soft Coal CONENLSVILLE COKE!

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A good story comes from the pension bureau. One of the rules regarding the filing of applications for a pension requires a certificate as to the reputation and good character of the persons who are cited in the application as witnesses of the physical condition of the applicant. A pension claim came from Ohio, and "R. B. Hayes" of Fremont, Ohio, was the witness as to the alleged facts set forth in the document. The papers, in the routine of business, were assigned to a civil service clerk, who found there was no certificate attached to the application, and good character of the witness—R. B. Hayes. The clerk had never dabbled in politics, and did not know R. B. Hayes, whether his character and reputation were good or not; in fact, had no recollection that such a person had ever occupied the presidential chair. Accordingly he returned the papers for a certificate as to the character and good reputation of R. B. Hayes. The reply came of course, and then for the first time the higher officials of the pension bureau became aware of what had been done. The story would not keep, and so has leaked out.

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