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

If the medical colleges will only wait till after the presidential conventions, they will have no lack of corpses.

JOHN A. KASSON delivered the dedicatory address at the formal opening of Iowa's new state capitol yesterday. It was the effort of his life.

SENATOR EDMUNDS assures the republicans that the present outlook is brighter this year than at any time in the past fifteen years. He believes that victory will perch upon the republican banner if wisdom is exercised in selecting candidates. New York will be carried without a doubt, he says, if the party is united in that state.

If the Cheyenne papers would give THE OMAHA BEE credit for the editorials which they reprint from its columns, we wouldn't have any occasion to kick. In Wednesday morning's issues of the two Cheyenne papers several articles from THE BEE appeared as original matter, and one article was republished as an original editorial in the *Leader* and *Sun* on the same morning.

AN erudite Boston judge has just decided that a man injured on a railroad on Sunday cannot recover damages unless he was traveling on a mission of necessity or charity. That judge is probably under the impression that justice is still administered under the old "blue laws," which, among other things, forbade a person to look cross-wise or smoke or chew tobacco on Sunday.

"OUR VAL," while in Chicago on Tuesday last, was interviewed by the Chicago *Times'* political reporter, who represents him as saying that owing to his free trade tendency, Senator Van Wyck "can never be elected again; that is a settled fact." That does settle it, sure. Senator Van Wyck will probably lose a great deal of sleep over this decree of "Our Val," and when he meets him he will very likely say to that astute political prophet, "Who told you so?"

SENATOR VAN WYCK'S efforts in behalf of settlers on the public domain in Nebraska and Kansas, whose homes have been placed in jeopardy by adverse decisions, have proved successful, and he will receive the heartfelt thanks of the homesteaders. His bill, which has been ordered reported favorably, provides for the payment of $2.50 per acre, by persons who took up lands under the homestead or pre-emption laws within the limits of the Northern Kansas land grant. The sum of $200,000 will be appropriated for this purpose and it is expected that this will be sufficient to quiet the titles.

THE Burlington is getting itself in pretty good shape th carry out its plan of forming a pool of its own. The Hannibal and the Kansas City, St. Joe & Council Bluffs roads are to be included in the pool, and are to form the Missouri division of the Burlington system. Early in the spring it will build an extension to Grand Island, and also to Cheyenne, where it will connect with the proposed Cheyenne, Black Hills & Montana road, work upon which is to be begun this year. It looks as if the Burlington proposes to keep up its plan of tapping the Union Pacific at all important points. By building through to Cheyenne it would get a large share of the cattle trade.

IT seems that a movement has been inaugurated to stop the sale of liquors in the congressional restaurants. Mr. Frye has discovered that whisky, under the name of tea, is being served in cups and saucers in one of those places. The congressional restaurateur probably got the idea from an untruthful paragraph, which has been going the rounds of the press, stating that beef-tea was a favorite beverage in Omaha saloons. Senator Bayard favored the exclusion of spirituous, but not malt liquors, and the matter was compromised by forbidding the sale of "intoxicating" liquors. Hereafter our representatives will be obliged to go around the corner to get their cocktails.

THE national republican convention was to have been held in the exposition building in Chicago, but as that building is likely to be torn down early in the spring, some other place will have to be provided. It seems that in December, 1882, the city council passed an ordinance requiring the mayor to lease the lake front ground on which the exposition building now stands to the exposition company, at $10,000 a year. Failing to accomplish this the mayor was authorized to take possession of the premises. At a meeting of the directors of the exposition the other day it was resolved to advise the stockholders to tear down the building.

AN IMMENSE FORFEITURE.

By the forfeiture of the Texas Pacific land grant there will be restored to the public domain over 14,000,000 acres. Under the conditions of the act granting this magnificent subsidy the Texas Pacific was required to begin work on its road simultaneously at San Diego, California, and Marshall, Texas, and complete it in ten years. Subsequently, in 1872, the time was extended to May 2, 1882, at which time the road was not finished according to the terms of the land grant act. It will be remembered the Southern Pacific, an organization composed of Central Pacific stockholders, was built eastward and headed it off, and a claim for the Texas Pacific land grant was made by the Southern Pacific. The house committee on public lands have not only rejected the claim of the Southern Pacific, but have unanimously agreed to report a bill declaring the Texas Pacific land grant forfeited, on the ground that that company has not completed any part of the route for which the grant was given to it, and therefore has never earned any part of the land. The committee considers the transfer by the Texas Pacific of all its title and rights in the lands to another company, the Southern Pacific, as null and void, as it gave a title to lands which it had not earned, and therefore virtually renouced the grant or contract. It will be remembered that the Southern Pacific, in its eagerness to beat the Texas Pacific, advertised itself as being able and willing to proceed without any subsidy, and it then went on and occupied the route which had been selected by the Texas Pacific. The latter road had asked congress to guarantee the interest on its bonds to enable it to proceed, but the tacticians of the Southern Pacific adopted the liberal policy of building without aid, and thus defeated its rival. That such a man as Central Pacific Huntington should lay claim to over 14,000,000 acres surprises no one who has read his voluminous correspondence with which the press has recently been filled. Such a man and his associates would lay claim to the earth upon the slightest pretext, and were the present congresss composed of men like those with whom the land pirates have dealt in former years, they would have stood a good show of having their claims granted. Mr. Huntington's scheme to gobble up 14,000,000 acres of land was indeed a bold game, but fortunately it has been defeated.

THE INDIAN PROBLEM.

The difficulty in the way of carrying out the plan of allotting lands in severalty to Indians is that there is not a sufficient quantity of available arable land to allot. So says Senator Dawes, chairman of the senate committee on Indian affairs, who has been investigating the subject. Settlers are taking up nearly all the good agricultural lands, and their rights have become so vested that they could not be removed, even if it were the purpose of the government to do that. In several localities where Indians are now situated there is extremely little agricultural land, and, as game is rapidly disappearing, the sole dependence of the Indians is their rations from the government. Senator Dawes, who last year paid a visit with other members of the committee to the Sioux reservation, says that the selection of locations for some of the agencies, notably that of the Rosebud agency, is very unfortunate, being useless for any agricultural purpose, as the agency is surrounded by an alkali plain, and there is no land in sight from which a white man could gain a livelihood. This, however, does not agree with the statements of the people of Dakota, who are anxious for the opening of the Sioux reservation for settlement by the whites. They claim that a large portion of the Sioux reservation is admirably adapted for agricultural purposes, and that if it is thrown open for settlement the lands will all be rapidly taken up by actual settlers, thousands of whom are anxiously awaiting the action of congress on this question. Laboring under probably an erroneous impression, at least so far as the land of the Sioux reservation is concerned, Senator Dawes is reported to have said: "The more the Indian problem is studied, in fact, the more difficult does it become. Yet there are but three hundred thousand Indians to be cared for by some fifty millions of white people. The Indian population, however, is increasing rather than diminishing."

HENRY M. ATKINSON, of Nebraska, who has been fed at the federal crib in various positions for nearly twenty years, may have to vacate the surveyor generalship of New Mexico and seek some other government appointment. If he meets with his usual success, he will not be long out of a soft federal position. There are at present a half dozen candidates for the new Mexican surveyor generalship, all of whom are highly endorsed, and a lively fight for the place is in progress. President Arthur is said to be averse to making an appointment outside of the territory, and this fact practically narrows the contest down to the two applicants from the territory—Mr. Clarence Pullen, who is a civil engineer of some local prominence, and Mr. Atkinson, the present incumbent, who, under the circumstances, claims to be a full-fledged New Mexican. Mr. Pullen is backed by the Maine delegation, and it is claimed by his friends that the chances for his appointment are very favorable.

IN looking around for an available candidate for the presidency the democrats will no doubt select the man who can produce the biggest "bar'l." It is now stated that the newly-elected Standard oil senator from Ohio, flushed with his victory over Gentleman George, proposes to become a presidential candidate. His "bar'l" is of sufficient dimensions to command the respect and support of the democrats. Literary and financial bureaus, otherwise known as "oil-rooms," are soon to be established in Washington and New York for the purpose of booming Payne. A newspaper is to be established in Cleveland as the home organ of the presidential aspirant. It will be supplied with Washington specials, which will be liberally flavored with Payne taffy, and as the time for holding the convention draws near the quantity of Payne news will be increased. The manager of the New York agency will be Mr. Whitney, who is Mr. Payne's son-in-law. It is not yet announced who is to be the manager of the Cleveland organ, which, it is said, is to be a carefully edited paper. If this plan is carried out it is safe to say that Mr. Payne will have no trouble in emptying his "bar'l."

LEASED SCHOOL LANDS.

The board of public lands and buildings, of which Glenn Kendall is chairman, is charged with having leased over 400,000 acres of school lands to a syndicate, and 40,000 acres to one man. This is nothing but a gigantic speculation, which is an outrage upon the people, in more ways than one. Actual settlers who now want to secure farms cannot obtain them except by paying a handsome profit to the syndicate. It is charged also that these lands have been leased to the syndicate at lower rates than were bid by the settlers. The Lincoln *Journal*, the defender of all such jobbery, inadvertently says that "speculation in these leases is going on actively, and the land is passing into the hands of settlers and small owners quite as rapidly as while they were exclusively in the hands of the board. Indeed more so, as considerable individual energy and push is brought to bear upon the disposal of them."

True enough, for these lands are desirable, and are in demand for actual settlement. The speculators were aware of this fact, and knew that by getting control of them they would have no trouble of disposing of them, by subletting, at a big profit. Of course the speculators will exert themselves to turn these lands over to sub-lessees and thus pocket the plunder as soon as possible.

The *Journal* assures the public that there is no danger of existing leases being disturbed. This is, indeed, comforting to the speculators. "If the law is determined to be invalid," says the *Journal*, "as a matter of course the old law remains unrepealed and instantly comes into all of its former force and effect. Its provisions for the lease of lands are identical with those of the act now in controversy, and there can be no disturbing effect upon contracts with the state for the sale or lease thereof. There can be no sounder title to realty in Nebraska than that acquired from the land commissioner and all alarm or uneasiness upon the subject is entirely unnecessary."

The question naturally arises, has Glenn Kendall, the land commissioner, thus generously treated the land speculators without reward or hope of reward?

ENGLISH REFORM.

A very radical programme of reform in England has been prepared by Mr. Labouchere, member of parliament, and published in his paper, the London *Truth*. His ideas may well be called radical. So extremely so, in fact, that they no doubt will be accepted as a huge joke by the phlegmatic English people, who have become wedded to the moss-backed customs that have prevailed for centuries. Mr. Labouchere's suggestions, however, are very sensible, and possibly in the course of time they will be gradually adopted in England.

In electoral reform he says that the radicals shall not rest satisfied until they have manhood suffrage, electoral districts, and payment of members. The crown and the crown's family cost too much. He thinks $250,000 a year ought to be the maximum to be expended upon royalty. The radicals, he asserts, propose to abolish the house of lords. While not prepared to assent to Ireland's separation, they admit Ireland's right to be her own mistress in everything of a local nature. The radicals believe in a county government, elected by the people, who shall have a vote for members of parliament. They propose to legislate to reduce the landlords to the position of ground landlords. The occupiers of agricultural land will have a fixity of tenure, at a fair ground-rent. Either they or the state will profit by the unearned increment. The occupier on the other hand, will provide cottages with an acre or two attached to them, for those whom he employs. No entail or settlement of estates will be allowed. A land owner who does not cultivate or cause to be cultivated any portion of his estate will lose his right to that portion. The aim will be to break up and destroy all great territorial domains. They propose also to disestablish and disendow the established church. When the present incumbents die, they shall have no successors, and the nation will regain its property, and probably apply the income to educational purposes. It is proposed to have not only free primary, but free secondary and technical schools. The national expenditures are to be reduced, and the system of taxation is to be remodeled.

If Mr. Labouchere and his radical followers succeed in carrying out this proposed programme, they will not only astonish themselves but the whole world, although there is nothing in it but what is practical and within the bounds of reason, and everything suggested is for the benefit of the people. Mr. Labouchere is only a little ahead of the times in England.

RAILWAY INVASION OF THE INDIAN TERRITORY.

The majority of the committee on Indian affairs are in favor of granting right of way to railroads through the Indian territory, and Senator Ingalls' bill, granting the right of way to the Southern Kansas railway company, will probably be favorably reported. There is no doubt that railroads through the Indian territory will have a civilizing effect upon the Indians. The Indian territory has remained a barrier to railroads long enough, and the simple right of way will not be denied by the Indians if the matter is presented to them properly and some remuneration is provided. The Five Nations are far enough advanced in civilization to appreciate the benefits of railways, and Senator Dawes is in favor of leaving the matter to their decision.

Senator Ingalls' bill, among other things, provides that before the railway shall be constructed through any land held in good faith at the time of filing the map of preliminary survey by individual occupants according to the laws, customs and usages of any of the Indian nations or tribes through which it may be constructed, full compensation shall be made to such occupants for all property to be taken or damaged by reason of the construction of said railway. In case of failure to make amicable settlement with any such occupant, such compensation shall be determined by the appointment of three disinterested referees, one to be named by the commissioner of Indian affairs, one by the principal chief of the nation or tribe in which the land to be appropriated is situated, and one by the company, whose award shall be final. In case the referees cannot agree, then any two of them are authorized to make the award, which shall be equally final. The bill also provides that the railway company shall pay to the secretary of the interior, for the benefit of the particular nations or tribes through whose lands the road may be located, a certain sum for each mile of road.

If this bill is passed it will probably be followed by another, giving the right of way, upon similar terms, to roads wishing to build to the northwest through the Sioux reservation, if that reservation is not thrown open by the proposed treaty.

THE land grant railroads have sent their high-priced attorneys to Washington in full force to "protect" the railroad interests. The attorneys, however, are not meeting with the cordial reception accorded to them at previous sessions of congress. When the attorneys of the Northern Pacific requested the judiciary committee of the house to give them a three days' hearing on the question whether the bill relating to the Northern Pacific land grants should be transferred to the committee on public lands, they were promptly refused, and the committee intimated that it did not propose to turn itself into a debating society. The commerce committee likewise refused to give the railroads a hearing of thirty days on the inter-state commerce bills. It is evident that those committees do not propose to allow any such delays to defeat legislation, as they have hitherto done. The oral arguments on the inter-state commerce bills have been limited to three days—the 24th, 25th and 26th of January.

WEST OF THE MISSOURI.

The expressed determination of the Burlington & Missouri River railroad to stand on its own bottom as against the combined strength of the Iowa pool lines and the Union Pacific, has been warmly commended by all classes. The natural distrust of the people for combinations of all kinds is so widespread and deep-seated that when an individual or corporation cuts loose from the ring, it secures to either the substantial support of the public. Such is the case of the B. & M. in Nebraska to-day. From every quarter comes commendations of its action in refusing to join the tripartite. The company is perfecting plans for marching into new fields and carrying the war into the territory of the Union Pacific to the north. Not only will North Nebraska be invaded by the giant of the South Platte, but it will also seek fresh fields to conquer in the plains of Wyoming and Northern Colorado.

The surveyors on the Fremont extension of the B. & M. are now in the field running two lines from Wahoo—one to Fremont and another to North Bend. The building of this road would make the Union Pacific rustle to maintain its grasp on the trade of Dodge and Saunders counties.

The Grand Island extension is in statu quo pending the result of proceedings begun by the Union Pacific to compel the B. & M. to pay damages before crossing its track. A large map of the Grand Island yards has been prepared by the engineers of the B. & M. for use in court. Preparations for building the line will doubtless go on, so that active work can be commenced as soon as the frost leaves the ground.

Another important feeder, said to be in contemplation by the same company, is a line from Denver to Cheyenne and the coal fields and fodder lands of Wyoming. The distance to Cheyenne would be about seventy-five miles. The building of this branch is considered more probable in view of the fact that the Cheyenne, Black Hills & Montana company will commence building operations early this year. The cost of a line from Denver to Cheyenne would be comparatively small owing to easy grades and few bridges to be built.

It will be seen from these maneuvres on the railroad checker board the present year will witness the liveliest kind of competition between the mogul corporations of Nebraska, and the west.

Next to railroad monopoly, there is none more exacting and despicable in its methods than the elevator monopoly. As a general rule elevators are controlled by the railroad corporations or a ring of official or agents. They can set a price on grain at will and fix the grade to suit themselves. Should prices go up in Chicago they are deaf, but if prices should go down at the same place they tumble instantly if not sooner. No rival elevator can obtain the facilities of the favored ones in side tracks and cars and rebates, and the result is that no competition is attempted without some "understanding" with the railroads. An instance of this kind occurred recently in Butler county. The elevator company of one of the towns managed to keep prices at the lowest notch and finally succeeded in driving farmers to distant towns where better rates were obtained. Naturally enough the business of the town rapidly decreased, and the merchants began to grumble, and the grumbling resulted in the organization of an elevator or storage company with the avowed purpose of paying the highest market price for grain. It had the desired effect. The new company boomed prices and brought back all trade tributary to the town, business increased and the enterprising merchants are not only making money on corn but on cloths and groceries.

A similar case occurred a few weeks ago at Morehead, Minn. The elevator there persisted in grading No. 1 wheat as No. 2. The outrage at last became unbearable and meetings were held to organize a farmers' elevator company. As soon as the managers of the elevator sniffed the storm they began grading all wheat as No. 1, and went so far as to offer back pay to all farmers whose wheat was sold as No. 2. The farmers, however, would not be gulled. They took the money stolen from them, but they would not take the bait. They carried out their determination to build an elevator with a capacity of 75,000 bushels and raised $15,000 for that purpose, and the building now under way. This is the only way to dispose of the petty robbers who always follow in the wake of the Simon pure highwayman.

The mica mines of Wyoming give promise of rich returns to the fortunate owners. The mines are located in what is known as Whalen's canyon and specimens have been brought to Cheyenne by Mr. A. C. Hendrickson, the lessee of the mines. Active work work will commence in the spring. The product of these mines is cracked up as the best found anywhere on the globe. A piece 5-16 of an inch, in thickness he split into no less than 111 sheets, each perfect. This would admit of more than 350 splittings of an inch thick and demonstrates that 100 sheets large enough for commercial use could easily be split. The aim in working the mine will be to get out large sized blocks, 4x6 inches and upward, which are especially in demand for commercial purposes.

The Wyoming Petroleum company, of which Dr. Graff and Samuel E. Rogers of Omaha, are largely interested, is in a peck of trouble. It seems that while the oily doctor was skirmishing around the country for capitalists some Cheyenne parties jumped the claim and propose to fight for title in the courts. The action is one of ejectment, to obtain possession of 1,440 acres of land, recently reported as having been purchased by the petroleum company, and known as the Rattlesnake oil placer claim. The contestants claim that the petroleum company have no right of possession and have forfeited its rights by failing to improve in the time required by law. There is supposed to be a good supply of money on both sides and the lawyers propose to take as much as possible.

It is not likely that the sale of the Omaha reservation lands in the northeastern part of the state, will prove very profitable to actual settlers. The lands, it is expected, will be thrown into the market early in the spring. The valuation made by the commissioners last year put the price of the poorest of the land at about $5 per acre. The conditions of the sale are such that the land must bring not less than the price set by the commissioners. The experience of the Otoe land sale will doubtless deter many persons from participating in the sale. In this instance the speculators secured the best of the land by the freeze-out process—prolonging the sale and bidding in at a high figure, then failing to make payment and securing a re-sale of the land. Speaking of the forthcoming sale the North Nebraska *Eagle* says: "Many are victims to the belief that it is a splendid opportunity to get a piece of land; and so it is, provided the purchaser has plenty of money. But to those who have not at least one thousand dollars at their command for every eighty acres they wish to buy, we would say, turn your steps elsewhere. The desirable tracts will probably not be sold for less than ten dollars per acre. One third of the sum total will likely have to be paid upon purchase and the remainder in two annual installments. In case a quarter section is bought at the above price, the first payment would be $533⅓; at the beginning of the second year of possession nearly $587½ and at the beginning of the third year $560, nearly $1,680 for the piece of land. During that time but one crop can be taken from the land. Remember this is the price for naked prairie. The erection of houses and other necessary improvements, requires in a treeless region considerable ready cash. Then there no roads, no school houses, no bridges, nothing whatever beside the unbroken sod to make civilized life possible, all of which improvements costs considerable money, and must come from the settlers of the lands. If we take all these details into consideration the ultimate price per acre, with but moderate improvements, will not be less than $20. Improved farms in most parts of this and adjoining counties can be bought for less per acre, and in most instances upon less stringent conditions. It is not our aim to detract one jot from the virtue of these lands—they belong to the best in the state, but anyone who has not means enough in the outset to face two-thirds of the price and the cost of necessary improvements had better leave them alone."

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