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

A. H. Fitch, Manager Daily Circulation, P. O. Box 488, Omaha, Neb.

A DISPOSITION is manifest in Ohio to classify Charley Foster as a prophet with Vennor and Wiggins.

CINCINNATI'S attractions as a watering-place are urged by the *Commercial* as an inducement to visitors to go there this week.

THE critics, in dissecting Queen Victoria's book, intimates that she is guilty of frequently murdering the King's English.

THE speed of the central current of the Ohio river at Cincinnati was measured last week and found to be 4.91 miles per hour, orover one hundred miles per day.

IT is proposed to leave the whole question as to who is the first lady in the land to a "high joint" consisting of Henry Watterson, Benjamin Harris Brewster and David Davis.

PAYNE'S credentials have been presented to the senate by Gentleman George, who, while performing the presentation act, held his nose with his fingers, as the smell of coal oil was offensive to him.

SENATOR VAN WYCK'S latest inquiry is whether the Baltimore & Ohio Telegraphy company has taken any action towards consolidation with the Western Union. His resolution asking for information on that point, was agreed to.

THE St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* is of the opinion that about the poorest business in which any able-bodied man can be engaged just now is starting a presidential boom. The table-land is high and the promontories are few and far between.

THE author of "The Breadwinners," says in the *Century*: "My motive in withholding my name is simple enough. I am engaged in a business in which my standing would be seriously compromised if it were known that I had written a novel." He is probably one of the breadwinners.

A HOSPITAL festival is to be held in Albert Hall, London, in which the most fashionable English ladies are to figure as peasants of various countries. Duchesses will serve wine and beer at extravagant prices to the bibulous mashers and mashed.

GEN. BEALE, who visited Gen. Grant last week, states that the General is not in so serious a condition as has been believed, but that he suffers much pain, and while he will ultimately recover and not be crippled, yet he will certainly be confined to his house for many weeks.

THE case of the baccarat clubs in London reveals suspected depths of aristocratic gambling. The culprits were defended by Charles Russell, who is not only the greatest advocate but the boldest gambler in the great city. He dedeclared that in many clubs judges, bishops and statesmen play nightly for high stakes.

IT is the opinion of General Manager Potter, of the Burlington, that a rate war cannot be averted much longer if a pool is not soon formed between the Burlington and the Western Trunk Line association. The Burlington, however, will make no terms with the combination except upon the conditions heretofore proposed. It is well satisfied with the present condition of affairs, and does not propose to ask the other side to hold another conference.

OUR dispatches tell a sad and heart-rending story from the Ohio valley. The unprecedented flood is destroying a vast amount of property, and is causing a great deal of suffering. Many thousands of people have been driven from their homes to seek temporary refuge upon the hills, where they are without shelter and without food, and many are sick and dying from exposure. Appeals for aid are being made, and it is hoped that assistance will be rendered with a generous hand from every quarter of the country. We are sure that Omaha will maintain her reputation for generosity in contributing to the relief of the distressed, if an appeal is made to the whole country for aid. The appropriation of $300,000 by congress will be of great assistance to the flood sufferers, and no doubt an additional appropriation will be made if necessary. Although the constitutionality of such congressional appropriations may be questioned, everybody will agree with Sunset Cox that "if there was any breach of the constitution God Almighty in his kindness would pardon it."

FREE WATER AND FREE GRASS.

The cattle kings, who have become land grabbers by fencing in vast tracts of the public domain, are beginning to think that the government meant business when it issued the order to have the wire fences removed. The managers of some of the large ranches in Texas and Nebraska have gone to Washington to endeavor to adjust matters, if possible, in a way that will be satisfactory—to themselves. They do not lay claim to any title in the land, and they admit that they have violated the law—by obstructing mail routes. They really have no defence for their unlawful enclosure of the public domain. The only argument that they make is that by raising cattle they help to make meat cheaper to the consumer. This, however, is not a very plausible argument, and we doubt whether they make meat any cheaper, or have any desire to do so. The consolidation of the many small cattle herds into a few very large ones, has placed it in the power of the cattle kings to regulate shipments in a manner that controls the market and keeps up prices. The combination of capital in the cattle herds of the west is having a tendency to create a meat monopoly.

The government authorities, it is safe to say, will not modify the order that the fences must go, as there is no good reason why the cattle kings should assume that the government land belongs to them and that they can fence it in. It is claimed that the consequence will be a hardship in many cases, but we are unable to see why there should be any hardship. Cattle raising has been successfully carried on for many years without any fences at all, and the business can be conducted in the future as it has been in the past. The fact is that in the majority of cases where fences have been erected, the principal object has been to secure full control of water frontage and to shut out small stockmen and homesteaders from free pasturage. The government will undoubtedly see that all have equal rights on the public domain—that a man owning one hundred head of cattle has a right to free grass and free water as well as the man who possesses ten thousand head.

NEBRASKA'S CORN AND HOGS.

The prospect for the price of wheat is not very promising even for the most sanguine. Our surplus from the crop of 1883 is now asserted to be twice as great as is needed to meet any probable demand for export, which is estimated at 50,000,000 to 75,000,000 bushels. The crop of '83 was 420,000,000 bushels, with a surplus of 50,000,000 to 75,000,000 bushels from the previous year. Deducting the amount required for consumption and seeding and exports of the first six months of 63,000,000 bushels, and there remains from 110,000,000 to 125,000,000 bushels still for export. This is large enough to keep prices low. But while the situation is unfavorable to an advance in wheat, and the prospect is stronger that gold will go abroad instead, it is likely that meats will advance in price during the coming quarter. The last corn crop is proving of small value in turning out pork. This gives an excellent outlook for Nebraska farmers who have corn, if also they have hogs to feed it to.

VICTORIA'S dedication to her new book "Life in the Highlands," is in the following words: "To my loyal highlanders, and especially to the memory of my devoted personal attendant and friend, John Brown, these records of my widowed life in Scotland are gratefully dedicated. Victoria R." In her opening chapters she devotes a number of pages to the immortal Brown. She tells how Brown became the favorite of Prince Albert, and gives her own reasons for trusting him. Then she minutely describes the functions that the beloved Brown fulfilled in the royal household. His praises are loudly and feelingly sung. The book contains but one reference to the prince of Wales, the occasion being his severe illness with the typhoid fever. The queen makes long comments upon political events, and gives many opinions on men of the times. She expresses an especially high estimate of Beaconsfield. She discloses his views on the general election of 1880, and also his ideas on the foreign situation about the time of his death. In this manifest preference there is an obvious implication of criticism of the policy of Mr. Gladstone. The queen gives on account of the growth of the friendship between herself and the Empress Eugenie after the fall of Napoleon, and professes to hold the character of Napoleon, especially under misfortune, in very high estimation.

THE Woman's Silk Culture Association proposes to hold a silk fair in Philadelphia in May next. This is the second attempt to unfold the varied beauties of the silk industry, and demonstrate that American manufactured silk goods and American raised silk are not inferior to the foreign importations. The last fair was visited by thousands, and was, in many respects, the most unique and beautiful display ever held in Philadelphia. We believe that some of our Nebraska experimenters in silk-raising were present at the exhibition of last year, and we trust that their numbers will be largely increased this year.

VANDERBILT, who is getting to be a chronic interviewed, said the other day that the government might perish, but the New York Central railroad would endure forever; and remarked that its bonds yield eight per cent, while governments yielded but four per cent annually. Railways were, therefore, better than government bonds. It is a pertinent question why Mr. Vanderbilt sold New York Central and bought governments. It was probably because bonds have values beyond and besides income. Vanderbilt does not seem to have exhausted the subject.

TARIFF PROBABILITIES.

A republican member of the ways and means committee, who is an extreme protectionist, says that the Morrison tariff bill will be reported substantially unchanged. Mr. Morrison introduced his bill only after a thorough consultation of the democratic members of the committee. Some of them may not wholly affirm the bill, but they will support it in the house. Even Mr. Hewitt will vote for it, although it is expected that he will introduce several amendments. Mr. Hiscock, republican, who is a member of the committee, while he opposes any agitation of the tariff at present, appears to rely on the fact that Mr. Carlisle received only 140 votes in the caucus for speaker, while there were 82 votes for Mr. Randall. That fact seems to be rather cold comfort, however, as Mr. Carlisle received the entire democratic vote in the house. He does not appear to give due consideration to any democratic determination to stand solid in the house on party measures; nor does he give due considecation to the fact that Mr. Morrison, who is a free-trader outright, has come far short of introducing a free-trade bill. Mr. Hiscock also admits that the senate will be very close on the question as Mr. Morrison has put it, as it is doubtful whether there is a high-tariff majority in the upper house. Mr. Morrison is reported as saying that, when submitten to the democratic members of the committee, "they all expressed themselves as satisfied with it, with the reservation that in the the discussions in the committee they might be disposed to submit some unimportant amendments."

DELEGATE PETTIGREW, of Dakota, upon being interviewed upon Dakota affairs, said that he had no idea that Governor Ordway would be reappointed. "For fifteen years past," said he, "our governors have been getting worse and worse, but it would be impossible to get a worse one than Ordway, so that any any change will be a gain. We do not care whom they may see fit to give us, as long as they relieve Dakota of the yoke of its present ruler."

ACCORDING to the army register for 1884, there are now in Illinois 28,000 enlisted men and officers on the active list. The desertions average ten a day the year around. The retired officers number 435. There are 170 forts and posts, 50 of which are not garrisoned, and there are 23 armories, arsenals and engineer stations to be looked after.

A CONNECTING line of railway between the City of Mexico and Chicago will be in operation within two months. It will be in the hands of Boston capitalists. The indications are said to be clear that a combination will be formed by which the commerce of the new field will be secured to the Burlington and Santa Fe roads.

THE New York State Medical Society, at its recent meeting, by a vote of 124 to 105 in favor of the "new code," leaves the close communionists no recourse but secession. A division, with able men on both sides, leaves the code question an open one for such men to decide on its merits. The merits of the case are against a guild in any liberal profession.

SIXTY young Apaches have been placed in the Indian school at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Agent Wilcox, of the San Carlos reservation, claims that this is a solution of the Indian problem, as the Apaches will refrain from making trouble while the government is holding so many members of the tribe as apparent hostages.

LAST year the total losses on the Ohio river, all told, were estimated at from $50,000,000 to $60,000,000. Fully half of that was from Wheeling to Pittsburg, including tributaries. This year it is claimed will bevery much less, probably not more than half, providing always that the estimate of $50,000,000 to $60,000,000 for last year was not an exaggeration.

ROBERT GARRETT, of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad and telegraph lines, has made a proposition to the senate committee to contract with the postoffice department to transact the business of the public at reasonable rates, and to give any desired guarantee not to pool or consolidate with other telegraph lines.

CHICAGO, not satisfied with having secured the republican convention, is now making vigorous efforts to capture the democratic convention, and her chances for success are pronounced to be excellent. The Chicago democratic club will send a powerful delegation to Washington this week to urge Chicago's claims.

IT is claimed that the principal cause of the floods in the Ohio valley is the destruction of the forests in the mountains of central Pennsylvania. The Philadelphia *Press* says:

These mountains, their valleys and their foot hills fill with snow in December and January, and as the sun again returns desolate the valley below. * * * There is nothing more certain than that the disappearance of forests from these mountains, which can be used profitably for nothing but timber land, is yearly making these floods worse and worse. If a forestry commission were to begin to collect facts upon the subject, if the real condition to which the devastation of lumbermen is reducing our streams were made plain, if the owners of forest lands were directed and enlightened, the floods might be checked and the forests saved. Instead of wastefully clearing away the timber, and leaving snow and rain to sweep the mountain sides bare of the earth which makes forests possible, the trees would be husbanded and replanted, a plentiful supply of lumber secured for the present, large profits made certain in the future, and the low lands saved from desolating floods. Some day it will be too late to learn this lesson of the floods.

Railways vs. Government.

San Francisco Chronicle.

There is no surer sign that the railway corporations of this country are becoming a power within the government greater than the government than is found in the fact that the former are rapidly drawing into their service and pay the best talent—legal, judicial and legislative—from the government. A few notable examples will illustrate this proposition. Many years ago Judge Sanderson, one of the ablest Judges and lawyers in any state, while holding the chief-justiceship of California, was tempted by the offer of a salary twice as high as the state was paying him, to resign his high office and take the position of chief counsel for the Central Pacific company, which he still holds A few years later Judge Dillon, who had made his mark on the supreme bench of Iowa, and again, when transferred from that to the circuit court of the United States, a still brighter mark, was tempted to resign his federal judicial office by the offer of a much higher salary to act as chief legal adviser of the Union Pacific company. Dillon's successor was George W. McCreary of Iowa, a man who had made his mark as a statesman of a high order in congress, and who has proved himself a learned, just and painstaking judge in all his railway decisions doing exact justice against these grasping corporations. And now this man being offered a higher salary by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe company, gets down from the bench to accept it and creates a vacancy which may be filled by some one less than himself a thorn in the corporation ribs. Senator Gordon, a very able man from the state of Georgia, was induced, on the plea of poverty, to resign an office next to that of the presidency in dignity that he might accept the presidency of a railway company, and report has it that he is already worth a million. And now comes the report that the Northern Pacific directory have tempted Senator Sherman of Ohio with the offer of the presidency of that company, which he declines on the ground that he cannot undertake its duties, with due regard to duty to his constituents and colleagues as a senator, and that he cannot conscientiously hold both positions at the same time. There is no reason to doubt that Payne, who belongs to the Standard Oil monopoly, was secured his nomination for senator in the democratic Ohio caucus by the combined oil monopoly and railway influence. It was the same influence that defeated Thurman in the national convention of 1880 for the presidential nomination, as a punishment for his funding act, and the selection this year of Payne as their man for the senate was the only way by which they could have defeated Thurman for that position. The same influences in 1881 made Stanley Mathews a justice of the supreme court of the United States as a reward for his fierce opposition to the Thurman act of 1878, in which opposition Gordon of Georgia also took a conspicuous part and had his reward in the appointment by a railway corporation to its presidency, out of which he has realized a fortune in two years. If Sherman could be induced to quit the senate and take the presidency of the Northern Pacific, the same corporation power that has made a senator out of the democrat Payne would be able to name Sherman's successor and thus gain another vote in the senate.

Thus it is seen that while the people think they are controlling the government of the United States, in fact these corporations are securing into their hands all the real powers of government and most of the talent, statesmanship and judicial functions. They cannot remove a judge, but they tempt the judges to resign and then exert themselves to have the vacancies filled by men of their own choice. This is not done openly, of course, but secretly and under that close cover which Collis P. Huntington so often, in his letters to General Colton, recommended to his colleagues in the railway directory here. Subsidized by millions of acres of land and millions of dollars in government bonds and allowed to charge the public whatever rates they see fit, it is nothing to them to pay their presidents $50,000 a year, their general superintendents $25,000, their chief legal advisers $24,000 and their minor counsel from $12,000 to $15,000 a year. The salary of the president of the United States a few years ago was raised from $25,000 to $50,000 and it caused a loud democratic outcry from Texas to Maine and from the Atlantic to the Pacific, on the alleged ground of extravagance. But the president of the Central Pacific gets $50,000 a year from his corporation, and it is alleged that very many other railway presidents get as much. The chief-justice of the United States supreme court gets $15,000 a year, less salary than the chief counsel of the Central Pacific, and $14,500 less than its chief counselor. The pay of a senator is $5,000 a year and his traveling expenses. As president of the Northern Pacific, Sherman would probably not be offered less than $25,000 a year and all expenses. It is coming to this—that either the government will have to raise all salaries up to the enormous corporation standards or content itself with inferior men as legislators, judges and executive officers; and the day may not be so distant as optimists think when, to gain a point in the executive department, these corporations will be powerful enough to tempt even a president or secretary to resign and take service under them for the surety of a great fortune.

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Poison Oak.

I had for thirty-eight years suffered every spring and summer with Poison Oak, which I contracted in bathing when a boy. I tried everything for it, including many physicians, but without any benefit. I took six bottles of Swift's Specific (S. S. S.) four years ago, and it cured me sound and well. Three summers have passed, and I have had no return of it. JOSEPH BEASLEY, Columbus, Ga.

Uses of Commissions.

To the Editor of THE BEE:

EMERSON, Iowa, February 10.—The Omaha Republican seems to be urging the adoption of a railroad commission in Nebraska, and urges that there is no anti-monopoly party in Iowa because Iowa has a commission. This plan is in accord with the position of The Republican; being in the employ of the railroads, it is very natural for it to desire a commission, so that its present subsidy may hold out in the future. Is Iowa benefited by the commission? Ask the people, not the railroads, and for answer we will point you to facts as they exist. Gov. Gear, upon retiring from the executive seat, congratulated the people upon having a wholesome railroad law, stating that over one hundred cases had been adjusted by the commission, but failed to inform them that ninety-nine out of a hundred were decided in favor of the railroads. This needs no comment, when you observe that it costs the farmers of southwest Iowa 16 cents per bushel to ship their corn to Chicago, which is their market. Thus the railroad gets from one-third to one-half of the value of the crop, and their share is not affected by the rise or fall of markets. Thus labor is wronged out of its just wages by the railroads, supported by the commission. These commissions also appear to serve as preparatory schools for congressmen; for instance, McDill was first tried there, and then sent to Congress, to be of greater use to the railroads. An attempt was made in 1882 to send Commissioner Anderson to congress, but was defeated. But the outrages of this kind do not stop in Iowa, though it remains for one of Iowa's credit mobilier senators to propose a national railroad commission to regulate inter-state commerce. Now let Gould, Huntington & Co. laugh in their sleeve while The Omaha Republican and Iowa State Register help the job along; and we will soon see the railroads not only in full control of themselves but of the people who built them. The object of Wilson's scheme is plain; himself under the control of monopolies, he dare not respond to the demands of the people, nor dare he pass them by entirely unheeded but wished to foist the responsibility upon the shoulders of the commission, and casts it as a sop to the people whose bread he eats, and also to create a fat office for some of his friends. We say, down with commissions; let legislators act boldly and manfully or let them retire. VOX.

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