

THE OMAHA BEE.

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THE BEE PUBLISHING CO., PROPS. E. ROSEWATER, Editor. A. H. Fitch, Manager Daily Circulation, P. O. Box 483, Omaha, Neb.

St. Louis comes to the front on the tobacco record, with a manufacture of 25,000,000 pounds last year.

Gladstone should lay his new axe at the root of the tree in Egypt. That country needs something more vital than trimming.

Cable, the novelist, has recovered from his recent illness. Mark Twain, his host, has probably got through reading his proof sheets to him.

Mathew Arnold proposes to publish his impressions of America. A more interesting volume would be America's impressions of Mathew Arnold.

It is very positively stated that John C. New resigned in order to work up a spontaneous Logan boom in Indiana, upon which work he is now engaged.

The great bathing resort of Arkansas ought to hereafter be called Redhot Springs. The numerous shooting scrapes at that place cause many a man to bathe in blood.

February is the fatal month for the Ohio river. February 12, 1883, the extreme height was 64 feet 4 inches. In '32 the extreme height was reached February 18.

Kentucky will not lack oratory in the senate with the pugnacious Beck reinforced by the equally pugnacious Blackburn. The two B's will undoubtedly make things hum.

If Governor Foster were wise, he would order a padlock for his mouth. Four months from now he may be shouting himself hoarse for Arthur—should Arthur be the nominee.

The opinion is attributed to General Grant that "we need a candidate who fully represents the progressive and aggressive spirit of our institutions, and I hope such a selection will be made at Chicago."

The present year is proving one of the most calamitous that has been known for a long time. If it keeps up its record for a month or two longer, we shall begin to apprehend that a democratic president may be elected.

Chicago is to have a new opera house, patterned after the New York Metropolitan. The New York World thinks the pattern a fortunate one, as it can be used as a grain elevator when they are not giving entertainments.

Gladstone has been guilty, says the New York Times, of the evasion of his just responsibility in Egypt, and it would be righteous retribution if his government should be overthrown. But the British Tories, like our democrats, lack capacity to do anything for themselves.

Representative Curtin has introduced a bill which provides that any person disabled during the late war and furnished with an artificial limb by the war department since 1870 shall be entitled to receive a new limb every three years thereafter.

The senate has passed, without debate, a bill for the erection of a congressional library. The site, east of the capitol, is to cost \$550,000, and the cost of the building is put at \$3,000,000. It is not probable that the bill will get through the house, without a good deal being said as to the price to be paid for the ground.

Judge Chadwick, whose sudden death startled the community, was an exemplary young man in every respect. In his position of county judge he made for himself a proud record. He was widely known in Omaha, and was highly respected by everybody. His death, so unexpected, has cast a gloom over the entire community.

General Chock, says the New York Herald, is putting into practice his theory that even the Apache may be made a good Indian, by sending fifty young members of the tribe to school at Carlisle Barracks. That Apaches can and will work was proved last year by the very large quantity of grain and vegetables raised in spite of defective irrigation, insufficient tools and difficulty in obtaining seed. They also made three hundred tons of hay, cutting all the grass with knives—a feat never performed by an equal number of white people. If they prove as apt in school as they have been on the farm and the war-path they will become, instead of nuisances and border scourges, an invaluable class of our southwestern population.

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

The mercantile situation of the country does not show any material change of late in its leading features. There is a continuance of the accumulation of money in the principal cities of the country. The New York banks are said to hold over \$21,000,000 more than they are required by law to hold as reserves. Most commodities are held at low prices, and this reduces the amount required to transact a given amount of business to a much less sum than when values were from ten to twenty-five per cent higher.

It now seems probable that the balance of trade will be against us the coming spring and summer. There is a large surplus of wheat to sell, but Europe also has a large surplus, and if our foreign customers do not want our wheat they will not have it. There will probably be a very moderate foreign demand for our breadstuffs and provisions the coming six months. The surplus of cotton which we have raised will certainly be wanted in Europe, but we have left only 1,350,000 bales to send out during the coming six months, till September. This will be an average of a little over 200,000 bales per month, against an average of 480,000 bales per month shipped since September, 1883. The difference between \$10,000,000 and \$24,000,000 in the aggregate for the year on cotton exceeds the balance of trade in our favor last year.

The present is beyond doubt a good time, when business is struggling against adverse influences, to cut down the amount which is drawn from the people in excess of what is required by government for its current expenses and to provide for the fixed appropriations. It will greatly depend upon the action of congress in this matter whether the present tight times shall continue or whether the business of the country shall gradually settle into a more normal condition.

The business of the country does not seem to keep up to last year's volume, while an increase in the amount of breadstuffs transported is seen, there has been a decrease in the amount of cotton, and probably in merchandise generally. The railroad earnings in January show a much smaller relative business than last year. With an increase in mileage of 3,578 miles, the gross earnings on fifty-one lines of road show a slight decrease, as compared with January, 1883.

The indication to be drawn from these facts by business men is to go slow, to float with the tide until the indications are partially favorable.

JOHN BROWN'S LEGS.

Queen Victoria ought to write just one more book. The most interesting passages from her volume are those which refer to John Brown. In regard to John's accident, in which he was injured about the legs, the queen says:

"I was much distressed at breakfast to find that poor Brown's legs had been dreadfully cut at the back of the knees, and he said nothing about it. But to-day he became so inflamed and swelled so much that he could hardly move. The doctor said he must keep it up as much as possible and walk very little, but did not forbid his going out with the carriage. I did not go out in the morning."

The next day, October 12th, the queen writes: "Brown's leg is much better. The doctor thought he could walk over hill to-morrow."

The concluding page of the queen's book is devoted to the death of John Brown. It contains these sentences: "His loss to me is irreparable, for he deserved, he possessed, my confidence. He served me truly, devotedly, unintermittently. To say he is daily, hourly missed by me, one whose life-long gratitude he won by constant care and devotion, is but a feeble expression of the truth."

It does not surprise us in the least that ten thousand copies of the first edition were sold on the first day of publication, and that a second edition has been ordered to be got ready by April 1st.

CALICO CHARLEY now takes it all back. He says he was only "chaffing" some Arthur men when he said Arthur could not carry Ohio. "If I had supposed there were any newspaper men around," says Governor Foster, "I should not have expressed myself as I did. Any one with whom I have talked soberly will bear testimony that I have always given President Arthur credit for a wise and judicious administration, and have the highest respect for him as a man and an official. I don't see how he could have done better." Governor Foster further explains that his statement that Logan was the Ohio candidate, was also a joke. "When Ohandler asked me who would carry Ohio," says Mr. Foster, "I put my hand on Logan's knee and said, 'Here's the man.'" Mr. Foster as a joker is a great success, but in this instance he seems to have become convinced that there is such a thing as carrying a joke too far.

The New York Times Cincinnati correspondent says that New York is again the ever-rising stumbling block that gets in the way of candidates and throws them out. Whatever there is of hope for Arthur's candidacy lies in the ability of his friends to show the rest of the country that New York wants him and will give him its electoral vote. All reasoning for other candidates will go down if, after the district conventions in New York are held, it can be satisfactorily known that a large majority of them desire to present Arthur's name.

EX-CONGRESSMAN FLOWER, of New York, having been convinced that he stands no show of being elected United States senator, has refused to be a candidate for that position, but he is, nevertheless, spending a good deal of coin

from his "bar" in political channels. He recently gave, unsolicited, \$500 to a local democratic organization. The fact is that he is laying his plans for nomination as vice president on the democratic ticket, with Payne at the head of it. These two men, each having a big "bar," ought to get away with the nomination. That, however, is as far as they ever will get in the presidential race.

SOMETHING FOR THE PARTY OF THE PEOPLE TO DO.

The republican party ought, assuredly, to recognize what is coming to be the one imperative need of the people of this country. The times are hard for the people, who will sooner or later solve for themselves the question whether they are to go on indefinitely taxing themselves one hundred million dollars a year beyond the current needs of the government. The republican party was never strong enough, in its strongest days, to face a policy which takes two dollars a year from the pockets of every man, woman and child throughout the entire land, and piles it up in the treasury vaults at such a rate as that. The people will not stand, much farther, such a policy as this, though it be sustained by two such attorneys—one a republican and the other a democrat—as Randall and Hiscock. This is the important question of the present hour, and it will grow rapidly in importance. Compared with this question, the abstract and theoretical doctrine of protection will have to take a back-seat. The people will insist on retaining what is their own, in their own pockets. Every loyal American is willing, cheerfully, to pay every cent which the government needs and can justly ask, to meet all its obligations of debt incurred by the war for this Union, and its obligations, too, to the boys in blue who fought to save the Union, and to let the government live. But beyond this they have the right, and their necessities will surely compel them to demand that not one dollar of their money shall be drawn from their pockets to be piled up in the treasury of the United States.

THE OMAHA INDIAN LANDS.

PERIA, Ia., February 11, 1884.

To the Editor of THE BEE.

DEAR SIR: Having been for some time past a subscriber to THE BEE, and an interested reader of its columns, I take the liberty to trouble you for a little information respecting the Omaha reservation in your state, on the following points: 1. Is the land appraised, or is it sold to the highest bidder without appraisal? 2. Are there stated days upon which such sales are to take place? 3. If so, when do such sales occur, and at what place? 4. On what terms are said lands to be sold? 5. Where are the lands located? 6. What can be said with respect to water and timber? And 7. Is the land of good quality? Any information on the above points will be thankfully received by many of your readers, and especially by Yours Respectfully, D. H. BAYB.

ANSWERS.

That portion of the Omaha reservation which is to be thrown into the market at an early day is now appraised. The valuation put upon the lands in forty-acre lots is as follows:

Five lots at \$4 per acre, 20 lots at \$5 per acre, 7 lots at \$6 per acre, 101 lots at \$7 per acre, 12 lots at \$8 per acre, 463 lots at \$9 per acre, 3 lots at \$10 per acre, 370 lots at \$11 per acre, 130 lots at \$12 per acre, 161 lots at \$13 per acre, 44 lots at \$14 per acre, 6 lots at \$14 per acre. The average appraisement is \$10.26 per acre. These lands will be sold to actual settlers only at the appraised valuation, and on the following terms as to payments, viz.: One-third of the price of said land to become due and payable one year from the date of entry, one-third in two years, and one-third in three years from said date, with interest at the rate of five per centum per annum. Settlement must be made on these lands before a person is qualified under the law to make an entry of the same. We suppose, of course, that the lands will be sold to the highest bidder.

The date and place of sale have not yet been fixed, but the land commissioner will probably arrange for the sale to take place this spring. This matter will probably be decided on or about April 1st.

The lands are located in the Logan valley, one of the richest agricultural sections in Nebraska. These lands possess a beauty of surface, and wonderful fertility, and are conveniently near to market. No better lands can be found anywhere, and it is our opinion that they will all be readily sold to actual settlers at rather high prices, but the terms of payment however, are very easy.

CONGRESSMAN GEORGE R. DAVIS, of Illinois, says he does not believe in sending men to the convention tied down last and all the time. He says that "if Senator Logan's friends will let the people elect delegates who are in a measure non-committal, they will receive due consideration at their hands; but if they want to own absolutely these men and pledge them indefinitely, then there is apt to be somewhat of a fight."

The New York Herald says that the Victoria's new volume is instructive as showing that the life of the Queen of England does not differ much from that of any other worthy woman whose circle of friends is restricted by the misfortune of circumstances, and who, being limited to her family and servants for the expenditure of her affection, seems selfish in their narrowness. The minutiae with which petty incidents concern-

ing Brown are chronicled bears witness also to this—such as the slight scraping of his legs by the overturn of a carriage and his recommendation of whiskey toddy to her as a wholesome beverage.

The Hon. Wayne MacVough contributes to the March Century a paper on "The Next Presidency," in which the ideal present is pictured, and the author ventures the opinion that the political party nominating the man who approaches nearest the ideal will be successful in the coming election. Another important essay in the forthcoming number of the Century discusses methods for "The Suppression of Pauperism."

THOMAS KINSSELLA, editor of the Brooklyn Eagle, died on the same day with Thomas Cheney, editor of the London Times. He was among the first of the northern democrats of influence who came out boldly for "a tariff for revenue only," and it was while in Washington working for Carlisle as speaker on that issue that he contracted the illness from which he died.

The editor of the Republican while on his way to Washington met Schuyler Colfax, and in a letter to the Republican he refers to Mr. Colfax "as a man forgotten, unimportant, the merest 'looker-on in Venice.'" "Looker-on in Venice" is good. The editor of the Republican, while revising his Shakespeare, might just as well have called Mr. Colfax a "looker-on in Cincinnati."

The latest proposition in regard to solving the Mormon problem is to secure the passage of a bill providing that the voter, before registration, shall be required to take an oath that he does not belong to the church of the "Latter Day Saints," or any other secret organization upholding polygamy. Assurances have been given by congressmen that such a bill would be passed.

THE congressional republican committee met on yesterday to perfect organization, and decide upon headquarters. Secretary McPherson has arrived at the capital, where he will spend most of the time from now until November. The committee will plan a systematic and aggressive campaign under the personal supervision of McPherson.

CINCINNATI is indulging in the opera during high flood. The illumination Monday evening, says the Commercial Gazette, was, upon the whole, effective, though there were some "misty places" in the hall. However, the librettos could be read, though the gas-light on the stage had an old-fashioned look.

FRED DOUGLAS cares not what the world says about his marriage, now that Private Dalzell has written him a letter of congratulation, wishing him and his bride long life, and great happiness and prosperity. Mr. Douglas, in replying to Dalzell, says:

"The newspapers disregard all my protests against being considered a great man, so I have come to the conclusion to let them have their way without further contradiction. I think the material upon which they base my claim to greatness will soon be exhausted, and that they will perform me compelled to own that I am an ordinary man, and have done an ordinary thing, and that they have been fools to make so much of me and it. I think this is about the last sensation of which I can possibly be the cause. I do not know what I can do next to gain so boundless attention as the fact of my marriage has gained me, and already, like Woodley, I am bidding farewell to all my greatness."

It is a significant fact that of the house committee, on commerce, voting on the bill providing for the regulation of interstate commerce, nine of the fifteen members present favored the commissioner plan.—Republican.

It is a significant fact that in favoring the commissioner plan nine of the fifteen members of the house committee on commerce have been captured by the railroads.

Vanderbilt and Cable.

Says the Chicago Tribune of Tuesday, that Vanderbilt and Gould are getting desperate in their fight to down Mr. Cable, of the Rock Island, because the latter will not aid them in their scheme to buy stocks and fleece the same. A rumor gained credence in New York yesterday that Vanderbilt had obtained control of the Rock Island. But the true inwardness of the canard was soon revealed. Vanderbilt could not get control of the road under any circumstances until two years from next June, as the stock is to be sold in three installments and the president of the road is to be Vanderbilt. A majority of the stock is locked up in the safe of its present owners, and Vanderbilt cannot get it for love or money. In regard to Mr. Vanderbilt's attack on President Cable, and the intimation that he would be deposed, one of the largest holders of Rock Island stock on the subject: "Such talk is all nonsense. Mr. Riddle resigned on account of ill-health. He is back of Mr. Cable in everything the latter has done. Vanderbilt had 6,000 shares of Rock Island stock, which he sold to 12,000 shares when the stock was doubled. Two of us will take that stock to-day if Mr. Vanderbilt wants to sell it. He might as well try to move the Rocky Mountains into Pennsylvania as to dispose Mr. Cable with his present holdings of stock and the immense backing he has among the most powerful friends of the company."

Nebraska Heard From.

WASHINGTON, February 8.—If congress fails to become a total abstinence body the fault will not be that of want of public memorial on the subject. The other day a petition was presented in the senate, from citizens of Vermont, asking for the prohibition of the "sale, manufacture or use" of intoxicating liquors in the District of Columbia. Promptly Mr. Harlan was on his feet with a like petition from citizens of Indiana. Mr.

Cameron instantly followed with one from citizens of Wisconsin. It began to be evident that many members had been loaded with such petitions and were ready to fire them off. Mr. Miller rose at once with a prayer to the same effect from citizens of California. No sooner had he sat down than Mr. Colquhoun was at hand with a like request from citizens of Georgia. Mr. Logan immediately added an equivalent suggestion from 1,207 citizens of Illinois, and Mr. Van Wyck capped it with a presentation of the wishes of citizens of Nebraska. Then Mr. Sewell showed that a like aspiration possessed citizens of New Jersey. Mr. Hawley, from the Nutmeg state, contributed a document of the same flavor, and Mr. Wilson continued the excitement with one from "the best elements of Iowa, fairly representing the dominant element of that state." Michigan kept the ball rolling with a petition of 807 persons, offered by Mr. Conner, and the extraordinary result was not complete until others had been handed in by Mr. Frye, from Maine, and by Mr. McMillan, from Minnesota.

The Grant of Municipal Franchises. St. Louis Republican. If municipal affairs could be managed with the same carelessness and economy that are ordinarily exercised in connection with personal and private business, city finances would flourish much better than they do. The difficulty seems to be, that the individuals composing the city government, although it may be shrewd and vigilant in their own affairs, appear to deal with public interests in a much more liberal and negligent spirit. In past years this has been not infrequently illustrated in the grant of railroad and other franchises. Parties associated under a corporate name, without even a genuine corporate existence, without ascertained means of any kind and representing merely a speculative purpose, have been successful in obtaining valuable and irrevocable franchises to trade and barter in. The provisions of the present city charter regarding the grant of railroad and other franchises were intended to prevent this sort of thing and to base the city's action in such matters on plain principles of business. But no matter how wise may be these provisions they are useless if evaded or disregarded by the legislative branch of our government. What we insist upon in reference to grants to private parties by the city is, that they shall not be made except on strong and urgent reasons and for full and sufficient value. But in the matter of "consideration" very great care should be taken, because even the color of acceptance gives rise to contractual claims exceedingly difficult to get rid of afterwards. The city need not be in a hurry to bite at every ill-considered proposition submitted to persons solely actuated by selfish motives. Indeed, it might be a good thing if no extensive and permanent franchise could be granted except within fixed and specified limitations. These remarks are suggested by the rumors current respecting the omnibus bill granting "privileges and franchises" to the new gas, fuel and power company. The parties interested in it are reported to be quite confident that the assembly and mayor will favor their plans and grant them all the privileges they desire. On what this confidence is based we are at a loss to understand. The demand of the company is for permission to tear up the streets all over the city so that pipes may be laid for selling a new kind of gas. Without discussing the merits of water-gas, or other questions connected therewith, we think the mere question of the protection of the streets should dispose of this absurd proposal. We have gas pipes laid all over the city the city is bound by contract to supply that it cannot escape for some years yet. A valuable franchise, one vitally affecting our street system, and particularly the new and expensive pavements recently paid for by private property-owners, is asked for, and without any approximate return in value to the city. All the provisions in the bill as to guarantees and taxes, etc., are simply so many vague promises. All of them are based on contingencies. If the company succeeds, if by some means it makes money, if the speculation turns out well, then such things will be done. We object to a grant of this kind being made in this manner. We object to interference with our streets at present in the way proposed. There does not appear a single valid reason for conferring such a franchise on a private corporation for the purpose stated. We object to this ordinance on public grounds only, because it is unnecessary, injurious to the streets, and because the situation of the city at present, in connection with the gas entanglement, forbids its passage.

Nebraska and Iowa Patents. Elizabeth F. McCartney, Omaha, Neb., sewing thimble. Byron Clark, assignor of one half to O. Hull, Greenwood, Neb., harrow for cultivating listed corn. Charles H. Hopkins, De Soto, assignor of one-half to H. S. Butler, Des Moines, Ia., attaching plant shields to cultivators. Cornelius Collins, Ormanville, assignor of two-thirds to J. B. and W. W. Ennis, Ottumwa, Ia. Chauncey G. Dibble, Farmington, Ia., assignor of one-half to F. E. Bangs, New Haven, Conn., bridge. Theodore M. Flenniken, deceased (W. McGregor, administrator), Rockford, Ill., and T. W. Graham, Dubuque, Iowa, water-wheel. Joseph B. Neff, Burlington, Ia., wheel.

The Methodists of Kearney are wrestling successfully with Satan's subordinates in that vicinity. Some fifty or sixty sinners have been taken in, but that is only a drop in the bucket. The suit brought by the H. & M. railroad against E. O. Holt, lumber merchant at York, for demurrage fees, of which mention has been made before in this paper, has been decided by the York county court against the railroad company.

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