

THE OMAHA BEE.

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

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It is hoped that this is the last kick of winter.

A few explosions around Omaha will cause a rise in the price of glass.

If March will only come in like a lamb, we can stand it if it goes out like a lion.

If Governor Dawes should happen to have the privilege of appointing a United States senator, he would lose considerable sleep.

Mr. GERR, of the State Journal, wants to go to congress, but if he cannot go there he is willing to save his country by serving as postmaster at Lincoln.

If Omaha was located within the dominions of Queen Victoria the recent explosions would be charged up to the account of the dynamite section.

We hope that the regulator of the weather will keep some of the Manitoba waves in store for use next summer, and not give them all to us this winter.

There is a vacancy in the office of lieutenant-governor of Nebraska, and Church Howe positively declines to fill the place which is a vacuum with Agee in it.

SENATOR VEST, upon being impudently told, "for God's sake," for the bill providing new cruisers for the navy, said that the Almighty had nothing to do with it, but that it was for John Rosch's sake.

There is so much talk and gossip among the political wire-workers about Senator Manderson's probable appointment to the McCrary vacancy that the price of night-shirts has gone up twenty-five per cent.

General Manderson's successor would hold the senatorship until the middle of next January, which is nine months longer than the term of Tabor, the thirty-day senator of Colorado. He could afford to wear \$250 night shirts.

Nineteen newspaper outfits are en route for the Cour d'Alene mining district in Idaho. This is the settlement where immensely rich deposits are said to have been discovered, and thousands of miners are said to be on their way thither.

After the incorporation of a mining camp into a town, a newspaper is the first thing the miners decide upon having, and the first editor who arrives with an outfit gets the bonus and the business. It will be interesting to learn which of the nineteen who have started for Cour d'Alene will secure the prize.

DURING the congressional session of 1881-82 a bill, introduced by Senator Saunders, was passed for the straightening of the northern boundary of Nebraska by annexing about 200,000 acres of land from the territory of Dakota.

This land lies west of Niobrara, adjoining Knox county. It has not yet been thrown open to settlement, although there is a great demand for it on the part of settlers. Immediate steps should be taken by our congressional delegates to have this land opened up so that settlers could secure homesteads there early in the spring.

Some men become famous by "happy hits." Congressman Horr became famous by asserting in one of his speeches that "the south had better raise more hogs and less hell." He is now regarded as one of the wittiest speakers in congress.

Congressman Hatch, the other day, made a somewhat similar hit when he said that what the democratic party wanted was a few funerals. His speech in which this sentiment was the text has made him famous. It was not only witty but truthful and sensible. Sunset Cox can no longer be regarded as the only wit in congress. Such men as Horr and Hatch have made him take a back seat.

The house committee on public lands is evidently determined to be impartial and thorough in its action regarding the forfeiture of unseamed railroad lands.

Although vigorous and influential efforts have been exerted to save the Northern Pacific from losing a large portion of its land grant, the committee has decided, by a vote of 7 to 4, to recommend the forfeiture of all granted land contiguous to that portion of the road not completed prior to July 4th, 1879.

It is estimated that by this forfeiture, if the bill passes, the Northern Pacific will lose about 3,500,000 acres. Persons who have purchased any of this land from the railroad company are to be treated the same as if they were purchasers of the government.

THE STORAGE OF EXPLOSIVES.

The explosion of the powder magazine south of the city limits, causing the death of four boys, shows the danger of storing explosives too close to the city. There are five or six other powder houses in the same vicinity, not more than eight hundred yards from each other, and the wonder is that they were not all exploded by the terrible concussion caused by the blowing up of the first one.

Such an accident occurred at Salt Lake City some three or four years ago. Two boys shot at the door of a powder house, which instantly blew up, killing the boys, and causing the explosion of two other magazines more than half a mile apart.

The powder houses of Omaha, as they are now located, are too near the city, and the authorities should take immediate steps to cause their removal to more distant localities.

In this connection the fact should not be overlooked that there are within the city several institutions that are in reality storehouses for explosives and combustibles of the most dangerous character.

One of these is the warehouse of the Consolidated Tank Line company, in which is stored an immense quantity of gasoline and oil, which, in case of explosion and fire, at the time of a high wind or gale from the east or south, would be liable to destroy fully one-third of the business part of the city.

Another dangerous institution, located in the heart of the city, is the gas works. Under the new process of making water-gas these works are liable some day to blow up and cause great destruction of life and property.

Water-gas is highly explosive, and too much precaution cannot be exercised in regard to it, although, owing to good fortune, such an accident as the blowing up of the gas works may never happen.

It cannot be denied that the gas works are located too near the business center of the city, and steps should be taken looking towards their removal to a more remote and isolated locality.

The storage and manufacture of explosives within the city is a matter which should at once be carefully investigated by the authorities, and while they are doing this it would be proper for them to consider the subject of steam boilers.

It is estimated that there are two hundred steam boilers in use in Omaha, some of them being used for steam heating purposes, but the majority for power. It is high time that a thorough system of boiler inspection should be established in Omaha, and a competent inspector appointed.

Such an inspector should be an expert engineer. His compensation could be provided for by requiring the owners of boilers to pay a fee, say of \$5, for each inspection and permit, the inspection to be made twice a year, or oftener if deemed necessary. In this way the fees would amount to about \$2,000 a year, which ought to secure the services of a competent and honest inspector.

ROSCOE CONKLING, in reply to a New Jersey editor who attempted to draw him out on the political situation, related an incident of Zeno. When the Persian embassy was about to take leave of the Grecian court, they asked and received some message from each of the personages present.

When the turn of Zeno came he said: "Tell your master that you saw a gray-haired old man in Athens who knew enough to hold his tongue." Mr. Conkling said to the New Jersey editor that his admiration for Zeno and his teachings compelled him to keep silence regarding his action in the politics of the future. It seems, however, that Mr. Conkling has since been betrayed into an interview, which he is now strenuously denying.

In that interview he is reported to have said that the republicans were doomed to defeat, and that although a democrat might not be elected, yet the democratic party would be the determining factor in the result.

That Mr. Conkling forgot that little story about Zeno, is quite evident from the fact that he forgot to hold his tongue. The interview occurred at the dinner table of the New York club, and the interviewer was a St. Louis clergyman named Snyder. Mr. Conkling admits that there was an extended conversation between himself and Snyder, but that it was of a private social character, and that furthermore it was not truly reported.

Snyder now says that it is simply a question of veracity between Conkling and himself, and that he is satisfied that his report was correct. The incident illustrates more strongly than ever that silence is golden, and that old Zeno's head was level. Mr. Conkling now probably wishes that he had held his tongue like Zeno.

The Iowa farmers have for years been bravely and persistently fighting the barbed-wire fence monopoly, and at last, after most expensive legislation, have won a substantial victory. Judge McCrary has just entered a final decree, at Keokuk, Iowa, in the barbed-wire cases brought by Washburn & M. on for alleged infringement of their patents.

He decided that the reissues of the Kelly and Glidden patents on which the Massachusetts monopolists have based their claims were invalid basing his opinion on the fact that the specifications were unduly expanded in granting the reissues, which was not even applied for until after an unreasonably long time.

The case will probably go to the supreme court of the United States. The Iowa farmers thus encouraged will, however, continue to fight the monopoly, and will probably be successful in the last court of appeal. The barbed-wire monopoly has been an outrageous imposition, and its final defeat will be hailed with joy all over the great agricultural state of Iowa, as well as in every other part of

the west where barbed-wire is used for fencing purposes.

MORE STRINGENT LAWS.

MADISON, Neb., February 26, 1884.—I noticed the following article in a late Bee:

"The Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the Good Templars, and all other temperance people are constantly exhorting our people against the demon of alcohol and the terrible vice of intemperance that springs from intemperance, but they never take the first practical step in the direction which would make the worst evils of intemperance."

"They want more stringent laws to prevent the sale and manufacture of liquor, but when they are told that under the present laws every man and woman may prevent the licensing of low dens and notoriously disorderly houses by a simple protest, they shrug their shoulders and shirk the responsibility."

"We admit most of the above, but when you say that 'every man or woman may prevent the licensing of low dens and notoriously disorderly houses by a simple protest,' we do not admit it and know that it is not so here. The temperance workers did not 'shrug their shoulders and shirk the responsibility of getting up a protest, but got on with their work, and the saloons look around their petitions and get the required number of names by law, and then filed said petitions. But when the protest was brought against these petitions for being fraudulent, and praying that they would not grant a license to the saloons because they had violated the license laws by selling liquor to drunks, for selling liquor three days after their licenses expired, then selling that time without any license, because some of the persons whose names were on their petitions lived outside of Madison and others were not householders—did that get us rid of the saloons? No. The town board returned those petitions, after they had been filed, to the saloon keepers, and the same names appeared, when they were accepted."

"It was proved by witnesses under oath that liquor had been sold to a drunkard, and that the saloons had sold without a license."

"The saloons have also obtained their licenses for \$250 and the law says that they must pay \$500. They are now selling liquor for \$250 licenses."

"Yet with all this the town board granted licenses to the saloons. How shall we prevent it? Must we keep from telling our children that the liquor that 'biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder' will hurt them? Must we see our fellow men almost in the jaws of death and not tell them that they are in danger? Must we see our friends murdered and yet keep our mouths shut and let our pens down, not letting any one know that this serpent is one of the worst cases of mankind? Must we do all this, and only get up a protest, which can be disregarded by our diabolical board? No, we say, temperance fanaticism does not work in that way. We will not stop showing the evils of intemperance until prohibition crowns our efforts. But till then we will be 'constantly' exhorting our people against the demon of alcohol and the terrible vice and crimes that spring from intemperance."

"Until then 'they want the children in the schools taught about the terrible effects of alcoholic stimulants upon the human system. They want more stringent laws to prevent the sale and manufacture of liquor,' and when their enemy has been overcome by mankind's friend, prohibition, we will be satisfied."

W. A. BLAKELEY.

Taking it for granted that the facts set forth by Mr. Blakeley are as stated, we are amazed at the utter helplessness which he and the friends of temperance reform exhibit in dealing with this question. Our laws expressly command that the county and town board shall not grant a license to any applicant who is proven to have violated any of the provisions of the license law within twelve months preceding his application, and they cannot legally issue a license for less than \$500. It is not necessary that one hundred persons should reconstitute. One man or one woman may prevent the issuing of a license upon furnishing proof before the board that the applicant has violated the laws by selling without license, selling to habitual drunkards, or miners, or keeping a disorderly house.

Section 25 of the Stocumb law provides 'that in granting licenses or permits such corporate authorities shall comply with and be governed by all the provisions of this act in the granting of licenses.' But suppose that the board, as in the case at Madison, does grant license in spite of the remonstrance, backed by proof, that establishes the fact that the applicant has violated the law in many particulars, does the refusal of the board to comply with the law bar all redress? Does not the law give the aggrieved parties the privilege to appeal, set aside and nullify the action of the town board? Section 4 of the Stocumb law provides that 'any party interested shall have process to compel the attendance of witnesses, whose testimony shall be reduced to writing, and filed in the office of application and if any person feels himself aggrieved by the decision in said case he may appeal therefrom to the district court, and said testimony shall be transmitted to said district court, and such appeal shall be decided by the judge of such court upon said evidence alone.' Now there is not a shadow of doubt that if this course had been pursued by the parties who made remonstrance at Madison the court would have annulled the action of the town board and revoked the license. There is a plain remedy, which could have been applied successfully providing the parties that are agitating temperance reform were disposed to take the practical course plainly pointed out by law. But in the face of their confessed helplessness to enforce the laws which we now have, they clamor for more stringent laws. How are they going to enforce them if they cannot enforce the present laws? Suppose that prohibition was decreed and the penalty for selling a drink of whisky was five years at hard labor in the penitentiary, could any man guilty of selling liquor without license be indicted by a Madison county grand jury or convicted by one of their petit juries, when their juries can hardly be brought to the point of indicting a party for selling without license where the

penalty is only a light fine and confinement in the county jail? Does not the state of facts related by Mr. Blakeley show conclusively that the community in which he lives is not educated up to the standard of morality that would give countenance to prohibition and more stringent laws than we now have? Does not common sense dictate to all who desire to eradicate the worst evils of intemperance that they should confine their efforts to the enforcement of existing laws.

The explosion of that powder magazine, just south of the city limits, shows the danger of the storing of explosives in or near the city. Although the powder houses are outside of the city limits, they are still too near the city and ought to be moved to a more remote and isolated location.

SURRENDER TO THE RAILROADS.

"We have met the pool railroad and we are here," is the report which the commerce committee should make to the house of representatives when it presents the emancipated Reagan bill for consideration.

All that the railroads have permitted the committee to recommend is a commission instead of regulation, and talk of universal mismanagement of the railroads by the railroads is, that three gentlemen shall be appointed to consider the question of pool and publish essays on this subject at the end of the year. As a summary method to check the most glaring evils pending the publication of the essays which are expected to shake the equally railway-pooling world to its center it is provided that the three essay-writing gentlemen may pause long enough from their literary labor to listen to complaints, and, if satisfied that a railroad is violating the law, may tell the offending corporation to stop it, and if it refuses to stop it they are to give it sixty days to continue its offenses, and at the end of the sixty days the parties may all go into the United States courts—and stay there until they find the way out.

A more lame and impotent conclusion than this of the hope of reform and relief from intolerable railroad abuses have not often reached even congress. Is it but a mockery to tell people who are wronged by the huge railroad corporations to go to the federal courts, when the bill scrupulously omits, in its emancipated shape, all special provision for enabling them to cope there on even terms with these monopoly antagonists. Victims of the railroads can go into court now if they have a strong taste for running tilts against wind-mills.

The commerce committee have completely abandoned the whole case of the people by recommending that the road be permitted to discriminate between shippers unless their shipments are made under similar circumstances. This leaves the roads free to continue their work of using their control of the high ways to crush out the competitors of the Standard Oil company, the great coal companies, the leading merchant and manufacturer in each place they reach. The small retailers, coal operators, tradesmen, and manufacturers cannot possibly ship "under similar circumstances" with their formidable rivals. They must ship less, for the railroads, by their previous use of the high ways have made them incapable of shipping as much as their favored competitors. This bill says to the railroads: 'Having made these men poor, we admit that they are poor so go on to make them still poorer.'

The railroad commission which the bill provides for is a good enough thing. The Tribune has always been in favor of railroad commissions, and welcomes this one. But at this late day, when we see on every hand the ominous results of railroad discrimination ossifying into the hardened structure of vested wrongs all over the country, to offer us a commission of a lawyer, a railroad man, and a politician without power, as the only help the people are to have from their own representatives, is a mockery and an outrage.

It did not need Prof. Bryce, the eminent thinker and member of parliament, to point out the two greatest dangers threatening this country are the growth of abnormal fortunes and the excessive power of great corporations. Every one who looks carefully at the drift of the social development of the United States sees in these the parasitic fungi that will surely overcome the common weed if not cut out by the hand of surgery. The great corporations that threaten us are the railroad corporations and those they have bred; the great fortunes are almost without exception railroad fortunes. The power which these corporations have used to create abuses they are showing to-day at Washington in forcing congress to declare them lawful, and they will show it again in dictating the choice of the commissioners who are to investigate charges against them. The redistribution of the wealth and business of the country by their favor is going on to-day as ever, and the people's congress is asked by the commerce committee to continue this prerogative in set terms permitting them to discriminate in favor of monopoly.

There are lawyers enough in the commerce committee, if there were any patriots there, to pass a bill compelling the railroads to give at least thirty days' notice before increasing rates; to make all their tariffs public, forbidding any discrimination between large and small shippers, except that which accurately answered to the actual difference in expense, if any, between handling large and small amounts; prohibiting all unjust discriminations on any pretext; providing penalties for improper discriminations and drawbacks; and giving an ample initiative to the law officers of the government to proceed in behalf of the people to secure the actual difference in expense, if any, between handling large and small amounts; making it the duty of the people, as it does in the case of the reconstruction of other criminals against its laws.

A Historical Clock.

Arbionia (Pa.) Dispatch.

Dr. Edward Swivel, of Huntington, is the possessor of an antique piece of mechanism which has a remarkable history. In 1712 the ancestors of Mr. Swivel left Germany for America, and their first effort was an old-fashioned clock that was prized highly by them as an heirloom.

It was wrecked a few weeks after the cargo of the vessel was received by wreckers, when the clock was sent to its proper owners, who had located in Pennsylvania.

At this time the Indians had become very troublesome in the Cumberland Valley, where the Swivels had settled, and the people of that region were kept in constant dread of an impending invasion. Finally an attack was made on the settlers, many of whom were killed, a number taken into captivity and their village destroyed. Among the number taken captive were the Swivels, who were treated barbarously by their dusky captors, but were finally liberated after months of privation and suffering. From the date of this occurrence nothing was heard of the old clock until about two years afterward, when a party of Indians, who were trading in the Juniata Valley, where the Swivel family had subsequently moved, exchanged the old timepiece for ammunition to the very family from which it had been stolen during the Indian raids in the Cumberland Valley. The old clock has descended from one generation to another, until it now does excellent duty for one of its owner's descendants in Huntington.

STATE JOTTINGS.

LINCOLN.

A careless traveler, west bound, lost his pocketbook, containing \$7,000 in bonds, on the cars. A brakeman found and returned it. It is rumored in police circles that Hundell, the absconding telephone manager, has been captured in England. A reward of \$250 is offered for him.

Emigrants are already pouring into the state, a month's advance of the usual time. The arrival of emigrant moveables averages a train load a day.

Mr. Lipsie, the tenant on the lower floor of the opera house building has been induced to move out for \$50, and the work of remodeling and enlarging the opera house will go on.

The Democrat is forcing the season by doing a spring suit of the latest cut, topped with a noble roman head. The possibility of victory next fall doubtless cheers the Democrat's heart.

A little boy from Hastings who destroyed the sight of one eye with tin from a shoe string, had his eye ball removed and the tin extracted by Prof. Hart, before the homeopathic class of the university.

PLATTSMOUTH.

W. J. Agnew has purchased the Robbins farm of 400 acres, near Ashland, at a cost of \$10,000.

B. C. De Selm, who was employed for a long time in the B. & M. road, died recently at DeKalb, Ill. His life was insured in the A. O. U. W. of Plattsmouth for \$2,000, which goes to his mother.

FREMONT.

It is rumored that Dr. L. J. Abbott will build an opera house on the corner of Fifth and F. streets.

W. W. Love, of this city, is half owner in the Canaan ranch in Col. county, for which \$20,000 was paid recently.

The Brown county horse thieves confined here for some weeks, have been taken back for trial. It is likely the regulators will give them a warm greeting.

An expert bookkeeper has been employed to investigate the books of ex-County Clerk Kerlow, at the request of that gentleman. The North Bend Fall has charged him with embezzlement.

THE STATE IN GENERAL.

The U. P. telegraph line to Beatrice is about completed.

Jamecia and Sallito are rival towns on rival railroads in Gage county, half a mile apart.

The Missouri Pacific section boss at Dunbar, Osce county, has been arrested for rape and bound over to the next term of the district court.

The Barton residence at North Platte has been purchased by the Union Pacific and will be turned into a hospital. The consideration was \$15,000.

A syndicate of Brownville capitalists have invested in a Mexican gold mine. F. E. Johnson and J. W. Ford are now in Mexico superintending the matter.

A six inch vein of coal thirty feet below the surface has been discovered on the Hooley property in the west end of Brownville. It is of a fair quality. The prospecting is being pushed.

Parties who have been prospecting in the neighborhood of Greer lake, near Cache creek, in Holt county, claim to have struck a vein of coal fifteen feet thick at a distance of fifty feet below the surface.

Charlie Beveridge is feeding 350 head of steers and 700 hogs at his place in Saunders county, about eight miles south of Fremont, and has this winter purchased 50,000 bushels of corn.

Wm. Lou Hannah, of York, aged 12, burned up what was left of a broken heart with a large dose of oxalic acid, a deadly poison. It was deliberate act to end the heartaches of unrequited love.

At Fifth, Lancaster county, the other day, an angry father manled the breath out of an insurance agent for making an improper proposal to his little daughter. The town grew so hot for him that he packed up his cheek and left.

A Ponca preacher went out into the country to marry a couple. The groom placed a crisp bill into the pastor's hand, and the pastor pushed it into his vest pocket without looking at it. His livery was \$2.50, and he pulled his fee out to pay the livery man. It was a dollar bill. He hired the hostler to do his carrying.

N. D. Farrell, a brakeman on the B. & M., was run over and killed at Cedar Creek quarries, near Louisville, Tuesday. The car upon which Farrell was riding parted in the middle, throwing him under the car, where he was dragged by the brake beams until crushed to death. His remains were taken to Mendota, Ill., for burial.

The Kearney Press is threatened with starvation "because it dared denounce the three per cent sharks of Kearney, and Buffalo county, and because it has attacked the hypocrisy of those who profess religion and violate laws Divine and human, in extorting money from the poor." The Press seems to be "holden" the grip pretty well, and the squalls of the locks are harkening of victory.

The Pacific horse company, of Hastings, has ordered a two-wheeled horse cart of the standard make and weight, which will be used at the next Fremont tournament, to be held in Omaha next June. They have shipped in a little extra cash and ordered the axle and spindles stuffed with condensed white lightning and concentrated extract of Kansas cyclone. It will be a 'put there yore' go-cart and don't you forget it.—(Gazette-Journal.)

A resident of Clarksville, in Merrick county, was recently arrested for stealing coal belonging to the railroad. He put in no legal defense, except asking for a jury, admitting that he took the coal after beginning and borrowing, and after burning all available fuel around him, leaving none for sale in the town, and the weather being very severe. The jury promptly acquitted him, calling it malicious prosecution without cause for action, and taxed the costs up to the complainant. The costs amounted to \$74.65. This means, probably, that a man has a right to live.

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