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

WHEN General Howard returns from Europe he will have plenty of material for a new lecture.

PERHAPS some of the Nebraska politicians can induce Senator Manderson to take the Russian mission, if McCrary's place has been promised to another man.

THE seed-corn department of the *Republican* is a sort of political weather bureau in charge of a lightning rod candidate for the United States senate, who expects in this way to rope in the seedy granger.

GOVERNOR CRITTENDEN, of Missouri, has added to his fame by snatching a kiss from Patti, and giving her a gubernatorial hug. Nicolini, her alleged husband, must have been out on the rear platform of the car at the time.

ACCORDING to the congressional directory James Laird, congressman from the Third Nebraska district, was a presidential elector from Michigan in 1880. People of Michigan will probably be surprised to learn that Mr. Laird cast their vote for president.

WITH the beginning of spring the gentle Apache of Arizona, who has lived all winter on goverment rations, takes to the warpath and amuses himself by killing the settlers and stealing cattle and horses. General Crook, no doubt, will have his hands full during the coming saason. It is evident that he has not yet solved the Indian problem in Arizona.

WE have been asked to suggest the name of some man who would acceptably serve the people of the first ward in the city council. The BEE has no advice to give on that point, but we know of no man at present who would fill the position with greater fidelity than Mr. Thrane, whose term expires in April. He is honest, straightforward and reliable so far as we have been able to observe.

CHARLES A. DANA will now have to rise and explain how it happened that a copy of the *Sun*, containing his dynamite editorials on "Turn the rascals out" was found in a valise containing a dynamite machine that was to blow up Charing Cross station in the heart of London. It isn't the first time that a a piece of paper has furnished a clue to a terrible plot.

THE name of Hon. James M. Tyner is being mentioned in connection with the governorship of Dakota, after Governor Ordway's term expires. If we remember right the Hon. James M. Tyner retired from office just about the time of the star-route investigations. He retired because Postmaster James thought he was too familiar with Dorsey. Possibly, his idea of being transplanted in Dakota is to go to the United States senate from Dakota when it becomes a state.

THE Californians have been made happy at last by the house committee on foreign affairs. The committee has agreed to report favorably the bill prepared by the Pacific coast delegation for the prevention of Chinese immigration. The bill as originally prepared required Chinese students to have certificates and return to China within ninety days after graduation, and also that the United States shall pay all expenses of the return of any Chinaman to whom permission to land from any vessel was refused under the law. These two clauses were stricken out.

IN answer to many inquiries it gives us much pleasure to say, as it will give his multitude of friends in this part of the west much pleasure to hear, that the health of Hon. S. J. Tilden has been much improved in the last two or three weeks. We received information yesterday, which is entirely reliable, that Mr. Tilden rides out and takes long drives as a daily habit, which means that he is again in his usual comfortable condition. —*Omaha Herald.*

This official announcement from the manager of Tilden's western literary bureau must afford the admirers of the cipher alley patriot an immense amount of comfort. Tilden is taking his long rides. The 'possum policy which he has been pursuing for the last two or three years has been abandoned, and the "bar'l" will soon be tapped to rally under the Tilden banner the rag-tag and bob-tail who have votes to sell at primary elections. Tilden has recovered just in the nick of time. He couldn't have recovered much sooner to be welcome, nor much later to be of any use. Now let the "fraud" cry be revived and the cipher book revised. Hendricks is well. Let the watchword be, "The old ticket and an appropriation."

OPENING THE SIOUX RESERVATION.

All obstacles to the opening of the Sioux Indian reservation have been removed, and the bill will probably be passed sometime during the present session of congress. The report of the Dawes' Indian committee, having this matter in charge, has been prepared, and has been approved by Mr. Holman, who has charge of the Indian appropriations in the house. This is indeed gratifying news to the people of Dakota as well as to a large number of people from other states who are anxious to secure homesteads in the Sioux reservation. That portion which is to be thrown open to settlement is said to be for the most part valuable agricultural lands, which, under the provisions of the bill, will be disposed of only to actual settlers. The settling up of the Sioux reservation will prove a great benefit to western Dakota and Nebraska. It is to be hoped that congress will pass the bill at an early day, so that settlers can secure the land this spring. If the reservation is opened in the spring the result will in a great measure be due to the efforts of the deputations of Dakotains who have been in Washington all winter fighting for this object.

The present Sioux reservation was formed under a treaty made in 1868. With a view of opening a large portion of it to the public, in response to an urgent demand, a commission, with Governor Newlon Edmunds as chairman, was appointed to make a new treaty with the Indians. A majority of the tribes consented, but it was afterwards found that under the treaty of 1868, the consent of two-thirds of the male adult Indians had to be obtained. This was accordingly done, and last summer the special senate committee on Indians, consisting of Senators Dawes, Logan, and Cameron of Wisconsin, visited the tribes and heard their complaints, and desires for an amendment of the proposed treaty.

The revised treaty gives to each Indian 320 acres of land, and each of his minor sons 80 acres; all damages resulting from a rearrangement of reservation boundaries, which shall leave an Indian's house or other improvements on public land, will be indemnified; and 25,000 cows and 1,000 bulls are to be the tribal property of the Sioux, the government hiring herders and caring for the stock for ten years. The treaty as left by Governor Edmunds only certified land to the Indians. As amended by Senator Dawes, titles in fee will be granted.

THE ANNUAL ASSESSMENT.

The annual work of the assessors will soon begin, and the question again presents itself whether our people will continue to submit to the repetition to the outrageous and discriminating manner in which the assessments of property are made. It is a subject worthy to the most serious consideration, and our people should awaken to the importance of putting an end to unfair assessments. They should no longer allow the work to go by default owing to their neglect in not taking a personal interest in the matter.

The assessors have, year after year, been in the habit of exempting the property of the rich, and discriminating against the poor. They have assessed city lots, owned by the wealthy, at ridiculously low figures, and millions of property leased by the railroads for elevators, warehouses, shops, etc, have been exempted under the pretense that the property is held by the railroads as right of way. Last year, after months of agitation, we finally succeeded in having the assessment raised about $1,500,000, but it is a matter of fact that the improvements of the previous year more than covered this increased assessment. We know that real estate in Omaha has gone up from 15 to 50 per cent, and in some instances more than 200 per cent., but the assessors still keep on valuing it at the old valuation of 1880 and previous years. For some unaccountable reason they do not seem to realize that property is constantly increasing in value, and that the assessment figures of one year will not answer for the following year. The assessment should be increased every year in proportion to the increased value of property. The pretext that the raising of our taxes will raise the state taxes is based on a wrong impression. The laws expressly give us the right to have our state taxes adjusted according to the ratio of taxation. For instance, if property in Douglas county is assessed at one third and in other counties at one-fouth or one-sixth of its value, the state taxes will be proportioned accordingly.

What we want and must have is uniform taxation. The property of the rich must be taxed just the same as the property of the poor. We tax the laboring man's bed, cook stove, and cow, but the man of wealth has his money loaned out on mortgages which are untaxed, and his elegant and costly furniture is thrown in as a mere bagatelle. Reform in assessment and taxation is what the people demand, and the assessors should this year inaugurate an honest system of assessment.

SENATOR PENDLETON has introduced a bill for the settlement and development of Alaska. It is very liberal to homesteaders. Heads of families are to be allowed 640 acres of land, and unmarried males or females, over 21 years of age, can take up 320 acres. We do not apprehend, however, that there will be any great rush of homesteaders to Alaska.

NOW THEY have formed a syndicate in Pennsylvania that will raise the price of coke. What next?

THE Iowa senate has passed a bill that requires railroad companies to build depot accommodations at railway crossings where passengers have to change from one road to another. Such a bill was defeated by the Nebraska senate last year through the railroad lobby.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

The most important measure that has been before parliament since Gladstone's accession to the premiership is the bill for the extension of the franchise, which the great liberal leader introduced in the house of commons with a powerful speech. This bill proposes to extend the right of suffrage to over two milions of men in the United Kingdom who have never before enjoyed political privileges. The bill is warmly supported not only by the liberals and radicals, but by the Scotch members and the Parnellite faction. Its passage through the house of commons by an overwhelming majority is insured, but it remains to be seen whether the lords can be induced to still further increase the political power of the masses of Great Britain. That there will be strong opposition to the bill by the tories, both in the commons and house of lords, is a foregone conclusion, and it is safe to anticipate the most intense and bitter contest over this great reform that has been waged within the last fifty years. The extension of the franchise is, of all the measures, regarded as the surest means for pacifying Ireland and solving the Irish problem.

During the last six or eight months Ireland has been more free from agrarian and political crime than for a long time before. Whether owing to the benefits extended to the tenants by the Land Act of 1881, or to the terror inspired by the Prevention of Crimes Act of 1882, or to the reaction which naturally followed upon the violent agitation which prevailed from the establishment of the Land league until the passing of the latter measure, or to all these causes taken together, there have been singularly few murders or other outrages, and also, through the three most frequently disturbed provinces, singularly few conflicts between the police and any kind of people, or between different factions. Nevertheless the Irish problem has not become less menacing.

The massacre of Hicks Pasha and his brave band has been followed by what seems to be an endless succession of disasters. The fall of Tokar has given El Mahdi and the rebellious Arabs and Egyptians control of almost the entire Soudan. The latest advices from Khartoum indicate that General Gordon, convinced of the danger of attempting to hold that important city, has determined to evacuate the place at once, owing to the rebellious spirit displayed by the rebellious sheikhs who so warmly received him on his entrance into Khartoum. He has destroyed all the military stores and spiked all the guns which would be liable to encumber a retreat from the town, so as to prevent them from falling into the hands of the Mahdi. The report that El Mahdi was marching toward Khartoum is confirmed. He liberated twelve members of the Catholic mission before leaving El Obeid, receiving a ransom of £2,800 through the Austrian consul at Khartoum. El Mahdi's inaction after his victory at El Obeid is explained by the fact that, finding that the sheikhs of the principal tribes wished to go home with their spoils in order to attend to the harvest, he proclaimed a holy truce during the months of Moharrem and Safar, ending on the date of the anniversary of the birth of the prophet. That time having expired, the campaign has been resumed.

Determined to retrieve the disasters which have overtaken the British arms General Graham and the fleet under Admiral Hewitt have been ordered upon an advance up the Nile toward Tokar, and a desperate engagement between these forces and Osman Digna is expected every hour. General Graham has his forces well in hand, and is not likely to be surprised or overpowered.

All the soldiers who were returning to England on the troopship Jumna have volunteered their services ashore, both those whose time had already expired and the others. They have been accepted as a most welcome addition to General Graham's forces. As they are veterans, they will give steadiness and increase of confidence to the younger soldiers.

It is positively asserted in Constantinople that the Mahdi and King John of Abyssinia have signed a convention to the effect that King John shall remain neutral, and in return shall receive a port on the Red Sea and a large accession of territory.

The assembling of the German reichstag within a few days is looked forward to with a great deal of interest in Germany. Much speculation is indulged in over the course which the liberals and socialists will pursue in formulating their censure of Bismarck for returning to the United States the Lasker resolution passed by the house of representatives.

History can scarcely furnish an example of a country completely losing liberty after even so short a taste of it as Germany enjoyed thirty-five years ago; yet practically Prince Bismarck is now a despotic autocrat who can crush whomsoever he will. He hounded poor Arnim to his grave; he has kicked cardinals and prelates off their episcopal thrones. As for the press, an editor who ventures on a comment unpalatable to the autocrat of Varain is soon behind the walls of a jail. The editor of The Volkszeitung, for example, has just been consigned to one for nine months "for offenses against Prince Bismarck." Lasker died heartbroken, his friends say, at seeing the country he loved under despotism and his efforts all unavailing, and Bennigsen has withdrawn from polititics in despair.

Another meeting of the German emperor and the Russian czar has been agreed upon for next spring. The explanations made by the Russian ambassador regarding the concentration of troops on the frontier provinces are pronounced satisfactory, and Bismarck has countermanded the order to increase the forces in the Duchy of Posen, but maintains the present garrisons at their full strength.

The condition of affairs in Russia does not seem to be much improved. Nihilistic plots still continue and the reign of terror is liable to break out most any time. The czar has decided to convene the superior council on the 10th of March for consideration of socialist questions. The council will be composed of representatives of the ruling classes. Whether this superior council will devise some scheme to ameliorate the condition of the people and respond to the demand for constitutional concession remains to be seen.

Russia has taken advantage of England's weakness in the present Egyptian revolt by extending her boundaries in Central Asia. She has boldly pushed forward and seized upon Merv, so that now her frontier outposts almost touch upon Herat. Merv is described by travelers as an oasis. The region round about is well watered and fertile and capable of sustaining a large force, in truth a position which Russia has long coveted as an excellent base of supplies. It can be thus seen that with an active enemy upon the immediate borders of a sullen and vengeful foe, the position of the British in India is not enviable. The teeming population of that country will hail with ill-concealed delight the news of Russian aggression in that debatable land, and, owing to this, the Indian government was forced to a step which, under the pleasanter name of "volunteer forces," is neither more nor less than the conscription. It was thus that this was affected.

Upon the outbreak of the Afghan war the local authorities invited every European and Eurasian, not a government employe, to join the volunteer movement; the services of those in its employ were ordered, not asked for. In plain words, the government desired a local white army as a garrison force in order to overawe the native population; no surer sign that the authorities were, to use a slang expression once in the mouth of every Anglo-Indian in a "blue funk." And this "blue funk" must now be pretty general throughout the far away community, and it may not be exaggeration to say that ere the lapse of another five years English and Russian officers will have the chance to cross their swords upon the bank of the Oxus, for the present Russian occupation has long been declared by English writers as naught but a declaration of war. Whether England will care, under the present conditions, to accept the gage, remains to be proven: but there is no doubt that the Russians have more plainly than ever shown their intentions of making a movement toward the conquest of British Russia.

The condition of Peru, either politically or commercially speaking, does not improve. The ministers of General Iglesias have found it necessary to hold conferences with the Chilean plenipotentiary, Senor Novoa, at Chorillos, to demonstrate the impossibility on the part of Peru of paying the 300,000 silver dollars monthly to the Chilean army of occupation, it having become disagreeably evident that the limited resources at the command of General Iglesias were not sufficient to carry on even his own government organization on half pay. From Valparaiso large amounts of money have been sent up from time to time since the evacuation of Lima to provide the commissaries of the Chilean troops with the means of covering the pay rolls, and Senor Novoa, in view of the state of the Peruvian exchequer, consented to sign an agreement by which, for the present, no demands would be made on the conquered republic for the stipulated sum, but at the same time constituting a Chilean lien on the Peruvian custom house at Mollendo, the port of Arequipa, from which heavy receipts have been obtained by the Chilean authorities still occupying that port. It is an alleged fact that from the 23d of October last, when Lima was handed over to the Iglesias government, only 73,000 have been paid to the Chileans on account of the 300,000 stipulated as a monthly maintenance.

The movement along the Peruvian coast, where the national flag is restored, is, financially speaking, far below the expectations entertained. The new duties ordered by the Iglesias government on the exportation of silver ore, sugar and wool are considered ruinous by the producers. Even in the great centres, such as Lima, Callao and Trujillo, ordinary business is at a standstill. Buyers from the interior, upon whom the wholesale merchants depend, are either afraid to trust their persons or money on the coast or are fearful that the era of tranquility has not yet arrived.

There is absolutely nothing new from the Franco-Chinese war. The belligerents seem to have gone to sleep in the vicinity of Bacninh, and nobody knows when they will awake.

M. Tricou, formerly French minister to China, has arrived at Paris, and exhibits the gold cup from which the late king of Anam drank poison by order of the present regent. This is a delightful little trinket for the amusement of the populace who are outraged at Tricou's statement that the black flags put Chinese in front of them in battle and massacred them if they refused to fight. But the regent who gave the king a cup of poison and put on the throne a stripling infused with a desire to retain the friendship of France, is a great favorite in Paris.

A Port au Prince dispatch says that President Saloman in passing through Jeremie court-martialed several high officials and had a majority of them shot. It will be remembered that last summer when Jeremie and many of the government troops joined the rebels, and the province of Jacmel declared for Gen. Bazchias, the rule of Salomon was thought at about an end. His recent successes have evidently embittered his aged heart, and indeed he has always had the reputation of being a very severe man. The last revolt was occasioned by his cruelties to the mulattoes.

The pope is endeavoring through the papal nuncios to interest the European powers against the Italian government's proposed conversion of the real property of the congregation of the Propaganda into Italian rentes. All the religious orders at Rome have been convoked to prepare a statement which shall show the loss of property under the conversion, resulting from the conditions of a forced sale, the payment in exchange by bonds whose interest is guaranteed by the doubtful security of the Italian exchequer, and the laying of a heavy tax equal to one-third the interest upon the proceeds. The pope appeals against the proceeding as robbery of the church, and that is exactly what it looks like. The property of the Propaganda has not been derived from the state, as we understand it, but by voluntary contributions from all over the world, from Americans as well as from Italians.

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An Important Crisis.

BELLEVUE, February, 1884.

To the Editor of THE BEE:

The period has arrived for much needed radical reforms, for the establishment upon a basis of justice of the state's relations with the railroads, as affecting the rights of our citizens. The coming legislators will be astonished at the vast amount of work to be done, and the discovery of such a large mass of iniquity, that the people of Nebraska have foolishly borne for so long a time. The question arises, "Are we to remain blind, when absolute danger stalks right before our very eyes? Are we to be deaf, though sounds of perils fill the air? Are we to remain dumb, when a thousand duties impel us to raise the cry of alarm? Is it not much more honorable to catch the lowest whisper which breathes intention or purpose of encroachment on the public rights, and give our voice breath and utterance at the constant appearance of wrong? Is it not our duty to eagerly traverse the whole horizon with the clear and cat-like vision of an unhooded hawk, detecting, through all disguises, every enemy advancing in any form toward the citadel of our liberties. Now it is acknowledged in all circles there is a great conflict coming on. It will be a conflict to determine who shall remain supreme—the railrords on the one hand or the majority of the people on the other. It is a crisis of vast importance and consequence to every freeman of Nebraska, and no man who has the welfare of his state at heart will abandon principle for the mere acquisition of money and the long line of favors that come free as water, through a channel I need not mention. Every day comes the news of this method or that means to be employed by the railroads in order to gain ascendency, so as to overrule the will of the people, and override the charter of their power under any contigency whatsoever. There is no question but what the people of Nebraska, who are not bound up by moss-back theories, have long ago discovered that the labor and struggles of THE BEE have not been in vain. It has been in the field for years, leaning towards the people in every instance where extortion and railroad discrimination have been concerned. Its cause is to be commended and deserves our mutual support. We only hope it will buzz with renewed energy and will shine forth with undoubted splendor when placed on the same level with The Omaha Republican and Lincoln Journal, in their purchased affinity towards the railroads as also in their advocacy of dirty and unclean jobs, that hope to now and then, like a thief in the dark do wrong right in our very midst. Then they have all the assumption of brass to deny their guilt, and essay they are the ones that mould the political sentiment of this state, that seek to alleviate distress and call back all those independent republicans, to go to them for counsel and advice. Now, sir, it is a profound and perilous mistake made by many of our first citizens that they must remain adherents and supporters of the republican party under all circumstances, lest the party should lose ground and be defeated, when a defeat would prove the best possible event that could overtake the republican party in Nebraska. We must remember under our present system of primaries, conventions and the usual presence of Thurston and Greene, that our predilection and right of suffrage has been continually misrepresented in their hands. We know that the policy of the republican party for several years past has been founded on bitter hostility towards a large portion of our population; a total disregard of the principles embraced in the state constitution, and furthermore of public honor. No state government is practically safe, our property is not safe, nothing is safe in the hands of men who are supposed to do the bidding of railway managers. We blush to name the crimes, that deserve a just rebuke at the hands of the people, for the utter detestation the party has betrayed their wants, in such an infamous way, deliberately violated the sentiment it was expected to sustain, broke a plighted faith and established a precedent which is a perilous one; in some states such action would hurl any party from power.

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This is to give further notice that I will not be responsible for any debts contracted by any person in our late firm name, nor will I pay any attorney's fees or costs to carry on any litigation of any description against any of the creditors of the late firm of Manning & Hess, and the use of my name to carry on any such litigation is unauthorized by me.

WILLIAM F. MANNING.

Omaha, Neb. Feb., 16 1884. Feb 18-d.

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