

THE OMAHA BEE

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

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The battle of the ballots begins to-day in Chicago.

Somebody seems to have trod on Dr Miller's corns.

Mayor Chase and Marshal Guthrie will find it a little hotter later in the season.

Mr. Blaine says that he does not expect the presidential nomination, but that a dark horse will carry off the prize.

General Sherman says he is not a dark horse, and would not accept the presidential nomination under any circumstances.

Dr. Miller now administers a dose of taffy to Mr. Poppleton. Dr. Miller ought to know that taffy has no more effect on Mr. Poppleton than water has on a duck's back.

If Councilman Kaufman would serve the interests of the public schools rather than those of the saloon-keepers, he would earn for himself a more enviable reputation as a city father than he is now acquiring.

The Bee said yesterday that Dr. Miller must be in a very unhappy state of mind. Since that time evidence has been produced in the columns of the Herald to show that he is in a dangerous state of mind.

One hundred and twenty-seven thousand people in Kansas City. What will the hirings of the neighborhood press say to this improvement—Kansas City Times.

The lightning calculator of the Times is a great improvement on the ordinary newspaper liar.

General Clayton, who was defeated by J. R. Lynch, the colored gentleman from Mississippi, in the contest for the temporary chairmanship of the national republican convention, acted very gracefully throughout the fight. He voted for his opponent, and when the result was announced, he moved to make the election of Lynch unanimous.

Quin Bohannon, who is under sentence of death, writes from the penitentiary to the editor of the Omaha Herald: "I like your paper; I like your sentiments," &c. It is no wonder that Mr. Bohannon likes a paper that is opposed to capital punishment. Mr. Bohannon is opposed to the same thing.

Policeman Nightingale has again been suspended for drunkenness. Mayor Chase was aware of the character of this man when he re-appointed him to the police force, and the council was acquainted with the fact that the man had been removed from the force last year for good cause, yet it went on and confirmed his re-appointment. The council ought to give Nightingale an everlasting vacation.

The city council has adopted a resolution requesting the city attorney to give his opinion upon the present liquor license ordinance, and if it is defective to state what is necessary to make it legal and effective. The council ought also to have passed a resolution that it would act in accordance with the city attorney's opinion, which, we predict, will be that the present ordinance is wholly illegal, and that an entirely new ordinance will have to be passed.

Hon. John R. Lynch, the colored delegate to the national republican convention, from Mississippi, made a dignified and well-timed speech upon accepting the temporary chairmanship of the convention on Tuesday. Every word was appropriate and befitting, and bore evidence of the ability, patriotism and good sense of the speaker. Such men as Lynch, Bruce, Douglas and Revels are credit to any party, and the republican party shows its wisdom in recognizing them.

This ordinance introduced at the last council meeting making the license for circus \$300 a day; for each glugging, sparring or boxing match, \$100; each variety theatre, \$500, etc., is a step in the right direction, but it does not go far enough. Circuses ought to be made to pay at the very least \$500 a day. They take out of the city thousands of dollars and spend little or no money, except for advertising. They can well afford to pay \$500 a day on such a great show town as Omaha. As to the license for glugging matches, we hope the ordinance will be amended so as to make the license \$1,000, and for variety dives \$1,000 would be about the right figure. In other words the glugging and variety business ought to be prohibited.

THE PUBLIC LANDS.

The public lands committee reported some days ago in favor of repealing the timber culture and pre-emption laws. The committee's recommendation was made after a careful investigation, the result of which was the discovery that immense tracts of lands are being obtained under the law for eastern and foreign capitalists. Under the law as it is, one person may obtain 160 acres by pre-emption at \$1.25 per acre and a short settlement, and 160 acres by going through the face of breaking five acres and planting it to trees, and 160 acres by five years' actual residence thereon. Speaking of the working of the pre-emption law the committee say:

Whole townships of the public domain have been acquired under this law by capitalists who do not reside within hundreds of miles of the land, and never did. They have secured them through paid agents in their employ, who receive so much for their services when they make the proof necessary to entitle them to a patent from the government, and assign their claims to their employers. This is done, of course, through perjury and subornation of perjury, for each one of these agents or claimants is required to make settlement on the preemption claim under the law, and he must make oath before the register or receiver of land in the district that he has not settled upon and improved such land to all the same on speculation, but in good faith to appropriate it to his own exclusive use, and that he has not directly or indirectly made any agreement or contract in any way or manner with any person whatsoever, by which the title which he might acquire from the government of the United States, should inure in whole, or in part, to the benefit of any person except himself. And yet it is well known that this oath is daily taken by parties who make it under contracts such as we have indicated above. Their file with the register of the proper land district their declaration making their proof, affidavit, and payment required by the law, and receive their title, and transfer the same to the parties with whom they made the contract before they attempted to make a preemption.

Secretary Teller, in his report upon the timber culture act, says that his information leads him to the conclusion that a majority of entries under that act are made for speculative purposes, and not for the cultivation of timber. Compliance with law in these cases is a mere pretence, and does not result in the production of timber. On the contrary, as one entry in a section exhausts the timber-culture right in that section, it follows that every fraudulent entry prevents a bona-fide one [in any portion of that section within which the fraudulent entry is made. Secretary Teller's information is that no trees are to be seen over the vast regions of country where timber-culture entries have been most numerous.

It is proposed by the committee to hereafter give only 160 acres to any one, and that only upon the rigid condition that every homesteader shall make final proof of two creditable witnesses that he has resided upon and cultivated and permanently improved his homestead for four consecutive years. Other provisions are to be made against fraud, in securing public lands. Although the public domain seems inexhaustible, it is rapidly diminishing. Last year 19,430,032 acres were taken up in one way and another, an increase of 5,000,000 acres over 1882, and nearly 9,000,000 in 1881. Of this vast area a trifle over 8,000,000 acres were in homestead entries, but the latter are increasing so fast that they themselves they are making large inroads yearly into the lands still belonging to the government.

ALIEN OWNERSHIP OF LANDS. The alarming extent to which foreigners have become vast land owners in this country has been brought to the attention of the national republican convention in an address, which was read by Alexander Sullivan, in behalf of the executive committee of the Irish National League. The address shows the dangers that are sure to result from the immense land grabs that have been made through railroad companies and other corporations by foreign capitalists. One of the principal dangers is the creation of an immense absentee landlordism, by which, as the address states, the riches of our soil and the results of the hardy labor of our citizens are to be drained out of the country to swell the fortunes of the hereditary monopolists, who have obtained at least 20,000,000 acres of our soil. This subject has been frequently discussed of late by the leading newspapers and statesmen of our country, and it seems to be the general desire of our people that the ownership of the land in the United States must depend upon American citizenship. The Irish National League, while no doubt having in view a blow principally at English capitalists who have become immense land monopolists in the United States, has struck the popular chord. The league in its movement against alien land owners and monopolists will have the sympathy and support of the great mass of the American people, and the republican national convention will in all probability take decisive action upon the matter, by making recommendations to congress to enact prohibitory laws against alien ownership of lands. The convention cannot afford to ignore the fact that the ownership of land, especially in immense tracts, by foreigners, is contrary to the spirit of republican institutions, and that such foreigners should be compelled to become citizens of this country or relinquish their lands to persons who are citizens.

For four years the Bee urged in and out of season the passage of a municipal building law which should prevent erection of dangerous structures upon our streets and assure the safety of the inmates of buildings and their neighbors. Two years ago Mr. Herman from the Sixth ward introduced such a measure but it died in the committee room pig-

son holes. The bill which has recently passed is a good one, and its scope is made reaching and sufficient. It leaves however, much to the discretion and judgment of public works and still more to the vigilance and executive ability of the chief engineer of the fire department. The Bee calls up the subject at this day only to say that the rules and regulations to be adopted by the board can hardly be too stringent in their precautions against the possibility of the construction of any more such fire traps as we have seen erected within the last few years upon our principal business streets. Omaha has had too many forests of fire enclosed within brick walls, too much substantial veneers and tinder box interiors, too few possible emergency where 50 or 100 human beings might be compelled to take their lives in their own hands by running madly through blazing joists and flaming wooden stairs to reach a place of safety. In compiling their regulations the board building should be guided largely by the experience of the other cities in like cases. The thickness of party and foundation and outer walls, the arrangement of joists and studding in relation to flues, the width of halls and staircases, the height of fire guards above the roofs, all these details with a hundred others should be carefully considered, fixed instructions to architects and builders issued and inflexibly adhered to when made. Strict vigilance and prompt prosecution of offenders will do much to make such a building law respected and obeyed. The result will then be what every well wisher of Omaha desires.

Mayor Chase had the audacity to tell the city council that he supposed the resolution requesting him to send in his annual appointments referred to the chief of the fire department, about whom there was some controversy, and he therefore sent in the appointment of Chief Butler. Mayor Chase well knew that the resolution referred particularly to the city marshal, and he well knows the reasons why the council and the public want him removed. It was expected that the mayor would, at Tuesday evening's council meeting, send in the appointments or make some explanation of his conduct. The mayor sent in no appointment of city marshal, but made some driving excuse for retaining Guthrie. He can find no precedent, he says, for making annual appointments. "In my experience in life I have become something of a detective, and I hope the people will not think that I would remove an officer unless there was something against him," says the honorable mayor. Comment is hardly necessary. Suffice it to say, Mayor Chase is certainly possessed of monumental cheek and unexampled stubbornness. His course can only be accounted for by the fact that he dare not dissolve the partnership of Chase & Guthrie.

Of course, a woman suffrage resolution was presented to the national republican convention. It would have surprised us more had no such resolution been offered. WEST OF THE MISSOURI. The stock raising interests of the west is at present undergoing an important change for the better. It is no longer a paying investment to purchase a herd of cattle, brand them, and turn them loose on the prairie, and few men are reckless enough to do it. The gradual and well defined change in the climatic conditions of the country, the increased rain and snow fall, attributed to the rapid increase of cultivated land, and the enormous growth of the business, compels the adoption of more civilized methods for the care and protection of stock. Ten years ago, all that was necessary to start a man on the road to fortune was a cow and a bull. Turned loose on the boundless plains and fed on buffalo grass they multiplied so rapidly that in five years a comfortable competence was a certainty. In some cases a pair of spurs and a branding iron were the only capital needed to secure the favor of the fickle goddess, but the methods of the latter class generally brought them to rope's end or to quarters in a penitentiary. The rapidity and ease with which money was made in these days naturally attracted an unlimited amount of capital and hundreds of energetic men. So great has the influx been that to-day there are few acres of the public domain to be found in Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado and Montana that are not inclosed or included in the range of some stock king or company. The process of monopolizing and consolidating small herds into large concerns, and fencing in vast areas of public land has been going on for several years. The former has proven a profitable success, the fences have not. What the government and the fence cutters have not demolished, the owners will finish. There are upwards of 5,000,000 acres now under fence in Colorado and an equal amount in Nebraska and Wyoming, that do not belong to the parties owning the fence, but are the inheritance of the entire people. There is but little question that the Secretary of the Interior will soon order all fences down, where the fence owners do not hold patents to the lands. This has been done in a few instances and the order will be made universal, without doubt. The past winter's storms have proven fatal to herds on fenced lands without natural or artificial shelter. In the northern part of Colorado, on the Republican river—where the fences are—there has been a heavy loss of cattle. In some sections the loss has been as high as 20 per cent of the whole number of cattle, while throughout the State the loss has been no more than 4 per cent. Cattle in the blizzard storms drifted against the wire fences, and there lay dead and died in large numbers. In many instances they were found tangled in the wire and frozen where caught. A great many stock men and companies are now negotiating for the purchase of the ranges occupied by them. It is believed the present year will see a large

number of the finest ranges in the west pass from public to private control. The Union Pacific railroad company has already disposed of thousands of acres of this land in Wyoming for range purposes. The company has made a wise rule in refusing to sell to any one individual or association exclusive water rights. A purchaser can secure land only on one side of a stream, which prevents a monopoly of the most essential element of the business. With actual ownership in land will come more advanced methods for the care and protection of stock. Winter feeding with shelter must be provided. The annual saving in young and old stock, the prevention of loss through cold, hunger and thirst during severe winters, would soon repay the extra cost of securing hay and construction of sheds. It would banish the annual anxiety as to winter losses, improve the quality of beef and bring the business down to a settled basis.

The reclamation of the arid regions of Wyoming and Colorado, which has been noted from time to time in The Bee, is one of the most important public works ever undertaken by private enterprise. Irrigation has already proved an unqualified success in Utah, Montana, and in some parts of Colorado. Though a very heavy item of expense in farm management, the certainty of a crop is beyond the vagaries of mountain weather. "One of the largest undertakings of this kind," says the Cheyenne Leader, "is that now being projected under the auspices of the Wyoming development company whose place of operations in the Northern part of Laramie county and the country watered by the Sabille. This plan of development consists of a ditch which will reclaim 60,000 acres of land which are now unfit for grazing purposes. The soil of the large tract reclaimed is a dark loam, and only requires water to make it sufficient fertility for agricultural purposes. The ditch which was commenced last fall, taps the Big Laramie river in the foot hills of the Laramie mountains, and is of no small proportion, being twenty-five feet wide on its bottom. After leaving the Laramie it passes through a tunnel three quarters of a mile long which has been excavated through the almost solid rock of one of Laramie's towering hills, and continues its course to the Blue Grass creek into which it empties. Here the natural channel of the Blue Grass is utilized, and composes the ditch for a distance of fifteen miles to the mouth, where it empties into the Sabille. Using the channel of this latter stream for a distance of one and a half miles, the ditch proper across it and from this point the ditch proper again commences and winds its course over hills and through valleys of as fine a stretch of country as can be found in Wyoming. The exact termination of the ditch has not yet been fully decided upon but it will not be less than fifty miles long and will eventually empty into the Laramie river. About four hundred men and several hundred mules are now engaged in the enterprise. The force of workmen is being rapidly increased, as it is the intention of the contractor to have the ditch completed by winter. The heaviest part of the work is now finished and the remaining distance will be rapidly covered. The cost of the undertaking will not fall short of a half million dollars, of which the tunnel will cost one-fourth."

The surveyors of the Union Pacific have completed the survey of a line of railroad from Valparaiso to Red Cloud, in Webster county. The line is said to be the best in some respects ever surveyed in the west. Besides passing through a rich and fertile section of the state the grade is unusually light. Following instructions from headquarters the light grade was obtained by a very careful survey of the route, which is a pretty good indication that the Union Pacific intends to tap that part of that state. The Red Cloud Chief, which has closely watched the surveyors, concludes that the Union Pacific folks are desirous of encroaching upon the territory of the B. & M., and for that reason propose to pay them back in their own coin for building into their territory as they have frequently done. This being one of the best B. & M. towns in southern Nebraska, the U. P. have, we believe, concluded to build a road to Red Cloud from Valparaiso that would damage the B. & M. to a great extent in many ways, making a much shorter route for one thing, and probably cut freight rates down considerably, a consumption devoutly to be wished. The future prospects for Red Cloud seem to be good, and if the Burr Oak road should also be extended to Red Cloud, and on to Kearney, as it will no doubt, should the U. P. put in their contemplated road from Omaha, Red Cloud is certainly destined to be a city of no little importance.

A few weeks ago several well known Nebraskans, residents of Crete and Omaha, quietly organized a land and cattle company, filed their incorporation papers and went to work without any noise or flourish. The name of the company is the Big Springs land and cattle company, with a capital stock of \$50,000. The company is composed of and officered by J. M. Daugherty and F. C. Craig of Omaha, M. A. Daugherty and J. W. Craig of Crete, and F. C. Miller of Greenville, Pa. The range owned by this company is located three hundred miles west of Omaha, in Keith county, in direct communication with Omaha by the U. P. railroad. The range comprises 4,160 acres of land, held in fee with the privilege and use of 4,480. The south line of the land is twelve miles from Big Springs, extending to the North Platte river, giving three miles of water front on this never-falling stream. These bluffs afford the finest of winter shelter and feed, and contain quarries of fine building rock, together with growing cedar sufficient for posts to fence the entire range. The bottom land extends from one to two and a half miles wide, and is covered with blue stem grass, cutting one and one-half tons of hay per acre. Fine hay can be cut on the rich table land back of the range of bluffs. On account of the hay which can be put up for winter use in case of storms, range feed for running pasture, and the company owning their own land, thus being assured from disturbance, as the range limit is now being narrowed by the settlement of this country, which was once the free range of every citizen, makes this one of the finest ranch privileges in the state.

Denver is not at all pleased with the reform methods of the democrats in congress. It strikes home. The appropri-

for the new postoffice has been cut down and limited to \$300,000, and the magnificent pile of granite which was at first mapped out has been buried in the avalanche of economy. Supplementing the democratic method of retrenchment the architect of the treasury has put in force an inflexible rule that all plans shall be kept within the appropriation. This only increases the misery of Denver. Previous to the advent of Architect Bell it was the invariable practice to plan on a lavish scale and after exhausting the first appropriation call for another, and a third if necessary. The approved plan of the building resembles somewhat the senate wing of the national capitol. It will be three stories high with heavy uncut columns and graceful Corinthian pilasters above. The front entrance will be elevated, requiring several steps to reach the first door, the elevator is to be at the left of the postmaster's office at the right of the lobby. The postoffice proper will occupy the entire remainder of the floor. The second and third floors will be used for offices and the United States court room.

The surveyors of the St. Paul & Omaha road are running lines in Burt county over the fields which the evanescent Nebraska Central was expected to occupy. The road has a magnificent country to operate in and a few feeders into the interior would doubtless prove a paying investment. It is not unlikely that a line into the famous "God's country" will be constructed before many years. The latest survey made was that between Decatur and Tekamah. The Burlington says the company has already made a survey between Decatur and Oakland, and Decatur and Lyons, and intend constructing a road on the best route. The natural line between Decatur and Tekamah, and a line nearly as good, if not better, between Tekamah and Fremont brings Tekamah's chances boldly to the front if the road is ever constructed.

STATE NOTINGS. The creamery at Madison started up this week, with 300 cows to furnish milk. The value of real and personal property in Crete, as shown by the assessment is \$17,150. A \$15,000 mill is about to be constructed at Genoa by a capitalist from from Chariton, Iowa.

The Geneva fair association will celebrate with races on the 4th, and a purse of \$500 will be distributed. The Knox county agricultural society propose to locate their fair grounds midway between Creighton and Bazile. The dam at the Waterloo mills has been taken out by high water in the Elkhorn and caused a damage estimated at \$9000. The Catholics of Plattsmouth propose to make the eagle scream on "Fitzgerald's Forty" on the 4th. It will be a grand picnic. The village board of David City make a game of billiards expensive to those who indulge in it. The license on each table is \$500.

There will be an important addition to the assessment roll of Lincoln county next spring. About 328,500 acres of railroad land, which has heretofore escaped taxation, will be listed. Last week a lightning rod fell on a farmer in Buffalo county and insisted on placing three rods on a dug-out residence in the side of a hill. The owner of the check is seen when it is stated that the dug-out is only 15 feet long and 15 feet wide. The Blair cheese factory is now in full blast. The company recently purchased 75 milk cows, 60 of which they are now milking. They cost on an average \$36 each. A large corral has been built on the grounds, stocked with 70 stock hogs purchased in Cummings county.

Pawnee county has a total of 3252 children of school age, of which number 2585 attend school. There are 72 school districts, and 97 teachers employed. Total value of school houses, \$41,843; total value of school sites, \$5,024.50; total value of apparatus, &c., \$208.85; total value of school property, \$47,784.86. A gang of desperate tramps were rounded up by the authorities of Blair last week. They secured a train in this city, and rode to Blair without paying fare. The tramps were found with revolvers or bowie knives on their persons given their choice, to get out of town, were fined and sent to jail. Fourteen towns in five minutes or so to fall on bread and water. They chose the former and were fired out of town.

Two young and foolish girls, members of prominent families in Janesville, Iowa, returned to their homes under the persuasive influence of a stout strap. A wily and oily drummer from St. Joe, induced them to skip out for St. Joe, where the drummer would get them employment or start a Mormon ranch. They took the bait and were found by their parents pushing dishes in a hotel. Ray Anderson, twelve years old, was killed near Elm Creek Sunday. He was herding cattle on a pony, and dismounted to pick prairie beans. A rope about six feet long was around the pony's neck, and the boy fell this around his ankle. The pony became frightened and ran away, dragging the boy alongside. When found he was bruised and covered with blood, and a number of bones broken.

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