

THE OMAHA BEE.

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THE BEE PUBLISHING CO., PROP'S. E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

McADOO, the fresh young congressman from New Jersey, has made much ado about nothing.

ALASKA now has a governor. There will now be a chance for corner-lot speculators in locating the capital.

THE Wabash and Missouri Pacific have applied for an unconditional divorce, the grounds being failure to provide means of support.

It is quite evident that many of our eminent statesmen now in the national legislature are going back on their Congressional Record.

NEBRASKA CITY will hold a ratification meeting when the commission of John F. Kinney, as agent of the Yankton Indian agency, is received.

GOVERNOR ELI MURRAY started from Utah under a cloud from Chicago. He died there with his boots on. He will return this week from Washington with his commission as governor. Eli got there.

WITH picnics, base ball, brass bands, "sacred concerts," street parades and sensational sermons Omaha affords a variety of Sunday entertainments unequalled by any other city this side of Cincinnati.

PLAIN Dr. Smith, of Sioux City, has been heard from. He bobbed up serenely at the Cobden club banquet in London on Saturday night, and laid in a full supply of free lunch as a practical proof of the progress of free trade doctrine.

THE republicans have a magnetic man as their candidate for president, and the democrats are now looking for an electric candidate with a magnetic "bar." The leading electric man of the democracy has shut off his connection, and the problem at present is to find a substitute.

When last heard from Church Howe had reached Washington. With his proverbial modesty, Church does not want anything at present. Like the grasshopper, sitting on the fence, with his eyes on the promised land, he is content to get his reward in this wheat, by and by.

WHEN the council forms itself into a court of impeachment this morning, a message will be received from his abdicated excellency stating that under the advice of the court physician he cannot at this critical juncture join in the festivities, owing to indigestion.

When the devil was sick, When the devil got well, When the devil was well, When the devil was ill.

THE redoubtable Steve Elkins, who has been swimming in a sea of political glory for the last three weeks, has suddenly found himself involved in a controversy about a small pasture, embracing a trifle of 800,000 acres, in New Mexico, which Steve acquired in the course of his law practice at Santa Fe. Steve will hardly allow himself to be disturbed by such trifles. He has too much presence of mind. Steve Doremy will probably fix matters for him.

We have had all sorts of conventions of late, and addresses and appeals from all classes of the discontented, but the most striking appeal of all is the recent address of the New York state colored democratic association to the colored voters of the empire state, representing that the grievances of the negro against the republican party are not merely "an account of a niggardly distribution of patronage," but as a deep-settled conviction that the republican party is controlled by "an iniquitous combination of conspirators, whose continuance in power will imperil our property and even our liberties." This is a harrowing tale, which cannot fail to arouse the most intense indignation in every well regulated barber shop. It is simply barbarous to treat colored office-seekers in such a niggardly manner.

17, as it is generally believed, that Mayor Chase is shaming and playing sick man, the council should not dilly-dally with the trial of the charges that have been preferred against him. It is not necessary for the mayor to attend the trial in person. His attorneys can conduct the defense without him, and the council has full authority to conduct the trial without the technicalities or restrictions that are imposed with jury trials in the criminal courts. The question for the council is to simply ascertain whether his habits, mentally and physically disqualify him from the efficient performance of his duty. If, for instance, he was mentally deranged and unfit to transact business, it would not be expected that the council would postpone for any indefinite period the proceedings whereby the office can be legally vacated.

THE Springfield, Mass., Republican characterizes the proceedings against Mayor Chase and Marshal Guthrie as a sham and a farce. The action of the courts and city council does not warrant such a conclusion. Ever since the grand jury, in compliance with its sworn obligation, has returned criminal indictments against Mayor Chase and Marshal Guthrie, a disposition has been manifested in certain quarters to create public sympathy for these dishonorable and disgraced officials. This tendency to sympathize with men who are in trouble is very natural, but upon reflection it must be repressed by the commanding sense of public morality. It is true that the stream never rises above its source, and the people of Omaha being the source of power, are primarily responsible for placing a moral and physical wreck at the head of the city government. But at this stage it is entirely out of place to interpose sympathy in behalf of mercenary officials who have corruptly connived with the keepers of low dens and brothels, exposed our homes to robbery and pillage by burglars, made our thoroughfares unsafe for citizen and wayfarer, and converted this beautiful city into a paradise for thugs and crooks. In the light of the ordeal to which our people have been subjected for more than fifteen months, we would ask is not this maudlin sympathy premature if not entirely out of place? There will perhaps come a time when clemency may be interposed without affecting the public welfare or encouraging dishonesty in public places. When that time comes we will join with friends of the indicted in lightening the burden of their disgrace. Meantime let no man who desires honesty, sobriety and enforced decency in the administration of our city affairs throw obstacles in the way of purification by lamenting over the judicial prosecution of Chase and Guthrie.

We have been asked to state through the editorial columns of THE BEE whether our city officials indicted for accepting bribes and levying blackmail. In other words, has Mr. Connell the right to act as the attorney of Guthrie and Chase? So far as we know, there is no law or ordinance that would prohibit Mr. Connell from appearing in court as attorney for indicted city officials. But while the city attorney violates no law in appearing in the criminal courts as attorney defending indicted city officials, such a course is, to say the least, of questionable propriety. The city of Omaha is a corporation in law and in fact, and the city attorney sustains the same relations to the municipal corporation that salaried attorneys of railroads, telegraph and express companies sustain toward these chartered corporations. Now, suppose the general superintendent or traffic manager of the Union Pacific railroad or the manager of the Pacific express had been indicted for accepting bribes and levying blackmail upon the patrons of the railroad or express line, could Andrew J. Poppleton appear in court as defending counsel of the indicted corporation officials with any degree of propriety, even though he was under personal obligations to either of them for his own appointment. Would not Mr. Poppleton be in honor and duty bound to assist the prosecution? Would not Mr. Poppleton regard his obligation to the corporation that employs him paramount and above personal obligations he might have as a man toward the official who by his corrupt conduct has violated the criminal code? City Attorney Connell's obligations are primarily to the municipal corporation that employs and pays him. He cannot consistently with this obligation, defend a mayor or a marshal for bribery any more than he could defend the city treasurer for embezzlement or the city engineer for conniving with contractors in fraudulent measurement. While the duty of prosecuting criminals devolves upon the district attorney Mr. Connell should, it seems to us, always hold himself ready at the request of any city official, high or low, friend or foe, who is implicated in jobbery or accused of bribery.

THE MEXICAN PENSION BILL.

The Mexican pension bill has at last passed the senate by a vote of 37 yeas to 27 nays. It is estimated that this bill will add to the yearly expenditures of the government all the way from \$12,000,000 to \$50,000,000. The bill now goes to the house of representatives for concurrence or non-concurrence in the senate amendments. It is provided in the bill that the secretary of the interior shall place on the pension roll the names of surviving officers and enlisted men of the military and naval services who actually served fourteen days in Mexico or were on the coast or frontier, or en route to Mexico, or were actually in a battle in the Mexican war and were honorably discharged; and such officers, soldiers and sailors as may have been personally named in any resolution of congress for specific services in that war, and such of their widows as have not remarried; provided such officer, enlisted man or widow be or become sixty-two years of age, or subject to disability or dependency equivalent to some cause recognized by the pension laws of the United States as sufficient reason for the allowance of a pension. No person is entitled to the benefits of the bill who does not come within the rule of age and disability, or who incurred such disability while voluntarily engaged in the late rebellion.

The pension is fixed at \$8 per month payable only from the passage of the act for and during the life of the beneficiary, or during the continuance of the disability. Pensioners already receiving \$8 a month are, however, cut off and those receiving less than \$8 simply get the difference between \$8 and the amount they have been heretofore receiving. All persons laboring under the political disabilities imposed by the fourteenth constitutional amendment are excluded from the benefits of the act. The bill also gives a pension to every person who for three months served on the union side in the war of the rebellion, who has an honorable discharge, and is or shall become disabled from any cause not the result of his own gross carelessness, irreparable conduct or vicious habits and is dependent on his own labor for support. The amount of his pension is to be proportionate to the degree of disability and to commence from the date of filing the application. The highest rate allowed under this section is \$24 a month, which amount is made divisible for less degrees of disability. No person can, however, claim the benefit of this pension who already receives a pension higher than \$24 a month. Applicants having claims now pending, or who may hereafter file claims, may elect to prosecute their claims either under this act or the general pension laws.

The bill also increases the pension of all widows or minor children of soldiers and sailors who are now receiving \$8 a month to \$12 a month and extends the increase to all such who may hereafter apply who under existing laws would be entitled to \$8 a month. It also provides that if an invalid pensioner whose disability was contracted in service and in the line of duty has died, or when he shall hereafter die, leaving a widow or minor children under sixteen years of age, or both, they shall be entitled in the order of succession named to an original pension in their own right under existing laws without being required to prove that the death of the husband or father was due to his military or naval service. It also continues the pensions of minor children when they become of unsound mind or physically helpless. The bill further provides that in considering the claims of dependent parents, after proving the fact of death and its cause, and that no widow or children are left, it shall only be necessary to prove that the parent is without other means of comfortable support than his or her own manual labor or the contributions of others not legally bound to support him or her, and such dependent parents shall hereafter be entitled to \$12 a month instead of \$8.

DAKOTA'S NEW GOVERNOR. The new governor of Dakota, Colonel Giles A. Pierce, has for some time past been connected with the editorial staff of the Chicago News. He has an excellent military and civil record. Colonel Pierce went into the army as lieutenant of the 9th Indiana infantry, and was soon after promoted to captain and then brigadier quartermaster, afterwards to lieutenant-colonel, and finally to colonel and quartermaster-general of the department of the Gulf. From 1867 to 1872 he was financial clerk of the United States senate, which he left to take the editorship of the Chicago Inter-Ocean. His connection with that journal continued until 1880, when he became chief editorial writer on the Chicago News. He is the author of several works of fiction, and is a man of more than ordinary ability and accomplishments. Colonel Pierce was one of the Arthur managers at the late Chicago convention. His appointment as governor of Dakota will probably give general satisfaction to the people of that territory, who have long needed an able man as their chief executive. The appointment was a complete surprise to Colonel Pierce, as he was not a candidate for that or any other position, and was not aware that his name was under consideration for any place. It is, therefore, a flattering expression of President Arthur's confidence in Colonel Pierce. Whether he will accept the position is not known, but for the sake of the people of Dakota, who have long been in want of a good man for governor, it is hoped that he will take the governorship, and at once enter upon the discharge of his duties.

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JUSTICE AND CLEMENCY.

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